

THE POST RIDER

Marias River Livestock Association, 72 Sweetgrass Hills Rd, Sweet Grass, MT 59484

Three Pie Auction For Youth Fund

What could be better than homemade pie??

A pie with the key to the trigger lock on a Weatherby Vanguard, chambered in a 300 Winchester magazine.

Attend the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler, November 12, 2016 and get a chance to bid on three homemade pies, one of which will have the key to the 300 taped to the bottom. Two Prime Ribs cooked by Dick Kinyon will also be auctioned off.

Funds raised by the auction go to the Marias River Livestock Association Youth Fund and help with the awards at the Marias Fair and other youth events. At the 2016 Marias Fair, MRLA was able to give buckle and monetary awards to first and second place in the Beef Breeding Project in both the Bred Heifer and Cow and Calf classes. We have seen the number of 4-H youth participating in this award program grow each year.

MRLA was also able to start the Public Presentations Award also called Demonstrations or Illustrated Talks with classes for Clover Bud, Junior and Senior. The topic for this award must be on Lamb or wool fiber. The youth does not have to be taking a lamb project to participate, but simply must use a topic that has to do with lamb or fiber. It could cover anything from how to sew with wool fabric, a demonstration on how to cook lamb or a talk on lamb health. The goals are to encourage 4-H youth in public presentations, rewarding depth of knowledge in their topic and promoting lamb and fiber.

The Youth Fund has also been used in teaching kids how to use bear spray, and helping young adults in attending leadership training. We would also like to encourage youth to attend the Montana Range Days, June 19 – 21, 2017 in Red Lodge, Montana.

Be sure to get your tickets for the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler. Call Rick or Lana Schock 406-937-2751.

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Prime Rib and Rib Tickler November 12th

**At the Shelby Civic Center
5:30 PM No Host Cocktail Social Hour
6:30 PM Prime Rib Dinner is Served
Membership Renewal and Bull Bucks entry will
be at the door for those who need it.
Youth Fund Auction
Tickets \$30 for Dinner and Epic Entertainment-
Kyle Shobe & The Walk'em Boys**

Fall Membership Drive November is Membership Dues Month

Each November, during the Prime Rib and Rib Tickler Event, many members pay their annual dues. This makes them eligible for the BULL BUCKS PLUS drawing where they could win a certificate for approximately \$800 towards the purchase of seed stock offered by the participating producers, but more important than that those funds help to pay for the newsletter, the Post Rider, and many of the expenses it takes to operate the Association.

The support of the membership enables us to be part of the Young Leaders in Agriculture, Young Ag Couple Conference and the Montana's Next Generation Conference. All of these events help to educate and prepare our young or beginning producers.

The dues pay for the meeting rooms, speakers, and other expenses connected with educational meetings. The insurance for the association to cover events and any fees or tax preparation costs connected with our non-profit status also is paid for with dues.

Since the establishment of MRLA there has also been the purchased a \$200 and \$500 gas card to assist in the cost of fuel for Maggie to travel to Interagency Bison Management Meetings, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meetings, Department of Fish and Wildlife Meetings, the Department of Livestock Meeting, Environmental Quality Committee meetings and attend hearing and such during the legislative sessions.

Your support of Marias River Livestock Association is important as is your thoughts on topics and issues. Please feel free to contact any of the Board of Directors to let them know what is on your mind.

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

DATE _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Marias River Livestock Association
Carrie Sue Lerum
PO Box 56
Galata, Mt 59444

Active Membership is per individual not per ranch or corporation.

This a new membership _____

This is a renewal _____

_____ Active Member \$50

Any individual 18 years of age or older, active in the livestock production industry in the counties of Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, or Toole, Montana is eligible for active membership in the Marias River Livestock Association

_____ Youth Member \$10

Youth are under 18 years of age and interested in learning about livestock production, promoting the livestock industry and willing to volunteer 5 hours a year.

_____ Associate Member \$50

An individual, firm, corporation or partnership, no matter where it's or his/her place of business or residence may be eligible for non-voting Associate Membership



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Working for You

The summer flew by and everyone was pretty busy on their ranches but the Marias River Board of Directors still managed to put in many hours advocating for the local livestock industry.

Paul Turner and Trina Bradley- organized seven Bear Spray education events for the summer in Conrad, Valier, Dupuyer, Cut Bank, Sunburst, Chester and Shelby. With bears further from the Rocky Mountain front and on more agriculture property it is important to find ways to keep farm and ranch families safe.

