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**WESTERN**  
SUSTAINABILITY  
EXCHANGE

Update – Buzz on the Range Project  
Western SARE Producer-Partnership Grant OW22-372  
4/1/2024



**Western**  
Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education

# Buzz on the Range Research Objectives



1	<b>Demonstrate feed methods and grazing rotations that are potentially beneficial to pollinators (bees, insects, and birds)</b>
2	<b>Document pollinator populations over time at test locations</b> Bee/insect inventories
3	<b>Classify pollinator data and management based on land type and use type</b> Help identify - what impact do methods have on lowland vs highland terrain?
4	<b>Provide “real world” measurement experience to area producers and ecological and land management professionals.</b>
5	<b>Document the economics of considered practices</b> Inputs of restoring a degraded ungrazed pasture-land. Rancher profit/inputs.

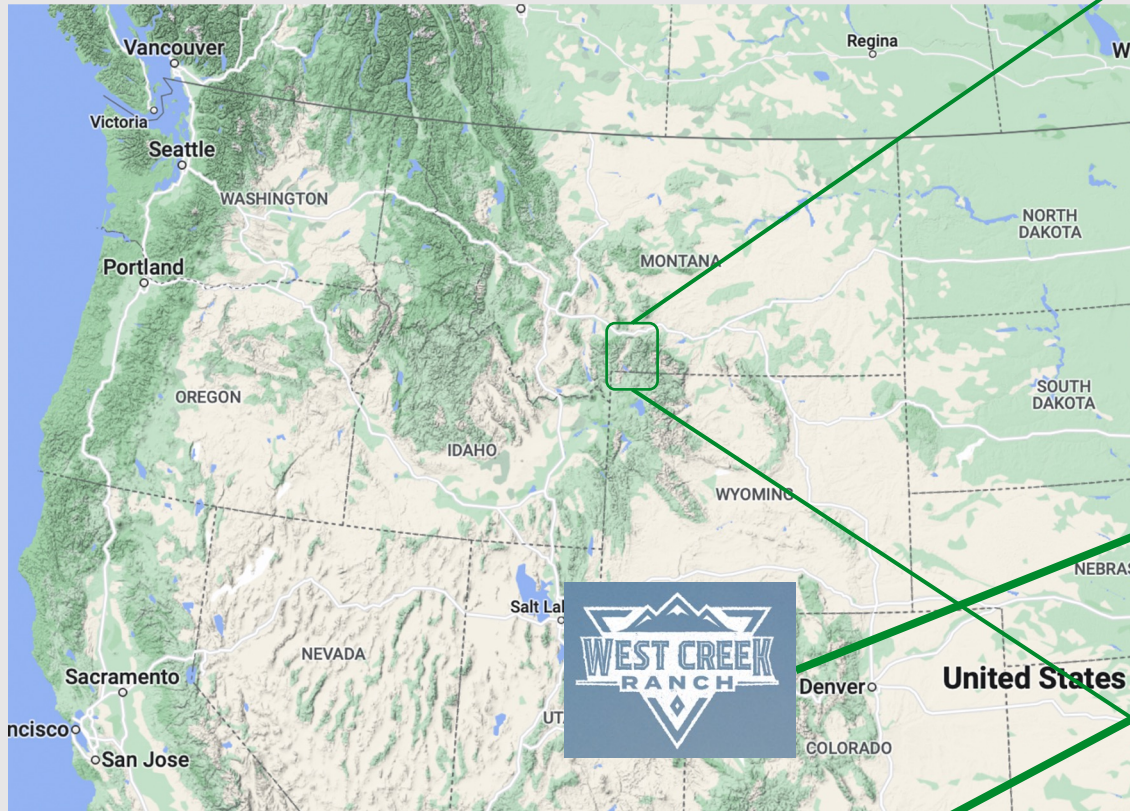
**This project will provide directional input on success or failure of bovine introduction of pollinator promoting rangeland grass species.**

