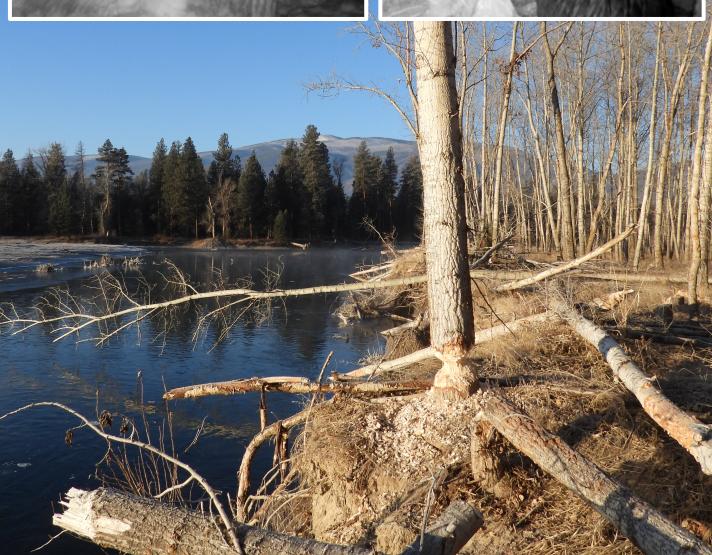
Beavers, porcupines, trumpeter swans, river clean up, forest thinning January 9th 2024 Jeff Clarke







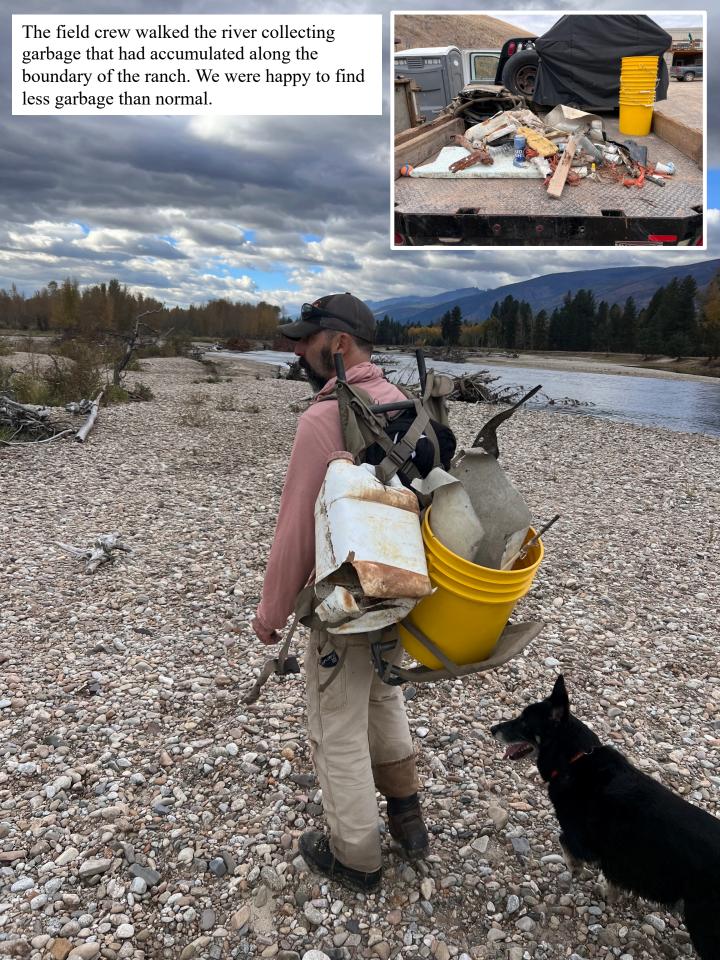
I've noticed many precariously chewed trees left by beavers, making me wonder when and how they finish the job. To investigate, I pointed trail cameras on freshly gnawed cottonwoods. Beavers rarely chewed through the whole trunk. Instead, the risk-averse rodents often let the wind bring down teetering trees. The beavers paid close attention to noise when felling trees and dashed like scared sawyers at signs of cracking.



As winter has advanced, porcupine- inflicted damage in the fruit orchard has escalated. Porcupines gnaw tree bark to reach the tender cambium layer for winter food. I discovered four porcupines hiding out in culverts close to the orchard.

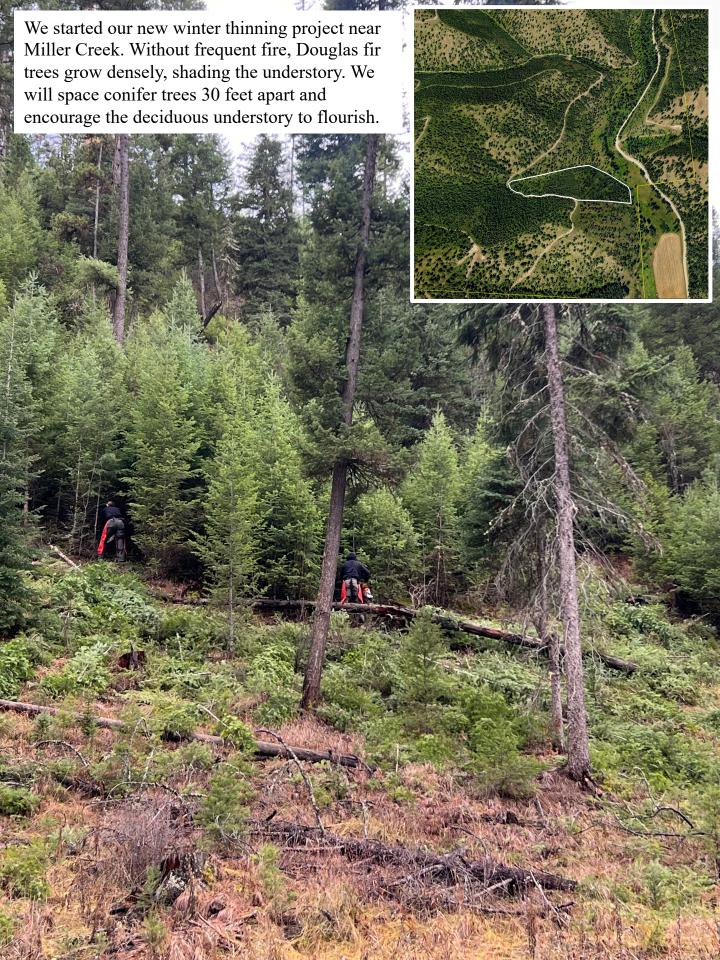






A motivated group of "JUMPers" laid out and constructed two large buck and rail fences in the North Floodplain. These fences will protect a new age class of cottonwood and ponderosa pines to grow free from deer browse.





We are always looking for creative ways to guide hungry ungulates away from our young deciduous trees. This "hinge" treatment lays existing trees from dense stands over new saplings to discourage travel and browsing, allowing the new trees to thrive.

In a dry start to winter, inversions and hoar frost remind us of the snow we wish we had.