June 8th – Maggie attended MT Farm Bureau committee and policy meetings, Great Falls. Requested action on movement of bison as wildlife onto public lands or National Parks.

June 21–23 – Maggie attended Interagency Grizzly Bear Council Executive meeting in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Spoke to the issues of bears moving further onto prairie and invading agriculture land.

June 24 – Board of Livestock Meeting, Helena MT. Reported on IGBC meeting

July 7 – US Fish and Wildlife Service Grizzly Bear Critical Habitat Workshop for the NCDE. Gave public comment that Grizzly bears are not appropriate in human settlements and agriculture property. Also requested Zone 3 borders as described in the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy be moved to ensure all grizzly bears east of the Rockies will get delisted as the process moves on.

July – Sent in written comment on Critical Habitat for Grizzly In NCDE to US FWS.

August – Written communications sent to the MT FWP about Grizzly Bear management.

September 9 & 10th – MRLA co-hosted the US Cattlemen's Producer Forum in Billings. Butch and Doreen Gillespie, Jason and Pam Enneberg, and Maggie attended. Opportunity to learn about, ask questions and express concerns with the cattle market and the Cattle Futures Trade and beef import/exports.

Sept 27 – Butch and Doreen Gillespie attended the USDA Listening Session in Cut Bank. Butch stated he was the only livestock producer there and was able to get plenty of time to express concerns to the USDA.

Mark & Cathy DeBoo

1-800-932-6487

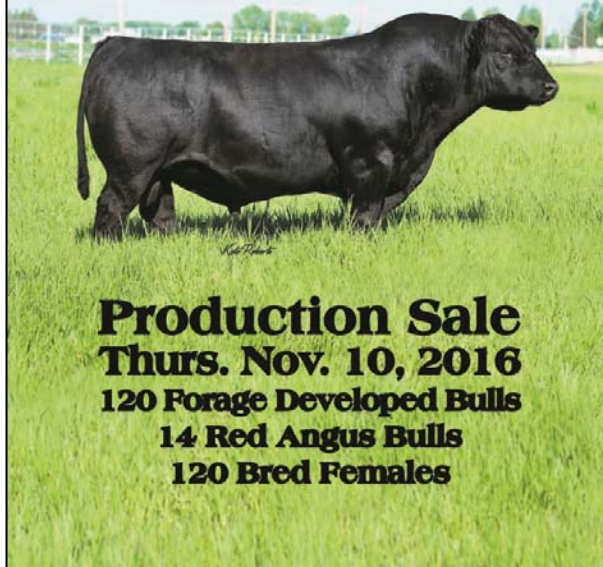
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Sept 28 – Marvin Kimmet, Carrie Lerum, Bob Thompson, Diana Thompson, Chelcie Cargill, MT Farm Bureau, Mike Honeycutt, MT Dept. of Livestock, Ron Collyer, Northern Mont Joint Refuse Disposal District attended tour of the Blackfoot Challenge area. We learned about the measures that they had successfully used to help reduce grizzly bear and wolf conflicts and depredation.

Update CWD Study in Sweet Grass Hills

By Ryan Rauscher, MFWP
406-271-7033 cell 406-223-6329

As described in the May 2016 edition of the Post Rider, HD 401 has been identified as a high risk area for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) because of the presence of the disease in Alberta. CWD is a contagious neurological disease that attacks the brain of members of the deer family. Mule deer are susceptible to the disease in HD 410. To assess the risk to HD 401 mule deer and to improve our understanding of mule deer movement patterns, movement corridors, and connectivity to CWD positive populations in Canada, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park, (MFWP) captured 25 mule deer, 20 bucks and 5 does, near the Canadian border in HD 401. The collars are satellite collars that record a single location daily. Through a service, MFWP can monitor deer locations without physically relocating the animal. This is a brief update on deer movements since capture.

Surprisingly, only a couple of the collared deer have been reported seen, yet all of the collared deer have survived since capture. The collars have worked relatively well, providing locations once every 23 hours the majority of the time. Occasionally, a few locations will be missed due to terrain, satellite position, etc. As of the writing of this article, 5393 locations have been recorded, or approximately 215 locations per deer. Compare that to previous studies of collared elk in HD 401 where most animals were relocated once a month or only 12 locations per year if they could be found.

Most of the collared deer are relatively sedentary, moving on short distance around the capture location. A relatively few deer have moved back and forth into Alberta. Currently, 3 of the deer are residing just north of the border. The furthest movement north of the border is roughly 5 miles. A few deer have displayed minor movements between winter range where they were captured to summer range a short distance away. Interestingly, no deer have moved between any of the three buttes. One deer moved southward about 8 miles for a few weeks and then moved back northward.

