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FINLEY POINT BREEZE

SUMMER 2018



VOLUME XXIII

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4TH OF JULY EDITION 2018



Welcome to our tenth, yes tenth anniversary edition of the 4th of July Breeze. We would first like to thank each of you for reading and submitting articles for the Breeze over the past years. We love to hear from you and please send us your stories of the Point, history, fun times etc. These are always the most popular. Ten years of 4th of July Breeze! Thank you!

We do have a special column, authored by our son, Russell, who graduated from Polson High School this spring. We moved to our house on South Finley Point when he was 3 months old, so he literally grew up in this special place. He wrote a piece on growing up on Finley Point (as his parents we of course think it is brilliant). About a month ago Ric, Russ, and his brother Davis were working in the yard and took a break at the fire ring. They started shooting the breeze, reminiscing about dinosaur hikes in the forest. At one point Russ became quiet and added “there is nowhere else I would rather grow up.” Enjoy his story!

We love the 4th of July, and the 4th of July on the Point is especially cool. Be safe, drive slowly, and have fun!

BREEZE FOUNDERS & PUBLISHERS
Ric Smith | Sarah Beck Smith

A special thanks to all who make the Breeze possible!



GROWING UP ON FINLEY POINT

By: Russell Smith

As I prepare myself to take the next step in life by going to college, I realize that I'm finally ready, and intrigued to see what life has in store for me. In August, I head to Washington State University in Pullman, WA to study Hospitality Business Management. I just learned my roommate is from NC and I'm excited to meet him and learn about the part of the country where he grew up! However, even with all the excitement and hype about finally moving out of the house and going out on my own, there's one thing that's been on my mind, which is that I have to leave the place where I grew up, Finley Point, on Flathead Lake Montana.

I first discovered the wonders of Finley Point as a little kid by taking mini adventures in my backyard and down the road. I remember my dad would take me and my brother up behind our house and search for Dinosaurs, convinced each time that we saw one, whether it was a T-Rex or a Pterodactyl. I remember taking short walks with my mom and little brother down South Finley Point to an apple tree that hung over the road, searching for an apple that had no sign of worms or bugs. Then after we were done eating apples, walking to the Windham's, visiting the llamas and being cautious not get spit on. When these adventures first began, I was still very young, and I hadn't yet realized how special Finley Point was.

As I got older, I started to get into things that every kid eventually does. I began riding bikes, skateboards, and scooters and enjoyed nothing more than getting home from school and grabbing all three of these items and walking to the Cherry Packing Plant. See, the Cherry Plant is where it all began for me. The first time I tried riding a bike, I shot out of our driveway and across the road, which could have ended terribly, but luckily only ended with a few scratches from the bushes across the street. My dad and mom then thought it would be a great idea to teach me how to ride a bike at the cherry packing plant, where it was level and paved and off the road. Since the day I was taught to ride bikes there, I taught myself everything I wanted to do on the pavement of The Plant. With this place only being 100 yards up the road from us, it was almost daily that I would take my bike, skateboard, or soccer ball there to enjoy my evening. The Cherry Plant played a big role for me growing up. It was that place where I could go, and know it was there for me. It was where I could go and get things off my mind, and be myself. This was the beginning of when I started to realize how special Finley Point was to me. I realized that not a lot of kids my age were able to experience and enjoy the things I did, living on Finley Point.

As I got into my teenage years, I finally realized how special and lucky I was to live where I did. My friends and I have had countless nights sitting around the bonfire in my yard, looking up at the stars, not wanting to be anywhere else. I remember going with my brothers to the Finley Point State Park to camp, but the site was full, so we just pitched a tent in the meadow behind my house. It was just as good, if not better, than being at the State Park. I know not many people can find what I have in my own back yard, and I never take it for granted.

My Junior year of High School, I joined the Finley Point Volunteer Fire Dept, which was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I wanted to give something back to the Finley Point community, which had given so much to me. This also allowed me to meet some of the coolest people I have ever met, and learn more about the community. Being on the department for over a year now, going on various calls, I have learned incredible lessons from the members of the department. When I joined, I really didn't know a soul on the department.

Continued on Page 3

GROWING UP ON FINLEY POINT CONTINUED...

Within weeks, I felt like we were a family who cared for and loved each member. This family cared about their community so much that they devoted hours and hours of training to stop anything that brought harm to their neighbors. This family sat through days and weekends to learn how to stop a fire that had the potential of burning down all of Finley Point. This is my family...the Finley Point Fire Department. It tied everything together for me toward the end of high school. It showed me how lucky and blessed I am to be living in such an amazing area, surrounded by the people of Finley Point. It taught me more about community than anything ever will, and allowed to experience things I will never forget. I owe a big thanks to Chief Brent Burland, Assistant Chief John McCullough, and Bryce Muench for initially getting me started and involved. I owe another thanks to everyone on the department for teaching me not only about fire, safety, and rescue, but also about being a good and trusted neighbor and faithful friend.

As I'm lying here in bed typing this article, I smile, because all the memories I have of Finley Point mean the world to me. I wish I could go on and on about all the adventures the Point has allowed me to experience, but it would end up a book, rather than an article, for the Finley Point Breeze. Finley Point, and the neighbors living here...you will always have a place in my heart. I couldn't imagine growing up anywhere else, and wouldn't change it for the world. Thank you. Thank you Finley Point for being there for me, and being such a motivation in my life. Thank you to the people of Finley Point for demonstrating the power of a strong a community, and showing how neighbors should treat neighbors. Thanks to all. I can't wait to share the memories I have of this place to the friends I make in college, and hopefully bringing them here to experience the magic Finley Point.



RUSSELL THEODORE SMITH ~ PHS CLASS OF 2018

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By: Fire Chief Brent Burland

Thank you to all who joined us for our Finley Point/Yellow Bay Fire Department Open House and fundraiser on Saturday, June 30th, from 11am-3pm with free lunch. Also- a thank you to everyone who joined the Montecahto Club fundraiser on Friday, June 29th and Saturday, June 30th.

Congratulations to two of our Junior Firefighters - Russ Smith and Dillon Ellermann who not only graduated Polson High School, but graduated to Firefighter!

Yellow Bay Firehall will break ground this month!

Donation and fundraiser letter should have shown up in your mailboxes this week. Please donate if you can, we count on our community and many thanks for the support. Look for us on facebook under "Finley Point/Yellow Bay Fire Department.

Thank you!!

