

Madison County Board of Commissioners Work Session

10:00 am Monday, March 30, 2026, until concluded

First Floor Public Meeting Room
Administrative Office Building, Virginia City, Montana

WebEx Login:

<https://madisoncounty.my.webex.com/madisoncounty.my/j.php?MTID=m07ca414a470500a811062b9438d9dfc5>

Meeting Number: 2554 056 7742 Password: VCMadison

Join by Phone: 1-650-479-3208 Password: 82623476

Press *6 to mute or unmute

Duke Gilman, District 1 Commissioner
Ron Nye, District 2 Commissioner, Chairman
Bill Todd, District 3 Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT (PLEASE LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Madison County Courthouse Rehabilitation and Addition

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Grow Wild - Invasive Species Management
- Agenda Senior Meals Contracted Services continuing through April at Virginia City Café.
- AI Usage Policy
- Gravel Crushing Bidding 26/27
- Virginia City Courthouse Estimate

- 1:00 PM CLOSED SESSION – Litigation Strategy Regarding Carlson Land and Cattle v. Madison County

ADJOURNMENT



Madison County Funding Request

3.25.26

Madison County Commissioners · Madison County, Montana

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your continued support of Grow Wild. Your investment has been instrumental in expanding our reach and impact across Southwest Montana, enabling us to deliver collaborative conservation programs that benefit landowners, residents, and the landscapes we share.

County support is essential to this work. Outside funding for land stewardship is rare—particularly in resort communities—yet local investment ensures landowners and residents have access to the resources needed to care for shared natural assets. Your prior contribution also helped us leverage a \$15,000 match from Gallatin County through its Outside Agency program, amplifying your impact.

As outlined in the annual report we provide to the County, our work continues to grow in both scale and results. **We respectfully request continued funding at the same level of \$12,500 for 2026–2027 to support our Education & Outreach and Landowner Stewardship programs.**

We remain committed to strong collaboration within Madison County. This includes ongoing partnership with the Madison County Weed District—highlighted by our February 17 Big Sky Weed Summit—and continued coordination through outreach efforts. We are also working closely with the Madison Conservation District, with youth education events planned this year including *Pull Your Share*, *Bear Creek Days*, *Camp Moonlight*, and a pollinator seed bomb workshop as part of the Big Sky Wildflower Festival (July 7–11).

To meet growing demand, we have invested in a work truck to efficiently deploy our mobile education trailer and expand programming capacity. Alongside a second staff member now in her second year, this positions us to serve more communities with greater consistency and impact.

With your support, we will continue to educate thousands, assist landowners, and advance coordinated solutions to invasive species and ecosystem health challenges.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to conserving Madison County's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mohler, Executive Director

jen@growwildmt.org

406.209.0905



Greetings Clayton,

Enclosed with Grow Wild's January 7, 2026 submission are the following materials in support of our 2025–2026 Madison County award:

- Grow Wild's invoice for the 2025–2026 Madison County Award
- Grow Wild's accounting of staff hours and mileage by program (July - December 2025)
- Grow Wild's 2025 Impact Report Summary

In spring 2025, the Madison County Commissioners approved funding for two Grow Wild programs: the Education & Community Program (\$5,000 for staff time and mileage) and the Landowner Stewardship and Landowner Assistance Program (\$7,500 for staff time and mileage). This submission requests reimbursement for the full award amount.

The enclosed accounting of staff hours and mileage covers the period of July 1 through December 31, 2025, and documents the following expenditures:

- **Education & Community Program:** \$15,651.50 in staff time and \$1,670.60 in mileage
- **Landowner Stewardship Program:** \$6,204.50 in staff time and \$546.00 in mileage

These figures reflect six months of program implementation. While the full award amount has not yet been expended within this reporting period, remaining funds will be applied to eligible staff time and mileage during the second half of the grant term, in alignment with the approved scope of work.

Additional supporting materials include Grow Wild's 2025 Impact Report Summary, which provides a brief overview of annual outcomes and community impact. Project reports are complete and available on our website's Reports page. We will also share our full 2025 Annual Report once finalized.

Thank you for your continued support of Grow Wild's work in Madison County. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need any additional information.

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Mohler

Jennifer Mohler, Executive Director



Grow Wild
 903 N Black
 Bozeman, MT 59715

Bill To:
 Madison County Weed District
 2296 MT Highway 287
 Alder, MT 59710

Date 1.7.26
Invoice # Jan-26

DESCRIPTION	
Madison County contribution to Grow Wild (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)	
Education & Community Program (\$5,000 for staff & mileage)	\$5,000.00
Landowner Stewardship: Landowner Assistance Program (\$7,500 for staff & mileage)	\$7,500.00
Total	\$12,500.00

Please make checks payable to: **Grow Wild**
903 N Black
Bozeman, MT 59715
 Tax ID # 46-5544351



