March 31, 2026

Via US Mail and Email
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Via Hand Delivery and Email
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Re: *Petition to Close Montana State Trust Land*

Dear Mr. Richards and Ms. Huyser:

This firm represents David and Melissa Hatter (hereafter, the "Hatters"). Enclosed is a Petition to permanently close a certain parcel of Montana State Trust Land pursuant to Admin. R. Mont. § 36.25.1207. The Petition seeks closure of the following State Trust Land:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County, Montana, located north of Axtell Anceney Road.

The Petition and supporting documents provide the basis for the requested permanent closure. The email transmitting this letter (and the petition) also contains a link to a ShareFile folder from which you may download electronic versions of the Petition and supporting exhibits.

We request a hearing. Please let us know when the hearing is scheduled. Also, please direct all future communications regarding this matter to our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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William Guy Thomas

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Petition for Permanent Closure of State Trust Land and Request for Hearing**

Petitioners David and Melissa Hatter, (hereafter the "Hatters") submit this Petition to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (the "Department") pursuant to Admin. R. Mont. (ARM) § 36.25.1207. The Hatters request that the Department permanently close the following state trust land from use as a public shooting range[1] and from use for recreational shooting:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceney[2] Road.

[1] The use of the term "public shooting range" in this Petition, signifies the substantial use of the State Land for shooting. The term does not carry with it the traditional qualities of a formal shooting range that has been made safe through implementing range rules, proper back stops, berms, rigorous range monitoring, and other safe practices. Given the structure of the State Land, under no condition could the State Land be made safe as a public shooting range.

[2] In declarations attached hereto, the road Axtell Anceney is sometimes spelled as "Axtell Anceny" in accordance with how Google Maps spells the road. This Petition follows the spelling of the Department's Montana State Trust Lands Public Access Map which spells the road Axtell Anceney. Either spelling is referring to the same state land parcel.

This real property is referred to below as the "State Land."

The Hatters seek the permanent closure of the State Land due to the immediate threat to public safety, irreparable property damage or bodily injury on both the State Land and lands adjacent thereto, and to preserve the income-generating potential of the State Land.

THE STATE LAND

The State Land is located West of Bozeman, just off Axtell Anceney Road. The Hatters own real property immediately south of the State Land, as described below. The State Land is shaded in blue on the aerial map attached as Exhibit 1.

The public uses the State Land as a public shooting range for recreational shooting. The shooting occurs on Section 6, north of Axtell Anceney Road. *See* Exhibit 2. Arial imagery from Google Earth, attached as Exhibit 3 depicts the State Land, with at least four trampled shooting lanes from substantial public use. The public uses the rest of Section 6 for recreational shooting with significant public use.

PETITIONERS

The Hatters own real property in the immediate epicenter of the shooting occurring on the State Land. The Hatters own a 174.1-acre parcel, legally described as Section 7, Township 3 South, Range 4 East. The Hatters' property is outlined in red on Exhibit 1. Due to the proximity of their property, the Hatters have personally faced safety concerns and threats of bodily injury because of the use of the State Land as a public shooting range and for recreational shooting. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hatter provided declarations in support of this Petition. *See* Exhibits 4, 5.

Several adjacent landowners to the State Land lend their support to this Petition by providing declarations attached hereto. These landowners include:

- Spur Cross Ranch: Property outlined in green. Their property has been damaged as described below and associated declarations are attached hereto as Exhibits 6,

7.

- Morgan McReynolds: Property outlined in yellow. His property has been damaged as described below. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 8.
- Louis Kamps: Property outlined in purple. His property has been damaged as described below. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 9.
- Fredreick Richards: Property outlined in dark blue. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.
- Dana Christian: His property has been damaged as described below. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 11.
- Derek Dyk: His experience is described below. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 12.
- John Van Dyke: His experience is described below. His declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 13.

AUTHORITY FOR CLOSURE

State trust lands are open to general recreational use. ARM § 36.25.1201(3). General recreational use includes "noncommercial and ***nonconcentrated*** hunting, fishing, and other activities determined by the board to be compatible with the use of State Trust Lands." M.C.A. § 77-1-101(5)(a) (emphasis added). However, the general recreational use is subject to closure and restrictions per the rules established by the State Board of Land Commissioners and administered by the Department. M.C.A. § 77-1-203(3); ARM § 36.25.1207(3). These rules, specifically ARM § 36.25.1207, delineate the circumstances under which state trust lands can be closed to recreational use. *See* ARM § 36.25.1207(3); *See also* M.C.A. § 77-1-804(2).

Per ARM § 36.25. l207(7), "any person, corporation, organization or government agency

may petition to close a specific tract of land." A "closure" means the "prohibition of all general recreational use." ARM § 36.25.1202.

The reasons for which the closure can be granted are listed at ARM § 36.25.1207(3), which states:

(1) The department may close specific tracts of State Trust Land to recreational use through the process described in (7) for any of the following reasons:

> (a) damage attributable to recreational use diminishes the income generating potential of the State Trust Lands;
>
> * * *
>
> (h) protection of public safety; and
>
> * * *
>
> (k) an imminent threat, caused by potential substantial public use, of immediate, irreparable property damage or bodily injury on the state tract or adjacent land.

The Hatters submit this Petition pursuant to subsections (a), (h), and (k). Use of the State Land for a public shooting range and for recreational shooting is causing damage that diminishes the income generating potential of the State Land, derogates public safety, and creates an imminent threat of immediate, irreparable property damage and bodily injury.

GROUNDS FOR CLOSURE

Until approximately 10 years ago, minimal recreational shooting occurred on the State Land. Perhaps due to the closure of other shooting ranges in Gallatin County, the use of the State Land as a public shooting range and for recreational shooting has significantly increased. Exhibit 3 contains arial imagery from Google Earth capturing the visible increase of trampled shooting lanes from 2014 to present. The trampling has degraded the State Land. The substantial and constant shooting has negatively impacted the Hatters. These impacts have increased to the point

where the Hatters now fear for the safety of themselves, the safety of others, and damage to their property.

Persons engaged in general recreational use of state trust land are required to abide by the rules adopted by the Department. ARM § 36.25.1204. Unfortunately, this has not been the case on the State Land subject to this Petition. On state land, a person may not use a firearm negligently. ARM § 36.25.1204(5). However, firearms are negligently fired towards the Hatters' property, as well as other adjacent landowners as discussed *infra*. Additionally, firearms are negligently being used on the State Land to discharge tannerite. The State Land is abused with prolific litter in direct violation of ARM § 36.25.1204(11). Recreationists may not trespass onto private lands, regardless of the absence of fencing or signage. ARM § 36.25.1204(18). As discussed *infra*, recreational shooters trespass onto surrounding private lands adjacent to the State Land.

As the Department is aware, adjacent landowners have made repeated requests that the Department properly control the use of the State Land. This has not occurred. The Hatters now request that the Department permanently close the State Land to protect public safety, protect the Hatters from bodily injury and damage to their property, and to prevent the continued diminution of the income generating potential of the State Land.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY IS AT RISK BECAUSE THE SHOOTING PRACTICES POSE AN IMMINENT THREAT OF IMMEDIATE, IRREPARABLE PROPERTY DAMAGE AND BODILY INJURY.

The closure is necessary per ARM § 36.25.1207(3) (h) and (k). The Department must close the State Land to protect public safety. The closure also is required due to the imminent threat of immediate, irreparable property damage and bodily injury caused by the substantial public use of the State Land as a public shooting range and for recreational shooting. This threat exists both on the State Land and on the Hatters' property.

A. Shooting practices.

Substantial public use of the State Land as a public shooting range for recreational shooting is occurring. The State Land has turned into an unregulated and dangerous informal shooting range. M. Hatter Decl. ¶ 3. Very little recreational shooting occurred on the State Land until five to ten years ago. Christian Decl. ¶ 5; Kamps Decl. ¶ 5; McReynolds Decl. ¶ 3; Dyk Decl. ¶ 4; Richards Decl. ¶ 5. Now the current shooting practices are out of control on the State Land. Dyk Decl. ¶ 3.

There are days in which as many as 80 people are shooting on the State Land. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 9. On one occasion Mr. McReynolds counted 27 cars parked along Axtell Anceney Road, all of which belonged to recreational shooters. *Id*. Use of the State Land for recreational shooting occurs at all times of the day. It is common for shooters to shoot at night, oftentimes coupled with the consumption of alcohol. M. Hatter Decl. ¶ 6; McReynolds Decl. ¶ 16; Kamps Decl. ¶ 14. This poses an extreme risk to public safety and causes adjacent landowners to feel unsafe on their property. Kamps Decl. ¶ 14.

An imminent and immediate threat to public safety exists given the substantial public use and prevalence of nighttime shooting. On the State Land, shooters commonly fire after dark using truck headlights, and sometimes without any lights at all. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 16; *See* Exhibit 14. For adjacent landowners:

> Public safety is one of my greatest concerns. I have observed shooters repeatedly discharging 30 round magazines, conducting military-style drills with steel silhouette targets, in which shooters roll around on the ground and fire under "stress scenarios" while rapidly reloading. I have seen shooters pound metal posts into the ground and shoot them down until only sharp metal spikes remain, which they then abandon. These conditions are extremely dangerous for other recreationists, and livestock.

McReynolds Decl. ¶ 15; *See* Exhibits 15, 16, 17.

Not only are shooters discharging firearms at night and conducting military style drills, but they shoot in all directions. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 17. As an adjacent landowner, Mr. McReynolds believes it is "only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed. ***I fear for my own safety when working near this parcel, as well as for the safety of my family.***" *Id*. (emphasis added). It is common for shooters to use AR-15 style weapons or other semi-automatic weapons that can fire rapidly. W. Wood Decl. ¶ 9. Thousands of rounds can be shot daily and because of the number of rounds being fired, the risk to public safety is drastically increased. W. Wood Decl. ¶¶ 7-9; *See* Exhibit 18. Additionally, shooters do not stop for others when placing targets and continue to fire with people clearly in the line of fire. *Id*. Essentially there are no range rules that would exist at a traditional and functionally safe shooting range. The State Land is not that.

Mr. Wood has "observed recreational shooters discharge firearms when cattle are present on the State Land. Furthermore, I have seen recreational shooters usher cattle away from the fenceline off Axtell Ancen[e]y Road, so that they can shoot. This is plainly against state land rules." T. Wood Decl. ¶ 18. *See* ARM § 36.25.1204(12).

The substantial use and damage extend to private lands that border the State Land and beyond to the larger community surrounding the State Land. It is against ARM § 36.25.1204(18) for recreationists to trespass onto private lands. However, the dangers are literally forced upon adjacent landowners who experience trespass and individuals placing targets on their land to shoot. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 14. Shooters on the State Land treat the surrounding private land like their own. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 8.

The irresponsible practices of shooting at night, conducting military-style drills, and firing rounds in indiscriminate directions, all combine to put public safety at risk. Closure is

required due to the imminent threat of immediate, irreparable property damage and bodily injury caused by the substantial and concentrated public use of the State Land as a public shooting range and for recreational shooting.

B. Adjacent landowners' safety is at risk.

For those who own property around the State Land, the current recreational shooting conditions are extremely unsafe. The Hatters' safety concerns were only further validated when a utility box in their neighborhood was struck by a stray bullet from the State Land. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 6. The signs hung on the Hatters fenceline are covered in bullet holes. *Id*., *See* Exhibit 19. For the Hatters this means shooters on the State Land are firing away from the State Land and directly at their property. *Id*. The recklessness of shooters on the State Land is endangering the Hatters.

The Hatters' concerns are further supported by the old grain silos that border their property. These silos are approximately two to three feet from the Hatter's fenceline. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 7. Shooters will fire at the grain silos as evidenced by the hundreds of bullet holes covering the exterior. *Id*., *See* Exhibits 20, 21. This also means that shooters on the State Land are firing directly towards the Hatters' property. *Id.* Because shooters are firing directly onto the Hatters' property, this has made the Hatters feel continuously unsafe on their own property. *Id*. By firing directly away from the State Land and onto adjacent private property, recreational shooters violate ARM § 36.25.1204(5).

The Hatters' concerns are echoed by others. For Mr. Wood, a ranch manager at Spur Cross Ranch, the current shooting practices create significant dangers for him in his everyday work. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 3. One of Mr. Wood's biggest concerns with the recreational shooting on the State Land is public safety. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 6. Not only are the current shooting practices endangering Mr. Wood in his everyday work, but he is fearful that in speaking up about the

dangers, he will face retaliatory action. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 8.

Other adjacent landowners share similar sentiments. Mr. McReynolds fears for his own safety when working near this parcel, as well as for the safety of his family. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 17. Being a manager of Spur Cross Ranch, Mrs. Wood spends a lot of her time working with quarter horses. W. Wood Decl. ¶ 5. She is constantly worried about the horses being shot by recreational shooters on the State Land. *Id*.

Ricochets occur on the State Land. *See* Exhibit 22. Rocks are used to keep clay pigeons upright while shooters take aim. *See* Exhibit 23. The prevalence of ricochets creates an obvious public safety risk. For Mr. Hatter, "it is only a matter of time before me, my wife, or guests on my property are seriously harmed by a stray bullet from the State Land." D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 10. Mrs. Hatter attested that she felt:

> profoundly unsafe on my own property. My husband and I are afraid to even walk the property due to the constant threat of stray bullets. I truly believe it is only a matter of time before myself or a guest on the property is struck by a stray bullet.

M. Hatter Decl. ¶ 10.

Shooters are not only firing rounds on the State Land but also firing directly away from the State Land. In doing so shooters create a significant public safety risk endangering adjacent landowners. The Department must permanently close the State Land to protect public safety and the safety of adjacent property owners. The recreational shooting on the State Land presents an imminent threat of immediate, irreparable bodily injury on the State Land and on adjacent landowners' property.

C. The shooting practices are concentrated.

Recreational opportunities on the State Land include "noncommercial and ***nonconcentrated*** hunting, fishing, and other activities determined by the board to be compatible

with the use of State Trust Lands." M.C.A. § 77-1-101(5)(a) (emphasis added). The current shooting practices on the State Land are highly concentrated in nature. Vehicles stack up along the side of the road, obstructing access points and shooting is so frequent that it has become the exclusive use of the State Land. Richards Decl. ¶ 4; McReynolds Decl. ¶ 9. There are days in which as many as 80 people are shooting on the State Land. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 9. Exhibit 3 depicts the matting down of grasses and substantial public use immediately off Axtell Anceney Road. Mr. Wood has ***consistently*** observed 20-25 shooters on the State Land. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 9 (emphasis added). The crowding only causes heightened risks. *Id*.

The State Land parcel is relatively small. The public access along Axtell Anceney Road is a relatively narrow strip, approximately ***four hundred yards*** in length. *See* Exhibit 2. This requires shooters to stack up along the side of the road in a highly concentrated manner.

The current recreational shooting practices on the State Land are in direct violation of the nonconcentrated activity requirement stated in M.C.A. § 77-1-101(5)(a). The permanent closure of the State Land to recreational shooting is required by way of the nonconcentrated use mandate under M.C.A. § 77-1-101(5)(a).

D. The shooting practices are constant.

The Hatters installed technology that captures the number of gunshots daily occurring on the State Land. A subset of that data captured is provided below: [3]

[3] Providing the entire data set would have been a difficult proposition given the format in which gunshots are recorded. The Hatters selected a nine-day data set at random to include in this Petition.

Date	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	First	Last	Total	Night
10/28/25	Tue	7:59 AM	6:17 PM	10:01 AM	6:46 PM	208	
10/29/25	Wed	8:01 AM	6:15 PM	9:57 AM	5:55 PM	233	
10/30/25	Thu	8:02 AM	6:14 PM	9:15 AM	6:51 PM	364	3
10/31/25	Fri	8:04 AM	6:12 PM	8:45 AM	6:10 PM	321	
11/1/25	Sat	8:05 AM	6:11 PM	10:07 AM	6:29 PM	306	
11/2/25	Sun	7:06 AM	5:10 PM	8:12 AM	5:10 PM	633	
11/3/25	Mon	7:08 AM	5:08 PM	2:28 PM	7:53 PM	42	10
11/4/25	Tue	7:09 AM	5:07 PM	6:48 AM	5:38 PM	72	1
11/5/25	Wed	7:11 AM	5:05 PM	10:45 AM	5:08 PM	122	

This snippet of data exhibits both the high number of shots occurring daily and the span of times shooting occurs on the State Land. The data supports adjacent landowners' observation that nighttime shooting occurs on a regular basis with three out of the nine days having shots recorded at night.

The data set supports the constant nature of the shooting practices on the State Land. Therefore, recreational shooting on the State Land constitutes a substantial use. In this set, there is not a day that goes by where recreational shooting does not occur on the State Land.

Recreational shooting on the State Land is substantial public use that is an immediate threat of irreparable property damage or bodily injury on the State Land and adjacent land. The Department must act to permanently close the State Land to recreational shooting.

E. A lack of law enforcement presence makes the State Land a perceived free-for-all.

The Hatters and other adjacent landowners have experienced a complete lack of support

from relevant law enforcement agencies. The relevant agency responses connected to the State Land are nonexistent. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 20. Calls to the Gallatin County Sheriffs Department and FWP at most end only in a warning issued if personnel respond to the call at all. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 21. Because there is no proactive agency response or enforcement of relevant regulations, the State Land has effectively become a lawless and dangerous place. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 22. Mr. Hatter has yet to see FWP conduct a proactive patrol. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 18.

Mr. Wood noted that he has called the:

> Gallatin County Sheriff's Department approximately twenty-five times and they have dispatched an officer to the State Land maybe four to five times. The same goes for FWP as it is very rare for them to send a warden to the State Land. When a warden is sent, the most I have observed them give is a warning.

T. Wood Decl. ¶ 13.

Mr. Wood elaborated that because of a lack of law enforcement shooters have an attitude that they can do whatever they want on the State Land. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 14. Mr. Wood has personally been threatened during several altercations. *Id*.

The DNRC is well aware of violations on the State Land as well as violations on the High Flat Parcel.[4] Mr. Dyk has made the DNRC aware of violations for years. Dyk Decl. ¶ 11. He has, "personally sent emails with photos to the DNRC with no results. He believes, "99% of the violations that I have seen involve recreational shooters." *Id*. Furthermore, Mr. Dyk attests:

> I worked in law enforcement for 13 years and have never seen such

[4]As the crow flies, the High Flat Parcel (NW ¼ of Section 32), is approximately one mile from the State Land. The concerns of the Hatters and their neighbors apply to the High Flat Parcel as well. The High Flat Parcel is burdened by the same issues recreational shooting present on the State Land. In essence, landowners in this area are at risk due to activities occurring on both parcels. The Department would be wise to consider the concerns of adjacent landowners and close both parcels to recreational shooting.

> willful neglect of public property by a government agency. I do not understand how on the State Land there not regular proactive patrols conducted by FWP or the Sheriff's office during known high recreational use times. It is clear to me, and one of my biggest concerns, is that there is absolutely zero proactive enforcement presence on the State Land.

Dyk Decl. ¶ 13.

The declarations of adjacent landowners are supported by FWP's own data. According to a report generating by FWP, examining data from January 2018 though December of 2025, FWP conducted 29 proactive patrols which "primarily covered recreational shooting." Exhibit 24. Therefore, in 7 years of data FWP ***averaged only 4.1 proactive patrols on the State Land per-year***. In other words, FWP had a proactive presence on the State Land ***for 1.12% of the days*** in a year.

Effectively, there is no enforcement presence on the State Land. The enforcement framework in existence is ineffective to respond to and make the State Land safe and the properties of adjacent landowners. The increase is recreational shooting has put far too much pressure on the State Land and proactive enforcement is nonexistent.

Accordingly, the Department must effectuate a permanent closure of the State Land due to the imminent threat of immediate, irreparable property damage and bodily injury caused by the substantial public use of the State Land for recreational shooting.

F. Confrontation enlarges the risk to public safety.

Recreational shooting on the State Land invites high risk confrontations. Naturally, bad actors on the State Land brandish weapons, and some may feel empowered to use them. The nature of the activity creates tense and hostile confrontations that are exaggerated due to the lack of any law enforcement presence.

As a result of the lack of law enforcement, Mr. McReynolds feels that as an adjacent

landowner, he has felt powerless to make the area safer. Mc Reynolds Decl. ¶ 14. Mrs. Wood attested, "I truly believe either myself or my husband will be seriously harmed in an altercation with recreational shooters who break relevant regulations." W. Wood Decl. ¶ 14. Mr. Wood has personally been threatened during several altercations. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 14.

For adjacent landowners who have tried to educate shooters on relevant regulations, interactions can become hostile:

> In the past, when I have attempted to educate shooters about their noncompliance, the responses are often dismissive, such as "so what," "it's state land, I can do what I want," or "who's going to stop me." These attitudes only contribute to the increasingly dangerous conditions on State Land.