REAL ESTATE WRAP UP

By: Ric Smith



119 Timber Shadow Trail

3+ acre lot in the Finley Point Estates, a tasteful, well-planned community in the heart of Finley Point. Enjoy quiet privacy along with easy access, community water, septic approved, paved roads, streetlamps, lighted entryway. Lovely building sites for your dream home nestled in the trees. Community lake access just a few minutes away for boating and swimming. Visit www.smithteamflatheadlake.com for more details.

\$95,000
MLS 21606764

FOR SALE

2018 has been an interesting year for certain. Following the recession we are careful about saying there has been a return of market strength...but it definitely appears there has been; at least in certain segments.

Lakeshore: there is demand in the \$400,000 to \$800,000 segment and maybe up to one million in some instances. Don't forget a million dollars is a lot of money!!!! However, lake properties in the "lower end" market are selling if priced properly.

Finley Point Interior: There is very little inventory. Demand for houses is stronger than bare land. If priced to the market, there are buyers wanting to pull the trigger.

If you have considered selling, give us a call, email etc. We will provide you with real market data on which you can depend. We will never give a seller a big number just to get to a listing. We understand these are significant issues for families and believe you deserve accurate data to make an informed decision.

LITTLE MONTANA RESTAURANT

By: Sean Perry

Little Montana opened its doors in early February on Highway 93 in Ronan to a warm reception and brisk sales. Longtime restaurateurs Guy Hill and Sean Perry have teamed up to offer breakfast, lunch, & dinner selections with their unique twist! Their specialty pancakes have been winning rave reviews as well as their omelets and traditional favorites all served with Vermont maple syrup and real butter! Lunch features fresh vegetables, local baked bread, house smoked deli meats, and fresh made soup of the day. Breakfast and Lunch specials everyday and now serving Dinner Friday & Saturday!

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 7am-5pm,
Friday 7am-9pm, Saturday 8am-9pm,
Sunday 9am-2pm (breakfast only).

Call 406-830-1467 for to-go orders or to book your catered event with their custom built smoker serving all event sizes!

Follow Little Montana on Facebook to stay updated on everything they offer!



We get the Point!

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FINLEY POINT LEGACY FLATHEAD LAKE PROPERTIES FOR SALE

29977 FINLEY POINT LN

\$877,500 | MLS#21805413



Grab your piece of history. This is a genuine Finley Point Legacy Property! Land and home have been in the same family for over 100 years. Can you imagine what Finley Point was like then? Property consists of 2.3 acres and over 200 hundred feet of gorgeous lake frontage. The shoreline has a concrete boat ramp, substantial crib dock, pristine gravel beach. Property faces west/southwest, assuring plenty of summer sunshine....a precious commodity on the lake. Featured on the property is a delightful large vintage home (partially remodeled), a campy guest cottage, and two train cabooses. Use one caboose for cold storage and suit your whimsical fancy with the other one, completely restored as the most imaginative (and fun!) guest quarters on the lake.

As an added bonus this offering has an orchard which places it in agriculture tax status. So many options accompany this offering. Live in the main house while you plan your dream home, or enjoy right now as-is.

32511 TARRS LN

\$994,700 | MLS#21807888

Beaches on Flathead Lake like this just don't come up very often. Don't miss out on this one! 240' sunny gravel frontage with south/west exposure on idyllic Finley Point is the highlight of this comfortable lake offering. Property also features 2.79 acres, a 1600 sq ft 2 bed/2 bath home with wraparound deck, 2 vintage A-Frame guest homes offering 2 beds/2 baths and kitchen, newer septic system (2001), boathouse, dock. Lush foliage in all the right places for privacy and the true Montana experience.



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COCKTAIL RECIPE

It turns out the Paloma, not the Margarita, is Mexico's most beloved cocktail" – Bon Appetit

In honor of Mexico's World Cup win over Germany this weekend, behold...the simple, beautiful Paloma!

Ingredients:

Kosher Salt
1 Grapefruit wedge
¼ cup fresh grapefruit juice
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon sugar
¼ cup mescal or tequila
¼ cup club soda

Pour kosher salt on a plate. Rub half of rim of highball glass with grapefruit wedge; dip rim of glass in salt. Combine grapefruit juice, lime juice, and sugar in glass; stir until sugar is dissolved. Stir in mescal or tequila, add ice, and top off with club soda. Garnish with grapefruit wedge.

You may not be in Mexico....
but Flathead Lake in the summer is even better!

SUMMER SALAD RECIPE

Honey Lime Rainbow Fruit Salad

From Cooking Classy

This recipe looks and tastes like summer!

Ingredients:

1 lb fresh strawberries, diced
1 lb fresh pineapple, diced
12 oz fresh blueberries
12 oz red grapes, diced into halves
4 kiwis, peeled and diced
15 oz can mandarin oranges in juice, drained well and sliced into halves
2 ripe bananas, diced
Honey Lime Dressing
¼ cup honey
2 tsp lime zest (zest of 2 medium limes)

1 Tbs fresh lime juice

Add all fruit to large mixing bowl. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together honey, lime zest, and lime juice. Pour over fruit just before serving and toss evenly to coat (as it sits for a few minutes the juices will gather at the bottom, so toss again before plating).

Enjoy a little taste of summer in every bite!



Westside Drive

Postcard views of Flathead Lake and Mission Mountains from this end-of-road lakefront parcel on Finley Point. Ideal location, stunning building sites, and approx. 225' of shoreline make this the perfect spot for a majestic lake home. Shoreline is fascinating with coves and vegetation. View shed includes Glacier Park. Come see this exclusive property!

\$799,000 MLS 21611358

FOR SALE

Visit our website for full details: smithteamflatheadlake.com



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HOW THE INTERNET IS THE WILD WEST OF REAL ESTATE

By: Ric Smith



FOR SALE

104 LYNX DRIVE

Large parcel offered w/ lake-through-the-trees views in the beautifully planned Finley Point Estates community. Many desirable building sites. Paved roads, streetlamps, community water, septic approved, lovely rock entryway just a few of the amazing features of this neighborhood. Large lots ensure privacy and quiet. Finley Point State Park just a short drive for lake recreation, boat launch, etc.

\$99,000

MLS 21703930

The internet and its real estate websites have revolutionized the industry for buyers, sellers and brokers. There are pros and cons to this revolution.

Here is the scoop:

Pros:

Buyers and Sellers are more informed than ever about their market. They can learn everything on the market and learn details about a specific property. They can see what is selling and what is not selling. As Brokers we like having our clients informed and educated about the market and market values/conditions.