# Asks/Offers – 5 Producers

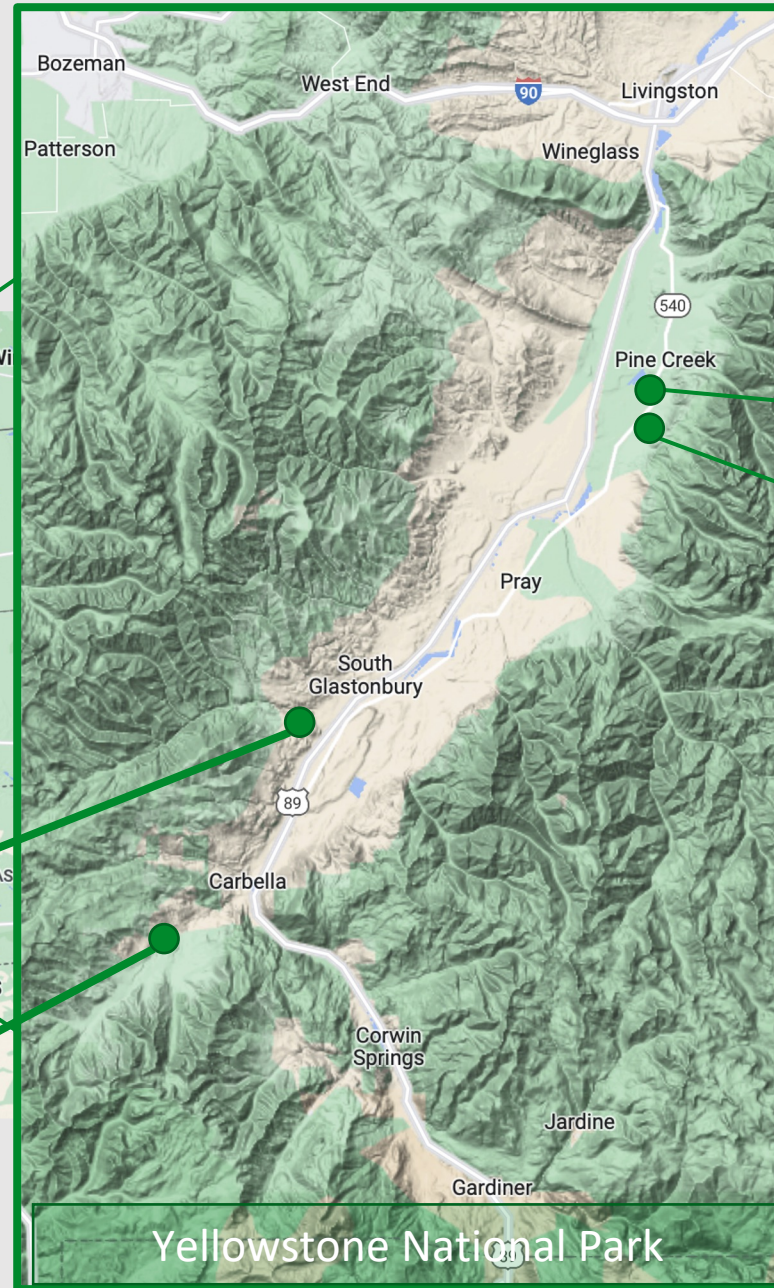


Org	Who	Asks	Offers
Barney Creek	Meagan and Pete Lannan Lara Birkes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed a specific grass seed to grazing livestock</li> <li>• Set provided paddock</li> <li>• Allow measurement teams to sample and document progress</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 years fall/spring/summer tracking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Health Testing</li> <li>• Plant Inventory</li> <li>• Pollinator Inventory</li> </ul> <p>No Outlays (i.e. no cost)</p> <p><b>Potential Benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased pollinator population</li> <li>• Pollinator friendly grazing plan inputs</li> </ul>
Milk Maid Meats	Lily Anderson		
Anderson Ranch	Malou Anderson		
Keeywadin Ranch	Alex Blake		
West Creek Ranch (Mountain Sky Guest Ranch)	Teo Abbruzzese Peter Brown		

# Where is This?



**Anderson Ranch**



To Big Timber



# Timeline



Time	Activities
Year 1 (April 2022 - March 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soil your Undies, Research Methods, Material Distribution workshops</li><li>• Begin Producer partnerships</li><li>• Research methodology set-up</li><li>• Begin research measurements</li></ul>
Year 2 (April 2023-March 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue working with producers</li><li>• Research with partners</li></ul>
Year 3 (April 2024-March 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue working with producers</li><li>• Research with partners</li><li>• Develop report from research results</li><li>• Share report out through networks</li></ul>

# Many of the Project Team and Producer Partners



From Left to Right:

**Meagan Lannan** – Project Team and Producer-Partner (Barney Creek)

**Lily Anderson** – P-P (Milk Maid Meats)

**Teo Abbruzzese** – P-P (West Creek Ranch)

**Alex Blake** – P-P (Keeywadin Ranch)

**Michal DeChellis** – Project Team (Education and Outreach)

**Michael DeChellis** – Project Team (Principle Investigator and Rangeland Measurement)

Many others listed later...

