

# Creating a Culture of Stewardship



— GALLATIN —  
**INVASIVE SPECIES**  
— ALLIANCE —



## Our Project Area

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The Upper Gallatin Watershed encompasses some of the most ecologically and economically important resources in the state, providing vital habitat and water for plants, wildlife, and the people who live and recreate in the area.

Natural resources are the economic engine of our project area.



For more than a decade, our project area has experienced explosive development and recreational use.

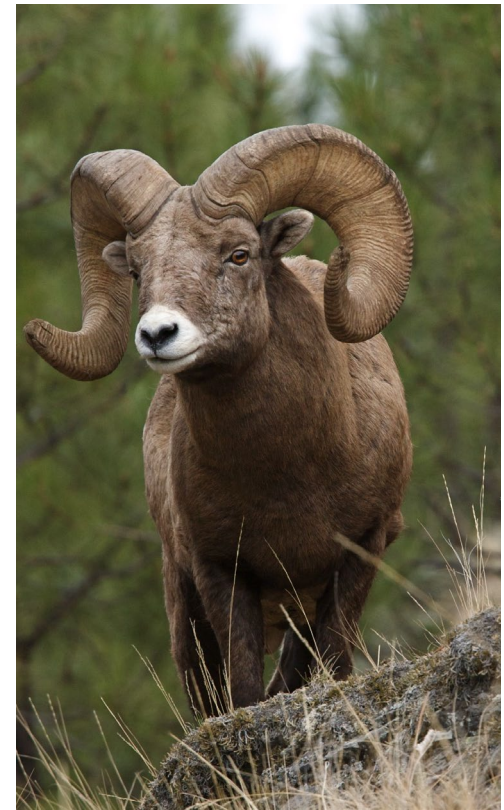


How do I get people  
to care about the  
threats to invasive  
species...

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Connect  
threats of invasive  
species to what they  
love about Montana.

Cultivate a culture of  
stewardship.



We developed programs to address and mitigate the impacts of human activity upon natural resources to ensure that what we love so much about this place is not destroyed by our pursuit to experience it.



Clean Recreation  
Invasive Species Education  
Crail Gardens  
Landowner Stewardship  
Wildlife Habitat Conservation

# Habitat Owners Association (HOA) Program



With habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation increasing in the greater Big Sky area, existing open space is proving to be a critical component of preserving important habitat.

Partnering with HOAs and the Gallatin County Weed District, the Alliance aims to enhance wildlife habitat in HOA open space by leading an invasive species management effort for a three-year period.



“If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day.  
If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.”

8

YEARS



60

VOLUNTEERS



123

Acres



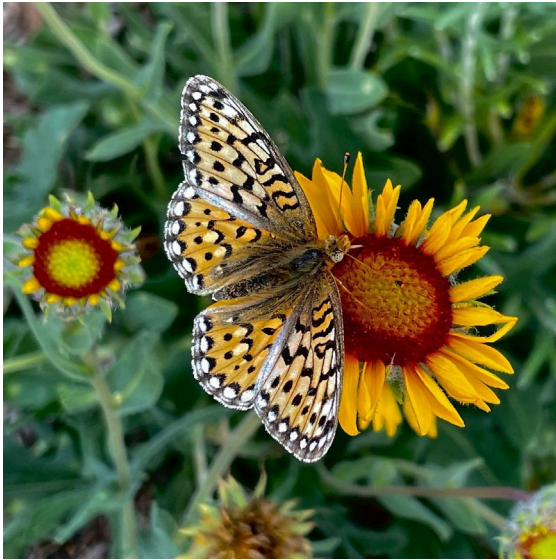
\$87,184

VALUE TO HOAS





It's not enough to say what you're against.



To create change, one must inspire and show what you are for.



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In 2019, the Alliance built a demonstration garden at the Historic Crail Ranch using native plants that are wildlife friendly, water wise, and preserving of the historic landscape.



## Threats:

Invasive species  
Climate change  
Extinction crisis  
Water crisis

Crail Gardens inspires the community and demonstrates our commitment to stewardship.