Kamps Decl. ¶ 10.

Similarly, Mr. Dyk has spoken to people that are violating relevant state land regulations, only to be met with hostility. Dyk Decl. ¶ 14. Mr. Dyk believes that:

> The DNRC has done nothing to correct the behavior of people mistreating the State Land. Instead, DNRC has created a dangerous environment for those holding leases and the adjacent landowners.

Dyk Decl. ¶ 15.

The risks associated with confrontation caused by recreational shooting is a danger to public safety. Public safety is at risk, and the Department must permanently close the State Land due to the imminent threat of immediate, irreparable bodily injury caused by the substantial public use of the State Land for recreational shooting.

II. THE RECREATIONAL SHOOTING HAS CAUSED, AND CONTINUES TO CAUSE, DAMAGE TO ADJECT LANDOWNERS' PROPERTY.

Recreational shooting on State Land directly damages the Hatters' property, as well as the property of adjacent landowners. It is common for recreational shooters to use the Hatters' fence line as a target. Doing so creates a serious safety risk for the Hatters, as bullets are fired

directly onto their property. In addition to the obvious safety risks, clear damage is being done to the Hatters' property. The Hatters' fence posts have been consistently shot. *See* Exhibit 25. The Hatters' posted "no trespassing" signage which are riddled with bullet holes. *See* Exhibit 19. The Hatters' gate has been, and continues to be, used for target practice. *See* Exhibit 26.

Mrs. Hatter observed:

> Our fenceline is riddled with bullet holes of shooters directly firing onto our property. The signs we put up are shot immediately. Our gate and the silos that border our property have completely been shot hundreds of times, if not thousands. This means that shooters are ***firing away from the State Land*** and directly at our property. I truly believe it is only a matter of time before someone on our property is killed by shooters on the State Land.

M. Hatter Decl. ¶ 7 (emphasis in original).

The damage to the Hatters' property is both past and ongoing. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 14. Shooters damage their fenceline as they use it for target practice as well as the signs on the fenceline. *Id*., *See* Exhibit 25. The Hatters' bottom gate to their property has been shot by recreational shooters on the State Land. *Id*., *See* Exhibit 26. And furthermore, recreational shooters have cut the Hatters' fence on multiple occasions. *Id.,* Exhibit 27. For the Hatters, not only are recreational shooters causing damage to their property, but they are also firing rounds directly onto the Hatters' property. *See* Exhibit 19. This is obviously negligent firearm use and highly dangerous.

Other landowners adjacent to the State Land experience similar problems. Adjacent landowner Mr. McReynolds attested:

> Shooters routinely damaged the fencing I put on the State Land. Fences were cut, fence posts were shot until they collapsed, and signs I placed were repeatedly shot to destruction. Maintaining the fence line became both expensive and a daily chore. Shooters would often cut fences to create access for shooting benches or tables and never repair them afterward. As a result, the lease became both too dangerous to manage and too costly to maintain. I wanted to ranch

> cattle, not continuously respond to hazards created by recreational shooting.

McReynolds Decl. ¶ 8; *See* Exhibits 28, 29, 30.

Furthermore, Mr. McReynolds describes how parts of washing machines end up on his property after being shot at on the State Land using tannerite.[5] McReynolds Decl. ¶ 14. Mr. McReynolds consistently has targets hung on his fenceline and his fence posts shot. *See* Exhibit 30. It is also a regular occurrence that recreational shooters on the State Land simply set targets on adjacent landowners' property:

> When shooters want longer shooting distances or the State Land becomes crowded, they simply place steel targets on my land and leave them behind. This is blatant trespass. When I have confronted shooters, I am often told, "It's close enough to State Land, isn't it?" The lack of enforcement has created a perception that the area is a free-for-all, resulting in damage not only to the State Land but also to my property. As an adjacent landowner, I have felt powerless to make the area safer.

McReynolds Decl. ¶ 14.

Trespassing by recreationists to adjacent private lands is prohibited. *See* ARM § 36.25.1204(18). However, Mr. McReynolds regularly experiences trespassing by recreationists connected to recreational shooting.

Damage to adjacent property is not unique to the Hatters and Mr. McReynolds. Mr. Christian found his horse shot from shooters. Christian Decl. ¶ 7; *See* Exhibit 31. It is also the experience of adjacent landowner Mr. Kamps, who attests, "shooters routinely hang their targets on my fenceline that I put in and regularly maintain. Often, they leave these targets hanging on the fence. Because of this practice my fenceline is regularly damaged by bullets and in constant

[5] Tannerite is an explosive target that consists of aluminum powder and ammonium nitrate mixed together. The mixture is stable until detonated by a high velocity bullet upon which an explosion occurs.

need of replacement." Kamps Decl. ¶ 12. Mr. Kamps has also had gates shot and one of his cows died on his property, likely because of being shot from the State Land. Kamps Decl. ¶ 13.

The Department must close the State Land to recreational shooting because of the associated damage to adjacent landowners' property.

III. LITTERING ON THE STATE LAND IS IN VIOLATION OF ARM § 36.25.1204(11).

Recreationists are prohibited from littering on state lands and are supposed to pack out their litter. ARM § 36.25.1204(11). This rule also is ignored and not enforced. The Hatters attest to observing trash in the form of beer cans, old pallets, spent shell casings, liquor bottles, old targets. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 19. Exhibit 32. Others have observed litter in the form of beer cans, spent cartridges, clay pigeons, washing machines, dryers, refrigerators and ovens all left on the State Land in connection with recreational shooting. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 15. Examples of the litter and refuse left on the State Land are depicted in the photos at Exhibits 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51.

Use of the State Land as a public shooting range and for recreational shooting brings with it large amounts of litter and abuse of the landscape. This is a concern to adjacent landowners. Mr. McReynolds states:

> I am also deeply concerned about the debris left behind by shooters. Targets have included refrigerators packed with tannerite, televisions, lawn mowers, propane bottles, and beer cans. After detonations or shooting sessions, debris is routinely abandoned and left scattered across the landscape. When standing on the State Land I can smell the residual burning of gun powder and toxins. The State Land now smells like a dump. I have also repeatedly observed shooters using clay pigeons and steel gongs, which are prohibited under the State Land rules, yet there is no enforcement of the relevant regulations

McReynolds Decl. ¶ 13.

Mr. McReynolds recounts that on several occasions debris from tannerite explosions,

including parts of washing machines, landed on his property. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 14. It is routine for shooters to leave behind beer cans, liquor bottles, spent brass cartridges, and used targets. Kamps Decl. ¶ 11. Mr. Christian agrees that it is common practice for shooters to leave behind litter. Christian Decl. ¶ 12.

Also:

> recreational shooters trample cropland, litter the ground with spent ammo casings, clays, beer cans and liquor bottles; shooting fence posts, wire, shooting explosive targets, resulting in the grassland being scarred from the explosion and livestock being startled.

Dyk Decl. ¶ 8.

The use of the State Land as a recreational shooting range is accompanied by prolific amounts of litter left on the State Land. *See* Exhibit 52. This is in direct violation of ARM § 36.25.1204(11). The trash and debris left on the State Land by recreational shooters is causing damage to the landscape and is grounds for closure under ARM § 36.25.1207(3)(a)(k).

IV. THE CURRENT RECREATIONAL SHOOTING ON THE STATE LAND IS THE SOURCE OF HEIGHTENED WILDFIRE RISK.

A. The use of tannerite is common.

Remnants of discharged tannerite containers, and even some non-discharged, can readily be seen on the State Land. *See* Exhibits 53, 54, 55. The use of tannerite is common occurrence. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 14; Kamps Decl. ¶ 2; Dyk Decl. ¶ 21; D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 24; T. Wood Decl. ¶ 19. In the summer of 2025 alone two wildfires were sparked on the State Land. *See* Exhibits 56, 57. The shooting of tannerite was involved. McReynolds Decl. ¶¶ 18-19.

The Hatters are concerned given the regular occurrence of this activity on the State Land that their property is at risk of being consumed by wildfire. M. Hatter Decl. ¶ 18. The Hatters believe irreparable property damage is imminent from the use of tannerite on the State Land. *Id.*, *See* D. Hatter Decl. ¶¶ 23-24. Two wildfires were caused by shooting on the State Land in 2025.

D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 23. These involved the shooting of tannerite. Mr. Hatter observed, if the winds were stronger the blaze surely would have jumped Axtell Anceney Road and burned my property. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 25.

According to Mr. McReynolds, during one of the wildfires in 2025, "it was only by luck that the fire burned toward Axtell Ancen[e]y Road, which acted as a firebreak. Had the wind conditions been different, my property would almost certainly have burned." McReynolds Decl. ¶ 18. Likewise, Mr. Kamps shares a fenceline with the State Land and attests:

> Because I share a fenceline with the State Land, and with much of my property being grassland pasture, wildfires started on the State Land would cause swift and catastrophic damage to my property. I truly believe it is only a matter of time if the current shooting practices were allowed to continue that a wildfire would devastate both the State Land as well as my property.

Kamps Decl. ¶¶ 7-8.

Along with tannerite, recreational shooters use other haphazard targets that are readily capable of sparking wildfires. Christian Decl. ¶ 11; *See* Exhibit 58. Given the volume of shooting occurring, all it takes is the right circumstances for a ricochet bullet to strike a rock and spark a fire. Furthermore, the use of steel gongs and the prevalence of natural rocks on the State Land readily are accompanied by ricochets. D. Hatter Decl. ¶ 16; *See* Exhibit 45. Rocks are used to hold up clay pigeons as target. *See* Exhibit 23. These rocks have indented and highly visible impact points from bullets. *Id*. Under this technique not only is the chance of a ricochet high but the risk of sparking an ignition is high.

All of these factors make the risk of wildfire on the State Land and to adjacent landowners, far too high too high to tolerate. Additionally, campfires occur on the State Land although plainly against state land regulations. *See* Exhibits 52, 59. These factors are due to the current recreational shooting practices on the State Land. Ample evidence exists to compel the

Department to permanently close the State Land because the current recreational shooting activities cause far too great of a risk of imminent threat of irreparable property damage to the State Land and adjacent land.

B. The lack of county maintenance of Axtell Anceney Road is a contributing factor to the dangerous circumstances.

A contributing factor to the dangerous risk of wildfires on the State Land by recreational shooters is the lack of county maintenance of Axtell Anceney Road. A swift fire response is frustrated by the county maintenance. Thus, allowing recreational shooting to continue on the State Land represents a significant risk to adjacent landowners and to the State Land.

Gateway Rural Fire District noted they were unable to gain access to the fire due to mud and the firetrucks getting stuck when responding to a fire on the State Land. *See* Exhibit 60. In a letter to an adjacent landowner of the State Land, the Gateway Rural Fire District concluded, "that if the state land site is to remain accessible for public use, the road must be upgraded to county standards and consistently maintained to ensure emergency crew access to the area." *See* Exhibit 61. The Fire Chief, continues to stress that he is, "concerned about future emergencies in this location." *Id*.

The risks associated with allowing recreational shooting to continue on State Land are unacceptably high and pose a serious risk of wildfires. The widespread use of tannerite and other exploding targets significantly increases the likelihood of accidental ignition, particularly during dry seasons when vegetation is highly flammable. Likewise, the use of steel gongs and other poorly designed or haphazard targets can produce ricochets and sparks upon impact, further elevating fire danger.

These hazards are compounded by the condition and maintenance of the county road that provides access to the State Land. Emergency response access to wildfires on the State Land has

been hindered in the past due to the poor county maintenance. The potential consequences extend far beyond the State Land itself. Surrounding landowners face the risk of property damage, loss of livestock, destruction of homes and outbuildings, and threats to personal safety.

Given these substantial risks, closure of the State Land to recreational shooting is a necessary measure. The Department should act to close the State Land to recreational shooting in order to reduce wildfire risk.

V. THE HATTERS' EXPERT CONFIRMED THE RISK TO PUBLIC SAFETY GOES FAR BEYOND THE STATE LAND.

The Hatters retained a forensic engineering firm, Nederveld Inc., to evaluate the safety conditions on the State Land and map the effective range of two calibers representative of those likely discharged on the State Land (hereafter, the "Report"). The Report was prepared by Mark Passamaneck, a civil engineer with expertise in range safety and digital mapping, and co-authored by Mathew Martonovich, also a professional engineer. The Report concludes that, given the State Land structure, topography, and proximity to neighboring properties, current recreational shooting practices pose a significant risk to public safety. The Report, including Mr. Passamaneck's curriculum vitae, is attached as Exhibit 62.

The Report identifies "clear and provable hazards from recreational shooting that are occurring on the subject State Trust Land should certainly be a concern and within the State's obligation to mitigate the dangers to the public and property." Exhibit 62, p. 3. Nederveld's independent evaluation further finds that concentrated shooting activity, absent proper backstops and controlled angles of fire, creates unsafe conditions for people, livestock, and adjacent property. *Id*. Although the Report identifies infrastructure improvements that could be utilized to ameliorate the public safety risks, including berms of 8 to 20 feet, appropriate backstops, and formal range rules, it emphasizes that "***without strict enforcement of these safe practices,***

creation of appropriate infrastructure, and rigorous monitoring of shooting activities, it is unlikely that a safe solution exists for the subject State Trust Land." *Id*. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, the Report concludes that allowing unmitigated recreational shooting on the State Land creates a dangerous condition for the public and property proximate to the State Land. *See* Exhibit 62, p. 4. The Report underscores that, without substantial capital improvements and ***strict enforcement*** of safe practices, and ***rigorous monitoring of shooting activities***, the current shooting practices on the State Land remain inherently unsafe.

The Report substantiates concerns raised by the Hatters and neighboring landowners. The Report also notes that spent cartridge cases left in grazing areas pose a risk to livestock, given that cattle may accidentally ingest cases leading to a condition called "hardware disease." *Id*. The Report recommends cleanup ***immediately*** after shooting activities, however, that practice is not occurring, as evidenced by the thousands of spent casings along Axtell Anceney Road. This accumulation puts cattle at risk, degrades grazing conditions, and diminishes the State Land's income-generating potential.

Finally, the Report's mapping analysis demonstrates that the risks extend well beyond the State Land boundaries. Using two calibers, a 7 PRC and a 357 MAG, the analysis models bullet trajectories from hypothetical targets located on State Land. Each shot is its own analysis. The maps show flight paths, rest points, and, where applicable, deflections. These analyses reveal that bullets frequently travel off the State Land, crossing neighboring properties and, in some instances, passing residential homes.

In sum, the mapping evidence confirms that current recreational shooting practices pose a substantial risk to public safety beyond the State Land itself. The Report necessitates the need for Department action to permanently close the State Land to recreational shooting.

VI. DAMAGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO RECREATIONAL USE DIMINISHES THE INCOME-GENERATING POTENTIAL OF THE STATE LAND.

The Hatters also submit this Petition pursuant to ARM § 36.25.1207(l)(a). The Hatters are concerned that the misuse of the State Land is diminishing its income-generating potential. The State Land is held in trust for the people of Montana. One of the reasons the Board of Land Commissioners ("Board") and the DNRC are granted the authority to promulgate and administer restrictions and closures of State Land is to protect the financial viability of the land.

The State owns state trust land in trust for the people and for the benefit of the public schools in Montana. Mont. Const., Article X, §§ 2, 11. The revenue received from leasing state trust land is used to fund K-12 public education. Mont. Const. Article X, §§ 2-3. The Board "has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands," including the State Land at issue, for the support and benefit of state educational institutions. Mont. Const. Article X, § 4. Accordingly, per M.C.A. § 77-1-202(1), the Board's "guiding principle is that these lands and funds are held in trust for the support of education and for the attainment of other worthy objects helpful to the well-being of the people of this state as provided in the Enabling Act." This "guiding principle" requires the Board to administer the trust to" (a) secure the largest measure of legitimate and reasonable advantage to the state; and (b) provide for the long-term financial support of education." *Id.*

While "the people are entitled to general recreational use of state lands," such use is "to the extent that the trusts are compensated for the value of the recreation." M.C.A. § 76-1-202(2). The misuse of the State Land is contrary to these principles and diminishes the potential income that can be generated from the lease.

C. Recreational shooting has made the State Land less suitable for grazing.

The current misuse is harming the biological integrity of the State Land, making the land

less suitable for grazing purposes. The consistent foot traffic and subsequent trampling of grasses have a corresponding negative impact on the suitableness of the lands for grazing purposes. *See* Exhibit 63. Mrs. Wood attested to the fact that:

> As a citizen of Montana, I believe the state is not managing the State Land to maximize its income-generating potential. Because of the recreational shooting, cattle cannot be effectively run on the State Land. Tannerite explosions have ravaged the soil and grasses on the State Land. The constant shooting, foot traffic, vehicle traffic, and abundant litter, have degraded the landscape and recreational shooting has become the exclusive use on the State Land.

W. Wood Decl. ¶ 19.

Furthermore, the cattle are eating grass that has been scorched with tannerite and the constant shooting, foot traffic, vehicle traffic, and abundant litter, have degraded the landscape of the State Land. T. Wood Decl. ¶ 25.

In turn the consistent nature of the increased foot traffic has negatively impacted the income generating potential of the State Land.

D. Present dangers and physical damage to the State Land have caused the State Land to be less valuable.

The State Land has little lease value because of the risks associated with ranching it. In a sworn declaration attached hereto, Mr. McReynolds describes why he relinquished his lease on the State Land. He describes how he and his family have owned real property in the Gallatin Valley for more than 150 years in the immediate vicinity of the State Land. Mr. McReynolds owns real property directly adjacent to the State Land and held the lease on the State Land for many years up until 2024. Mr. McReynolds shares a candid reflection on the reality of holding the lease to the State Land, saying:

> I ultimately relinquished my lease because the constant recreational shooting made it impossible to safely and practically ranch the land. Shooters fire at will and in seemingly every direction. Many times, I stepped onto the State Land to inspect cattle, repair fences, or post

> signage, I felt unsafe. Simply put, it felt like ranching in a war zone. Shooters would not pause for my presence and continued firing despite my being clearly in danger. On multiple occasions, slugs struck the dirt near me while I was moving cattle.

McReynolds Decl. ¶ 5.

Moreover, Mr. McReynolds recounts that while he held the lease, recreational shooters killed two of his calves on the State Land within a 48-hour window. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 6. And furthermore, "I found several of my cows dead on the State Land with bullet holes, appearing to have been killed simply for sport. I have also witnessed shooters firing rounds at the feet of my cattle to make them run." McReynolds Decl. ¶ 7. Mr. McReynolds contacted the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the DNRC, and the Montana Board of Livestock about the shooting of his cattle. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 6. Each agency either refused to investigate or declined involvement once they learned the shooting occurred on State Land. *Id*. No shooter was held responsible. *Id*.

In addition to the impossibilities of ranching in "a war zone" the degradation of the landscape is readily apparent. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 5. The volume of traffic on the State Land has trampled the grasses and significantly reduced the available forage for cattle. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 9; *See* Exhibit 63. Mr. McReynolds observed that his cattle would be forced to forage only a limited area of the lease because the constant shooting confined them to reclusive areas of safety out of the line of fire. *Id*. In addition to the available forage being reduced on the State Land by recreational shooting the State Land looks like someone took a "buzzsaw to the ground" scarring the landscape from the volume of bullets being fired into the dirt. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 10. This is supported by Exhibit 64. The natural vegetation on the State Land has been ravaged by recreational shooting. *See* Exhibit 65. Shrubs are used as natural "targets" and appear to also be used to hold up targets. *Id*. The State Land is no longer suitable as a landscape to graze cattle.

Instead, the State Land gives the appearance of a landscape that has been subjected to war. W. Wood Decl. ¶ 11.

For Mr. McReynolds the only option was to decline to renew the lease on the State Land because the land could not be ranched anymore given the constant, and concentrated presence of irresponsible recreational shooting. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 12. Given these impossibilities, Mr. McReynolds believes the State Land is not being managed to its highest earning potential. McReynolds Decl. ¶ 11.

The declaration of Mr. Reynolds necessitates permanent action by the Department. The current shooting practices and inaction by the Department are inadequate to prevent irreparable property damage to the State Land. *See* Exhibits 66, 67. The present dangers associated with ranching the State Land are far too great. Cattle are being killed by recreational shooters, and the State Land is unworkable given volume of shooting.

In closing, recreational shooting is part of a growing concern about how the state trust lands in the Gallatin Valley are managed. Mr. Dyk shared his valuable perspective:

> My extended family and my wife's family have lived and farmed in Gallatin County for five generations. Both families have held state land leases for decades. I personally farmed the State Land off High Flat Road for several years prior to 2017. I used to have very few, if any issues with recreational shooters or other State Land users. However, nowadays things have gotten out of control with the way people treat the State Land off Axtell Anceney Road and High Flat Road.

