



THIS BROCHURE PROVIDED BY CRAIG DELGER - MONTANA REAL ESTATE EXPERT

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406 Chief Joseph Trail, Darby MT 59829

\$16,250,000
Acres: ± 357.21
MLS#: 408806

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Two Feathers Ranch, a legacy 357± acre estate just outside Darby offering a rare combination of luxury living, agricultural productivity, and classic Bitterroot Valley vistas. Once part of the historic Chief Joseph Ranch, the property enjoys sweeping views of both the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountain Ranges. The ranch borders US Forest Service land on two sides, ensuring privacy and direct access to thousands of acres of public recreation. The ranch features approximately 2,500 feet of frontage on Tin Cup Creek, renowned for trout fishing, along with excellent water rights supporting 200± acres of irrigated pasture. Fenced pastures, supported by gravity-fed irrigation and wheel lines, currently sustain a productive Black Angus operation. Additional improvements include a hay barn capable of, a riding arena, and a fully equipped livestock working and sorting facilities, complete with pens and chutes. A private lake suitable for stocking fish, mature forested acreage, and abundant wildlife, including elk and whitetail deer, enhance the property's recreational appeal. At the heart of the ranch is a large main residence, exquisitely designed for both entertaining and comfort. Additional accommodation includes a guest residence and a manager's home, both positioned above a substantial barn and workshop facility. Equestrian infrastructure includes multiple horse stalls, barns, and event-ready spaces suitable for training, rodeo activities, or private gatherings. With five separate parcels and no restrictive covenants or conservation easements, Two Feathers Ranch offers exceptional flexibility for estate planning. Combining panoramic mountain scenery, a respectable operational component, and high-end residential amenities, this property represents a singular opportunity to own a premier ranch estate in Montana's coveted Bitterroot Valley. MLS# 408806



FEATURES

Status:	Active
Type:	Residential
Sub Type:	SingleFamilyResidence
Acres:	± 357.21
View:	Lake, Meadow, Mountains, Pond, Rural, River, CreekStream, Valley, TreesWoods
Water Features:	Creek, Pond, RiverFront, Stream
Listing Date:	2026-03-09
Listing Agent:	Deke Tidwell of Hall and Hall

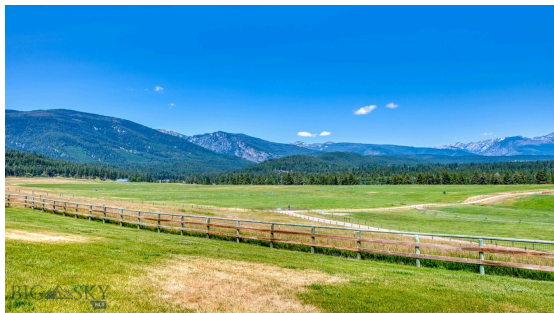
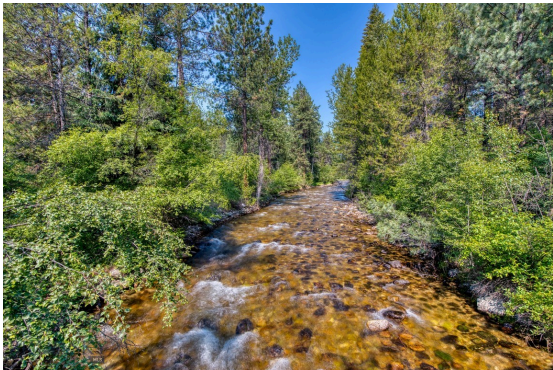
Year Built:	2004
Beds:	3
Baths:	5
Heating/Cooling:	ForcedAir Propane RadiantFloor CentralAir

LOCATION



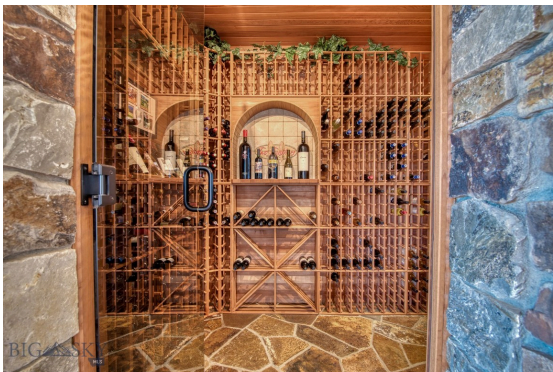
Address: 406 Chief Joseph Trail, Darby MT 59829

PHOTOS













INVESTING IN MONTANA RANCH LAND



Interest in Montana ranch land as an investment has been strong over the last several years. Throughout Montana, but particularly in Southwest Montana we have seen increased demand for ranches as a safe investment. Making the decision to pursue investing in ranch land can be incredibly rewarding (both personally and financially) but there are a lot of factors that go into investing and owning ranch land. "Ranch" is a general term that can describe a wide range of property from large income producing cattle ranches, smaller recreational properties, fly fishing properties, hunting ranches, or horse properties with just a few acres. All of these definitions of ranch property are in demand in Montana, and are appreciating in value over the long term. However, income producing ranch land is the most stable, and is in the highest demand by investors.

Before buying property in Montana it is important to understand Montana Water Rights. All water in Montana is owned by the State. A Montana Water Right allows you to legally use water in a prescribed manner, but not to own the water itself. Montana's water law is based in the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation – First in Time, First in Right. Water rights are ranked according to the date on which the water was first put to beneficial use. Priority dates dictate the volume and distribution of water from wells, rivers, and streams. Landowners must put the water to beneficial use without waste to retain their right to use Montana's water. Without diversion and beneficial use, there is no water right.





A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that limits the uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. The landowner retains title to the property. The creation of the conservation easement can qualify as a one-time donation that has tax benefits. The conservation easement runs with the title, meaning that if the property is purchased by a new owner, the conservation easement remains. Land ownership carries with it a bundle of rights—the right to occupy, lease, sell, develop, construct buildings, farm, restrict access or

harvest timber, among others. A landowner can give up one or more of those rights for a purpose such as conservation while retaining ownership of the remainder of the rights. In ceding a right, the landowner “eases” it to another entity, such as a land trust. For example, a landowner may give up the right to build additional structures while retaining the right to grow crops.

Landowners looking to sell their property can use conservation easements to protect what future owners are able to do with the property. This typically reduces the marketable value of the property. If the conservation is setup properly, the landowners are able to take advantage of tax benefits associated with the creation and “donation” of the conservation easement. The potential tax benefits of a donated conservation easement are two-fold. First, income tax benefits may exist at the federal level. There may be benefits at the state level as well. However, state property taxes can not be reduced by a donation of a conservation easement in Montana. Second, the conservation easement works as an estate planning tool to reduce estate tax liability. To qualify for a tax deduction, the donation of a conservation easement must be considered a charitable gift by the IRS(Internal Revenue Service). It is strongly recommended that a qualified tax professional review the conservation easement donation to ensure it meets IRS requirements. A tax deductible, charitable donation can only be made to an IRS qualified tax-exempt organization. The donation of a conservation easement must be complete and irrevocable in perpetuity. In order to claim a tax deduction on the donation of a conservation easement the landowner must obtain a qualified appraisal by a state certified appraiser.

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MONTANA REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Delger Real Estate sold over \$155 Million in Real Estate in 2016-2023. Recognized experts in Internet Marketing and Technology, Delger Real Estate are able to generate maximum exposure for their real estate listings. The result: according to ListHub, Delger Real Estate listings outperform 98% of the market. We encourage you to contact Craig to learn more about ranch and recreational real estate in Montana.

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LOCAL EXPERTISE*



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