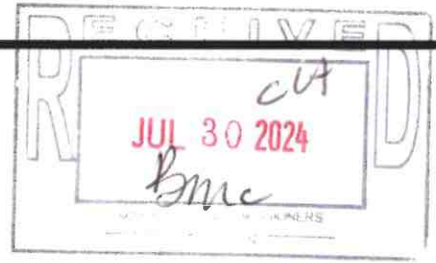


Commissioner

From: andrew Cohen <pappacohen@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Commissioner
Subject: Rock Creek Road Miles 21-22



Hi Linda,

We had a conversation the other day as I inquired to why the Forest Road contractor had not graded mile marker 21-22. I just noticed the sign that has been there for years at mile mark 21.2 that states, "Leaving National Forest." Adjacent to that what appears to be signs I assume were installed by Granite County stating "Residential," "25 MPH."

With the above I suspect the contractor has been directed to grade only US Forest Service Land. I would assume then that portion of Rock Creek Road is a county road.

As per discussion with Jim and Paul from Granite County roads, they are both stating its not a county road and the county has no obligation regarding signage, maintenance, and improvements.

Seems to me Granite County should have contracted out to the FS contractor Cook and Sons to grade that road portion.

So just my point of view but maybe you can investigate. Might need a sign stating "Unimproved County Road" as a portion of it narrows, has obstructions in addition to deep pot holes especially as it turns at approximately the 22.7 mark.

Respectfully,

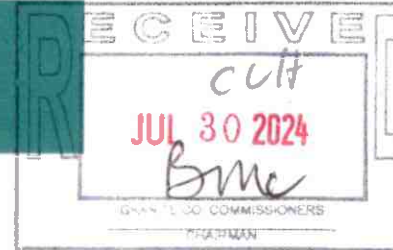
Andrew and Janice Cohen

New Coordinator

GHWG is excited to announce that we have a new Coordinator! Ahnna Reid joined the group in February and is excited to get involved with projects, education, and community engagement. She was born and raised in Montana where she has lived for 25 years.

After spending four years in Alaska as a Trails Maintenance Technician, Wildland Firefighter and Ski Patrol, she decided it was time to come back to her roots in Montana. Ahnna has a background in Outdoor Recreation Management and Ecosystem Restoration. Her favorite activities are hiking and camping with her dog Keta, mountain biking, and backcountry skiing.

She hopes to help GHWG continue to strive toward their mission of promoting the responsible use of the watersheds natural, human, and socioeconomic resources to protect and enhance the rural lifestyles valued by our communities.



Get Involved

Help us protect the beautiful Flint-Rock Watershed!

The main purpose of Granite Headwaters Watershed Group is to promote the responsible use of the watershed's natural, human, and socio-economic resources to protect and enhance the rural lifestyles valued by our communities.

We are always looking for folks who have a passion for watershed stewardship and community engagement with natural resources!

For more information on how you can get involved with our organization, please contact Ahnna Reid at 406-780-7002 or graniteheadwaters@gmail.com

Event Recap: Summer Watershed Tour

On June 22nd, GHWG hosted a Watershed Tour in Granite County, showcasing three different projects. The tour was well-attended by community members and agency partners.

The first site we visited was the Upper Willow Creek Habitat Restoration Project. The main goals of this project were to increase ecosystem resiliency and restore natural stream channel processes to benefit native fish populations and wildlife habitat. This collaborative effort involved the private landowner, Trout Unlimited, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program.

The second stop was the Flint Creek Phase Two Revegetation and Restoration project. The purpose of this project is to improve stream and floodplain function and enhance fish habitat through streambank restoration and revegetation. Funding came from the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program, the Fish Wildlife & Parks Future Fisheries Program, and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Nonprofit groups, including Trout Unlimited, the Trout and Salmon Foundation, and the Wild Turkey Federation, also contributed.

The final stop on the tour was Drummond Kiwanis Riverfront Park. This 32-acre park, owned by the Drummond Kiwanis Club, offers Clark Fork River access, a walking trail, and excellent bird-watching opportunities. The park is the result of over a decade of planning by the Drummond Kiwanis Club, initially funded by a Natural Resource Damage Program grant, with updated infrastructure partly funded by the Drummond Rodeo.

We enjoyed organizing this tour and look forward to more successful events like this in the future.



Gold Coin Wildlife Enhancement and Fuels Reduction Project

Pintler Ranger District
Beverhead/Deerlodge National Forest

The Gold Coin project is approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Maxville, MT. The intent of the project is to reduce conifer encroachment in ten mountain grassland/shrubland locations. The overall project will treat 1,198 acres of these grasslands, enhancing forage for meeting the needs of wildlife and potentially increasing wildlife numbers in the area. In addition, altering the fuel profiles to a grass fuel model would increase the success to control a large wildfire.

Last year the district received a \$30,000 grant from the Tri-county Resource Advisory Committee to aid in the project's implementation. Contracted sawyers cut, loped, and scattered 120 acres in units 6 and 9. Pintler Ranger District employees, with the help of the Youth Conservation Corp and Montana Conservation Corp added an additional 60 acres plus prepared the units by constructing fireline on the flanks of the units.

The prescribed burning phase of the project, began on April 25th, 2024. Resources from the Pintler and Wisdom Ranger districts successfully burned unit nine which is 95 acres. The burning was done under cloudy conditions, reducing the fire intensity, and provided for excellent results. The majority of the fire remained on the forest floor consuming the slash created the previous year along with a large percentage of the needle, stick, and cone accumulations. Activities this fall and next year will continue until the project is complete.

For more information, please contact the Pintler Ranger District at 406-859-3211.