Dyk Decl. ¶¶ 2-4.

Also:

> I am not alone in my observation that the farmers and ranchers feel like they have taken a backseat when it comes to ensuring their investment in leases on the State Land are protected. In my experience farmers' investment in their leases are assuredly not protected. Farmers and ranchers have been caring for state lands

> though agricultural leases for many years. The state of Montana, its citizens and visitors have benefited greatly from the revenue from these leases generate. It is a slap in the face of farmers and ranchers as to how the DNRC has chosen to ignore the damage that has been done to the State Land by recreational shooters.

Dyk Decl. ¶¶ 5-7.

While state land is being damaged:

> It is obvious that the DNRC is not managing the State Land to its maximum income generating potential, nor the lessee's best interests in mind. The DNRC gladly charges grazing leases and accepts payment on land that are not able to be grazed due to the damage done to the fences and high volume of shooting. The population growth that has taken place in Gallatin County over the last decade has brought in people that do not respect or understand agriculture on state lands. From what I have seen and experienced, many the State Land recreational shooters are from out of state and or attend Montana State University. There are state laws that protect the State Land for agricultural use over recreational use. The DNRC is obviously aware of these laws but chooses to turn a blind eye to it when it comes to recreational shooting on the State Land. In essence, the DNRC expects the farmer and rancher to invest in fences and gates, only to have them used for target practice. The DNRC takes millions of dollars a year from farmers and ranchers leasing the land for agriculture, but yet the DNRC turns their back on them by refusing to do anything about violations.

Dyk Decl. ¶¶ 17-19.

As a lessee, Mr. Van Dyke reiterated these concerns noting, "the DNRC should pull these leases from the availability list because they are impossible to farm or run cattle on given the dangerous and unregulated shooting that occurs on the State Land." Van Dyke Decl. ¶ 17. And furthermore, it is his observation is that "nowadays farmers and ranchers take a backseat to recreational shooters and that is not in line with management mandates." Van Dyke Decl. ¶ 13.

The landscape of the State Land has become a "dump" with scars on the landscape that will take years of inactivity to heal. *See* McReynolds Decl. ¶ 13; *See also* Exhibits 64, 65. The State Land does not look like a place to graze cattle but rather gives the appearance of a

landscape that has been subjected to war. W. Wood Decl. ¶ 11.

It is clear that the Department must act to permanently close the State Land to allow the landscape to heal from the physical damage caused by recreational shooters and in turn increase the value of the State Land.

VII. REQUEST FOR A HEARING.

The Hatters request a public hearing on this matter pursuant to ARM § 36.25.1207(7)(e).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Hatters request the Department grant this Petition and permanently close the State Land.

DATED this 31st day of March 2026.

BALDWIN LAW, PLLC



Robert K. Baldwin/William G. Thomas
Attorneys for Petitioners

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Ex.	Date	Description
1	N/A	Petition Map
2	N/A	Map of Affected Area
3	Various	GA 2011-2025
4	03/25/2026	Declaration of David Hatter
5	03/17/2026	Declaration of Melissa Hatter
6	03/12/2026	Declaration of Wendy Wood
7	03/12/2026	Declaration of Tyson Wood
8	02/19/2026	Declaration of Morgan McReynolds
9	03/06/2026	Declaration of Louis Kamps
10	03/04/2026	Declaration of Frederick Richards
11	03/12/2026	Declaration of Dana Christian
12	03/06/2026	Declaration of Derek Dyk
13	03/11/2026	Declaration of John Van Dyke
14	N/A	Nighttime Shooting (Video Exhibit)
15	N/A	Photo - Metal Spike Target
16	N/A	Photo - Shot Wood Spike
17	N/A	Photo - Shot Flight Pole
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19	N/A	Photo - Shot Hatter Sign
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21	N/A	Photo - Bullet Holes Toward Property
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23	N/A	Photo - Shot Rock Ricochet
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29	N/A	Photo - Clays on McReynolds Property
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33	N/A	Photo - Various Trash
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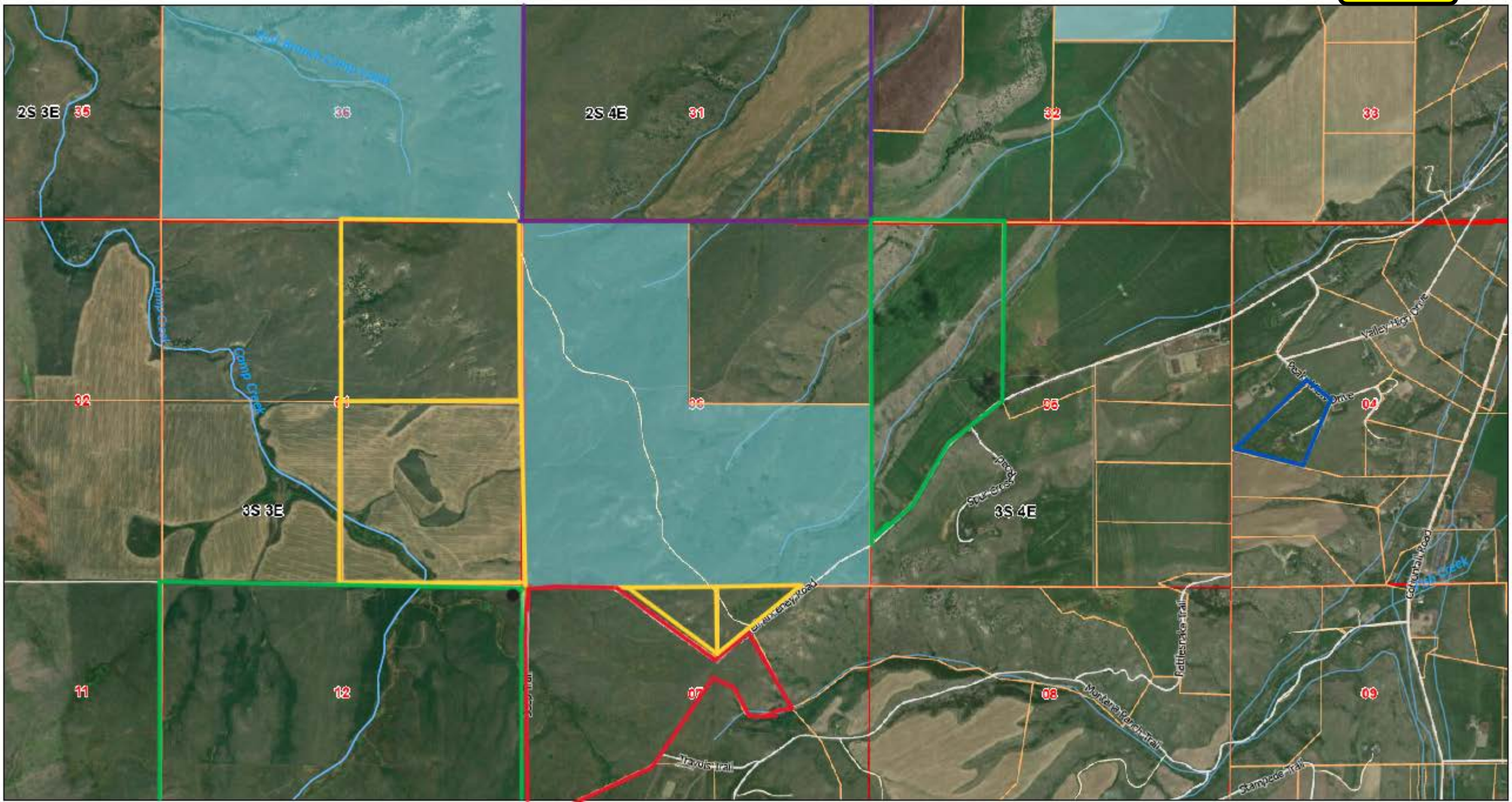
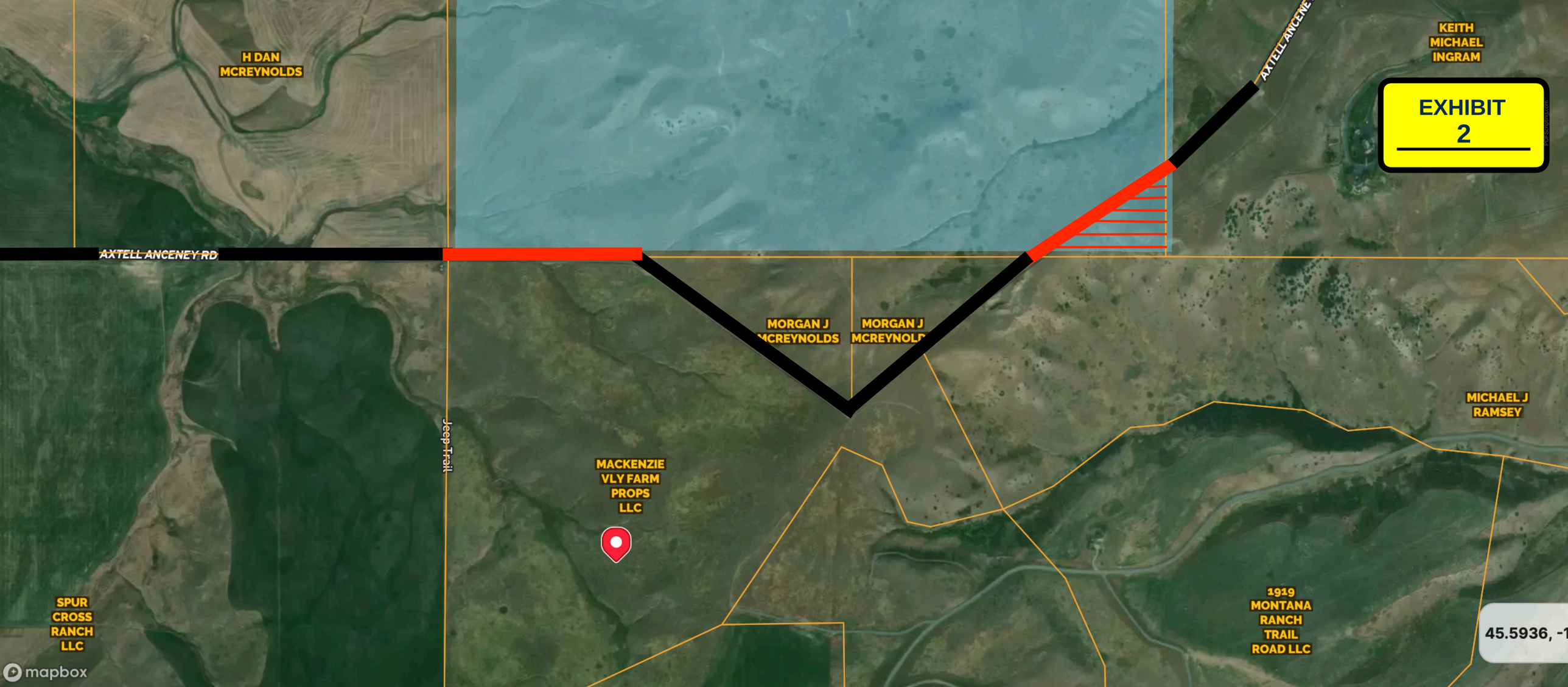
65	N/A	Photo - Shot Vegetation
66	N/A	Photo - Shot State Land Sign
67	N/A	Photo - Shot DNRC No Shooting Sign

ArcGIS Web Map

EXHIBIT
1

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KEITH MICHAEL INGRAM
EXHIBIT 2
AXTELL ANCENEY RD
MORGAN J MCREYNOLDS
MORGAN J MCREYNOLD
Jeep Trail
MACKENZIE VLY FARM PROPS LLC
MICHAEL J RAMSEY
SPUR CROSS RANCH LLC
1919 MONTANA RANCH TRAIL ROAD LLC
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mapbox

2011

EXHIBIT
3



2021



2025



2011



2021



2025



EXHIBIT
4

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BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of David Hatter**

I, David Hatter, declare as follows:

1. I own real property directly adjacent to the State Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

This real property is referred to below as the "State Land".

2. I have filed this petition over concerns of the constant and dangerous recreational shooting occurring on the State Land.

3. The State Land is now used as an unregulated and dangerous informal shooting range.

4. My wife and I own 174.1-acre parcel directly adjacent to the State Land. Given our property's proximity, the damage and dangers to our property are significant.

5. It is my observation that the shooting activities on the State Land occur at all hours of the day. This makes me feel unsafe on my property.

6. My safety concerns were only further validated when a utility box in my surrounding neighborhood was struck by bullets from the State Land. Furthermore, signs hung on my fenceline are covered in bullet holes. To shoot these signs the shooters must be ***shooting away from the State Land and directly onto my property***.

7. Additionally, old grain silos border the corner of my property and Axtell Anceny Road. These silos are approximately two to three feet from my fenceline. It is common for shooters on the State Land to fire at these silos as evidenced by the hundreds of bullet holes covering the exterior. When shooters fire at the silos they do so directly towards my property. This has made me and my wife feel continuously unsafe on our property.

8. It is common to find human feces near silos and fenceline with my property. Recreational shooters seem to treat the private land adjacent to the State Land like it is their own.

9. My wife and I bought this property with the intention of building a home. Given the constant and reckless shooting on the State Land a home on this property is impossible.

10. However, I believe that given the current shooting practices it is only a matter of time before me, my wife, or guests on my property are seriously harmed by a stray bullet from the State Land.

11. Additionally given the number of gunshots daily the noise pollution on the property is unbearable.

12. Another risk that causes me great concern is the fact that nighttime shooting is common. The nighttime shooting is often accompanied with the consumption of alcohol, only

increasing the risk to public safety. There are obvious risks involved in shooting at night, however, it is still a common occurrence.

13. Recreational shooters on the State Land have continuously demonstrated they are willing to fire in all directions with no regard to public safety. I believe the dangers are immediate and severe.

14. Recreational shooters also cause damage to my adjacent property. This damage is both past and ongoing. They damage my fenceline as they use it for target practice as well as the signs on the fenceline. The bottom gate to my property has been shot by recreational shooters on the State Land. Furthermore, recreational shooters have cut my fence on multiple occasions.

15. Another threat to public safety is the danger of ricochets. With no safe backstop and the haphazard targets used on the State Land, ricochets are a common occurrence. This not only puts shooters on the State Land at risk of being injured but also myself and those on my property.

16. Recreational shooters will also routinely shoot steel gongs and natural rocks on the State Land. I am fearful of a ricochet from these "targets" especially given how many rounds are being fired and how often these objects are used as targets.

17. A contributing factor to the risks to public safety on the State Land and adjacent landowners' property is the fact that there is no enforcement of relevant rules and regulations on the State Land.

18. The State Land has turned into a lawless place given the fact that proactive FWP patrols rarely occur. I have yet to see one. With no enforcement presence the recreational shooters feel emboldened to break relevant rules and regulations. There are no repercussions for their actions because no relevant agency is there to enforce.

19. Recreational shooters on the State Land leave litter on the landscape. I have observed trash in the form of beer cans, old pallets, spent shell casings, liquor bottles, old targets, tables and the list goes on.

20. Recreational shooters routinely shoot clay pigeon targets. The sharp orange shards from clay pigeons litter the landscape. This practice is in direct violation of relevant state land use regulations, but the DNRC and FWP seem to turn a blind eye allowing copious amounts of clay pigeon litter on the State Land.

21. On the State Land there are tens of thousands of spent casings, most of which are piled up along Axtell Anceny Road. The spent casings have a negative effect on the wildlife on the State Land. The recreational shooting on the State Land has become the exclusive use endangering non-shooters on the State Land.

22. The presence of proliferous litter damages the income generating potential of the State Land. The ground is covered with spent brass and broken clays and therefore damages the suitability for grazing the State Land.

23. I am also concerned about wildfire damage to my property. In the summer of 2025 alone recreational shooters on the State Land started two wildfires by shooting tannerite. If the winds were stronger the blaze surely would have jumped Axtell Anceny Road and burned my property.

24. The shooting of tannerite on the State Land is a common occurrence, only heightening the risk of wildfire on both the State Land and my property.

25. Additionally, shooters will commonly have campfires on the State Land. The presence of burnt logs is also common. Campfires only increase the risk of sparking a wildfire. A wildfire from the State Land could easily spread to my property.

26. As an adjacent landowner I feel powerless in maintaining safety in the area. Adjacent landowners are left to self-police in this area. This only causes greater tension between recreational shooters and adjacent landowners. Several other surrounding landowners declined to provide declarations for this petition out of fear of becoming a target of retaliation by recreational shooters.

27. The state must take action to close the State Land to recreational shooting before someone is seriously injured or killed.

28. For these reasons I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, and reduce wildfire risk.

* * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/25/2026

David Hatter

David Hatter

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
41C4AC64-482B-42BC-A457-EC2070FF6067

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 41C4AC64-482B-42BC-A457-EC2070FF6067	**Document Name** 2026-03-25 Decl of David Hatter
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-25_Decl_of_David_Hatter.pdf
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SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
Name David Hatter	**Status** signed	**Viewed At** 03/25/2026 09:52:40 PM MDT
Email bigsky71@icloud.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** 4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5ed12ab4d8e11ba873c2f11161202b945	**Identity Authenticated At** 03/25/2026 09:53:00 PM MDT
Components 2	**IP Address** 148.59.189.182	**Signed At** 03/25/2026 09:53:01 PM MDT
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	Signature Reference ID 8986FA3E	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
03/25/2026 05:08:56 PM MDT	Paralegal Group (bamelkin@baldwinlawfirm.com) created document '2026-03-25_Decl_of_David_Hatter.pdf' on Chrome via Windows from 69.144.55.186.
03/25/2026 05:08:57 PM MDT	David Hatter (bigsky71@icloud.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/25/2026 09:52:40 PM MDT	David Hatter (bigsky71@icloud.com) viewed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 148.59.189.182.
03/25/2026 09:53:00 PM MDT	David Hatter (bigsky71@icloud.com) authenticated via email on Mobile Safari via iOS from 148.59.189.182.
03/25/2026 09:53:01 PM MDT	David Hatter (bigsky71@icloud.com) signed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 148.59.189.182.

EXHIBIT
5

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Melissa Hatter**

I, Melissa Hatter, declare as follows:

1. I own real property directly adjacent to the State Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

This real property is referred to below as the "State Land".

2. I have filed this petition over concerns of the constant and dangerous recreational shooting occurring on the State Land.

3. Over the past several years, recreational shooting on the State Land has escalated dramatically, turning the area into an unregulated and dangerous informal shooting range.

4. My husband and I own 174.1-acre parcel directly adjacent to the State Land that has become unlivable and extraordinary dangerous given the recreational shooting occurring on the State Land. It is like owning property in an active warzone.

5. Our property is particularly vulnerable due to its immediate proximity to the uncontrolled shooting activities occurring on the State Land. Shooters will often discharge firearms directly at our property and at all times of the day.

6. Nighttime shooting is common. The nighttime shooting heightens the risks and disrupts the area well beyond daylight hours. It is my observation that nighttime shooting is accompanied with the consumption of alcohol, only increasing the risk to public safety.

7. Our fenceline is riddled with bullet holes of shooters directly firing onto our property. The signs we put up are shot immediately. Our gate and the silos that border our property have completely been shot hundreds of times, if not thousands. This means that shooters are ***firing away from the State Land*** and directly at our property. I truly believe it is only a matter of time before someone on our property is killed by shooters on the State Land.

8. It is just common sense that recreational shooting cannot continue on the State Land. Recreational shooters have proven they are willing to fire in all directions with no regard to public safety.

9. I believe the dangers are immediate and severe. I am aware of instances in which utility boxes adjacent to our property have been struck by stay bullets from the State Land. The dangers and damage to property surrounding the State Land are significant.

10. This unchecked activity has made me feel profoundly unsafe on my own property. My husband and I are afraid to even walk the property due to the constant threat of stray bullets. I truly believe it is only a matter of time before myself or a guest on the property is struck by a stray bullet.

11. The recreational shooting invites trespass. The fenceline to my property was cut twice last year by recreational shooters.

12. I have observed the presence of constant debris left behind on the State Land including, spent shells, broken skeet material, trash, old refrigerators, and other improvised targets which litter the area. This creates an eyesore and environmental hazard.

13. On the State Land there are tens of thousands of spent casings left on the landscape. In turn, this has a drastic and negative effect on the wildlife on the State Land. The DNRC has allowed the State Land to effectively become a dump with wildlife steering clear.

14. I have observed that the shooting of clays is a common occurrence on the State Land. However, this is against state land rules. Recreational shooters do not care and use clays regularly leaving the State Land covered in broken clay pigeon litter.

15. The litter and debris directly violate DNRC guidelines requiring users to pack out all trash, clean up targets and debris, and avoid littering. The presence of proliferous litter damages the income generating potential of the State Land. Scattered trash, old appliances and various junk all damage the suitability for grazing the State Land. I truly believe the current shooting practices are damaging the income generating potential of the State Land.