July - December 2025 Staff Hours & Miles

Month	Land Stewardship Hours	Land Stewardship Miles	Education & Outreach Hours	Education & Outreach Miles
Executive Director = ED				
ED July	39.00	118	25.00	335
ED August	26.25	187	31.25	471
ED September	19.50	332	50.25	283
ED October	29.25	114	23.50	258
ED November	14.00	0	10.00	0
ED December	22.75	29	11.75	0
ED TOTAL	150.75	780	151.75	1,347
ED Rate	\$38/hr.	\$0.70/mile	\$38/hr.	\$0.70/mile
\$ ED TOTAL	\$5,728.50	\$546.00	\$5,766.50	\$942.90

Conservation Program Coordinator = CPC				
CPD July	11.00	0	50.50	249
CPC August	1.50	0	98.25	524
CPC September	3.00	0	82.00	102
CPC October	0.75	0	70.00	37
CPC November	0.75	0	27.25	100
CPC December	0.00	0	25.75	28
CPC TOTAL	17.00	0	353.75	1,040
CDC Rate	\$28/hr.	\$0.70/mile	\$28/hr.	\$0.70/mile
\$ CPC TOTAL	\$476.00	\$0.00	\$9,905.00	\$728.00

Grand Total \$	\$6,204.50	\$546.00	\$15,671.50	\$1,670.90
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2025 Impact Report Summary

With more than 20 years of experience and partnerships with over 50 local, regional, and state organizations—including Gallatin and Madison County districts—Grow Wild delivers effective, coordinated conservation solutions that prevent duplication and strengthen collaboration. Our work supports landowners and the broader community through proven education and land stewardship practices that protect water resources, native habitats, and the landscapes that define Gallatin County.

This summary highlights both 2025 annual metrics and lifetime program metrics, reflecting the full scope of impact achieved through sustained investment. In 2025 alone, Grow Wild conducted 37 property inspections across 272 acres and delivered 73 education and outreach events reaching more than 4,500 people—empowering residents and visitors to protect vital ecosystems.

County support is essential to this work. Outside funding for land stewardship is rare, particularly in resort communities, yet local investment ensures landowners and residents have access to the resources needed to care for shared natural assets. The \$15,000 awarded by Gallatin County supported targeted work in Big Sky and the Gallatin Canyon, advancing noxious weed management, native plant restoration, habitat health, and water conservation.

A full 2025 Annual Report—with expanded narrative, outcomes, and detailed documentation—will be provided early next quarter (2026). We are deeply grateful for Gallatin County's partnership and continued commitment to conserving the natural resources that benefit us all.

- Jennifer Mohler, Executive Director



2025 Impact Report Summary

Annual Program Metrics



Landowner Assistance

37 Property Inspections
272 Acres Inspected



Education & Outreach

73 Classes & Events
2,486 Kids
2,040 Adults



Education Trailer

3,131 Miles Traveled
41 Events
782 Kids
1,113 Adults



Clean Recreation



9.4M Canyon Sign Impressions
893K Media Impressions
6,352 CR Materials Distributed
8 PlayCleanGo Tailhead Signs
1 Clean Recreation Ambassador - Cooper



2025 Impact Report Summary

Annual Program Metrics



Crail Gardens

- 66 Wildflower Planted
- 16 Events
- 276 Attendees
- 28 Volunteers
- 92 Volunteer Hours



Community Weed Pulls

- 8 Weed Pulls
- 286 Volunteers
- 356 Volunteer Hours
- 2,530 Pounds Collected



Pollinator Gardens

- 1 Built in 2025
- 128 Wildflowers Planted
- 3 Volunteers
- 11.5 Volunteer Hours



2025 Impact Report Summary

Lifetime Program Metrics

Because noxious weed management is a long-term effort, lifetime metrics best reflect meaningful progress and lasting impact. Cumulative data captures the full scope of treatment and stewardship over time, providing a clearer picture than single-year results.



Conserve Our Canyon

7 Years
97 Sites
1,644 Acres
\$32,397 Contributed
\$71,541 Matching



HOA - Habitat Owners Assoc.

12 Years
76 Landowners
248 Landowner Hours
747 Pounds of Weeds Pulled
319 Acres
\$101,277 Value to HOA's



Bighorn Sheep Winter Range

15 Years
8 Partners
\$16,868 Our Investment
\$161,879 Matching Funds



2025 Impact Report Summary

Underway - Firewise Crevice Garden

As wildfire threats continue to intensify across the West, proactive land management and home hardening are increasingly essential. One of the most common challenges in firewise landscaping is the recommended five-foot hardscape buffer around structures, which can conflict with traditional landscape aesthetics. This project addresses that challenge by demonstrating how fire-resistant design can be both functional and visually compelling.

Construction of the **Firewise Crevice Garden at Historic Crail Ranch** began in fall 2025. Initial work included site preparation, transporting and placing stone, installing metal edging, and adding soil to establish the garden structure.

Over the winter of 2025–26, project partners will develop educational materials and interpretive signage focused on wildfire resilience, native plants, and pollinator support.

In spring 2026, the garden will be planted with drought-tolerant native species and top-dressed with decomposed granite to complete the firewise hardscape design. The project will culminate in a ribbon-cutting event during the 2026 Big Sky Wildflower Festival.