This is all good news. None of the collared deer have moved close to the infected area in Alberta or from capture area to the Marias River. However, the study is in its infancy. Over time these collars will provide more

movement information as the collars are expected to last for 4 years.

These data are important and will be used to develop better risk assessment models to predict transmission risk both into Montana and within Montana once CWD is detected. Along with other efforts, these data will be used to inform management decisions aimed at early detection of CWD and reducing the spread of the disease.

Given the amount of resources required to collar these deer and the value of the data, MFWP encourages hunters to avoid harvesting radio-collared deer in HD 401 even though it is legal. Again, this research would not be possible without the cooperation of local landowners allowing access to their lands. Thank you.



John Nutter with one of the four collared mule deer harvested the opening weekend of the HD 401 hunting season. If you harvested a collared deer please call the # on the metal ear tag or Ryan Rauscher direct so he can retrieve the collar, collect sample of the deer's brain core and lymph nodes.



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JAY HOULD
President/Owner

Montana Moose Study update

Jesse Newby, Research Technician, MFWP
406-751-4588 | jnewby@mt.gov

Moose, an iconic species of the north, can be found as far south as Montana and Wyoming, and eastward to New England. In many areas along their southern range moose populations have been declining, whereas in some areas (eg. Washington) they appear to be increasing. Several states and provinces have initiated research to investigate these dynamic populations. Anecdotal information suggests Montana may be experiencing declines in many areas considered moose strongholds, while in other areas, populations seem to be expanding where they were once thought scarce.

Data on moose numbers in Montana is generally limited to hunter harvest statistics and spotty aerial survey data. This information tends to support anecdotal information that populations have declined in many areas important to moose and moose hunting. However, because of high uncertainty in these data they are uninformative to management. In 2013, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks initiated a 10 year moose research project to understand moose population dynamics by monitoring population vital rates (eg. survival, fecundity) and factors that may impact those rates (eg. predators, pathogens, habitat, climate, hunting pressure). This research is funded by monies generated from annual auction of moose tags valid anywhere in Montana and matching funds from federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition. We chose three sites for research: Cabinet-Fisher Mountains in north-west Montana, Big Hole Valley in south-west Montana, and an area along the Rocky Mountain Front. We selected these sites because of their history of moose and moose hunting. The Cabinet-Fisher and Big Hole sites were considered historic strongholds for moose; however, both areas now share concerns about potential moose declines. In contrast, the Front is an area where moose were sighted only occasionally, but now seem to have expanding populations. These areas also differ in



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environmental factors that may influence moose such as habitat, predators, parasites and hunting pressure. Studying moose in these different areas allows us to understand how different factors may be influencing populations around Montana.

An important part of the study is determining vital rate estimates for each of the three moose populations. Vital rate components include such rates as adult female survival, calf survival, and female fecundity, which ultimately determine population growth. Any one of these components may be relatively more or less important in driving population trends depending on population's age structure and how much environmental factors influence these rates.

To monitor these key statistics we capture adult females and outfit them with radio-collars allowing us to track each moose over time. Capturing animals also allows us the opportunity to collect biological samples and measurements. Each female is aged and their body condition assessed. Blood and fecal samples determine pregnancy, assess trace mineral status, determine the plants in their diet, and indicate their exposure to parasites and diseases.

While preliminary, an emerging picture shows each area experiencing considerably different population dynamics. We have documented high adult female survival in the Cabinet-Fisher and Front, but in the Big Hole, we have observed high adult female mortality. The vast majority (> 80%) of adult female mortality is health related; therefore we are now focusing efforts to identify parasites or diseases potentially causing these issues. Calf survival also varies considerably among areas, however because we do not capture calves, it is not possible to identify cause of death. We are attempting to measure the effects of predator densities on calf survival as our leading hypothesis. Pregnancy rates are comparable among study areas with approximately 81% of females pregnant every year.

Estimates of population growth are preliminary; however, we

Cont. pg 7 Moose

News Bites

Billings Gazette, Oct 9, 2016 – “Leaders of Montana’s Blackfeet Indian Reservation announced plans on Friday to establish a herd of bison on the US Forest Service land near Glacier National Park that the tribal members consider sacred.