16. There is a complete lack of enforcement of any rules or guidelines for safe shooting practices. The state agencies responsible, mainly the DNRC and FWP, have failed to respond effectively to violations. For instance, despite reports of hazardous shooting practices on the State Land, no personnel are sent to enforce rules or address issues.

17. As an adjacent landowner I feel powerless in maintaining safety in the area. Adjacent landowners are left to self-police in this area. This only causes greater tension between recreational shooters and adjacent landowners. With relevant regulations constantly being broken, altercations are tense and profoundly unsafe.

18. In 2025 alone, two wildfires sparked on the State Land due to shooters using tannerite, posing a direct fire risk to our property and the surrounding area. I believe irreparable property damage to my property is imminent given the risk of wildfire from recreational shooting activities on the State Land.

19. The state must take action to close the State Land to recreational shooting before someone is seriously injured or killed. Without enforcement, the current conditions are extremely dangerous and pose an unacceptable risk to public safety.

20. For these reasons I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, and reduce wildfire risk.

* * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated 03/17/2026

Melissa Hatter

Melissa Hatter

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
720055F5-7CB5-4B8A-8B85-3E6735EE1243

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
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Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-17_Decl_of_Melissa_Hatter.pdf
Sent At 03/17/2026 04:25:18 PM MDT	**Pages** 4 pages
Executed At 03/17/2026 10:36:30 PM MDT	**Content Type** application/pdf
Identity Method email	**File Size** 142 KB
Distribution Method email	**Original Checksum** 7934c7d93bfd018d9cabc40d3d2335afa52b8c1283eca4528157c1250ac5d46f
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Document Passcode Disabled	
eIDAS Authentication Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
Name Melissa Hatter	**Status** signed	**Viewed At** 03/17/2026 10:33:33 PM MDT
Email mhatter@flyarista.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** 4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5ed12ab4d8e11ba873c2f11161202b945	**Identity Authenticated At** 03/17/2026 10:36:30 PM MDT
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	Device Safari via Mac	
	Typed Signature Melissa Hatter	
	Signature Reference ID B91B1856	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
03/17/2026 04:25:18 PM MDT	Paralegal Group (bamelkin@baldwinlawfirm.com) created document '2026-03-17_Decl_of_Melissa_Hatter.pdf' on Chrome via Windows from 69.144.55.186.
03/17/2026 04:25:18 PM MDT	Melissa Hatter (mhatter@flyarista.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/17/2026 10:33:33 PM MDT	Melissa Hatter (mhatter@flyarista.com) viewed the document on Safari via Mac from 146.75.175.0.
03/17/2026 10:36:30 PM MDT	Melissa Hatter (mhatter@flyarista.com) authenticated via email on Safari via Mac from 146.75.175.0.
03/17/2026 10:36:30 PM MDT	Melissa Hatter (mhatter@flyarista.com) signed the document on Safari via Mac from 146.75.175.0.

EXHIBIT
6

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Wendy Wood**

I, Wendy Wood, declare as follows:

1. I live in the immediate vicinity of the State Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

2. I also live close by to the State Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.

Both parcels of real property are collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

3. In addition to living in the immediate vicinity of the State Land, I am the ranch manager at Spur Cross Ranch. As such, the current shooting practices create significant dangers in my everyday work.

4. I would like both parcels described above to be permanently closed to recreational

shooting. This closure would not affect hunting on the State Land, hiking, riding horses, or any other lawful recreational pursuit.

5. Because of the recreational shooting the State Land, and the properties of surrounding landowners have become increasingly unsafe. I spend a lot of my time working with quarter horses adjacent to the State Land. I am constantly worried about the horses being shot by recreational shooters on the State Land.

6. Spur Cross Ranch keeps cattle directly bordering the State Land. I am equally concerned about the cattle being shot by recreational shooters on the State Land.

7. The current recreational shooting practices on the State Land are highly dangerous with thousands of rounds being shot daily. As a resident in the immediate vicinity of the State Land, I truly believe it is only a matter of time before someone on the State Land, or on an adjacent property, is seriously harmed or killed by a recreational shooter.

8. Shooters do not stop for others when placing targets. They proceed to fire with people clearly in the line of fire.

9. It is common for shooters to use AR-15 style weapons or other semi-automatic options capable of discharging at a high clip. Because of the number of rounds being fired I believe the public safety risks are drastically increased.

10. In my observation the State Land has effectively become a dump. Trash and litter are continuously left by recreational shooters. They create makeshift targets, often kitchen appliances, and leave them on the State Land after shooting. Recreational shooters act with a careless disregard for the stewardship of the State Land.

11. The State Land does not look like a place to graze cattle but rather gives the appearance of a landscape that has been subjected to war.

12. I am deeply concerned about the degradation of the State Land due to recreational shooting and the continuous threat to public safety.

13. Another concern of mine is the fact that on the State Land there is no law enforcement presence from any relevant agency. This creates the mentality that the State Land is a free for all and a place of no rules or regulations.

14. Since there is no enforcement, immediate landowners and residents are left to self-police in this area. I truly believe either myself or my husband will be seriously harmed in an altercation with recreational shooters who break relevant regulations.

15. Another significant concern of mine is the risk of wildfire. It is extremely common for recreational shooters to discharge tannerite on the State Land. With living so close to the State Land, the reckless behavior of discharging tannerite puts me and my family at serious risk.

16. Emergency vehicles struggle to get to the State Land given the lack of county maintenance on Axtell Anceny Road. In 2025 when responding to wildfires on the State Land fire trucks could not get to the fire because their trucks got stuck in the mud. A fire on the State Land has the potential to get out of control very quickly. If recreational shooting continues on the State Land, I truly believe it is only a matter of time until a wildfire wipes out surrounding homes.

17. The noise pollution from the shooting on the State Land is significant. The noise pollution is constant. Recreational shooters on the State Land shoot at all times of day with night shooting being common.

18. With the heavy amounts of shooting occurring, the traffic on Axtell Anceny Road and High Flat Road have significantly increased. Shooters don't slow down on the road and there

is a lack of respect for the land and those who live around the State Land.

19. As a citizen of Montana, I believe the state is not managing the State Land to maximize its income-generating potential. Because of the recreational shooting, cattle cannot be effectively run on the State Land. Tannerite explosions have ravaged the soil and grasses on the State Land. The constant shooting, foot traffic, vehicle traffic, and abundant litter, have degraded the landscape and recreational shooting has become the exclusive use on the State Land.

20. For these reasons, I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, reduce wildfire risk, and preserve and maximize the income-generating potential of the land.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/13/2026

Wendy Wood

Wendy Wood

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
10963412-D6CE-4752-8F87-9E1C3BFCD79B

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 10963412-D6CE-4752-8F87-9E1C3BFCD79B	**Document Name** 2026-03-12 Decl of Wendy Wood
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-12_Decl_of_Wendy_Wood.pdf
Sent At 03/12/2026 09:17:22 AM MDT	**Pages** 4 pages
Executed At 03/13/2026 07:48:58 AM MDT	**Content Type** application/pdf
Identity Method email	**File Size** 120 KB
Distribution Method email	**Original Checksum** 7ee526664b47c44538183a354e989f6ec7dfe35d03e46cd698464e0f19dbb34d
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Signer Sequencing Disabled	
Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
Name Wendy Wood	**Status** signed	**Viewed At** 03/13/2026 07:47:37 AM MDT
Email scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** 4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5ed12ab4d8e11ba873c2f11161202b945	**Identity Authenticated At** 03/13/2026 07:48:58 AM MDT
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	Device Microsoft Edge via Windows	
	Typed Signature Wendy Wood	
	Signature Reference ID AFDB6656	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
03/12/2026 09:17:22 AM MDT	Paralegal Group (bamelkin@baldwinlawfirm.com) created document '2026-03-12_Decl_of_Wendy_Wood.pdf' on Chrome via Windows from 69.144.55.186.
03/12/2026 09:17:22 AM MDT	Wendy Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/13/2026 07:47:37 AM MDT	Wendy Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) viewed the document on Microsoft Edge via Windows from 74.244.108.41.
03/13/2026 07:48:58 AM MDT	Wendy Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) authenticated via email on Microsoft Edge via Windows from 74.244.108.41.
03/13/2026 07:48:58 AM MDT	Wendy Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) signed the document on Microsoft Edge via Windows from 74.244.108.41.

EXHIBIT
7

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Tyson Wood**

I, Tyson Wood, declare as follows:

1. I live in the immediate vicinity of the State Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

2. I also live close by to the State Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.

Both parcels of real property are collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

3. In addition to living in the immediate vicinity of the State Land, I am the ranch manager at Spur Cross Ranch. As such, the current shooting practices create significant dangers in my everyday work.

4. I would like both parcels described above to be permanently closed to recreational

shooting. This closure would not affect hunting on the State Land, hiking, riding horses, or any other lawful recreational pursuit.

5. Over the past five to ten years, I have observed a drastic increase in recreational shooting on the State Land. As a result, the State Land, and the properties of surrounding landowners have become increasingly unsafe.

6. Living in the immediate vicinity of the State Land, one of my biggest concerns is public safety. The current recreational shooting practices on the State Land are highly dangerous with thousands of rounds being shot daily.

7. Spur Cross Ranch owns property bordering the State Land. We keep cattle and horses right next to the State Land. I am constantly worried about our livestock being shot by recreational shooters on the State Land.

8. I am also worried that with speaking up about the dangers of the current recreational shooting, individuals will take retaliatory action.

9. I have consistently observed 20-25 shooters on the State Land. With this crowding comes heightened risk. Shooters do not stop for others when placing targets and continue to fire with people clearly in the line of fire.

10. It is common for shooters to use AR-15 style weapons or other semi-automatic options capable of discharging at a high clip. Because of the prevalence of semi-automatic weapons, the number of rounds being discharged on the State Land is unbelievable. This puts nearby landowners and residents at significant risk as well as the greater public.

11. I truly believe it is only a matter of time before someone on the State Land, or properties nearby, is seriously harmed or killed by the recreational shooting.

12. Another concern of mine is the fact that on the State Land there is no law

enforcement presence from any relevant agency. This creates the mentality that the State Land is a free for all and a place of no rules or regulations.

13. Obviously, bad actors take advantage of the lack of enforcement. I have called the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department approximately twenty-five times and they have dispatched an officer to the State Land maybe four to five times. The same goes for FWP as it is very rare for them to send a warden to the State Land. When a warden is sent, the most I have observed them give is a warning.

14. Since there is no enforcement, immediate landowners and residents are left to self-police in this area. This is highly dangerous and confrontations with recreational shooters are common and tense. Shooters have an attitude that they can do whatever they want on the State Land. I have personally been threatened during several altercations.

15. On the State Land there is a blatant disregard for any relevant regulations in place. The State Land has effectively become a dump from litter left behind by recreational shooters. I have observed litter in the form of beer cans, spent cartridges, clay pigeons, washing machines, dryers, refrigerators and ovens all left on the State Land in connection with recreational shooting.

16. The litter is profuse and rarely will recreational shooters pick up their trash on the State Land.

17. Additionally, shooters routinely cut fences, drive their pickups on the State Land, trespass on adjacent landowners' property and discharge tannerite during fire season.

18. I have observed recreational shooters discharge firearms when cattle are present on the State Land. Furthermore, I have seen recreational shooters usher cattle away from the fenceline off Axtell Anceny Road, so that they can shoot. This is plainly against state land rules.

19. Another significant concern of mine is the risk of wildfire. It is extremely

common for recreational shooters to discharge tannerite on the State Land when the grasses are dry. This is a significant risk both to the State Land, nearby ranches and homes. The State Land should not be a place where individuals can blow things up, start wildfires, and then have no consequences for their actions. By discharging tannerite on the State Land recreational shooters endanger the public.

20. Emergency vehicles struggle to get to the State Land given the lack of county maintenance on Axtell Anceny Road. The fire trucks get stuck in the mud and ruts. Given the county maintenance, the risks associated with a wildfire on the State Land are significant and could prove disastrous for adjacent landowners and residents.

21. The noise pollution from the shooting on the State Land is significant. It is like living in a warzone.

22. With the heavy amounts of shooting occurring, the traffic on Axtell Anceny Road and High Flat Road have significantly increased. When it is muddy shooters tear up the road trying to access the State Land. Shooters do not slow down on the road and there is a lack of respect for the land and the area.

23. It is my observation that about 85 percent of the shooters on the State Land are college age kids that go to Montana State University. The State Land is used as a place for young people to consume alcohol and discharge firearms in a careless manner with no repercussions.

24. Shooters fire indiscriminately and, in all directions, making the State Land wholly unsafe and adjacent landowners' properties equally unsafe.

25. As a citizen of Montana, I believe the state is not managing the State Land to maximize its income-generating potential. To run cattle on it is like ranching in a warzone. The land is covered in cartridge brass, nails, broken clay pigeons, metal spikes all of which are

dangerous for livestock. The cattle are eating grass that has been scorched with tannerite. The constant shooting, foot traffic, vehicle traffic, and abundant litter, have degraded the landscape and recreational shooting has become the exclusive use on the State Land.

26. For these reasons, I believe this State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, reduce wildfire risk, and preserve and maximize the income-generating potential of the land.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/13/2026

Tyson Wood

Tyson Wood

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
078CA0DE-2DE8-4E4C-8606-D8467C96964F

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 078CA0DE-2DE8-4E4C-8606-D8467C96964F	**Document Name** 2026-03-12 Decl of Tyson Wood
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-12_Decl_of_Tyson_Wood.pdf
Sent At 03/12/2026 09:16:34 AM MDT	**Pages** 5 pages
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Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
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Email scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** 4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5ed12ab4d8e11ba873c2f11161202b945	**Identity Authenticated At** 03/13/2026 07:50:14 AM MDT
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	Typed Signature Tyson Wood	
	Signature Reference ID 05A4DAC5	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
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03/12/2026 09:16:34 AM MDT	Tyson Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/13/2026 07:49:48 AM MDT	Tyson Wood (scrgeneralmanager@gmail.com) viewed the document on Microsoft Edge via Windows from 74.244.108.41.
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EXHIBIT
8

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Morgan McReynolds**

I, Morgan McReynolds, declare as follows:

1. My family has owned real property in the Gallatin Valley for more than 150 years. I live in the immediate vicinity of the State Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

This real property is referred to below as the "State Land".

2. I own property directly adjacent to the State Land.

3. Over the past five to ten years, I have observed a drastic increase in recreational shooting on this State Land. As a result, the State Land, my property, and the properties of surrounding landowners have become increasingly unsafe.

4. In addition to being an adjacent landowner, I was also the lessee of this State Land for many years, up until 2024. As both a lessee and an adjoining landowner, I have insights

on why the DNRC must take action to close this parcel to recreational shooting.

5. I ultimately relinquished my lease because the constant recreational shooting made it impossible to safely and practically ranch the land. Shooters fire at will and in seemingly every direction. Many times, I stepped onto the State Land to inspect cattle, repair fences, or post signage, I felt unsafe. Simply put, it felt like ranching in a war zone. Shooters would not pause for my presence and continued firing despite my being clearly in danger. On multiple occasions, slugs struck the dirt near me while I was moving cattle.

6. While I held the lease, two of my calves were killed on the State Land within a 48-hour period by shooters. Both calves had visible bullet holes. I contacted the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the DNRC, and the Montana Board of Livestock. Each agency either refused to investigate or declined involvement once they learned the shooting occurred on State Land. The killings were never investigated, and no shooter was held accountable.

7. In addition to those two calves, I found several of my cows dead on the State Land with bullet holes, appearing to have been killed simply for sport. I have also witnessed shooters firing rounds at the feet of my cattle to make them run.

8. Shooters routinely damaged the fencing I put on the State Land. Fences were cut, fence posts were shot until they collapsed, and signs I placed were repeatedly shot to destruction. Maintaining the fence line became both expensive and a daily chore. Shooters would often cut fences to create access for shooting benches or tables and never repair them afterward. As a result, the lease became both too dangerous to manage and too costly to maintain. I wanted to ranch cattle, not continuously respond to hazards created by recreational shooting.

9. On busy days, I have observed as many as 80 people shooting on the State Land.

On one occasion, I counted 27 vehicles parked along Axtell Anceny Road, all associated with recreational shooting. This volume of use results in constant foot traffic that tramples grasses and significantly reduces available forage for cattle. Cattle were often directly in lines of fire, therefore forcing them to have limited grazing space on the State Land.

10. Pictures do not fully capture the degradation that shooting has caused to the landscape. Repetitive shooting into the dirt has created bullet streaks that look as though someone took a buzzsaw to the ground. These are literal scars on the landscape.

11. Based on these observations, it is my opinion that the State is not managing the State Land to its highest earning potential.

12. In essence I declined to renew the lease on the State Land because I could not ranch it anymore given the presence of irresponsible recreational shooting.

13. I am also deeply concerned about the debris left behind by shooters. Targets have included refrigerators packed with tannerite, televisions, lawn mowers, propane bottles, and beer cans. After detonations or shooting sessions, debris is routinely abandoned and left scattered across the landscape. When standing on the State Land I can smell the residual burning of gun powder and toxins. The State Land now smells like a dump. I have also repeatedly observed shooters using clay pigeons and steel gongs, which are prohibited under the State Land rules, yet there is no enforcement of the relevant regulations.

14. In several instances, debris from tannerite explosions, including parts of a washing machine, has landed on my property. When shooters want longer shooting distances or the State Land becomes crowded, they simply place steel targets on my land and leave them behind. This is blatant trespass. When I have confronted shooters, I am often told, “It’s close enough to State Land, isn’t it?” The lack of enforcement has created a perception that the area is

a free-for-all, resulting in damage not only to the State Land but also to my property. As an adjacent landowner, I have felt powerless to make the area safer.

15. Public safety is one of my greatest concerns. I have observed shooters repeatedly discharging 30 round magazines, conducting military-style drills with steel silhouette targets, in which shooters roll around on the ground and fire under "stress scenarios" while rapidly reloading. I have seen shooters pound metal posts into the ground and shoot them down until only sharp metal spikes remain, which they then abandon. These conditions are extremely dangerous for other recreationists, and livestock.

16. Nighttime shooting poses another major public safety risk. Shooters commonly fire after dark using truck headlights or handheld spotlights, and sometimes without any lights at all. I have observed nighttime shooting to be a weekly occurrence. Shooting at night poses obvious dangers due to limited visibility. It is my observation that oftentimes night shooting is done accompanied with the consumption of alcohol. While elk hunting on my property, I regularly hear shooters firing on the State Land well before legal shooting light.

17. At present, shooters fire indiscriminately and in all directions. If current practices are allowed to continue, I believe it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed. I fear for my own safety when working near this parcel, as well as for the safety of my family.

18. Wildfire risk is another serious concern. In the summer of 2025 alone, two wildfires were sparked by shooters using tannerite on the State Land. In one instance, it was only by luck that the fire burned toward Axtell Anceny Road, which acted as a firebreak. Had the wind conditions been different, my property would almost certainly have burned.

19. The wildfire risk is compounded by the poor condition of Axtell Anceny Road.

During one fire response in 2025, a Gateway Fire District truck became stuck on the road, forcing firefighters to respond on 4-wheelers. The combination of unregulated shooting activity and inadequate access for emergency response creates an extremely dangerous situation in which a large-scale wildfire is inevitable.

20. In my observation the relevant agency responses connected to the State Land are nonexistent at best. To my knowledge the only trespassing ticket issued in connection to activities on the State Land occurred after I was punched in the face by a trespasser.

21. I have called the Gallatin County Sheriffs Department, and FWP to respond to irresponsible shooting on the State Land and at most only a warning is issued if they respond to the call at all.

22. Because there is no agency enforcement of relevant regulations it has made the State Land effectively a lawless and dangerous place.

23. For these reasons, I believe this State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, reduce wildfire risk, and preserve and maximize the income-generating potential of the land.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 02/19/2026

Morgan McReynolds

Morgan McReynolds

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
70D16B4D-93E2-45D9-BE07-B50323D6CD00

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 70D16B4D-93E2-45D9-BE07-B50323D6CD00	**Document Name** 2026-02-18 Decl of Morgan McReynolds
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-02-18_Decl_of_Morgan_McReynolds.pdf
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Signer Sequencing Disabled	
Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
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	Signature Reference ID B9212B4D	

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TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
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02/19/2026 09:32:57 AM MST	Morgan McReynolds (morganmcr1982@gmail.com) signed the document on Chrome Mobile via Android from 174.220.139.77.

EXHIBIT
9

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BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Louis Kamps**

I, Louis Kamps, declare as follows:

1. I have lived in the Gallatin Valley my whole life.

2. I live in the immediate vicinity of Montana Trust Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.

3. I own real property directly adjacent to the Montana Trust Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

Both parcels of real property are collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

4. I would like both parcels described above to be permanently closed to recreational shooting. Closing only one parcel while leaving the other open would likely shift shooting

activity to the remaining area, increasing overall pressure, and safety risks. The following points outline the reasons supporting my position.