Cons:

Bottom line...many sites have incorrect and out of date information. This causes confusion, and even anger with buyers and sellers.

Real life example: Just yesterday we received a call from a buyer with whom we have previously worked. He was asking about a property we had listed and posted in the multiple listing service. It had gone under contract within a day or so of the listing. This buyer found the property on a third party site that showed it as an active listing (not under contract), and he was excited about it. It was disappointing for him to learn it was under contract and he asked why we didn't code it as such. It is a site over which we have no direct control. We see instances where a property has hactually sold and closed months ago and is still showing active on some sites. We have little if any control over these sites and when we try to make a correction, it can take forever.

Continued on Page 8



31422 McGrew Lane

FOR SALE

Craving a contemporary one-of-a-kind home overlooking Flathead Lake? Look no further! The Goedesic Dome Home on the scenic East Shore awaits, at an incredible value. Nestled in the heart of 10.3 acres, the 2050 sq ft home is completely private and features stylized lines w/ custom cabinetry, & more. Main living room opens to deck, which opens to the expanse of breathtaking Flathead Lake. Bonuses include 1080 sq ft steel shop and RV hook up. \$269,700 MLS 21805203



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HOW THE INTERNET IS THE WILD WEST OF REAL ESTATE CONTINUED...

We once had a four bedroom/three bath house on the market. We properly input into one of our main website & MLS systems. It was displayed perfectly on the MLS and direct public feed from the MLS. However, a third party site had it displayed with no (as in ZERO) bathrooms. Problem! We unfortunately do not have the time to constantly check the hundreds of third party websites for all of our sellers, but the seller did find it and was justifiably upset. As were we. It took almost 3 weeks for the third party to correct the information. Do we need to mention that it also involved a tremendous outlay of time?

There are sites that publish estimated values of homes for sale. Please take a moment to go to the bottom of the value estimate and read the disclaimer on these sites. We would never arrive at an opinion of value without viewing a house, yet these sites do it day in and out. Analyzing numbers alone is not enough. There are many other factors, such as changing market conditions, views, specific locations etc. Our view is that it is impossible to arrive at values without an onsite visit.

You may ask us...if there are so many problems with syndication, why do it all? The answer is clear. 92%-96% of the buyers are finding their homes on websites, so we must have an impressive presence on the Internet in today's real estate market.

Solution? If you are searching for the perfect home, go to www.smithteamflatheadlake.com. You will see in one section we have a live feed from the multiple listing service. This is the same multiple listing service where we input our listings. Therefore, it is a public site that is accurate and up to date, and if for some reason it is not, we can change it immediately.

Questions, comments, thoughts? Reach out to us! We are here to help.

80 Bobcat Circle

FOR SALE

Level building lot in the trees! 2.23 parked out acres with community water on Finley Point ready for your getaway home. Parcel is located on cul de sac with no through traffic in well-planned Finley Point Estates community with paved roads, attractive homes. Quiet, just a few miles from Finley Point State Park for recreation, swimming, boat ramp.

\$76,000 MLS 21804231

Visit our website for full details: smithteamflatheadlake.com



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MEET DIRK & WENDY, NEW OWNERS OF THE EAST SHORE SMOKEHOUSE!

If anyone has dined at the East Shore Smokehouse recently, you probably have noticed 2 new smiling faces doing everything from bussing tables to taking orders to mixing cocktails to mingling with customers to putting in hours in the kitchen “dish pit.” Meet Dirk and Wendy, who bought the East Shore Smokehouse (“Smokehouse”) this spring. Originally from Belgium, Dirk and Wendy moved to the US in 2004. They spent 13 years in Maryland before being lured to the beauty of Montana by a SKC faculty position in the Life Sciences department for Wendy in 2017 (her field of study includes cell biology, genetics, biochemistry to name a few). After settling into the community, Wendy and Dirk, who is an IT specialist by day, heard about the sale of the Smokehouse. Dirk had worked in bars and restaurants his entire adult life, and this work had fueled the dream of the couple owning their own restaurant. They knew that the Smokehouse, owned at the time by Jim and Janis Bassett, was something special. “When you walk into the Smokehouse, you feel someone has put their soul into the property. It’s not a typical restaurant, and it has a unique feeling” said Wendy, in a nod of appreciation to the years of dedication put forth by Jim and Janice.

Another thing that drew Dirk and Wendy to the Smokehouse was the beautiful outdoor patio for al fresco dining. “In Belgium, and all over Europe, eating outside and people watching while savoring delicious food and drink is a national pastime. Every restaurant or café has outdoor seating and we were so excited to see that in Montana, where there is nowhere to dine outside” observed Dirk. The couple went on to say how surprised they were that so few restaurants have outdoor seating because people flock to Montana to enjoy the outdoors!

Because they loved so much of what was already underway at the Smokehouse, Dirk and Wendy chose to keep almost everything the same. They have added 5 Belgian beers on tap (of course!) and have more bottled Belgian beer available. They have also added a “Bar Bites” menu if you want a lighter fare, and they offer weekly Chef’s Specials. Speaking of Chefs, they have brought back J.R. Daniels, who was the original Smokehouse chef. Aside from putting out some amazing food, he can also be seen mingling with the customers, talking about the nightly fare. Dirk and Wendy are also offering a Sunday Brunch buffet from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. They have kept the music schedule the same. Barton and Caselli perform on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, and What About Bob karaoke on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Every Thursday night throughout the summer you will be serenaded by the Singing Sons of Beaches.

Dirk and Wendy have made a commitment to serve locally sourced products, including pasta from Country Foods, cheese from Flathead Cheese Company, microgreens from Elus Garden, and locally sourced meat, including bison from St. Ignatius. They will use local orchards for their cherries this summer, and well as locally harvested huckleberries and mushrooms.

When asked if owning a restaurant is what they expected all these years, both Dirk and Wendy exclaimed it is even better than they dreamed. They love the “people” aspect of the business...both the employees and the customers. They have a staff of 33 for the summer, and enjoy getting to know and work with their employees. The staff sees the owners working hard alongside them (literally) and it creates an easy atmosphere of respect and enjoyment from all sides. Dirk and Wendy also of course love getting to know their customers and work hard to create a relaxed family friendly atmosphere.

In addition to everything else they do, the Smokehouse has an off-site catering license and will come to you for parties, weddings, reunions. The side patio w/ firepit is also available for private parties. Please come in and say hi to Dirk and Wendy at the East Shore Smokehouse this summer! They are open 11:00 am – 10:00 pm, 7 days a week (earlier on Sundays...8:00 am for the breakfast buffet). Their phone number is 406 887 2096. They have updated their website at www.eastshoresmokehouse.com and can be found on Facebook, Yelp, Google. They are a delightful couple, and a perfect fit for the Smokehouse as it enters its next chapter.