# Rangeland Health Assessments

- Short Term Monitoring from Savory Ecological Outcome Verification™ Methodology (without Soil Carbon Assessment)
- Extensive inventory of Leading Indicators of Soil and Rangeland Health



GROUND COVER



WATER INFILTRATION



BIODIVERSITY

# Buzz on the Range

Project Highlights from the 2023 Season



# Additional Species Added to Seed Mix



**Cicer Milkvetch**  
*Astragalus cicer*  
perennial legume wildflower



**Birdsfoot Trefoil**  
*Lotus corniculatus*  
perennial legume wildflower



**Rocky Mountain Beeplant**  
*Cleome serulata*  
flowering forb

# Buzz on the Range Workshop as part of the Montana Range Tour – July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

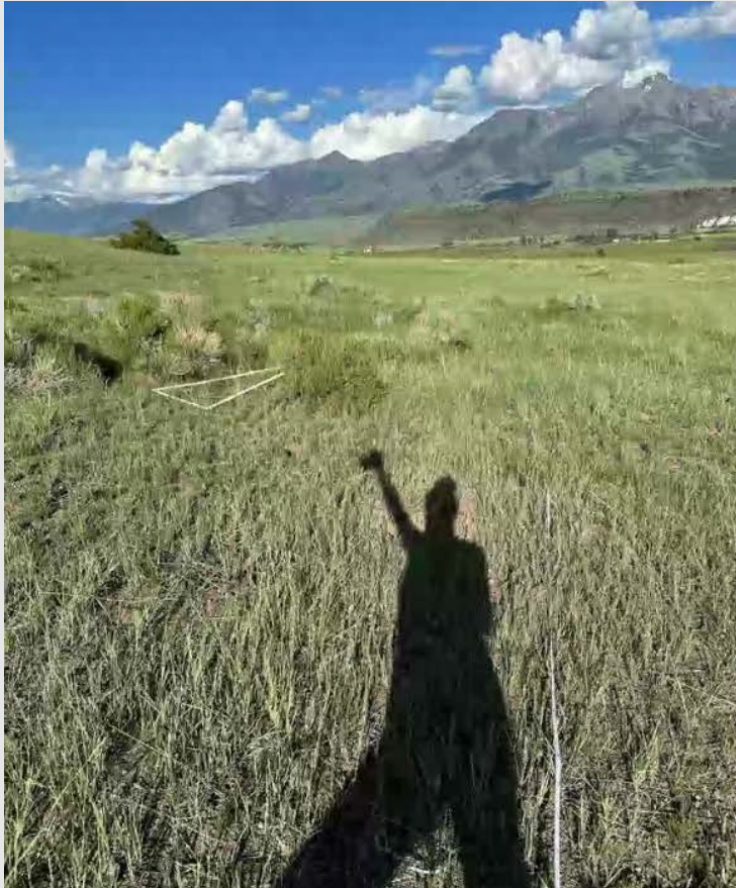


**Presentation on Buzz on the Range with Seed Mix (with Chris Mehus, Lara Birkes, Meagan Lannan, and Nicole Masters) (Michael DeChellis not shown)**



**Presentation of soil health impacts with a trench during Montana Range Tour on producer partner Barney Creek Livestock land**


# Pollinator Workshop – December 11th, 2023




The world

OBSERVATIONS SPECIES IDENTIFIERS OBSERVER


Map Grid List



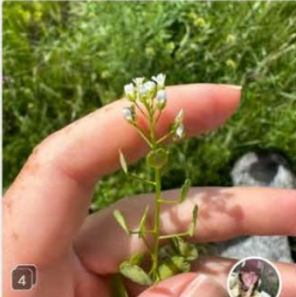
**Silver Wormwood**  
*(Artemisia ludoviciana)*  
Research Grade 2 5mo



**Hairy False Goldenaster**  
*(Heterotheca villosa)*  
Research Grade 2 5mo



**Common Yarrow**  
*(Achillea millefolium)*  
Research Grade 3 5mo



**Field Penny-Cress**  
*(Thlaspi arvense)*  
Research Grade 3 5mo



**Buzz on the Range**  
JUN 19, 2023 - JUL 6, 2023

**About** Members 1

Buzz on the Range is a rancher-led project, seeking innovative ways to create bee habitat on 8,900 acres of range, using cattle to disperse flower and grass seeds in Montana's iconic Paradise Valley.

[Read More >](#)

PROJECT MEMBERS ONLY [Project Journal](#)

# Project Risk – Potential Producer Dropout

- All five of our producer partners have been ecologically baselined
- West Creek Ranch, while an important first year partner, underwent a management change and has yet to do the protocol.
- 2022 was a challenging year because of the flood
- 2023 was NOT a challenging year, and we should have been able to get the protocol done.
- It looks like West Creek may not continue the research portion of this grant. More clarification is needed from them for the 2024 season.

# Big Thanks To Our Partners



**WESTERN**  
SUSTAINABILITY  
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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service