


From: [Armitage, Stacy A](#)
To: [Fox, Trevor T](#)
Subject: Fwd: GRBR Key Points and Timeline
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 7:57:49 AM
Attachments: [Key Points and Timeline - Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch.docx](#)
[Letter to Marc deManigold Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch Manager](#) 
[Outlook-imepsbdj.png](#)

FYSA

Stacy A Armitage
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | National Wildlife Refuge System
Assistant Regional Director
Mountain Prairie Region
Cell: (720) 440-4824
Pronouns: She/Her



From: Armitage, Stacy A
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:56:01 AM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Subject: GRBR Key Points and Timeline

As requested, attached is the timeline as well as the 2019 letter to highlight the easement monitoring report. The next field visit is scheduled for July 25th. Meeting attendees include: Trevor Fox, Andrew Pettibone, Brandon Kittson (Blackfeet Nation), Chris Paige (fence expert - contacted, but not confirmed), Chad Bullinger (GRBR) and Marc deManigold (GRBR).

Stacy A Armitage
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | National Wildlife Refuge System
Assistant Regional Director
Mountain Prairie Region
Cell: (720) 440-4824
Pronouns: She/Her





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge
922 Bootlegger Trail
Great Falls, Montana 59404-6133



September 28, 2020

Mr. Marc deManigold
P.O. Box 253
Babb, Montana 59411

Dear Mr. deManigold:

This letter is to follow-up the meeting we had on September 24. These annual meetings are vital to the success of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) conservation easement program because they encourage communication and prevent possible misunderstandings about the easement. I have enclosed a copy of the easement monitoring form and easement permit for agricultural building and corrals. Please keep this letter and the monitoring form for your records and future reference.

Ben Gilles and I met you at the Ranch for our annual meeting. We started by talking about the boundary fence which Grizzly Ridge Bison has been constructing over the past year and is currently about half completed. I shared the concerns I had received from landowners and some Tribal member over the fencing project. You explained all the different measures Grizzly Ridge Bison has undergoing to address these concerns. These included but are not limited to:

- Removing the top single strand of barb wire from current construction design
- Opening up gates in pastures that bison are not occupying
- Installing numerous gates to enhance wildlife movements
- Working with Tribal Game and Fish to identify key wildlife corridors and discussing alternative for those areas like lay down panels or lower section of fence
- Contacting and/or working with Tribal Game and Fish to assist any wildlife that appears to be having problems navigating the fence
- Removing a significant amount of interior fence on the property.

This list of measure is likely not conclusive and you agreed to send me a more complete outline of ongoing activities Grizzly Ridge Bison is engaged in to alleviate fence concerns. The Service has not, and does not, perceive this fence construction project to be in violation of the easement's provisions.

The rest of the meeting centered on any other future improvement for the Ranch. You mentioned constructing an agricultural building and set of corrals for T36N R12W Sec. 29 which is also identified as a Reserved House Site on Map 14 of 41 of the easement. I have included a permit to go ahead with this construction. The only other improvements you mentioned were to possible rejuvenating some tame grass hay fields next year. You were first going to evaluate them for one more growing season before deciding.

Ben and I thank you for taking the time to meet with us. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call (406) 727-7400 x228 or my cell (406) 750-2505.

Sincerely,

Jim Lange
Wetland District Manager

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

EASEMENT PERMIT

Station
Benton Lake
NWR

Permit No.
20-02

Date
9/28/20

Period of Use (Inclusive)
From: 10/20
To: 10/23

Permittee Name and Address:

Marc deManigold,
Ranch Manager
Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch
PO Box 253
Babb, MT 59411

(b) (6)

This permit is not assignable to subsequent landowner.

Purpose: To construct an agricultural building approximately 50' X 40' and corrals on or adjacent to the old building site located in T36N R12W Sec. 29. The site is also a reserved house site as illustrated on the Exhibit A Map 14 of 41.