Good luck Dirk and Wendy! We’ll see you on the patio.

POLSON CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Listen & Watch for concert acts and dates in July & August at the new Flathead Lake Regatta Amphitheatre; andersonbroadcasting.com

Polson Farmers Market Every Friday 9am-1pm; downtown Polson

Polson Bay Golf Course; 406-883-8230; www.polsonbaygolf.com

Port Polson Players; Live Theatre on Flathead Lake; portpolsonplayers.com; 883-9212

July 1-7 Flathead Lake Cheese Open House 10-4PM off Hwy 93; flatheadlakecheese.com

July 4 4th of July Parade noon downtown Polson, Free Ice Cream at Polson Flathead Historical Museum at 1PM, followed by fireworks at dusk

July 21-22 Live History Days at Miracle of America Museum, 36094 Memory Ln, Polson; 883-6264 or miracleofamericamuseum.org

July 28-29 Flathead Lake 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney; downtown Polson; theflatheadlake3on3.com

July 28-29 4th Annual Flathead Lake Festival of Art 10-6pm at Sacajawea Park, Polson; sandpiperartgallery.com



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MORE POLSON CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 4 Small Vintage Market at Polson Fairgrounds
- August 11 Summerfest Car Show in downtown Polson; andersonbroadcasting.com
- August 11 Bop A Dips Concert at Regatta Amphitheatre, Polson Fairgrounds; andersonbroadcasting.com
- August 11 47th Annual Sandpiper Art Festival on courthouse lawn 10am, Polson; sandpiperartgallery.com
- August 11 Polson Rotary Festival for Youth Chili Cook-off at Riverside Park 11-2; 883-1842
- August 17-18 Flathead Lake Blues Festival; flatheadlakebluesfestival.com
- September 8 20th Annual Fly-In at Polson Airport 8am
- September 15 Polson Chamber Uncorked Wine Festival at Polson Motorcoach KOA
- November 30 Lake County Christmas Parage and Art Walk in downtown Polson
- January 25-27 7th Annual Flathead Lake International Cinemafest



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MONTECAHTO CLUB

By: Maggie Plummer

Happy Summer from the Montecahto Club!

First of all, we'd like to thank the Breeze for the opportunity to keep area folks informed about our activities.

Thanks to our generous volunteers, professionals, and supporters, we continue to make Clubhouse improvements. In June, members rolled up their sleeves, put on their aprons, and began working in the newly updated clubhouse kitchen to produce our famous Ladies' Tarts and Cherry Pies for this year's Cherry Festival in Polson (July 21 and 22). We hope to see you all there!

In May, the club awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Polson High School graduate Kylei Big Bow, to help her attend the American Institute of Native American Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Half of our scholarship was matched by the Polson Scholarship and Education Foundation, which meant that Kylei received a total of \$1,500 toward her higher education. The club also awarded \$325 to Beah Frizzel so that she can attend the Girls State summer leadership program. Congratulations, Kylei and Beah!

We had another fun Friendship Tea in May, with a theme of vintage aprons. The Montecahto ladies wore their favorite aprons, decorated the room with aprons of all ages and types, and created adorable miniature aprons from elaborately folded vintage hankies -- one for each place setting. The club served a fabulous spread of tea sandwiches and desserts, entertaining the guests with funny stories and awarding a multitude of door prizes.

In late June we held our Annual Garage/Bake Sale at the Finley Point Firehouse, and also provided goodies for the Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser. We want to say a great big "thanks!" to them for letting the club use the Firehouse for the annual sale.

Migrant Services will be using our clubhouse from July 9 to August 8, which means it won't be available for rental during that time. However, please keep us in mind when planning weddings, reunions, and other events during the year.

We welcome anyone interested in our projects and/or in becoming a member. For more information, please contact Club Vice President Alice Erb at 250-3189.

ALPINE LANDSCAPE & DESIGN HAS A NEW HOME

By: Sarah Beck Smith

There's a beautiful new building in town! Many of you are probably already aware of the amazing landscaping services Alpine Landscape and Design has been offering for the past 12 years. What you may not know is that they have a brand new gorgeous storefront in downtown Polson. On May 4, they had their grand opening of their shop at 111 Third Street East in Polson. With the completion of the storefront, Alpine Landscape and Design can expand their business to provide a spot to showcase new products and existing services.

In addition to their landscape maintenance and design services, they now offer home décor, outdoor furniture, gifts, balloons, and fresh floral arrangements. They are also available for weddings and any other occasion where a splash of floral décor is needed!

For years, Mark and Joslyn Shackelford, owners and operators of Alpine Landscape and Design, have been listening to clients' needs. A growing demand of today's customer is the creation of irresistible outdoor living space. To that end, they now offer patio and dining sets, fire pits, planters, hammocks, umbrellas, awnings, and even services to build outdoor kitchens. "Outdoor Living has become a staple item in our landscape today. A family gathering place such as a patio, deck, or fire pit has now become our additional room in our homes where families are hosting, relaxing, and creating memories" adds Joslyn. Drive by their building and I guarantee you want to pull over and sit awhile on their beautiful patio display pieces!

Aside from their new storefront, Alpine Landscape and Design can be found online at www.alpinelandscapedesign.com, on Facebook and Instagram, and by phone at 406 319 2229. Stop by their shop or give them a call for all things outdoor!



29755 Westside Drive

FOR SALE

This amazing lot is located on desirable Finley Point. Great views, beautiful shoreline, southwest exposure for lots of sun. Shared well and drain field are included. Quiet, private, ready for your charming lakeside cabin!

\$479,000 MLS 21800034

Visit our website for full details: smithteamflatheadlake.com



Cody Youngbull at work in the SensorSpace Lab

6.12.2018

DNA Tracker a Game-Changer in Fight Against AIS

**FLATHEAD LAKE
BIO STATION**
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

In mid-April, a team of researchers from the Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) traveled to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in southern Nevada to conduct field tests on a new, cutting-edge device called the “DNA Tracker”. The team consisted of FLBS Director Jim Elser, research professor and technologist Cody Youngbull, and research scientist Zane Lindstrom. They arrived with the hopes that the DNA Tracker would perform as it had dozens of times before in the laboratory – detecting invasive mussel DNA extracted from samples collected from plankton net tows – thereby proving its potential as an invaluable tool in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS).