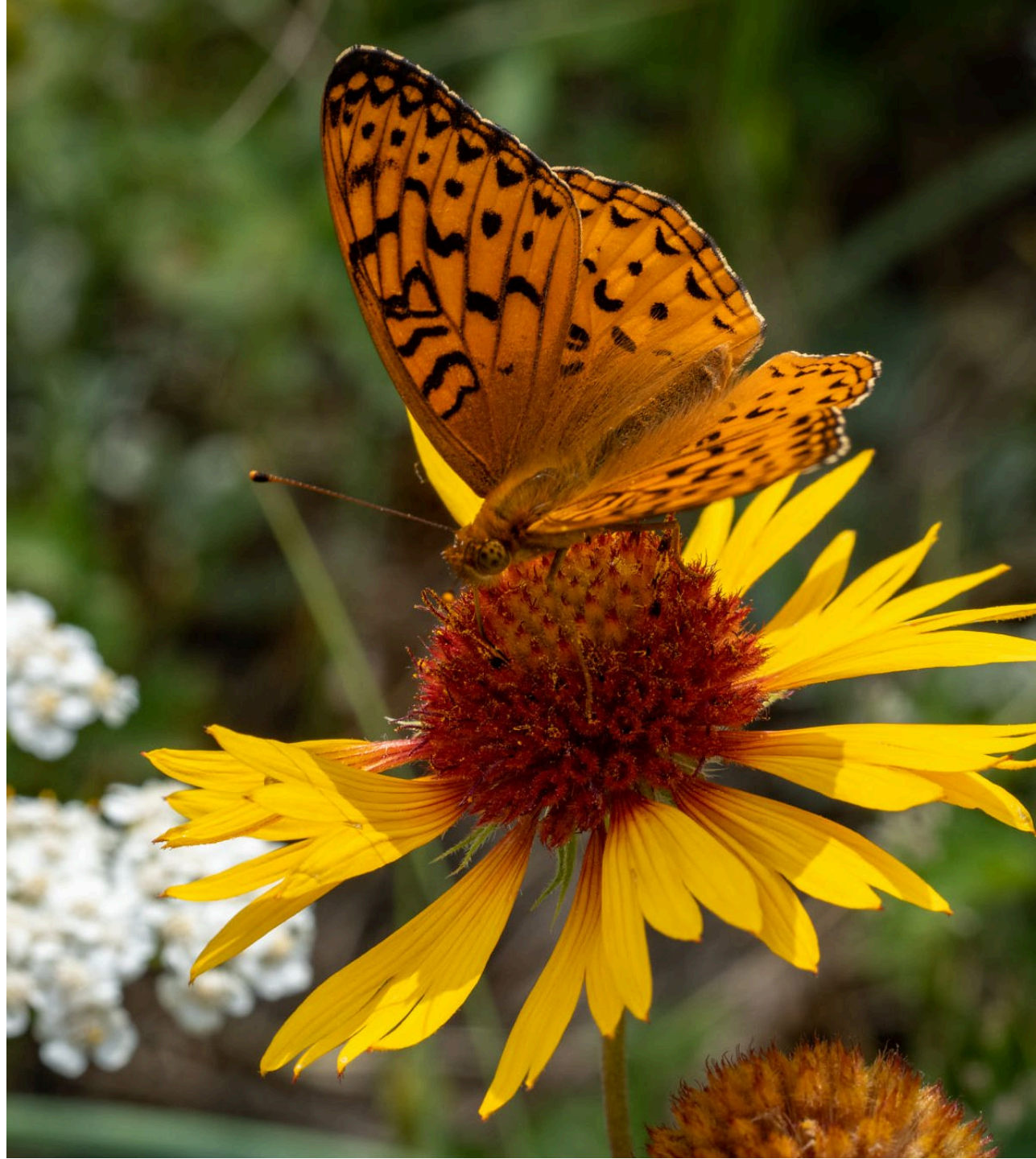
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- How we can address these issues above through tangible actions.
- It's something that every landowner can do.

90% of insects have developed specialized relationships with native plants.

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They can't adapt to eating other plants.





In the past 50 years, North America has lost more than 1 in 4 birds, and insect populations have declined by 75%.



# **Native plants are the foundation of functioning ecosystems**

In terms of rebuilding food webs – caterpillars are the key!

**Caterpillars transfer more energy from plants to other animals than any other plant-eaters.**

They are soft, little protein packets (sausages) that mama bird can shove down her chick's throat without injury.

*Build it and they will come!*



In our 2nd full growing season, a white-crowned sparrow nested and successfully reared her young among the prairie sage in our largest garden.

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Helping the planet  
can be as simple  
as planting native  
plants in your  
landscape.





By creating a **culture of stewardship**, we've been able to educate people about:

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- the threats of invasive species.
- the importance of resilient native ecosystems.
- realistic actions one can take to protect our collective natural resources!





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