5. In my experience, over the past five to ten years, I have observed a major increase in recreational shooting on the State Land. Because of the increased shooting, my property, and the State Land has become extremely dangerous.

6. One of my greatest concerns over the current shooting practices on the State Land is the heightened risk of wildfires. I have personally observed shooters detonating tannerite on the State Land. The shooting of tannerite has become a common occurrence. This is extremely dangerous for obvious reasons, and several fires have broken out on the State Land because of this activity.

7. Because I share a fenceline with the State Land, and with much of my property being grassland pasture, wildfires started on the State Land would cause swift and catastrophic damage to my property.

8. I truly believe it is only a matter of time if the current shooting practices were allowed to continue that a wildfire would devastate both the State Land as well as my property.

9. The risk of wildfire is heightened because shooters feel as if the State Land is devoid of regulation making the State Land effectively lawless. This has only been reaffirmed when I have called agency enforcement, whether it be Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, FWP, DNRC, and each agency passes the call on to the other and no agency responds to the call.

10. In my observation, shooters on State Land routinely violate applicable regulations, including shooting clays, shooting steel gongs, shooting from the county road, driving trucks on State Land, operating side-by-side vehicles on State Land, discharging firearms within a quarter mile of a dwelling, littering, and cutting fences. In the past, when I have

attempted to educate shooters about their noncompliance, the responses are often dismissive, such as "so what," "it's state land, I can do what I want," or "who's going to stop me." These attitudes only contribute to the increasingly dangerous conditions on State Land.

11. I am also extremely concerned about the trash left behind by shooters on the State Land. In my observation it is routine for shooters to leave behind beer cans, liquor bottles, spent brass cartridges, and used targets. Creative targets used by shooters on the State Land span from kitchen appliances to washing machines.

12. It is my observation that shooters routinely hang their targets on my fenceline that I put in and regularly maintain. Often, they leave these targets hanging on the fence. Because of this practice my fenceline is regularly damaged by bullets and in constant need of replacement.

13. I have had gates shot and one of my cows died on my property, likely because of being shot from the State Land.

14. Nighttime shooting is prevalent on the State Land. It is my observation that often-nighttime shooting is accompanied by the consumption of alcohol. This poses an extreme risk to public safety and causes me to feel unsafe on my property.

15. Given the current shooting practices, I believe the circumstances are very unsafe for those on the State Land and to adjacent landowners.

16. I believe it is only a matter of time before someone on State Land is seriously injured, or before I, or a member of my family, is harmed.

17. For these reasons I believe this State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, and reduce wildfire risk.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 3/6/26

Louis Kamps

Louis Kamps

EXHIBIT
10

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Frederick Richards**

I, Frederick Richards, declare as follows:

1. I live in the immediate vicinity of the State Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

This real property is referred to below as the "State Land".

2. I own real property in the immediate vicinity of the State Land.

3. I am extremely concerned about the current recreational shooting occurring on the State Land. Because of the increased shooting the State Land has become extremely dangerous.

4. Recreational shooting on the State Land has effectively become the exclusive use, displacing all other recreational activities.

5. One of my greatest concerns over the current shooting practices on the State Land is there is zero enforcement from FWP or DNRC officials. The lack of enforcement has led to widespread abuse of the landscape as the State Land has effectively become a dump.

6. Despite littering being prohibited, shooters leave targets all over the State Land with an abundance of shell casings and broken clay pigeons coving the State Land.

7. In my observation shooters abuse the landscape with no regard to relevant regulations.

8. As a resident of the area who has ridden horses with dogs along the shoulders of Axtell Anceny Road for a decade the volleys of shots spook the horses and make it dangerous to ride the road when shooters are present. Nowadays shooters are always present.

9. When riding in the vicinity of the State Land I am concerned about being stuck by a ricochet bullet. Given the volume of shots this is a likely scenario.

10. Moreover, in the last five or so years, knowledge of the State Land as a place to shoot has dramatically increased traffic in the area.

11. Even when I confront shooters about their speed of travel the interactions turn tense.

12. On 100% of my rides along Axtell Anceny Road, I have witnessed motorists failing to adhere to Montana's guidelines for encountering horseback riders. These guidelines are:

- Slow Way Down: Reduce speed immediately upon seeing a horse and rider to avoid spooking the animal.
- Pass Wide: Give the horse and rider as much room as possible, moving entirely into the opposite lane if necessary.

13. Given the current shooting practices, I believe the circumstances are very unsafe for those on the State Land and to adjacent landowners.

14. For these reasons I believe this State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and allow all users the chance to recreate and enjoy their state land.

* * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/09/2026

Frederick Richards

Frederick Richards

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
05FB2CC4-A878-4ACB-9271-66C6B09C8CAD

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
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Executed At 03/09/2026 10:41:31 AM MDT	**Content Type** application/pdf
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SIGNERS

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03/04/2026 04:17:02 PM MST	Frederick Richards (frichards@kw.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/09/2026 10:38:57 AM MDT	Frederick Richards (frichards@kw.com) viewed the document on Chrome via Windows from 97.179.32.51.
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EXHIBIT
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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Dana Christian**

I, Dana Christian, declare as follows:

1. I have lived in the Gallatin Valley for over 20 years.

2. I live in the immediate vicinity of Montana Trust Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.

3. I own real property close to the Montana Trust Land located at:

   The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

Both parcels of real property are collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

4. I would like both parcels described above to be permanently closed to recreational shooting.

5. In my experience, over the past five to ten years, I have observed a major increase in recreational shooting on the State Land. The increased shooting has caused my property, and the State Land to become extremely unsafe.

6. I am acutely concerned about the recreational shooting as my home sits in the direct line of fire for shooters on the High Flat Road parcel. The shooters are elevated relative to my home, and less than a mile away, shooting on a downward angle directly at my home. For obvious reasons this is extremely dangerous. The topography and perpetual shooting have made my property unsafe.

7. The safety concerns on my property were confirmed several years ago when one of my horses was killed by a stray bullet from shooters on the State Land.

8. It is my observation that shooters on the State Land routinely violate applicable regulations, including shooting clays, shooting steel gongs, shooting from the county road, driving trucks on the State Land, operating side-by-side vehicles on the State Land, discharging firearms within a quarter mile of a dwelling, littering, and cutting fences.

9. In the past, I made efforts to educate shooters about instances of noncompliance and to encourage responsible use of the State Land. However, I have since stopped doing so due to the increasingly confrontational nature of these interactions. Many of these encounters became borderline violent and unproductive. I would often face disrespectful attitudes toward both me and the land itself. These behaviors have contributed to increasingly dangerous conditions on the State Land.

10. I have called agency enforcement, whether it be Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, FWP, DNRC, and each agency refers me to a different agency rather than

responding to the immediate issue. As an adjacent landowner it feels like we are on our own when circumstances demand an enforcement response.

11. I am also concerned about wildfires sparked by shooting activities. The risk of wildfire is heightened because shooters feel as if the State Land is devoid of regulation making the State Land effectively a lawless free for all. Shooters regularly shoot haphazard targets readily capable of sparking upon impact.

12. I am also extremely concerned about the trash left behind by shooters on the State Land. In my observation it is routine for shooters to leave behind beer cans, soda cans, spent brass cartridges, and used targets. Effectively the State Land has turned into a dump.

13. It is my observation that shooters routinely hang their targets on adjoining neighbor's fencelines and shoot fences for "target practice".

14. Given the current shooting practices, I believe the circumstances are very unsafe for those on the State Land and to adjacent landowners.

15. I believe that if any DNRC personnel stood on my porch it would take them less than five minutes to determine how brainless it would be to allow the current recreational shooting to continue on the State Land. The dangerous circumstances are readily apparent.

16. I believe it is only a matter of time before someone on the State Land is seriously injured, my livestock is injured, or before I am harmed.

17. For these reasons I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, and reduce wildfire risk.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/09/2026

Dana Christian

Dana Christian

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
243258FB-DAC6-4803-98CC-8D381D2433FE

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 243258FB-DAC6-4803-98CC-8D381D2433FE	**Document Name** 2026-03-12 Decl of Dana Christian
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SIGNERS

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	Typed Signature Dana Christian	
	Signature Reference ID 30C1295A	

AUDITS

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03/27/2026 02:38:12 PM MDT	Dana Christian (dchristian1962@gmail.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/27/2026 02:42:30 PM MDT	Dana Christian (dchristian1962@gmail.com) viewed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 174.234.2.186.
03/27/2026 02:43:19 PM MDT	Dana Christian (dchristian1962@gmail.com) authenticated via email on Mobile Safari via iOS from 174.234.2.186.
03/27/2026 02:43:19 PM MDT	Dana Christian (dchristian1962@gmail.com) signed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 174.234.2.186.

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Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of Derek Dyk**

I, Derek Dyk, declare as follows:

1. I have lived in the Gallatin Valley for over twenty years, with most of that time living in the vicinity of the State Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.
>
> As well as the State Land located at:
>
> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

This real property is collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

2. My extended family and my wife's family have lived and farmed in Gallatin County for five generations. Both families have held state land leases for decades.

3. I personally farmed the State Land off High Flat Road for several years prior to 2017. I used to have very few, if any issues with recreational shooters or other State Land users. However, nowadays things have gotten out of control with the way people treat the State Land off Axtell Anceney Road and High Flat Road.

4. In my observation it was around the time of the COVID pandemic that the recreational shooting on the State Land became wildly out of control with little to no response from the DNRC.

5. I am not alone in my observation that the farmers and ranchers feel like they have taken a backseat when it comes to ensuring their investment in leases on the State Land are protected. In my experience farmers' investment in their leases are assuredly not protected.

6. Farmers and ranchers have been caring for state lands though agricultural leases for many years. The state of Montana, its citizens and visitors have benefited greatly from the revenue from these leases generate.

7. It is a slap in the face of farmers and ranchers as to how the DNRC has chosen to ignore the damage that has been done to the State Land by recreational shooters.

8. This damage also extends onto private land that borders the State Land. Farmers and ranchers invest thousands of dollars in fence and crop inputs, only to have recreational shooters trample cropland, litter the ground with spent ammo casings, clays, beer cans and liquor bottles; shooting fence posts, wire, shooting explosive targets, resulting in the grassland being scarred from the explosion and livestock being startled.

9. The State Land has become a free for all where common sense has been extinguished. Such attitudes create a highly dangerous environment on the State Land and for surrounding landowners.

10. On the State Land, I have observed recreational shooters driving their vehicles and ATVs in cropland and grasslands. Shooting well within 1/4 mile of an occupied residence. People often go mudding and spinning donuts in the crop. My elderly parents border the State Land and have had clays land in their yard because people are shooting so close to their house.

11. All of these examples are clear violations under DNRC rules, but yet the DNRC fails to take any proactive or reactive action. The DNRC is well aware of violations on the State Land and has been aware of them for years. I have personally sent emails with photos to the DNRC with no results. On the State Land, 99% of the violations that I have seen involve recreational shooters.

12. The DNRC points the finger at FWP and the FWP points the finger at the DNRC.

13. I worked in law enforcement for 13 years and have never seen such willful neglect of public property by a government agency. I do not understand how on the State Land there not regular proactive patrols conducted by FWP or the Sheriff's office during known high recreational use times. It is clear to me, and one of my biggest concerns, is that there is absolutely zero proactive enforcement presence on the State Land.

14. I have spoken to people that are violating relevant regulations, only to be met with hostility. On the State Land I have had people tell me that it is "public land" and because it is public land they can do "anything" they want. I have had people clench their fists, put their hand on their pistol or clench their rifle when confronted. I have had people spew profanities and laugh when I tell them they are violating state land regulations. This creates a highly dangerous environment.

15. When confronting shooters on the State Land I have even had people walk behind me with their AR-15 slung while speaking to their buddy. The DNRC has allowed people to feel

empowered to disrespect the State Land, and the applicable rules that are in place, while the farmers and ranchers who lease the State Land suffer the consequences. DNRC has done nothing to correct the behavior of people mistreating the State Land. Instead, DNRC has created a dangerous environment for those holding leases and the adjacent landowners.

16. I have seen people drive up to hunt on the State Land only to turn around or leave due to recreational shooting. It is rare to see people take walks on the State Land or go hunting with their son or daughter. This is because the State Land has been overrun by recreational shooting. Recreational shooting on the State Land has become the exclusive use of the landscape.

17. It is obvious that the DNRC is not managing the State Land to its maximum income generating potential, nor the lessee's best interests in mind.

18. The DNRC gladly charges grazing leases and accepts payment on land that are not able to be grazed due to the damage done to the fences and high volume of shooting. The population growth that has taken place in Gallatin County over the last decade has brought in people that do not respect or understand agriculture on state lands. From what I have seen and experienced, many the State Land recreational shooters are from out of state and or attend Montana State University.

19. There are state laws that protect the State Land for agricultural use over recreational use. The DNRC is obviously aware of these laws but chooses to turn a blind eye to it when it comes to recreational shooting on the State Land. In essence, the DNRC expects the farmer and rancher to invest in fences and gates, only to have them used for target practice. The DNRC takes millions of dollars a year from farmers and ranchers leasing the land for agriculture, but yet the DNRC turns their back on them by refusing to do anything about violations.

20. One of my greatest concerns over the current shooting practices on the State Land is the heightened risk of wildfires. I have personally observed shooters discharging Tannerite on the State Land. The shooting of Tannerite has become a common occurrence. This is extremely dangerous for obvious reasons, and several fires have broken out on the State Land because of this activity.

21. It is also common for shooters to have bonfires on the State Land. No designated fire pits exist on the State Land. This adds to the heightened risk of wildfires and is plainly against state land regulations.

22. Nighttime shooting is prevalent on the State Land. It is my observation that often-nighttime shooting is accompanied by the consumption of alcohol.

23. I have personally observed shooters on the State Land fire rounds that pass-through targets and strike adjacent private land, creating a dust plume on impact.

24. Given the current shooting practices, I believe the circumstances are very unsafe for those on the State Land.

25. I believe it is only a matter of time before someone on State Land is seriously injured, or before I, or a member of my family, is harmed.

26. For these reasons I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury, and reduce wildfire risk.

* * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/06/2026

Derek Dyk

Derek Dyk

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
AD98BB1E-6A70-4481-AF97-184120C0C481

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number AD98BB1E-6A70-4481-AF97-184120C0C481	**Document Name** 2026-03-06 Decl of Derek Dyk
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-06_Decl_of_Derek_Dyk.pdf
Sent At 03/06/2026 01:43:32 PM MST	**Pages** 5 pages
Executed At 03/06/2026 02:28:20 PM MST	**Content Type** application/pdf
Identity Method email	**File Size** 126 KB
Distribution Method email	**Original Checksum** 3e43037a4a6e323e436266e7b310c0440ab079788c3ff1e3e66fc961fb31c292
Signed Checksum 2fcbfe2e0873bc3bdfb0b0aaa5ba3c4ab29f3aff572ee520bdebfe80a0ed1122	
Signer Sequencing Disabled	
Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
Name Derek Dyk	**Status** signed	**Viewed At** 03/06/2026 02:20:20 PM MST
Email derekdyk@gmail.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** 4f53cda18c2baa0c0354bb5f9a3ecbe5ed12ab4d8e11ba873c2f11161202b945	**Identity Authenticated At** 03/06/2026 02:28:19 PM MST
Components 2	**IP Address** 149.40.51.86	**Signed At** 03/06/2026 02:28:20 PM MST
	Device Chrome via Mac	
	Typed Signature Derek Dyk	
	Signature Reference ID A03959D6	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
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03/06/2026 01:43:32 PM MST	Derek Dyk (derekdyk@gmail.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/06/2026 02:20:20 PM MST	Derek Dyk (derekdyk@gmail.com) viewed the document on Chrome via Mac from 149.40.51.86.
03/06/2026 02:28:19 PM MST	Derek Dyk (derekdyk@gmail.com) authenticated via email on Chrome via Mac from 149.40.51.86.
03/06/2026 02:28:20 PM MST	Derek Dyk (derekdyk@gmail.com) signed the document on Chrome via Mac from 149.40.51.86.

EXHIBIT
13

Robert K. Baldwin
William G. Thomas
Baldwin Law, PLLC
P.O. Box 10850
Bozeman, MT 59719
406-551-9993
rbaldwin@baldwinlawfirm.com
gthomas@baldwinlawfirm.com

Attorneys for Petitioners

BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DAVID HATTER AND MELISSA HATTER, Petitioners.	**Declaration of John Van Dyke**

I, John Van Dyke, declare as follows:

1. I have lived in the Gallatin Valley my entire life.

2. For several years, I lived in the immediate vicinity of Montana Trust Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located along High Flat Road.

3. For most of my life, I owned real property near the Montana Trust Land located at:

> The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

Both parcels of real property are collectively referred to below as the "State Land".

4. Around five years ago, I gifted the real property I owned around the State Land to my children.

5. I would like both parcels described above to be permanently closed to recreational shooting.

6. I am listed as the primary lessee on the Montana Trust Land located along High Flat Road.

7. The High Flat parcel is comprised of 16 acres that is pasture. In my experience this pasture is impossible to use until the shooting is prohibited on this acreage.

8. The rest of the lease is in agriculture. The current shooting activities have caused significant damage to the crop. There is lots of trash, debris and vehicles that drive into the crop to recreational shoot. Often shooters will sit in the crop and place targets in the growing crop. All of this is against relevant regulations.

9. The shooters do significant damage to the crop, and it is dangerous to even approach anyone doing the damage as the confrontations are tense and highly charged given the nature of weapons being involved.

10. Shooters damage the fences on the lease by shooting fence posts or cutting wires. Shooters often leave trash laying around, hanging on the fenceline, especially beer cans.

11. I am considering not renewing my lease because of the current recreational shooting that is taking place.

12. I know from a practical standpoint in the past I lost several thousands of dollars just with the inability to use the pasture and an unascertainable loss on damage to the crop.

13. My observation is that nowadays farmers and ranchers take a backseat to recreational shooters and that is not in line with management mandates.

14. In my observation the recreational shooting on the State Land brings with it constant noise, prolific levels of trash on the landscape, broken bottles, millions of pieces of clay pigeons and sharp metal from makeshift targets.

15. Coupled with this fact, it is my observation that most of the shooters are young kids that come here from out-of-state to attend Montana State University. These kids use the State Land as a place to consume alcohol and shoot firearms. This is very dangerous for those on the State Land and adjacent landowners.

16. My biggest concern with the current shooting on the State Land is the lack of management by the DNRC. The DNRC is allowing a belligerent group of people, beefed up on alcohol to make very bad decisions, shooting in every direction with weapons capable of doing damage to nearby homes.

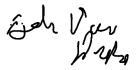
17. The is no enforcement by relevant agencies. Instead, the DNRC is ignoring the serious problem that recreational shooting poses on the State Land. The DNRC should pull these leases from the availability list because they are impossible to farm or run cattle on given the dangerous and unregulated shooting that occurs on the State Land.

18. For these reasons I believe the State Land must be closed to recreational shooting in order to protect public safety, prevent irreparable property damage and bodily injury.

***

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED 03/11/2026



John Van Dyke

Progress | RightSignature

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
B968CFD5-FAF4-46D7-98D5-DC145B83657D

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
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Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** 2026-03-11_Decl_of_John_Van_Dyke.pdf
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Executed At 03/11/2026 01:46:37 PM MDT	**Content Type** application/pdf
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Distribution Method email	**Original Checksum** 70e1c25e499a9f05e54cf27bb1f16e11d726ddaf1628dafffb5940bef4e7e8a7
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Signer Sequencing Disabled	
Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
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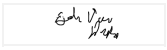
	Drawn Signature 	
	Signature Reference ID 9C7263D0	
	Signature Biometric Count 10	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
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03/11/2026 01:16:07 PM MDT	John Van Dyke (reese5751@gmail.com) was emailed a link to sign.
03/11/2026 01:41:54 PM MDT	John Van Dyke (reese5751@gmail.com) viewed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 146.75.128.1.
03/11/2026 01:46:37 PM MDT	John Van Dyke (reese5751@gmail.com) authenticated via email on Mobile Safari via iOS from 146.75.128.1.
03/11/2026 01:46:37 PM MDT	John Van Dyke (reese5751@gmail.com) signed the document on Mobile Safari via iOS from 146.75.128.1.


EXHIBIT
15




EXHIBIT
16


EXHIBIT
17





EXHIBIT
18


EXHIBIT
19
PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO HUNTING
NO TRESPASSING


EXHIBIT
20




EXHIBIT
21



EXHIBIT
23

EXHIBIT
24

TO: Guy Thomas
P.O. Box 10850
Bozeman, MT 59719

From: Game Warden Captain Josh Leonard

Subject: Axtell Anceny DNRC Information Request

Date: 1/22/2026

RE: 25-PIR-1527 Public Information Request

Mr. Thomas,

I have received your request for information concerning the State Trust land off Axtell Anceny Road. Specifically, the Northwest Quarter (NW¼) and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County Montana, that is located North of Axtell Anceny Road.