But that’s the thing about research and field work. Things don’t always go to plan.

“It was like we built this machine to make this discovery,” said Youngbull, inventor of the device. “And ironically, it came out of a Hail Mary pass to save a field deployment.”

To better understand what happened at Lake Mead, a little background on the DNA Tracker is required.

Invasive mussels were first detected in the Missouri River Basin of Montana in 2016. They’re a highly damaging species, often spreading like an infection and greatly impacting the economy and ecology of a region. Agencies and stakeholders across Montana have been increasing AIS education and prevention measures to keep the invasive mussels from spreading elsewhere in Montana. In particular, efforts have been dedicated toward keeping the Flathead, Kootenai, and Clark Fork River systems clear. These serve as the headwaters of the Columbia River, the last major river system in the US that doesn’t have invasive mussels.

In the battle against AIS, early detection is key, as finding small localized populations of invaders gives the best hope of eradication and of preventing further spread. This is where the DNA Tracker comes in.

The DNA Tracker is a digital PCR (polymerase chain reaction) machine. It’s manufactured by Youngbull and his team in the FLBS SensorSpace environmental sensor lab, and is specifically designed to analyze and test water samples in near real-time for evidence of the organisms that live there using environmental DNA (eDNA). DNA is the building block of life, and organisms are continually leaving it behind through their shed cells, waste products, and carcasses. Unlike traditional PCR machines, which are large and expensive and meant to be operated in a lab, the DNA Tracker is light-weight, runs on battery power, is cost-effective, and is small enough to carry in a backpack.

Here's how it works.

Samples of filtered lake water containing extracted eDNA are sucked into the machine through a small tube roughly the same diameter as pencil lead. The water is then carried through the tube and is broken down into thousands of individual droplets, each less than one billionth of a liter in size. Reagents targeting the DNA being sought are introduced and the machine analyzes each droplet to see if it contains the targeted eDNA by comparing it to a template. If a droplet contains the eDNA, it glows and is marked as a positive detection or a "1". If it doesn't, it's marked as a "0". In the final step, the DNA Tracker counts the total number of 1s and 0s to determine the concentrations of targeted eDNA present in each water sample, and then outputs the results.

The DNA Tracker's efficiency of detection, when combined with its portability and affordability, would be enough to set it apart in the field of eDNA analysis. But the innovations don't stop there.

As previously mentioned, before testing DNA is usually extracted, a process through which the DNA is isolated and purified. The most important phase of extraction is known as lysis, which is the disintegration of a cell by rupturing its wall or membrane. In other words, it's the step that gets the DNA out of the cell. In a laboratory, a typical extraction process can take anywhere from several hours to a day or more. Such a lag time simply isn't feasible out in the field.

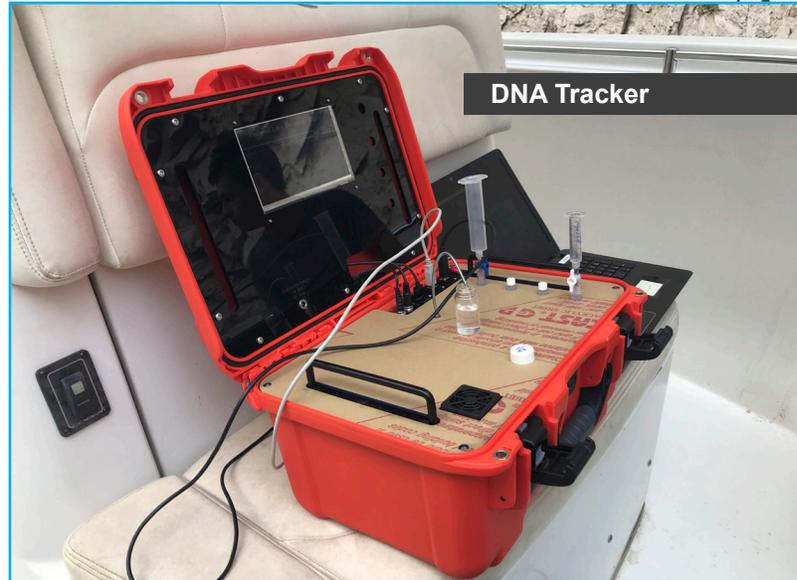
So, thanks to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant, Youngbull and his team came up with a new extraction process. One that could be done rapidly and inexpensively in the field.

"We spent this past year coming up with DNA extraction protocols that are amenable [to use in the field]," Youngbull said. "We gave ourselves restrictions. We decided our sample prep could take no longer than fifteen minutes, had to be able to be performed by an untrained person in nearly any location, and had to cost less than \$3 per sample. We followed these parameters, and felt like we came up with a pretty good process."

Armed with these new extraction protocols, the DNA Tracker now had the ability to indicate the presence of invasive species DNA in less than an hour. Youngbull and his team effectively created a portable PCR device that could analyze eDNA on site and rapidly. Numerous rounds of testing at FLBS, and there was only one thing left to do.

The DNA Tracker needed to be tested beyond the lab and in an ecosystem already infested with invasive mussels. Lake Mead was the obvious choice.

Invasive quagga mussels were first discovered in Lake Mead in 2007. Since then, the mussels have enjoyed a decade of unchallenged growth, clogging up water and hydropower infrastructure such as Hoover Dam and overwhelming the downstream Lakes Mohave and Havasu. This has had a dramatic impact on the economy, ecology, and human enjoyment of the region; and stands as an ominous warning to other freshwater ecosystems in the western U.S. It also serves as a prime location for those looking to put an innovative, portable PCR machine through a trial run.



Evidence of the devastating impact invasive mussels have had on Lake Mead.

With DNA Tracker in hand, Elser, Youngbull, and Lindstrom flew down to Nevada, and promptly went to work. Assisted by National Park Service researchers, they prepped their boat, readied their instrument, and with high hopes ventured across the lake to collect mussel larvae in plankton nets and extract their DNA to test their first mussel-infested water body. But there was a problem.

It didn't work.

They tried again, with different samples. Again, the DNA Tracker yielded no results. While the DNA Tracker itself seemed to be in operating order, there appeared to be some sort of glitch in the extraction process that prevented them from getting any detections. The field test, it seemed, was quickly turning into a bust.

"The next day, we said, 'well, let's see what we can do to try to salvage this trip,'" Youngbull recounted.

