



# HOAs & Habitat

*Conserving wildlife habitat in HOA open spaces.*



## Threat to Wildlife

In the Big Sky area, habitat fragmentation and loss are fundamental threats to wildlife survival. When ecosystems are dramatically impacted by human activities, such as development, wildlife may no longer be able to provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young that they need to survive.

The threat of invasive species to wildlife habitat (forage reduction, changes in water quality and availability, and disruption of seasonal migration patterns) is only increasing as Big Sky continues to grow.

## Time to Act

In response, the Alliance initiated our Habitat Owners Association program to manage invasive plants in HOA open space for the benefit of wildlife.

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. The goal is to assist the HOA with education and technical assistance to kick start habitat improvement.

## 2021 Partners

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance  
Gallatin County Weed District  
Porcupine Landowners

*All land is habitat,  
and all habitat is critical.*





# Porcupine Park Development

Porcupine Park is a 460 acre subdivision with 160 acres of total open space.

Preserved in perpetuity, these opens spaces are traditional migration paths for the Porcupine Park elk herd and are critical calving sites in the spring.

Landowners see elk, deer, black and grizzly bears, moose, and other wildlife year round throughout the development.



## 2021 Treatment

On June 15, six landowners joined four Alliance board members and two Weed District staff to treat approximately 51 acres of prime year-round elk habitat. While we knew the area was used by elk for calving, we were still surprised to find one elk calf hiding in the sagebrush. The treatment value of this effort totaled \$4,050. The Alliance will be back assisting Porcupine landowners for the next two years to help conserve this critical elk habitat.



HOA Program

8	Years
60	Landowners
164	Landowner Hours
123	Acres Treated
497	Pounds of Noxious Weeds Pulled
\$86,546	Value to HOAs



*Thank you Porcupine Landowners for partnering with us to protect wildlife habitat!*