The timeline you requested information on was from 01/01/2010 00:00 AM America/Denver to 12/18/2025 00:00 AM America/Denver. I was not able to obtain data for DNRC patrols/work from the year 2010 through 2018. I was able to examine data from January 2018 through December 2025.

The following was found:

1. 42 total patrols were documented for the specific location mentioned above. 29 of these patrols were proactive patrols by the wardens. 13 of these were dispatched calls. The dispatched calls were a combination of TipMont calls, calls from RP's (reporting party), or the landowner/lessee directly, Gallatin County Dispatch, and Montana Highway Patrol Dispatch.
2. The 29 proactive patrols primarily covered recreational shooting. Wardens conducted administrative checks to determine if users had the required license to recreate on DNRC property.
3. The 13 dispatched calls consisted of the following:
    a. 4 TipMont trespass complaints.
    b. 1 public assist for a lost gun that was found.
    c. 1 vandalism report which was reported to Gallatin County Sheriff's Office as well.

d. 1 Mutual Aid Request from Gallatin County Sheriff's Office for a wanted person.

e. 3 reports of animal carcasses dumped at the location (1 game animal report and 2 nongame animal)

f. 1 off road complaint

g. 1 report of a fire starting from recreation shooting which Gallatin County Sheriff's Office investigated.

h. 1 report of recreational shooting from a vehicle.

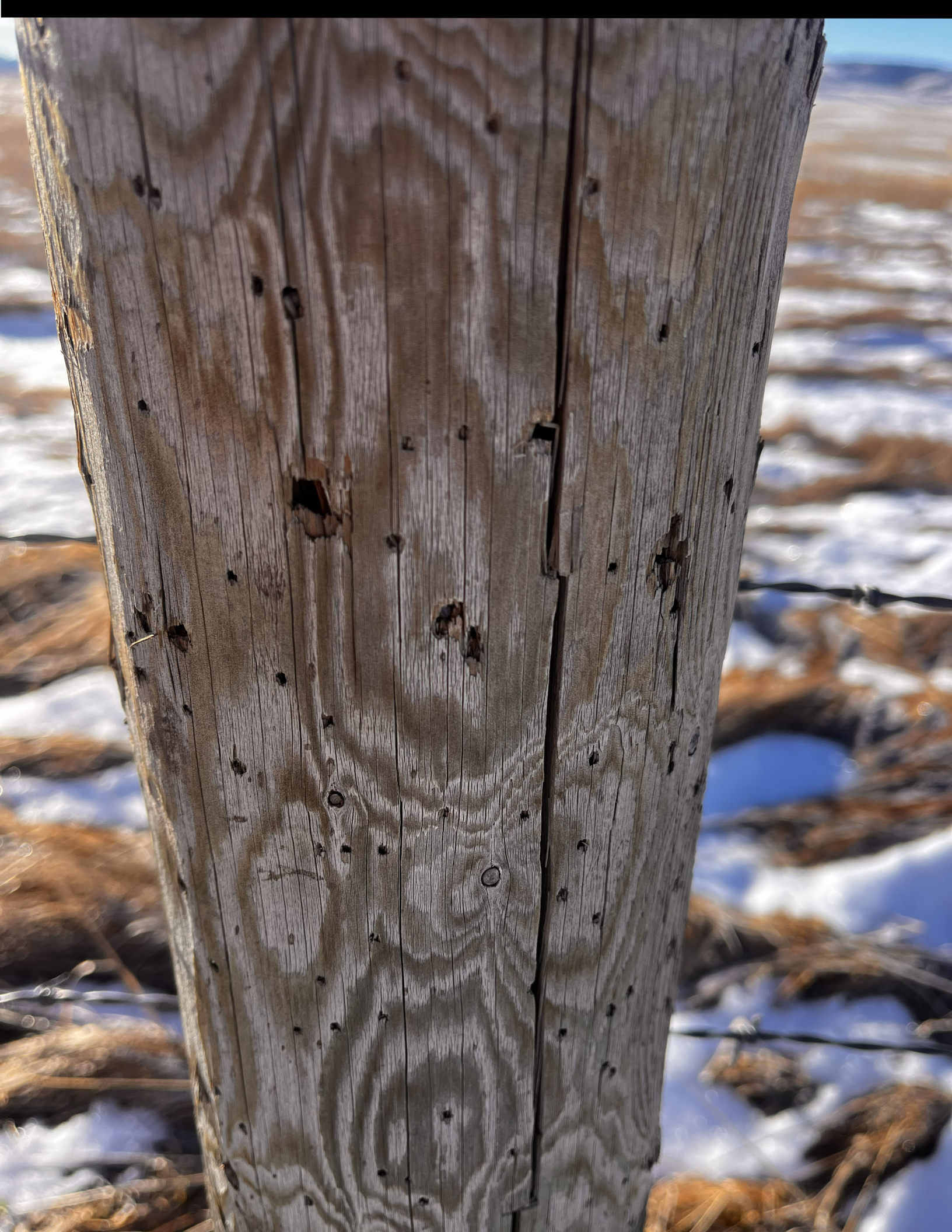
4. No incident reports (case reports) were found.

Thank you,

Josh Leonard
Game Warden Captain
Region 3


EXHIBIT
25










EXHIBIT
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EXHIBIT
27










EXHIBIT
28












EXHIBIT
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WHITE
RUCTION
RIVER


EXHIBIT
30





EXHIBIT
31

Dana Christian horse



Dana Christian horse





EXHIBIT
32


0 41244 00006 7

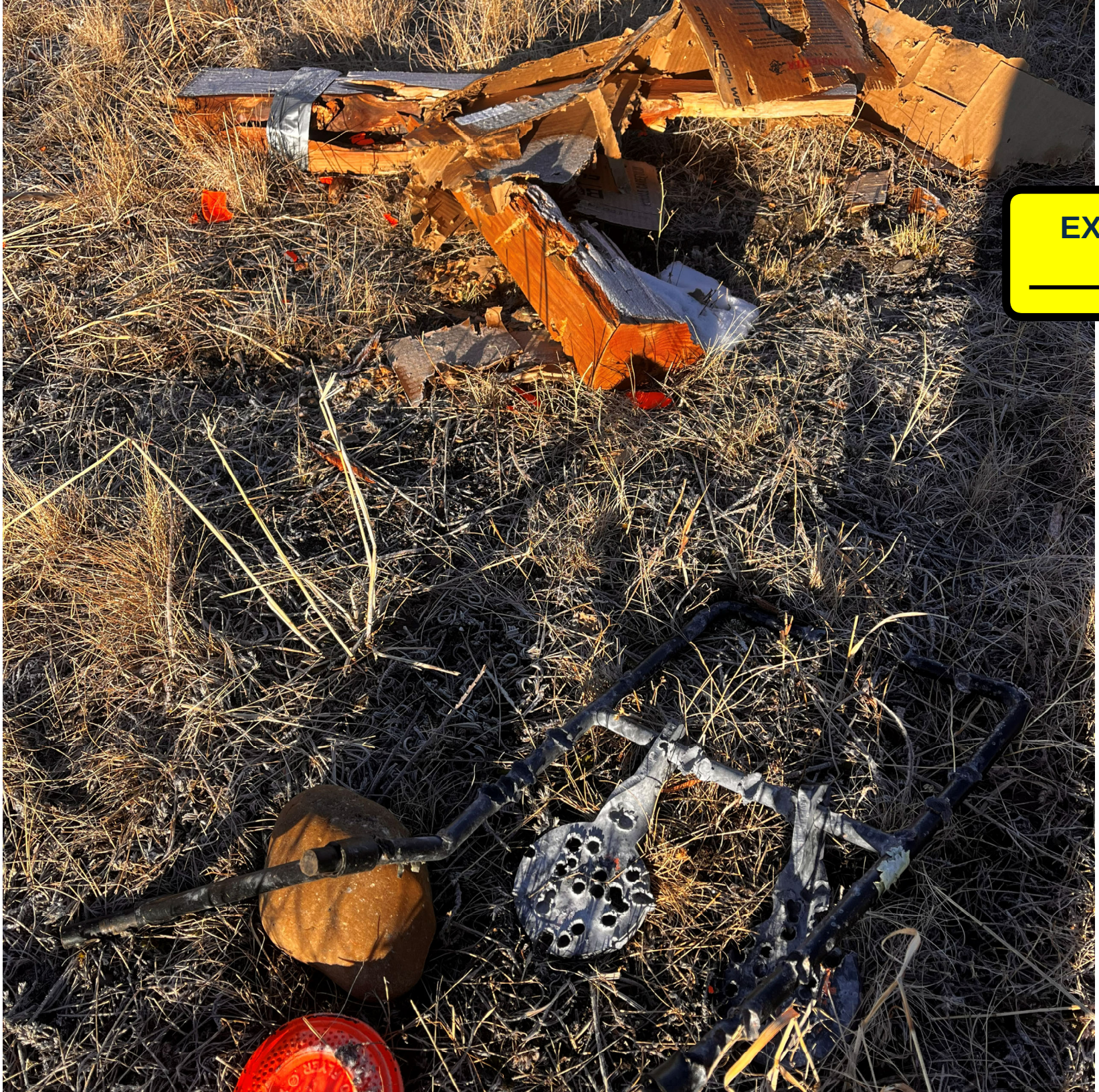

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EXHIBIT
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PDFScripting.com



EXHIBIT
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EXHIBIT
36


EXHIBIT
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12"
PIZZA
BLUE COLLAR
RESTAURANT GROUP
PROUD to SERVE
Great AMERICAN Food






FLOZ
RED BULL
Nutrition
Serving size
Amount per
Calories
Total Fat
Sodium
Total Carbohydrate
Total Sugars
Includes
Niacin
Vitamin B12
Not a significant
dietary fiber
Caffeine content
pregnant or
Ingredients
Colors
Caffeine






EXHIBIT
38
Grown by Feral

AA
MOD FLYER





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EXHIBIT
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FDTScripting.com


EXHIBIT
43
90 TARGETS
WHITE FLYER
MADE IN USA
90 TARGETS
CLAY TARGETS
WWW.WHITEFLYER.COM


EXHIBIT
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EXHIBIT
45


EXHIBIT
46





EXHIBIT
47


EXHIBIT
48
Anvil
2 in. Spring Clamp
MADE IN CHINA
HOME DEPOT
ATLANTA, GA 30339



EXHIBIT
49

EXHIBIT
50



EXHIBIT
51

PDF-Scripting.com

MONTANA TRUST LANDS
Recreational Use Guide

EXHIBIT 52

This is a simple reference guide for general recreational use of trust land.
Comprehensive regulations are in Montana Code Annotated 77-1-801 - 77-1-815 and Administrative Rules 36.25.143-36.25.167.

Trust lands are different than other public land because they have a constitutional purpose to earn money for public schools and other institutions. Revenue is generated on trust land through leases, licenses, commercial timber, and mineral development. Most legally accessible trust lands are open to the public for recreational use.

REQUIRED LICENSE

A **Conservation License** is required to recreate on state land. The conservation license is a prerequisite for all hunting and fishing activities in Montana, so if you have a current license to hunt, fish, or trap in Montana, you already have the Conservation License.

License cost
- residents $8
- non-residents $10
- youth/senior $4
- No license required for youth under 12.

Licenses are valid from March 1 – February 28 each year.
Purchase at https://ols.fwp.mt.gov/

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Motorized Vehicles:
- **Open:** public roads (federal, state, and dedicated county roads)
- **Closed:** All other roads unless signed otherwise by DNRC.
- **Parking:** within 50 feet of a public road. Do not block gates or roads.

E-Bikes are considered motorized vehicles on trust land. They are allowed on public roads only.

Snowmobiles are limited to public roads through leased land but are generally allowed off-road on unleased land. There may be environmental factors that limit snowmobile use in certain areas. Contact the local DNRC field office to confirm allowable use in specific areas.

Pets must be on a leash or otherwise under control.

Horseback Riding is generally allowed on trust land. Horses must be restrained and cannot be within any stream riparian zone for more than one hour. Feed must be certified weed seed free.

Camping is allowed within 200 feet of access point for tent or non-motorized camping, and within 50 feet of access point if motorized vehicle is required (RV or camper trailers). Stay is limited to 2 days on leased land, and up to 16 days per month on unleased land.

Campfires are not allowed on leased land.

Firearms:
- shooting is not allowed within ¼ mile of a dwelling or associated outbuilding.
- See access webpage for locations of other special restrictions.
- Targets and debris must be cleaned up.

Littering: Pack it in, pack it out.

Gates: Leave gates the way you find them – if it's closed, close it behind you.

Land use: Trust lands are always at work earning money to fund schools. Most are leased for agriculture or grazing, or under active timber management. Be mindful of lessee rights; respect fences, gates, and other privately-owned improvements.

OTHER USES

These uses require separate/additional authorization from DNRC. Contact the local DNRC field office to inquire or apply:
- Trapping
- Commercial or concentrated (group) uses
- Cutting or gathering wood, including Christmas Trees
- Collecting valuable rocks/minerals and mineral exploration
- Collection or disturbance of archaeological, historical, or paleontological sites.

ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS

Legal access means access through:
- public road
- adjacent public land
- public waters under stream access law
- permission from adjacent private landowner.
- public access agreement between private landowner and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

It is NOT legal to access trust land by:
- Aircraft
- Crossing private land without permission

Recreation is not allowed on trust land that:
- has active growing crops
- is for residential use (cabin/home sites)
- is leased for commercial use
- has active military training
- has extreme wildfire threat
- Is otherwise specifically closed or restricted.

Other site-specific restrictions may be in effect.
See our access webpage or contact the local DNRC field office for details.

Block Management Agreements
If enrolled, Block Management rules apply.

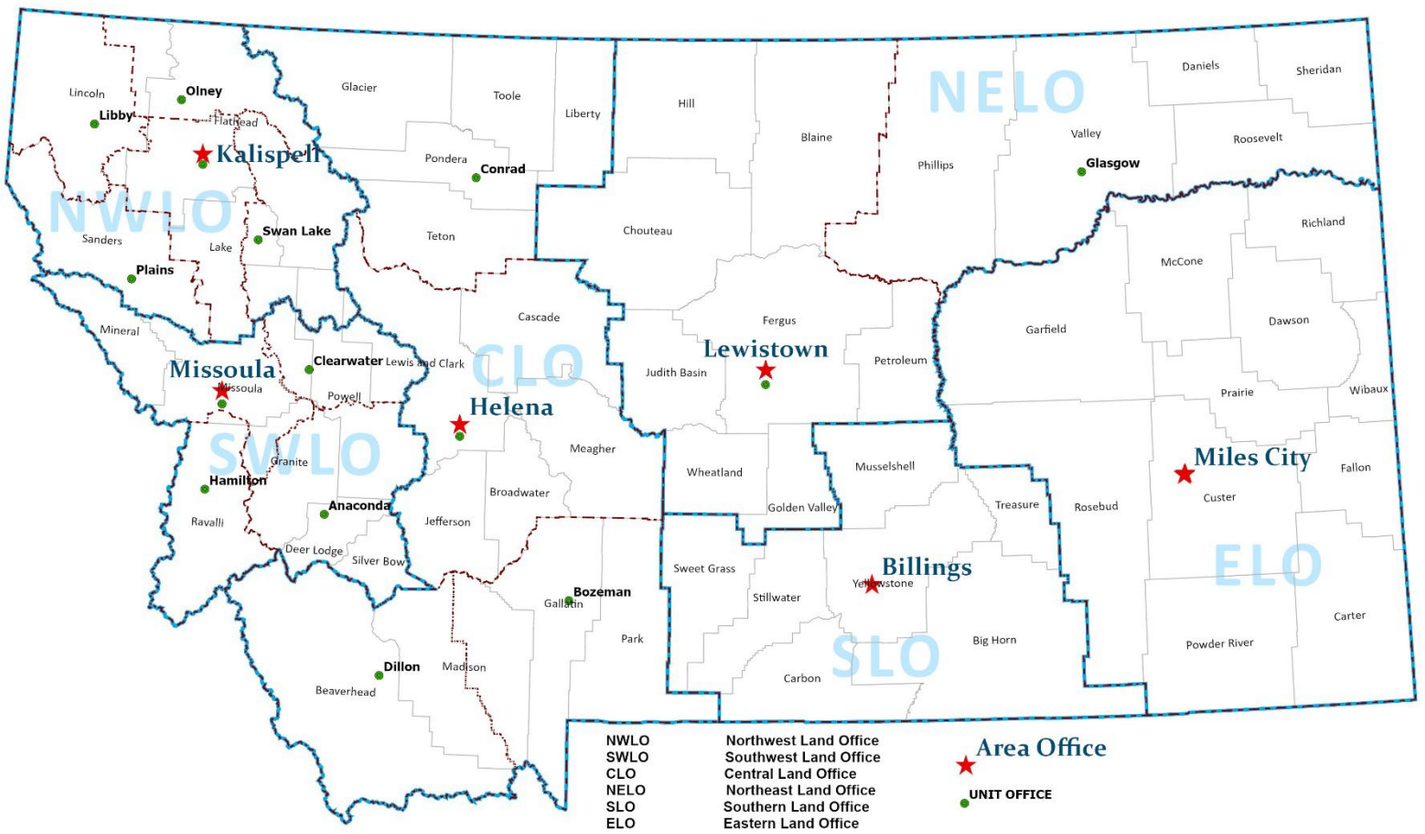
Notification Requirements
Agriculture or grazing lessees may require notification (not permission) prior to entry on legally accessible trust land. If notification is required, DNRC signs will be posted at common access points with notification details.

EXISTING LEASE RIGHTS

1. Most trust land east of the continental divide is leased. Forested land west of the divide is generally unleased. Contact the local DNRC field office to confirm if land is leased.
2. Lessees may have rights to use certain roads that are closed to the public.
3. Lessees may require notification (not permission) prior to entry on leased land.
4. Improvements on trust land, including fences and gates, are privately owned by lessees.

Learn more at https://dnrc.mt.gov/recreation or contact your local DNRC field office.

Trust Land Management Offices



NORTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE (NWLO)

655 Timberwolf Parkway,
Suite 1
Kalispell, MT 59901-1215
406-751-2240

Kalispell Unit Office
655 Timberwolf Parkway,
Suite 2
Kalispell, MT 59901-1215
406-751-2241

Libby Unit Office
177 State Lands Road
Libby, MT 59923
406-283-3525

Plains Unit Office
14 Airport Rd PO Box 219
Plains, MT 59859
406-826-3851

Stillwater Unit Office
Stillwater State Forest
P.O. Box 164
Olney, MT 59927
406-881-2371

Swan Unit Office
Swan River State Forest
34925 MT Hwy 83
Swan Lake, MT 59911
406-754-2301

SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE (SWLO)

1401 27th Ave.
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-4200

Anaconda Unit Office
1300 Maguire Road
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-6078

Clearwater Unit Office
48455 Sperry Grade Rd.
Greenough, MT
59823-9635
406-244-5857

Hamilton Unit Office
1801 N. First Street
P.O. Box 713
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-1585

Missoula Unit Office
3206 Maverick Lane
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-4201

EASTERN LAND OFFICE (ELO)

321 Main Street
Miles City, MT 59301
406-232-2034

CENTRAL LAND OFFICE (CLO)

8001 N. Montana Avenue
Helena, MT 59602
406-458-3500

Bozeman Unit Office
2273 Boot Hill Court,
Suite 110
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-586-5243

Conrad Unit Office
416 Main Street
P.O. Box 961,
Conrad, MT 59425
406-505-6001

Dillon Unit Office
840 North Montana Street
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-6305

Helena Unit Office
8001 N. Montana Avenue
Helena, MT 59602
406-458-3500

SOUTHERN LAND OFFICE (SLO)

Airport Industrial Park
1371 Rimtop Drive
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-4400

NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE (NELO)

613 N. E. Main Street
P. O. Box 1021
Lewistown, MT
59457-1021
406-538-7789

Lewistown Unit Office
613 N. E. Main Street
P.O. Box 1021
Lewistown, MT
59457-1021
406-538-7789

Glasgow Unit Office
224 Sixth Street South
PO Box 1007
Glasgow, MT 59230-1007
406-228-2430

FORESTRY AND TRUST LANDS DIVISION

Recreational Use & Public Access
1539 Eleventh Avenue
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-5760

Learn more at https://dnrc.mt.gov/recreation or contact your local DNRC field office.


EXHIBIT
53



EXHIBIT
54


EXHIBIT
55
20 YEARS OF
TANNERITE
Brand Binary Rifle Targets
Must be used by persons over 21 years of age.