The new plan was to collect a water sample, pass it through a filter to rid the sample of debris, and then run the filtered sample through the machine without the extraction process. There was a chance, they reasoned, that the invasive mussel cells would go through the lysis phase inside the DNA Tracker. Which brought them to another problem. The only filter they had on board the boat was highly constricted, with pores only a couple of hundred nanometers across. While it would effectively remove all the grit and other particles that might clog the Tracker's delicate internal passageways, complete mussel cells would be eliminated from the sample as well.

Still, they figured it was worth a shot.

Collecting fresh samples from the lake, they passed them through the filter and into the DNA Tracker. Less than an hour later, they had results – positive hits for invasive mussel DNA.

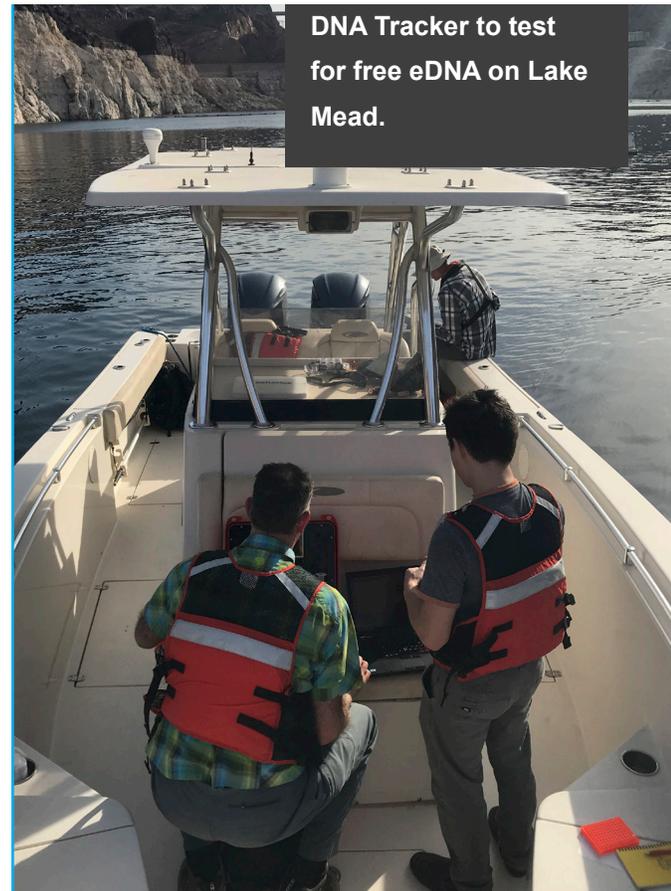
Youngbull attributes the positive hits to something called free eDNA. In a freshwater ecosystem – and everywhere, for that matter – cells are dying all the time. As they decay, they naturally go through the lysis phase, and there is a window in which DNA is present. The problem with free eDNA from a research standpoint, is that it doesn't last long – only hours or days. Free eDNA is quickly eaten by other cells or broken down by UV light.

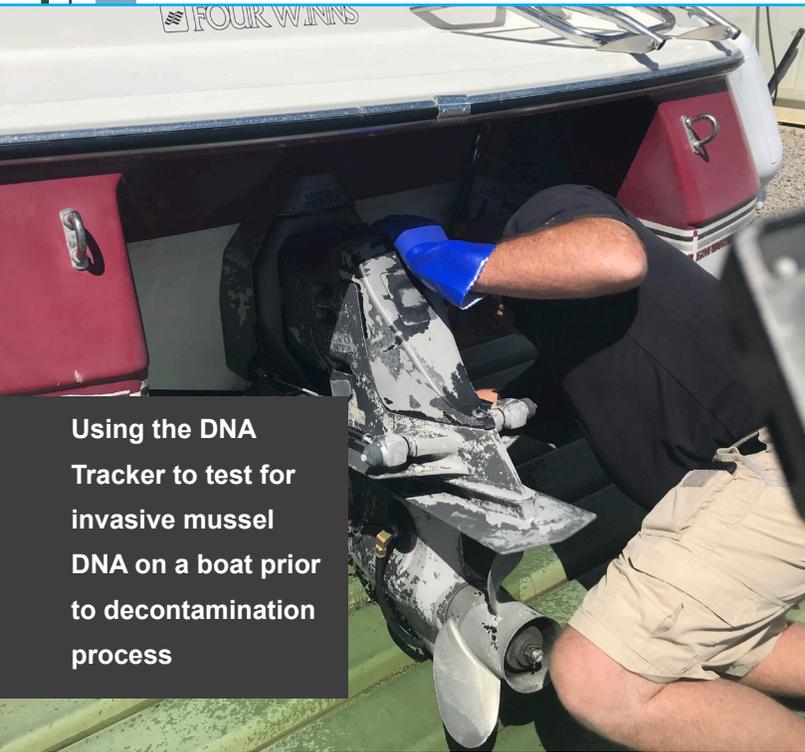
"This is the stuff that everyone throws away," Youngbull said. "That's what we put in our machine, and it quantified very nicely. We discovered the utility of this machine as a free eDNA analyzer, which makes it totally unique, as compared to any other tool out there."

The ability to test free eDNA makes the DNA Tracker a game-changer.

"We've always had in mind that Cody's instrument could run autonomously," said Elser. "Ideally, that's what you want. To not have to go out and manually run something through a system. So that's the hope, now. By taking the extraction step out of the process, you have a tool that's more efficient and easier to use and that might even run robotically."

In the two days following their discovery, the researchers used the DNA Tracker to analyze levels of free eDNA in Lake Mead. They also validated their new discovery on a boat that had recently come out of the water. They collected samples from the boat, ran them through the DNA Tracker, and got a positive hit for invasive mussel DNA. The boat then went through the decontamination process, and they ran the tests again. This time, there was no evidence of mussel DNA. The DNA Tracker had





Using the DNA Tracker to test for invasive mussel DNA on a boat prior to decontamination process

provided empirical validation that the boat was clean.

Contaminated boats are the biggest threat to spreading invasive mussels to uninfected areas like Flathead Lake. And once invasive mussels get in, it's nearly impossible to get them out. This is why the state operates boat inspection stations around the perimeter of Montana as well as at all entry points to the Columbia River Basin of Western Montana. This is also why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded FLBS to test and use Youngbull's DNA Tracker at boat inspection stations in the Flathead.

"The question is, will it help a lot?" Elser said. "That depends on how fast it can be deployed, how reliable it can be, and how it can be used most effectively. Right now, preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species is the most important thing."