Land Description (Easement No.; legal description; attach copy of map):

Glacier Counties 62C
Section 29-36N-12W
(See attached maps for locations)

Statement of effect and compatibility:

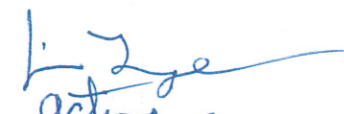
The proposed activity described and allowed by this permit is hereby determined to be compatible with the purpose for which the easement interest was acquired. The proposed activity is a Permitted Use as described in Exhibit C Provision 3.

Special Conditions (Specifications and other details of permitted activities. Attach copy of guidelines):

1. See attached map for approximate location.
2. Permittee should notify Refuge Manager within 10 days of completing construction of the building.
3. This permit does not supersede any required state, federal, or local permit.
4. This permit is not transferable to future owners.
5. The Service is not responsible for any accidents, injury, damage to property, or any liability for any portion of this activity. If any questions or concerns, call Wetland District Manager Jim Lange at (406) 727-7400 ext. 228.

Landowner Signature

Issuing Officer Signature and Title


Project Leader

EASEMENT FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION

Exhibit "A"

Tract Map: 14 of 41

Owner: Flowerree Land & Cattle Company, LLC

Tract Number: 62C

Acres: 632.5

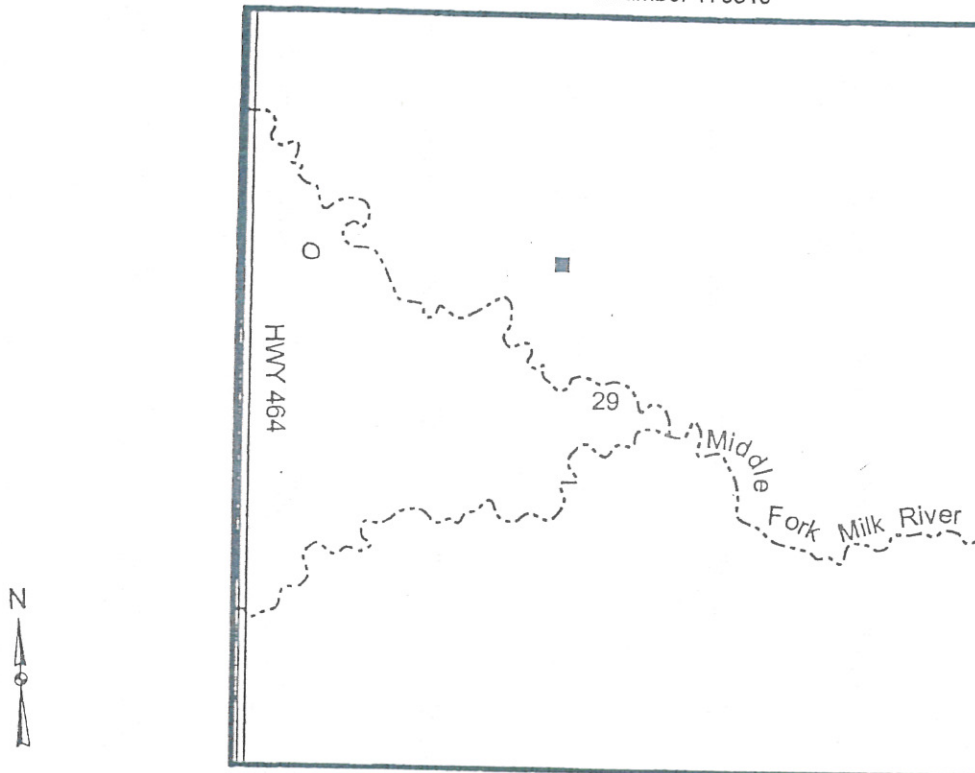
Unit: Benton Lake Wetland Management District

County: Glacier

State: Montana

Legal Description: Township 36 North, Range 12 West, M.P.M.

Section 29: NE1/4, S1/2, N1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, EXCEPTING THEREFROM: that portion of the W1/2SW1/4 deeded to the State of Montana, Department of Highways, by Bargain and Sale Deed filed June 7, 1976, in Book 70 of Deeds, Page 9, under Document Number 176429. AND FURTHER EXCEPTING that tract of land in the W1/2NW1/4 as deeded to the State of Montana, Department of Highways, by Bargain and Sale Deed filed May 21, 1976, in Book 69 of Deeds, Page 961, under Document Number 176319



This map delineates lands referred to in the easement conveyance dated 3/7/17 which the parties of the first part agree to maintain as a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area.