20 YEARS OF
TANNERITE
Brand Binary Rifle Targets
(541) 744-1406


20 YEARS OF
TANNERITE
Brand Binary Rifle Targets
LEGAL/STABLE/PATENTED
E.S.C Compnay/Daniel Tanner
Fed. License No. on request
Patent RE44,386 E
(541) 744-1406
D.S Code
Must be used at time of mixing catalyst to comply with CFR
Must be used by persons over 21 years of age
Shoot no less than 100 yards with high powered rifle


20 YEARS OF
TANNERITE®
Brand Binary Rifle Targets
LEGAL/STABLE/PATENTED
E.S.C Compnay/Daniel Tanner
Fed. License No. on request
Patent RE44.386 E
(541) 744-1405
DS Code
Must be used at time of mixing catalyst to comply with
Must be used by persons over 21 years of age
Shoot no less than 100 yards with high powered rifle.


EXHIBIT
56

EXHIBIT
57

PDFScripting.com


EXHIBIT
58


CAP INDICATES COLOR
WARNING: Cancer and Reproductive Harm — www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

EXHIBIT
59

PDFScripting.com

EXHIBIT 60

Incident Report

Incident Number
FD25-00095

Incident type
Forest, woods or wildland fire

PSAP Call Date/Time
03/26/2025 10:58:29

Officer in Charge
Hillier, Jeremiah R, Fire Chief, C 3-01

Incident Address
AXTELL ANCENEY RD, GALLATIN, MT, 59730

County
--

Property Type
Open land or field

Dispatch Information

Alarm Date/Time 03/26/2025 10:58:29

Incident Location Information

Pre-incident Property Value 0

Pre-incident Contents Value 0

Apparatus

Department Unit 1 of 5

Apparatus Name	C3-01 / C 3-01	**Dispatch Date/Time**	03/26/2025 10:58:29
Type	Chief officer car	**Acknowledge Date/Time**	03/26/2025
# of Crewmembers	1	**En Route Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:08:15
Use	Other	**Arrive Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:22:16
ALS Support Capable	No	**Clear Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	**Back in Service Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Crewmembers	Hillier, Jeremiah R		
		Apparatus Arrived Patient Date/Time	--
		Apparatus Transfer of Care Date/Time	--

Apparatus

Department Unit 2 of 5

Apparatus Name	T3-31 / T 3-31	**Dispatch Date/Time**	03/26/2025 10:58:29
Type	Tanker or tender	**Acknowledge Date/Time**	03/26/2025
# of Crewmembers	1	**En Route Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:51:48
Use	Suppression	**Arrive Date/Time**	03/26/2025 12:15:00
ALS Support Capable	No	**Clear Date/Time**	03/26/2025 12:25:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	**Back in Service Date/Time**	--
Crewmembers	Barmore, David A		
		Apparatus Arrived Patient Date/Time	--
		Apparatus Transfer of Care Date/Time	--

Apparatus

Department Unit 3 of 5

Apparatus Name	B3-62 / B 3-62	**Dispatch Date/Time**	03/26/2025 10:58:29
Type	Brush truck	**Acknowledge Date/Time**	03/26/2025
# of Crewmembers	1	**En Route Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:45:19
Use	Suppression	**Arrive Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:58:38
ALS Support Capable	No	**Clear Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	**Back in Service Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Crewmembers	Potter, Ryker S		
		Apparatus Arrived Patient Date/Time	--
		Apparatus Transfer of Care Date/Time	--

Apparatus

Department Unit 4 of 5

Apparatus Name	B3-61 / B 3-61	**Dispatch Date/Time**	03/26/2025 10:58:29
Type	Brush truck	**Acknowledge Date/Time**	03/26/2025
# of Crewmembers	3	**En Route Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:45:19
Use	Suppression	**Arrive Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:58:38
ALS Support Capable	No	**Clear Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	**Back in Service Date/Time**	03/26/2025 13:29:20
Crewmembers	Norcutt, Adam | Bright, Jack W | Bender, Grant E		
		Apparatus Arrived Patient Date/Time	--
		Apparatus Transfer of Care Date/Time	--

Apparatus

Department Unit 5 of 5

Apparatus Name	ST 1 / ST 1	**Dispatch Date/Time**	03/26/2025 10:58:29
Type	None	**Acknowledge Date/Time**	03/26/2025
# of Crewmembers	3	**En Route Date/Time**	03/26/2025 11:51:48
Use	Other	**Arrive Date/Time**	03/26/2025 12:15:00
ALS Support Capable	No	**Clear Date/Time**	03/26/2025 12:25:00
Location at Dispatch	Assigned station	**Back in Service Date/Time**	--
Crewmembers	Siddons, Irene F | Carpenter, Justice A | Luallin, Daniel		
		Apparatus Arrived Patient Date/Time	--
		Apparatus Transfer of Care Date/Time	--

Weather Information

Temperature	52.9 °F	**Wind Speed**	0.4 mph
Wind Direction	Northeast	**Humidity**	46%
Weather Type	Overcast, over 9/10 cloud cover		

Wildland Fire Information

Heat Source	Undetermined	**Equipment Involved in Ignition**	No
Vehicle involved in Incident?	No		

Hazardous Materials Information

HazMat Released		None	

Actions Taken

Department

Contain fire (wildland)	Extinguishment by fire service personnel

Narratives

Department NFIRS Narrative

GGRFD Paged to a filed on fire with no one attending the fire. C3-01 arrived to find am approximate 6 acre fire slow moving to the west and south. B3-71 arrived and was unable to gain access to the fire due to mud and getting stuck. Crews advanced on the fire with hand tools and put out the flames. Then crews mopped up the fire and did and investigation to find the cause of the fire. No apparent cause was found. All crews cleared.

Last update on 03/26/2025 at 17:36:40 by Hillier, Jeremiah

Report Completion

Officer In Charge

Hillier, Jeremiah R

Rank	Fire Chief
Assignment	C 3-01

Member Completing Report

Hillier, Jeremiah R

Rank	Fire Chief
Assignment	C 3-01
Date	2025-03-26

EXHIBIT
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Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1915

7/16/2025

Jeremiah R. Hillier / Fire Chief
Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District
Cellular 406.451.3937 / Office 406.736.4318 jrh@ggrfd.org
P.O. Box 238 Gallatin Gateway Montana 59730

Mr Ingram
Re: State Land Use off of Axtell Anceny Road

Mr. Ingram,

In March, the Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District responded to a wildland fire off Axtell Anceny Road. Access to the fire was severely impeded by extremely muddy road conditions, a result of snowmelt runoff. The fire occurred on your property, though it is suspected to have been initiated by individuals engaged in shooting activities in the vicinity, given the adjacent plot of Montana State Ground frequently utilized by the public for such purposes. Only one engine was able to reach the fire, becoming mired in mud before firefighting operations could commence. Consequently, all firefighters required transportation to the fire via your ranch manager's lighter pickup truck. The fire, which ultimately consumed six acres, was fully extinguished using hand tools.

The primary conclusion drawn from this incident is that if the state land site is to remain accessible for public use, the road must be upgraded to county standards and consistently maintained to ensure emergency crew access to the area. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained, and the fire was brought under control before significant damage occurred. However, in the event of a shooting accident in this area, access would have been limited to foot travel. When time is critical, reliable access is paramount.

While I do not advocate for the closure of public access to state-owned lands, this area falls within the response jurisdiction of the Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District, and I am concerned about the potential for future emergencies in this location. The road consistently exhibits rutting and presents considerable difficulty for traversal, even during dry periods.

Any assistance you could provide in encouraging your neighboring landowners to address this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremiah R. Hillier

Jeremiah R. Hillier / Fire Chief Gallatin Gateway Rural Fire District

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EXHIBIT
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Forensic Engineering Report

Regarding: David and Melissa Hatter
Bozeman, MT
Client: Baldwin Law PLLC
Nederveld File Number: 25808143
March 30, 2026

Mark Passamaneck, PE
Nederveld, Inc.
Forensic Engineer

Professional Mechanical Engineer (PE) – License No. E-21838
Licensed by the State of Nebraska

MONTANA
MATHEW MARTONOVICH
No. 86158PE
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

3/30/2026

Mathew Martonovich, MS, PE, DFE
Nederveld, Inc.
Senior Forensic Engineer

Professional Engineer (PE) – License No. 86158PE
Licensed by the State of Montana
Board Certified Diplomate in Forensic Engineering (DFE)
National Academy of Forensic Engineers – 968S

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Signature Disclosure

This report has been transmitted electronically. Absent digital validation, this document shall not be considered a certified document. The signature and stamp image on the cover page, when absent a digital validation code, demonstrates the engineers' licensure. Regardless, the engineers' signature and seal attest to their authorship of the report and its contents. Printed copies of this document or electronic copies absent a digital validation certificate are not considered signed and sealed in accordance with requirements by state engineer licensing boards. A copy of this report complying with these requirements can be provided as indicated below.

If requested, a hard copy of the report with a "wet" engineer's signature and seal can be provided. Additionally, if the end user has the appropriate network privileges (confirm with your IT department) to access signature authentication codes, this report can be submitted with a certificate-based digital ID to validate the authenticity of the engineering seal and signature. We do not universally issue certificate-based validated reports due to varying levels of corporate internet permissions potentially rendering those submissions inaccessible.

It is a violation of state law for any person to alter this document in any way unless acting under the direction of a licensed professional engineer. If a document bearing the seal of an engineer is altered, the altering engineer shall affix to the document their seal and the notation "altered by" followed by their signature and the date of such alteration and a specific description of the alteration.

Assignment Details

We were informed by Mr. Robert Baldwin with Baldwin Law PLLC that a 455-acre State of Montana Trust Land area is accessible to citizens and has become a popular location for recreational shooting. The trust land plot is north of Axtell Anceney Road, located at the northwest quarter and south half of section 6, township 3 south, range 4 east, P.M.M., Gallatin County, Montana.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of our investigation was to determine whether unregulated recreational shooting activities occurring on, or adjacent to, the subject State Trust Land create an undesirable and dangerous condition for the public and property proximate to the subject State Trust Land.

The scope of our investigation included the following:

1) An assignment received on December 10, 2025, from Mr. Robert Baldwin, including instructions regarding the purpose and scope of our investigation.
2) Subsequent telephone conversations with Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Thomas with Baldwin Law PLLC, and Mr. David Hatter and Ms. Melissa Hatter, their clients.
3) The preparation of the written report of our findings.

Results of Investigation

We had a telephone conversation with Mr. Baldwin and his clients, Mr. David Hatter and Ms. Melissa Hatter, who provided the following information:

1) Activities occurring on the trust land have been observed and include:
   a) Shooting at signs, silos, and electrical boxes.
   b) Consumption of alcohol while shooting.
   c) Nighttime shooting.
   d) Shooting occurring from the road.
   e) Livestock have been reportedly shot nearby.
   f) There were two fires last year, one on and one adjacent to the State Trust Land, both due to shooting on State Trust Land.
   g) Trash, debris, and cartridge cases are regularly left in this area.
   h) During a 30-day period, there were an average of 3,000 gunshots a week, with some days exceeding 1,000 shots.
2) The location of their land is adjacent to the State Trust Land and these activities.
3) The allowable location for which the Hatters can construct a residence lies within the potential impact zone of bullets fired from the State Trust Land.
4) A large amount of data was made available to Nederveld, Inc., (Nederveld) and included video. As the volume was beyond our original scope and would result in significant hours to review, the Hatters decided to provide specific files for our review rather than have all of the files reviewed by Nederveld.

Based on our review of the provided materials, maps, and aerial imagery of the subject area, we found the following:

5) Based on our review of the subject State Trust Land, there is no developed range at that location.
   a) There is no signage that indicates safe use of the State Trust Land for recreational shooting.
   b) There are no developed angles of fire indicated.
   c) There are no ancillary facilities such as trash receptacles or a developed parking area.
6) Based on our review of "The Montana Shooting Range Protection Act" (76-9-101 to 76-9-105) it is clear that the State has an interest in the protection of shooting ranges; however, the subject parcel of land is not a range, and there is no information that suggests the State has undertaken any action to develop such as a range, nor to promote safe recreational shooting activities on the land.
   a) Within the "Act," there is language that underscores the necessity to ensure the safety of the public from ranges that present clear and provable safety hazards.

b) Clear and provable hazards from recreational shooting that are occurring on the subject State Trust Land should certainly be a concern and within the State's obligation to mitigate the dangers to the public and property.

We reviewed satellite imagery for the subject location and noted the following:

7) The topography includes rises, ridges, and drainages with relatively loose, dry, rocky soils. Vegetation is comprised of brush, grasses, and, sparsely, with trees.
8) Based on the observed locations where concentrated foot and vehicle traffic have impacted the lands and taking those to be common shooting locations, we did not observe generally suitable backstops in the majority of the areas. Some natural rises to ridges were present; however, those generally had more vegetation and no indication of significant foot traffic to place targets.
9) Nederveld produced two Dimensional (2D) maps using the methodology for the shot location of orienting shots in locations where aerial images indicated foot traffic consistent with shooting activities, parking, vehicle track paths, and target zones. The angle from the shot location to the target location was based on the relative elevations and the bullet passing over the target location taking into account the downrange topography. With ground impacts shallower than 15 degrees, a reduced ballistic coefficient and velocity consistent with testing models for exterior ballistics was employed and a secondary bullet path created. The bullet paths are arcs derived from ballistic solvers over the topography.
10) Nederveld's 2D maps contain the following data points and are provided with this report:
    a) Residential areas.
    b) Infrastructure.
    c) State Trust Land location.
    d) Common shot locations, target locations, bullet flight paths, potential deflection points and potential bullet rest locations for the following caliber rounds:
        i) 7PRC (175g bullet with a G1 BC of 0.689 and MV of 3000 fps) selected shots for fall and impact.
        ii) 357 Magnum (158g bullet with a G1 BC of 0.206 and a MV of 1250 fps) selected shots for fall and impact.

Additional modeling can be performed at your request. The modeling of shots with terrain mapping does take into account elevations and terrain and, as such, each shot is its own analysis.

Discussion

Based on the mapping of the area and the potential fall zones, along with the reported prior occurrences of inappropriate and unsafe shooting activities adjacent to and/or on the subject State Trust Land, the risks posed to the public and property in this area pose a significant risk of injury to people and property. Our evaluation illustrates a concentrated use of recreational shooting on the subject State Trust Land, without the development of proper backstops and controlled angles of fire, creates an unsafe condition for people, livestock, and property on or near the site of shooting activities. The foot traffic, vegetative degradation, and parking are visibly observed from aerial images. Development of a recreational shooting range in accordance with accepted practices, to include public education, parking areas, signage, safe angles of fire, safe target placements, and appropriate backstops, have not occurred on the subject State Trust Land. The State's continued allowance of recreational shooting at this location creates a dangerous condition for people, livestock, and property.

Current best practices suggest berm heights of 8′ to 20′ based on a variety of factors. These include proximity to urban areas, types of firearms used, and other factors. While these heights are typically used for public access common use ranges, they also allow for target heights up to 6′ spaced at some distance forward of the berm. Fixed shooting locations with appropriate backstops and berms, along with signage as to safe practices, and the collection of used cartridge cases is recommended. Without strict enforcement of these safe practices, creation of appropriate infrastructure, and rigorous monitoring of shooting activities, it is unlikely that a safe solution exists for the subject State Trust Land.

Cartridge cases left on lands where cattle or other livestock might graze pose a risk to the animals. Due in part to chemicals on cartridge cases, livestock, especially cattle, may accidentally ingest cases (a condition called hardware

disease). A swallowed cartridge case can perforate internal organs, causing serious injury or infection. Cleanup of shooting sites or pastures immediately following shooting activities is recommended where livestock graze.

Conclusion

Based on our investigation, it is our opinion that allowing the current unmitigated recreational shooting activities to occur on, or adjacent to, the subject State Trust Land creates a dangerous condition for the public and property proximate to the subject State Trust Land.

The information contained in this report is based on information available at the time that this report was prepared. Nederveld, Inc., reserves the right to amend and/or modify this report if new and/or significant data becomes available that impacts the situation and parameters of this investigation.

Our services were performed using the degree of skill normally exercised by practicing professional individuals in this area and similar locales. No other warranty is either expressed or implied.

This information presented in this report is time dependent, and conditions can change. Reliance on or any use of this report by anyone other than with our client, its successors, and/or assigns, is prohibited and, therefore, not foreseeable to Nederveld, Inc. Any such unauthorized reliance on or use of this report, including any of its information or conclusions, will be at the third party's risk. For the same reasons, no warranties or representations, expressed or implied in this report, are made to any such third party.

Appendix

Maps – Provided separately

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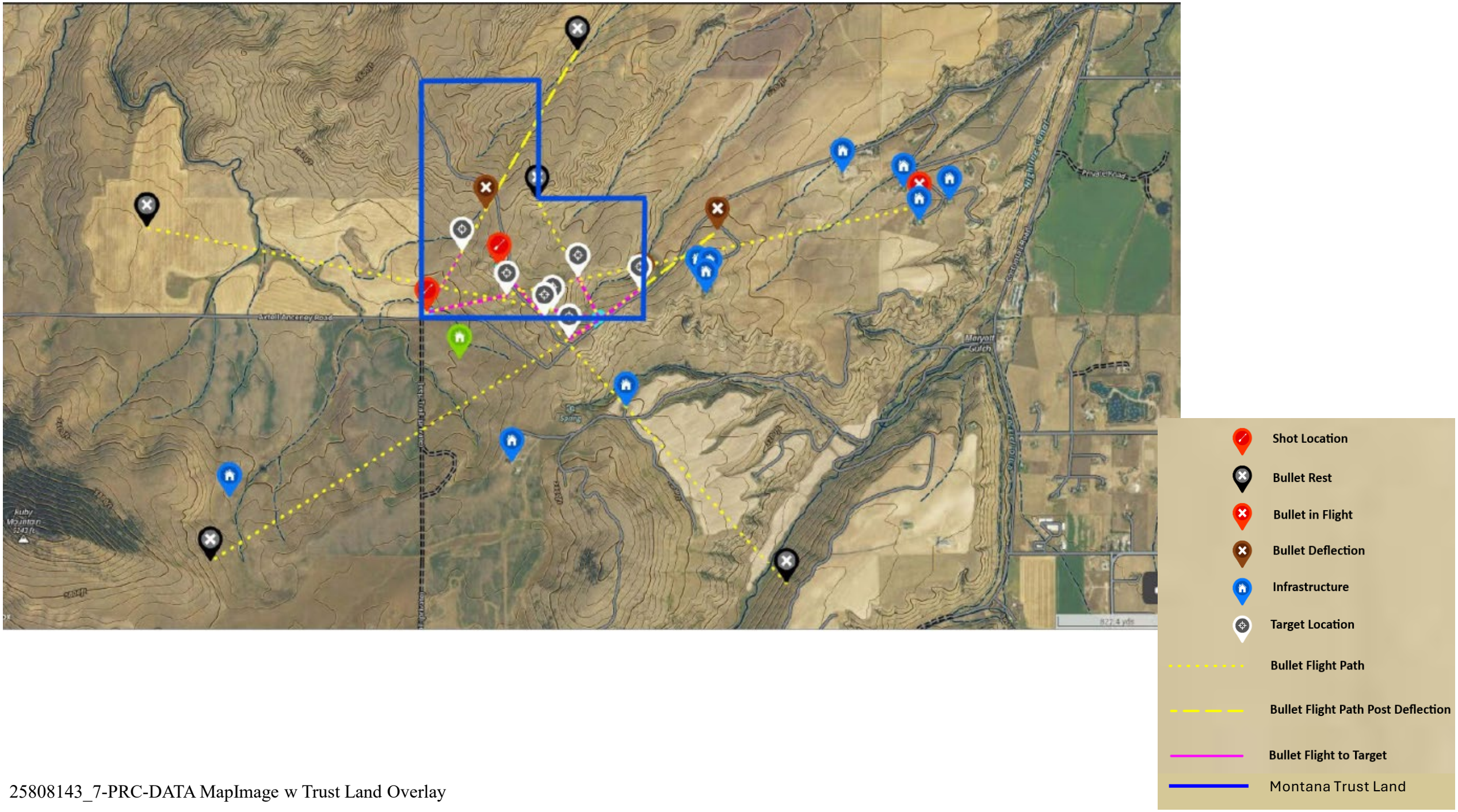
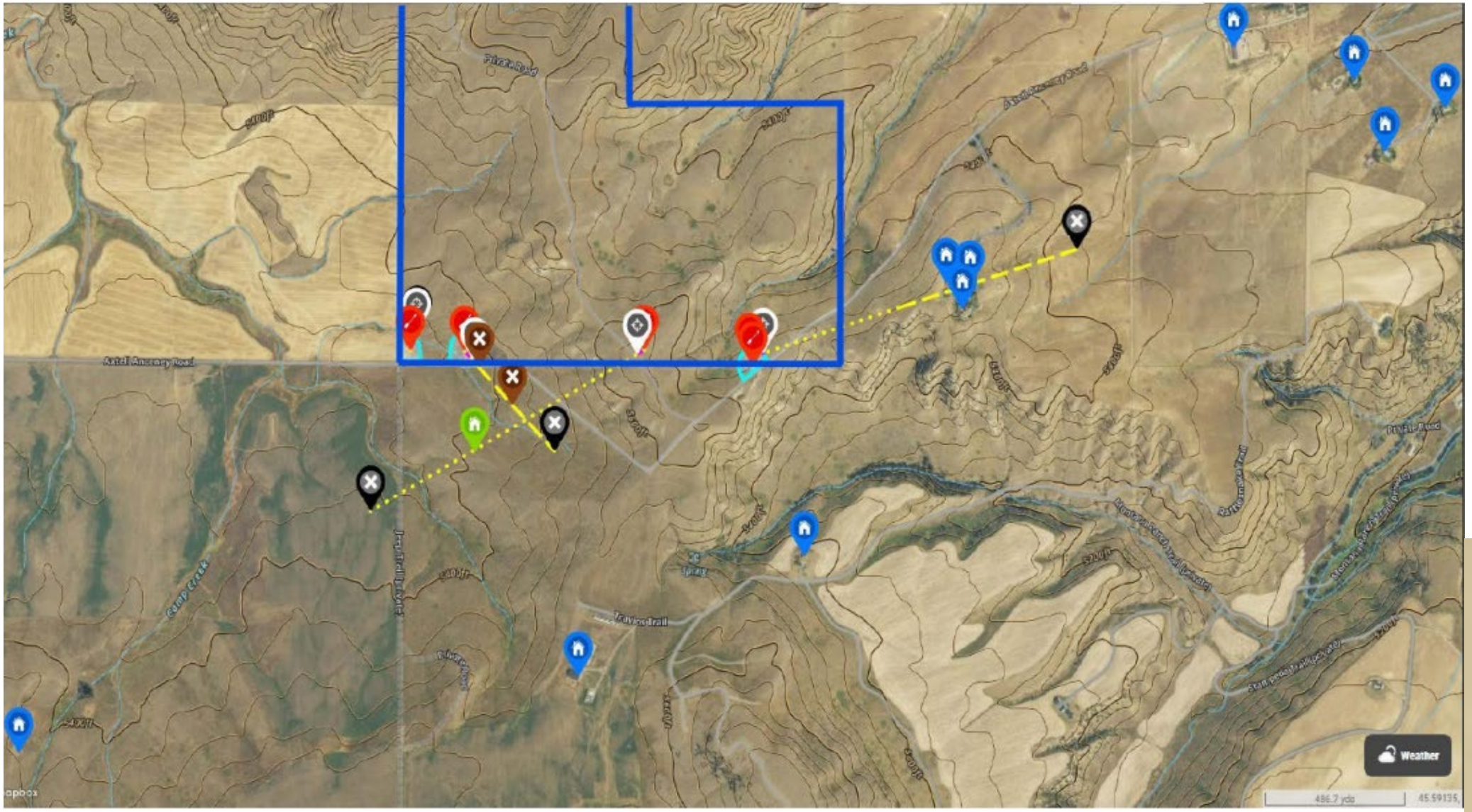
800.222.1868