As for the future of the DNA Tracker, Youngbull and his team are currently investigating ecological field uses that include early detection of a variety of AIS as well as determining the presence/absence and relative abundance of any fish or wildlife species of interest. There also may even be a "smoke alarm" version that could be placed near a boat loading area and "alert" whenever an AIS contaminated boat hits the water. This summer, Youngbull will have a student intern dedicated to DNA Tracker work on Flathead Lake, with an objective of mapping distributions of free eDNA from various species around the lake. To this point, no invasive mussels, nor their DNA, have been found in Flathead Lake.

Youngbull also said his SensorSpace lab is actively looking for potential partner-customers interested in using the DNA Tracker in other fields. He sees possible applications in the food industry, for example, detecting the presence of food-borne illnesses like E. coli or detecting respiratory diseases that occur in shared water troughs used by cattle and other livestock.

In the meantime, a vigilant focus remains on stopping invasive mussels and other AIS from reaching Flathead Lake and other waters of Montana.

"Some people tend to get resigned to mussel invasion" Elser said. "They have this idea that as soon as an infected boat touches Flathead Lake, the lake is done. Now, it might only take one contaminated boat, that's true. But one contaminated boat doesn't guarantee an established infestation of mussels - the chances of successful invasion are actually quite low. I like to think of each contaminated boat that goes into the lake as a ticket to a really bad lottery where the "prize" is a ruined lake. Nobody wants to win this really bad lottery. So what do you do? We have to ensure we're buying as few tickets as we can."

Now, with the help of the DNA Tracker, such an objective may be well within reach.

For more information about the DNA Tracker and other SensorSpace lab developments and opportunities, please contact FLBS Assistant Director Tom Bansak at tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu. If you're interested in partnering with or utilizing the services of the SensorSpace lab, you can visit their website at <https://sensorspace.tech/contact.html>.



FINLEY POINT STATE PARK UPDATE

NEW FOR 2018

Finley Point has 18 RV campsites and 4 boat camping slips with 50-amp electric hookups, plus 7 tent sites and 12 boat slips without electricity. Maximum RV Length varies by site. Please see ReserveAmerica website for details.

Bear resistant storage lockers are available. A joint state/tribal fishing license is needed for fishing at this park.

FINLEY POINT EVENING CAMPGROUND PROGRAM

JULY 7, AUGUST 18, AUGUST 31ST

Explore what makes Flathead Lake State Park so special! Evening programs start at 7:00pm. Bring a camp chair or blanket to enjoy these 45-minute evening programs. Topics vary; check Flathead Lake State Park's Facebook page or contact the Flathead Lake Ranger Station at 406-837-3041 in the week leading up to a program for specific topics. Free for registered campers; otherwise, \$4 per person or \$10 per family.

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/finley-point/>

FINLEY POINT GRILL

Summer Hours
Open at 4:00PM 7 Days A Week
4:00PM - 6:00PM Happy Hour Specials
NEW 9:00PM - 10:00PM Late Night Menu

Locally Sourced Ingredients
Locally Crafted Montana Brews
Extensive Wine Selection
Catering Available
Mile Marker 6, Hwy 35, Polson
406-887-2020

MACKENZIE RIVER PIZZA GRILL & PUB

Summer Hours
11:00 AM - 9:00PM
7 Days A Week

Featuring an incredible array of delectable dishes always flavorful, fresh and served up in heaping portions. Check out their Summer 406 Menu!
207 Ridgewater Drive, Polson
406-872-2100



We get the Point!

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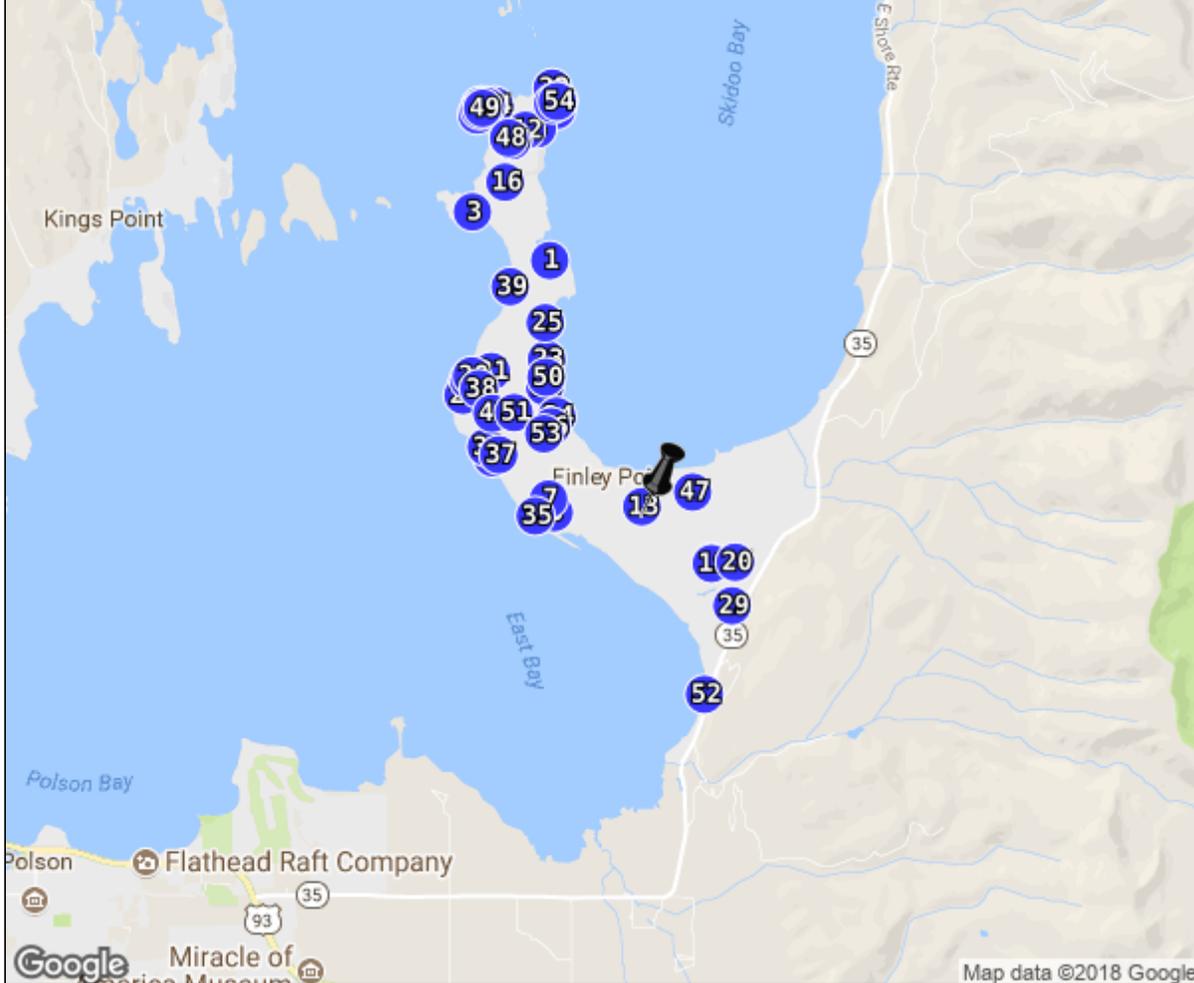
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SMITH TEAM FINLEY POINT SALES - 10YR GLANCE

