



Sarah Bannon  
Executive Director  
Southwest Montana

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Dear Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

The Grant Kohrs Ranch is the only 1880's working ranch National Historic Site in the United States. It is an active monument of the working ranches indicative of the Montana history and how the cattle industry began. With actual cowboy branding exhibitions, draft horse hay cuttings stacked by the old fashioned beaver slide, a busy black smith pounding away on a horseshoe, and chuckwagon beans cooked over a fire, this historic site offers a glimpse into the beginnings of the rough and rugged life on the range.

In Powell County alone, over 71% of the nonresident visitors come to see historic sites. The state has over 12 million nonresident visitors and about .9% come to the county. Southwest Montana considers this historical ranch a main attraction not only in Montana but in the country as this way of life is too often forgotten. School field trips are a regular here to educate the children on the actual history of the cattle industry and life on the frontier. Adults from all over are jolted into a glimpse of the past trials and tribulations forged in this way of life.

Grant Kohrs Ranch offers many other activities such as walking trails, birding opportunities, cross country runs, Christmas activities. The largest attended event in Powell County is the ranch's Pumpkin Sunday which is now turned into a Fall Festival as the whole town is joining in this shoulder season event.

Southwest Montana markets the Grant Kohrs Ranch through the regional travel guide, advertising in the *True West Magazine*, placements on social media, and through familiarization tours when the opportunity arises. We look forward to helping with more marketing exposure for the Grant Kohrs Ranch Historic Site.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Bannon*

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