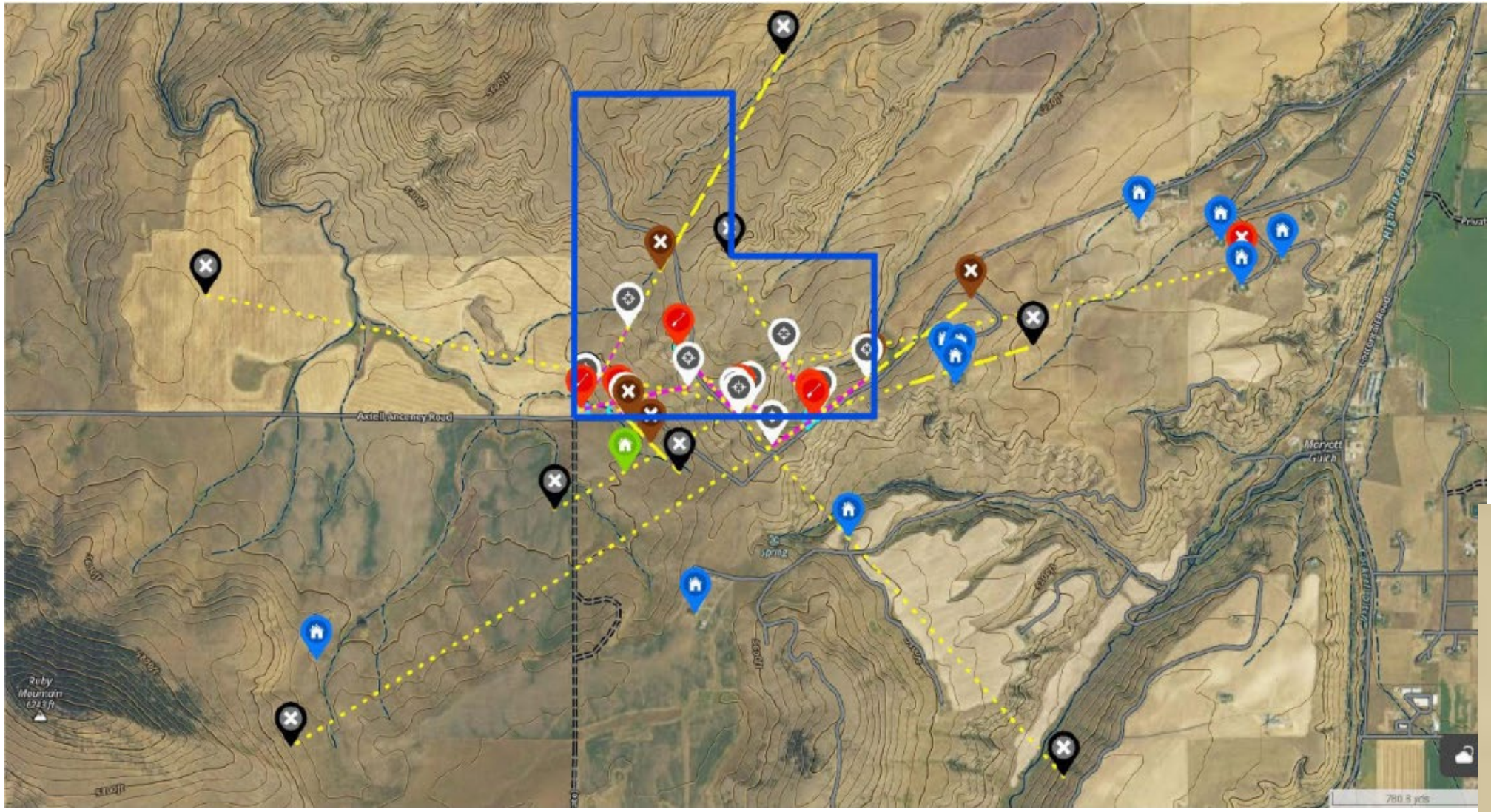
www.nederveld.com



25808143_7-PRC-DATA MapImage w Trust Land Overlay



25808143_357-MAG_DATA MapImage w Trust Land Overlay



Shot Location

Bullet Rest

Bullet in Flight

Bullet Deflection

Infrastructure

Target Location

Bullet Flight Path

Bullet Flight Path Post Deflection

Bullet Flight to Target

Montana Trust Land

25808143_ALL_DATA MapImage w Trust Land Overlay

Mark Passamaneck, PE

NEDERVELD
Nederveld, Inc.
Phone: 800.222.1868
mpassamaneck@nederveld.com

Forensic Engineering Expertise

Firearm Incident Reconstruction
Including work with reconstruction of shooting incidents, timing, and shooter perceptions and actions, as well as failure determination of firearms and/or ammunition, including expert witness testimony. Standard of care evaluation involving incidents related to firearm cleaning, hunting, range use, and loading of ammunition.

Mechanical Failure
Over 25 years of investigation of losses to determine root cause of mechanical failure, including industrial accidents, explosions, appliances, HVAC equipment, plumbing, fireplaces, boilers and auxiliary heating appliances, fire suppression systems, and vehicle failures, including expert witness testimony.

Combustible Gas Investigations
Carbon monoxide exposure, fire, and explosion cause investigations for commercial, industrial, residential, vehicle, and product applications. Experience includes initial site examinations, scene measurements, interviews, evidence collection and storage, joint site examinations, and laboratory examinations.

Failure Origin & Cause
Determine the source and responsible party or element related to a failure resulting in water damage in a building. Examples of past work include failure of roofing and wall cladding causing moisture entry, humidity and condensation-related losses, and groundwater entry, including expert witness testimony.

Building Envelope Systems
This includes steep and low-slope roofs, as well as various types of roofing and siding materials, including both common and unique roofing applications. Past work involved offering opinions and repairs related to installation deficiencies, post-storm condition assessments, and storm-related (hail and wind) damages, including expert witness testimony.

Collision Analysis
Investigation and analysis of impacts involving passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, off-road vehicles, equipment, and pedestrians. Scene and vehicle mapping, speed determination, crash severity analysis, seatbelts and supplemental restraint systems analysis, and site distance analysis.

Qualifications & Training

- Fire Investigation Training Program – National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI), June 2025
- Forensic Shooting Incident Reconstruction Course, Forensic Science Consultants, April 2025
- Single Officer Response to an Active Shooter Training, Centurio Training and Consulting, LLC, December 2024
- Holistic Failure Analysis, West Michigan ASM International, November 2024
- USI-AXA XL Project Risk Analysis, 2023
- USI-AXA XL, Site Visit Guidelines, 2022
- USI-AXA XL Lessons in Professional Liability, 2020
- FBI Active Shooter Response, 2019
- USI-AXA XL, Risk Drivers 2.0 2017

This CV is not a solicitation for services and is provided as information only. Retention of this expert can only be obtained through a mutually agreed upon Letter of Engagement.

- USA Clay Target League SAFE Instructor, 2016
- USI-AXA XL, Managing Construction Phase Risk, 2015
- USI-AXA XL, Contract Management, 2012
- Ranger Master, Rocky Mountain 3 Gun Championship, 2010-2012
- Advanced Interviewing and Interrogation, 2010
- USI-AXA, XL, Construction Management, 2010
- USI-AXA XL, Understanding Contract Basics, 2009
- NFPA Professional Development Courses
    - NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, (2013)
    - NFPA 25, Inspection, Testing, And Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (2017)
    - NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations (2008, 2017)
    - NFPA 652, Combustible Dust Controls and Safeguards (2019)
    - NFPA 3000, Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program Specialist (2021)
- Boiler Maintenance & Operator Course, NTT, 2005
- Automotive Plastic Part Design, ETS, 2003
- Chief Range Officer, National Range Officers Institute (USPSA), 1999, 2007
- Vehicle Fire Investigation, Lee S. Cole & Associates, 1999
- Uniform Plumbing Code, IAPMO, 1997
- Safety Officer, International Defensive Pistol Association, 1996

Education

Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado, Denver, CO
May 1997

Advanced coursework in Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado, Denver, CO
1998 to 1999

Licenses & Certifications

PE - Professional Engineer
Licensed by the State of Arizona - Number 39461
Licensed by the State of Colorado - Number 36689
Licensed by the State of Michigan - Number 6201315750
Licensed by the State of Nebraska - Number E-21838
OSHA - Certified in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(e), 2025 with 8-hour annual refresher
DOT - Certified in Haz-Mat Transportation, 49 CFR 172, 704 (1-4), 2007
CRS - Certified Radiation Safety Officer, CRS RH 8.6.1, 2008
CSST & PEX - Certified Installer for several specialty piping systems for gas (CSST) and water (PEX)
NPGA - Certified: Basic Principles and Practices, Vapor Distribution System Installation, Appliance Installation, GASCheck®, 2007
NRA - National Rifle Association Certified Instructor, 2000
CFEI - Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, Certified by the National Association of Fire Investigators

Employment History

Senior Forensic Engineer
Nederveld, Inc.
2024 - Present

This CV is not a solicitation for services and is provided as information only. Retention of this expert can only be obtained through a mutually agreed upon Letter of Engagement.

Investigation of losses to determine root cause of mechanical failure, including industrial accidents, explosions, appliances, HVAC equipment, plumbing, water intrusion, fireplaces and auxiliary heating appliances, fire suppression systems, vehicle fire and vehicle incident, and firearm incident reconstruction. Duties also include forensic engineering analysis relating to building pathology, storm damage (hail and wind), and water loss events.

President and Principal Engineer
Entropy Engineering, Corp., Arvada, CO
2008 - 2024
Examined losses to determine the root cause of mechanical failure. Mechanical systems include, but not limited to, industrial accidents, explosions, appliances, HVAC equipment, plumbing, water intrusion, fireplaces and auxiliary heating appliances, fire suppression systems, and vehicles. Performed firearm incident and vehicle incident reconstruction analysis. Additional forensic engineering analysis include building pathology; structural damage due to fire; structural damage from vehicle impacts, inspection and evaluation of roofing systems for storm damage (wind, snow, hail), seismic/construction vibrations, and water loss events.

President
Carbon Arms Corp., Arvada, CO
2011 - 2024
Designed, manufactured, and sold firearms parts and accessories. Parts and accessories include, but not limited to, carbon fiber handguards for the MSR, Shotgun SSL, and FSL (Twin and Quad Loading) as well as three compensators and magazine basepads. Conducted the design and specification for three MSR barrels for Stretch Precision and Nordic Components. The design of magazine tubes for the Remington VersaMax and Stoeger M3000 as well as the design of the Remington VersaMax Competition enhancements. Performed magazine design consultation for FNH-USA. Conducted R&D and T&E testing for several firearms designers and companies.

Vice President and Principal Engineer
Western Engineering & Research Corporation, Denver, CO
1997 - 2008
Determined root cause of mechanical failures, including industrial incidents, explosions, appliances, HVAC equipment, plumbing, water intrusion, fireplaces and auxiliary heating appliances, fire suppression systems, and vehicles. Duties also included analysis relating to building pathology; vehicle incident reconstruction; structural damage from vehicle impacts; storm damage (wind, hail, snow load); structural damage due to fire seismic/construction vibration; and water loss events. Supervision of engineers and technical review reports of engineers.

Engineering Technician
Analytical Engineering, Inc., Denver, CO
1995 - 1997
Receipt, document, photograph, and laboratory work on a variety of matters under the direction of senior engineers. Construction of testing mock-ups for electrical, structural, and mechanical projects. Life-cycle testing of heavy industrial equipment, wheelchair lifts, plumbing components, and combustible gas appliances. Product failure evaluations of plumbing components, appliances, etc.

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Professional Affiliations

Member: American Society of Materials
Member: American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Member: American Society of Plumbing Engineers
Member: Society of Automotive Engineers
Member: Pi Tau Sigma (Mechanical Engineering Honor Society)
Member: Member of the National Rifle Association
Member: Member of the Colorado State Shooting Association
Member: United States Practical Shooting Association
Member: National Association of Fire Investigators

Publications

"When Guns Go Kaboom" Recoil Magazine, March/April 2014
Forensic Engineering (monthly column) PS&D®, 2010
- Acetal Plumbing Component Failures
- CPVC Pipe Failures
- A Freeze on Anti-Freeze
- Engineering Design and Its Relationship to Product Liability

Plumbing Products Liability Primer, NASP Subrogator®, Winter 2006
A Primer on Sewer Backups, NASP Subrogator®, Fall 2005
Lead Poisoning and the Shooter, The Canadian Marksman®, Summer/Autumn 2003
Lead Bullets in the Glock, Front Sight, 2003
The Glock in Competition, Taylor, Carver, Passamaneck, 1st edition 1998, 2nd edition 2005, ISBN 0-9662517-4-1

Expert Witness Experience

Courtroom Testimony

February 2026
Waddy v. Ramos
Denver District Court
Case No. 2024CV31979

November 2025
Melissa Rodarte vs South Adams County Water and Sanitation District
District Court, Adams County
Case No. 2025CV31197

August 2021
Tania Bricel vs Wyndham Worldwide
District Court, Eagle County, CO
Case No. 17CV6

September 2020
Larry Pfannenstiel vs O'Reilly Auto Parts
Office of Administrative Courts, Denver, CO
Workers Comp. No. 5-119-454

July 2020
Cassandra Newell vs O'Reilly Auto Parts
Office of Administrative Courts, Denver, CO
Workers Comp. No. 5-123-298

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Depositions

March 2026
Alfred Scott Chamberlain vs B&B Heating And Air Conditioning, Inc. and Raymond Romero
District Court, Jefferson County, Colorado
Case No. 2025CV30757

May 2025 (continuation)
Norwood Centennial Farms, LLC vs Hutson Inc.
Circuit Court for County of Charlevoix
Case No. 23-0197-28-NP

May 2025
Stephanie Steele vs Anchor Sixteenth LLC; Portus, LLC
District Court, Adams County, Colorado
Case No. 2023CV031193

April 2025
Norwood Centennial Farms, LLC vs Hutson Inc.
Circuit Court for County of Charlevoix
Case No. 23-0197-28-NP

December 2023
AIG Prop. Cas. Co Sawmill Court, LLC vs City of Aspen
District Court, Pitkin County, CO
Case No. 2023CV30081

July 2023
National Foundation for Gun Rights, Inc. vs Town of Superior, City of Louisville & Boulder
US District Court for the District of Colorado
Case No. 22-CV-2680-NYW-SKC

May 2023
National Foundation for Gun Rights, Inc. vs Polis
US District Court for the District of Colorado
Case No. 22-CV-1866-NYW-SKC

December 2022
Mountain States Plumbing vs Winter Park Land Co. LLC
District Court, Denver County, CO
Case No. 2022CV30439

April 2022
Pipe X, LLC vs Park North Townhouse Corp.
District Court, Adams Country, CO
Case No. 2021CV30152

November 2021
Welch vs Dutton
District Court, Fremont County, CO
Case No. 019CV30109

This CV is not a solicitation for services and is provided as information only. Retention of this expert can only be obtained through a mutually agreed upon Letter of Engagement.

November 2021
Timothy Alves vs Army Corps of Engineers
United States District Court, District of Idaho
Case No. 3:19-CV-00044-REP

July 2021
Welch vs Dutton
District Court, Fremont County, CO
Case No. 2019CV30109

Arbitration
March 2026
Faurot Construction Contractors, LLC vs James C. Marvel, Jr. and Cindy L. Marvel
American Arbitration Association
Case No. 02-24-0003-4421

This CV is not a solicitation for services and is provided as information only. Retention of this expert can only be obtained through a mutually agreed upon Letter of Engagement.

June 2021
Steven-Roberts Originals, LLC vs Rocky Mountain Mechanical Systems
District Court, Adams County, CO
Case No. V31645

October 2020
Larry Pfannenstiel vs O'Reilly Auto Parts
Office of Administrative Courts, Denver, CO
Workers Comp. No. 5-119-454

May 2019
Martha Munox vs Public Service DBA X-Cel Energy
District Court, Adams County, CO
Case No. 2018CV30954

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State of Montana Trust Lands
This Trust Land Parcel is Currently Open to Recreational Use, including Recreational Shooting.
Ongoing Misuse of This Land, Including Public Safety Concerns, Destruction of Privately-Owned Improvements, Litter and Debris, and Damage to the Land, May Result in Recreational Use Restrictions Or Closures.
Preventing Risk to Public Safety, Damage to Land, Private Property and Improvements, and Removing Litter & Debris.
T 23 R 16 S 16
Penalties for Violation of Recreational Use Statute and Administrative Rules Include:
MCA 77-1-804 Unauthorized dumping of refuse on state lands and destruction of property, which includes land and improvements, are misdemeanor crimes punishable by a fine of not more than $1,500.
ARM 36.25.149 Littering on state lands is prohibited. Recreationists shall pack out their litter. The Department may assess a penalty of up to $1,000 per day of violation.
MONTANA
Questions?
Call: (406) 586- 5243 or
(406) 458-3500
MONTANA
DNRC


STATE LAND
RECREATIONAL
USE


EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 12, 2022
FIREARMS
PROHIBITED FOR
PUBLIC SAFETY
IN ALL STATE LAND LOCATED SOUTH AND EAST OF AXTELL ANCENEY
SE4SE4 SECTION 6 T3S R4E
VIOLATION PENALTIES UP TO $1,000/Day
REPORT VIOLATIONS BY CALLING 1-800-TIP-MONT or 911
CALL 911 IMEDIATELY TO REPORT NEGLIGENT FIREARM USE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
BOZEMAN UNIT OFFICE, DNRC (406) 586-5243

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