Landowner Signatures By: Brendan R. Beatty, Member

Flowerree Land & Cattle Company, LLC

Kimberly A. Beatty, Member

Kimberly A. Beatty, Member

Map prepared by:

Jim Lange

Legend:



Easement Boundary



Wetlands Covered by Provisions of the Easement



Existing Road/Trail



Existing Building Site
(no existing residences on this tract)



Reserved House Site. One of two
possible locations. See Exhibit A Map 28.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING REPORT

Property Name: Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

Date of Visit: 9/24/20

By: Jim Lange

Date of Previous Visit: 11/4/19

By: Jim Lange

PROPERTY STATUS

Legal Description:

Distance to property:

County: Glacier

Date Purchased: 3/7/17

Acres: 1,244 AC Goose Lake
13,673 AC Main Ranch

Owner: Grizzly Ridge Bison Ranch

Telephone: **(b) (6)**

Address: Manager, Marc deManigold
P.O. Box 253

Tenant: Babb MT 59411

Telephone: _____

Has ownership changed since easement was purchased? (Yes) (NO)

When? Grizzly Ridge Bison purchased Ranch 7/10/19

LANDOWNER CONTACT:

(This portion of the report should be conducted with the landowner or tenant.)

GENERAL EASEMENT

Have there been any problems or conflicts with any stipulation of the conservation easement? Explain/Describe. No

Has the property been altered by natural causes (drought, flood, fire, erosion, insect infestation) since the last monitoring visit? Not location, nature of change, and any change in management in response to these. (Document major changes with photos.)

Great Grass year.

Have any of the following activities taken place since the last monitoring visit? (Locate any changes on a copy of the map.)

50x40

Building Construction (additions or deletions?):

shed & set of corrals located at old Building site

Road Construction: T36N R12W Sec. 29

gravel existing on roads

Timber harvesting (private, commercial, firewood):

No

Mining or Excavation (incl. gravel):

No

Water Development (i.e., stock pond, wells, irrigation, diversions): No

Other improvements (fences, Powerlines, gravel pits, trails, dumps, etc.):

Continue Building Boundary fence
About 1/2 left To Build

Commercial Uses (including guest ranching and outfitting):

No

Other (including mineral/oil and gas exploration, education and research):

No

PRESENT LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

Does the owner/tenant collaborate with State and Federal agencies, institutions or private organizations in property management (i.e., USDA, Mt. FWP, etc.)?

No

Have any management plans, studies, or projects been performed by these groups on the property (i.e., Great Plains Contract, soil or range surveys, weed spraying, special hunts, etc.)?

Land Use

Acreage/Location

Production

Agriculture: Crops:
Hay:

2600 AC. Approx.

Rangeland: Deeded:
Leased:

Timber/logging:

Has there been any change in land use since last monitoring visit (i.e., range to farmland, grazing land to timber harvest)?

Location?

Has irrigation changed? Any problems with in-stream flows or water quality?

No

Are there problems with noxious weeds? Where?

spray weeds with summer kids hired from Resv.

Are there problems with soil erosion? Where?

No

Any problems with streambanks cutting and/or sloughing? Where? Why?

washed out main Road

RECREATION

Has there been any change in use of the property by wildlife? What?

fewer Bears, lots of Elk

GENERAL

Has surrounding land use changed or neighboring properties sold?

No

Any specific management concerns or resource enhancement projects which interest the owner/manager? No

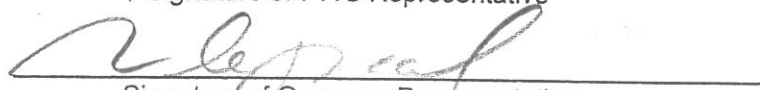
Any other changes in the operation? No

Any questions? No

Go over maps with landowner/tenant.



Signature of FWS Representative



Signature of Owner or Representative

Date 9/24/20

Date 9/24/20