The tribe on Friday released a proclamation saying the bison, also known as buffalo, would be able to roam freely within the Badger–Two Medicine area... The 89 bison the tribe would move into the Badger Two Medicine area were relocated to the Blackfeet reservation from Elk Island National Park in Canada in May”

Independent Record, Oct 23, 2016– A Secretarial Order from Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell encouraging cooperative management opportunities between public land and water managers, and federally recognized Indian tribes, will have little effect on Glacier National Park, its superintendent says.

“Quite honestly, I believe it will boil down to reporting requirements on what we’ve already got in place,” Jeff Mow said Friday, the day the order was announced. The park has conferred with local tribes on a range of issues for years, Mow said, including fisheries, grizzly bears and plant species.

Glacier is even working with its closest Native American neighbors, the Blackfeet, on that tribe’s efforts to reintroduce a wild bison herd that would likely roam inside and outside of Glacier’s borders.

“The restoration of free-range wild bison is of huge mutual interest for agencies and tribes,” Mow said. Between that and the tribes’ and park’s involvement with Crown of the Continent groups, there is collaboration on a variety of issues, the superintendent said...

...It sets out the framework to ensure that Native communities have the opportunity to assume “meaningful and substantive roles in managing public lands that have special geographical, historical and cultural connections to the tribes,” according to the Interior Department. The Order covers far more than national parks. In addition to the NPS, it applies to BLM, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

BULL BUCKS PLUS 2016 Participating Producers

Apex Angus – Sale March 7, 2017
www.apexangus.com

Bobcat Angus – Sale January 28, 2017
www.bobcatangus.com

Curry Cattle Inc – 279-3561
Replacement Angus females

Diamond D Angus – Sale Nov 10 2017, Spring Private Treaty
www.diamonddangus.com

Diemert Ranch Herefords – 432-3412
www.ngrbulls.com/diemert_ranch_herefords.htm

Enneberg Angus Ranch – 845-4901 Private Treaty

Flesch Angus – Sale March 2017
www.fleschangus.com

Gillespie Show Cattle – 337-2943 or 949-4453
www.gillespieshowcattle.com

Hawks Angus – Private Treaty 432-5355
www.hawksangus.com

Holden Hereford – Sale March 13 2017
www.holdenherefords.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh – Sale March 15 2017
www.kickinghorseranch.com

Superior Livestock Video Auction – 450-4586
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Tomsheck Angus – April 5, 2017 in Nebraska,
937-3726 www.blackranchesinc.com

Timber Coulee Columbia – 937-2775

Turner Angus – April 2017 434-2823
www.TurnerAngus.com

Save the Date

Nov 12 MRLA Prime Rib and Rib Tickler
www.MariasRiverLivestock.com

Nov 13- 16 Montana Farm Bureau Convention
 Double Tree & Northern Hotels, Billings
www.mfbf.org

Nov 29 NCDE Interagency Grizzly Bear
 Subcommittee Meeting,
 Double Tree Hotel, Missoula MT
www.igbconline.org

Dec 1 Interagency Bison Management Plan
 Meeting, Chico

Dec 1-3 Montana Woolgrowers Convention
 Billings MT
www.mtsheep.org

Dec 7-9 Montana Stockgrowers Convention
 Billings MT
www.mtbeef.org

Dec 13 & 14 Interagency Grizzly Bear
 Committee Executive Meeting
 Missoula MT

Jan 27 & 28 Montana's Next Generation
 Conference, Shelby MT

Moose from pg 5

can use adult female survival and calf recruitment (litters observed X calf survival to the following spring) to estimate population growth since 2013. The Front is benefiting from both high calf recruitment and adult survival, resulting in an impressive estimated growth of 12% a year. Despite low recruitment, the Cabinet-Fisher population is estimated to be growing at about 2% a year due to high adult female survival. In contrast, the Big Hole Valley has had relatively good recruitment, but due to low adult female survival the population is estimated to be declining by 2% per year.

While these vital rates provide a mechanistic understanding of population growth, we also would like to know how the environment may be limiting vital rates. Therefore we are also monitoring environmental factors that may relate to moose populations in Montana including predation, pathogens, forage, climate, or hunter harvest. Given interest in other states and provinces about their moose populations, we should also be able to put our findings in a larger context of boom and bust moose populations.

If you wish to follow the progress of this research you can visit the project website. Go to fwp.mt.gov. Click on "Fish & Wildlife" tab at top, then near the bottom right click "Wildlife Research", follow the link for "Moose".

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Montana's Next Generation Conference January 27 & 28

Civic Center and High School Shelby Montana

**Friday- Dave Pratt- Three secrets to
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**Saturday- approximately 40 breakout
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succession**

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