This map shows our sales on Finley Point over the past ten years. As you can see, we brokered a significant number of sales (54 total). We are your local experts and we get the Point! We know who to call for zoning, septic, dock permits, construction and repair, orchard care taking, etc. If you need real estate advice on the Point, please allow us to help!



● Active ● Sold ● Pending ● Withdrawn ● Cancelled ● Expired

	Address	MLS #	Status	Distance from Subject
Subject	34016 S FINLEY POINT RD Polson MT 59860			
1	34182 Mulligan Point Road , Polson MT 59860	21803339	Closed	2.20m
2	29064 Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	21710978	Closed	3.35m
3	34671 Snowberry Lane , Polson MT 59860	21703375	Closed	2.81m
4	Nhn Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	313277	Closed	3.24m
5	Nhn S Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	21600589	Closed	0.70m
6	29737 Westside Drive , Polson MT 59860	21612580	Closed	3.50m
7	Nhn South Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	21609540	Closed	0.75m
8	29018 Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	333134	Closed	3.42m
9	34322 Mission View Road , Polson MT 59860	335422	Closed	3.27m
10	34322 Mission View Road , Polson MT 59860	20154149	Closed	3.25m
11	Nhn S Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	20136720	Closed	1.75m
12	34322 Hilltop Drive , Polson MT 59860	330154	Closed	3.26m

13	33391 N FINLEY POINT Road (S of 33359), Polson MT 59860	332749	Closed	0.09m
14	34547 Three Dock Lane , Polson MT 59860	325950	Closed	1.29m
15	32046 N Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	331191	Closed	1.31m
16	Nhn Sunset Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	325272	Closed	2.92m
17	Lot 6 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	324269	Closed	0.84m
18	Lot 10 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	324281	Closed	0.68m
19	Lot 12 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	324541	Closed	0.68m
20	33736 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	324272	Closed	0.84m
21	Nhn S. Finley Point Rd. , Polson MT 59860	281922	Closed	1.68m
22	28920 Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	311725	Closed	3.53m
23	31870 N Finley Point +31874, Polson MT 59860	318920	Closed	1.48m
24	Nhn Lindburgh Lane , Polson MT 59860	318590	Closed	3.52m
25	31568 N Finley Point , Polson MT 59860	310485	Closed	1.75m
26	Nhn S Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	307391	Closed	1.74m
27	31937 S Finley Point Road Lot 4, Polson MT 59860	314454	Closed	1.77m
28	31937 S Lot 4 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	20124937	Closed	1.78m
29	5779 East Shore Route , Polson MT 59860	314491	Closed	1.02m
30	Nhn Westside Drive , Polson MT 59860	306022	Closed	3.56m
31	NHN LINDBURG Lane , Polson MT 59860	306036	Closed	3.54m
32	NHN Westside Dr , Polson MT 59860	20113258	Closed	3.56m
33	NHN Lindburg Ln , Polson MT 59860	20113263	Closed	3.54m
34	32304 N FINLEY POINT , Polson MT 59860	310844	Closed	1.06m
35	33203 S Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	307794	Closed	0.85m
36	32498 Tarrs Lane , Polson MT 59860	289842	Closed	1.37m
37	32498 Tarrs Lane , Polson MT 59860	20094405	Closed	1.25m
38	NHN S FINLEY POINT Road , Polson MT 59860	308019	Closed	1.66m
39	34471 Staves Lane 3357 Finley Pt Rd, Polson MT 59860	289001	Closed	2.14m
40	29737 Westside Drive , Polson MT 59860	302932	Closed	3.53m
41	34582 WHISKEY JACK Lane , Polson MT 59860	301828	Closed	1.46m
42	29018 Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	289491	Closed	3.43m
43	29018 Finley Point Lane , Polson MT 59860	20093993	Closed	3.41m
44	29963 Mission View Drive , Polson MT 59860	299912	Closed	3.21m
45	29963 Mission View Dr , Polson MT 59860	20105343	Closed	3.21m
46	32388 Finley Point Road N , Polson MT 59860	277773	Closed	1.03m
47	32388 N Finley Point Rd , Polson MT 59860	20082031	Closed	0.47m
48	29927 Mission View Road , Polson MT 59860	291451	Closed	3.24m
49	NHN Westside Drive N , Polson MT 59860	291440	Closed	3.54m
50	NHN N Finley Pt , Polson MT 59860	293259	Closed	1.36m
51	115 Timber Shadow Trail , Polson MT 59860	272258	Closed	1.32m
52	NHN Columbine Lane , Polson MT 59860	282760	Closed	1.51m
53	1575 Finley Point Road , Polson MT 59860	278769	Closed	1.03m
54	29018 Finley Point Lane (714 Georgia Rd), Polson MT 59860	266191	Closed	3.42m



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Or Current Resident

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY WHO
 WANT TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BREEZE?

Simply drop us an email at sarah.smith@century21bigsky.com with their name and address and we will happily add them to our mailing list. You may also fill out the form below and mail it to: Sarah Beck Smith, Century 21 Big Sky, 119 Anchor Way, Polson, MT 59860.

Name:

Address:

Phone (optional):

Email (optional):

We never sell, share, or show anyone our mailing list.
 Our mailing list is for our exclusive use.

FINLEY POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Please check the local papers for upcoming events. If you are interested in joining, please fill out the form below and return to Barry Hansen, FPHA President.

[Finley Point Property Owners Association](#)
 Membership for Annual Dues, \$10.00

Name:

Mailing Address:

Finley Point Address:

Mail (along with \$10) to: Barry Hansen, President
 33668 Lilac Hedge Ln., Polson, MT 59860

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