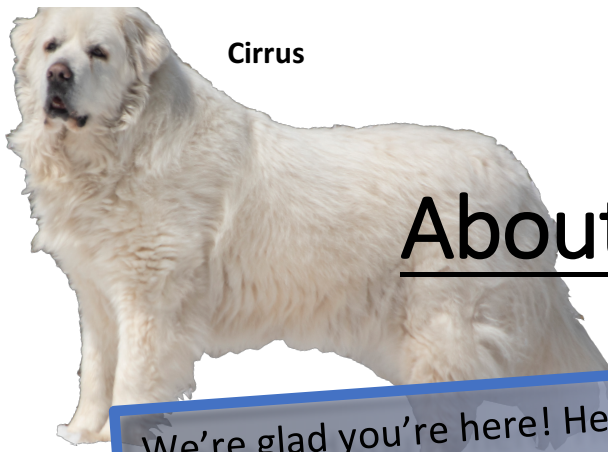


Cirrus



Faithful



# About the Cabin

We're glad you're here! Here is some information about the cabin for you during your stay.

I'm also putting a few blank pages in here so you can leave suggestions about further instructions we should keep in this book or suggestions on how to make the cabin better in the future! This is a new project for us and we are still learning how to make the Airbnb experience great for everyone.

Thanks!

Christie and Dave Goodman

Jana



Kaladin



Jasper



Ben



Rocky

Dave



Christie



Kari



## Instructions For Cabin

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## How to Operate the Wood Stove

Wood stoves often take a little time to learn to operate well, but hopefully these instructions will help make the process go quickly. It is always our intention to show you the woodstove in person when you arrive and walk you through how to operate it face-to-face, but we hope having written instructions will help too.

### General Info on Heating with Wood Stoves

- Wood stoves provide great heat, but they do take a little tending. Generally, to have a consistent fire that never goes out, you need to put new wood into the stove about every 2-4 hours. This means that you can assume that the fire you set before you go to bed will burn out by morning unless you get up in the night to re-stock it.
- Often, in our location, in the spring and summer, you wont need to have a fire at all, or may only want one in the mornings and evenings, so a consistent fire may not be necessary most days.
- As you are getting to know the stove, it is common to over heat the house at first. This wont hurt anything - just makes things really warm for a bit! You can always open doors and windows if you want to cool the place down quickly. It is not uncommon to get it so hot that the stove or the pipe upstairs glows red. This is okay – the stove and stove pipe are made to handle this and go through the roof in a way which wont cause fire danger when this happens. However, this does mean the stove is much hotter than it is meant to be, and we try not to do this on purpose. It’s far too easy to burn yourself when things are that hot. (If you get things that hot and want to have us come check on the safety of the whole thing, just contact us and we will run over and make sure everything is still safe.)
- Generally, when starting a fire, you use paper and/or kindling to begin with, then small wood and progressively larger wood on top as you go. There is plenty of this in the cabin beside the wood stove, but also in the blue totes in the corner of the living room.) But we also provide a sawdust/wax “fire-starter” (in the round wooden bucket on the half wall between the stove and the stairs) which allows you to skip a lot of these steps. Often, using these allows you to get a good fire going with only a few large logs and the fire-starter.

## Basics of this Wood Stove

On the front of the wood stove is the door with two handles. On the side facing the cabin's front door there are two nobs and one handle.

**Lower Side Nob:** The lower nob doesn't do anything – that is for a fan that is disconnected.

**Higher Side Nob:** The Higher nob controls airflow. Airflow effects how fast and how hot the wood burns. Its Marked 1-3 with the word Warmer and an arrow pointing towards 3.

When you first start a fire, give it lots of airflow – set this nob to 3. Then, when the fire really gets going, if the cabin is warm enough, turn the nob down to 1 so that the wood lasts longer and the cabin doesn't overheat.

**Side Lever:** On the side facing the cabin's front door, there is also a long lever. This opens and closes the flue. The flue is a "door" inside the stove pipe which lets smoke out and air in through the roof of the cabin. It can be fully closed, fully open or partially open. The more open it is, the more air will get to the fire and the hotter and faster the fire will burn. Its good to have it fully open when starting a fire. Once the fire gets going, you may want it partially open for a while, then you will want to close it down tight once the fire is burning well so that the fire lasts longer.



Airflow Nob. Set to 3 when fire is just getting going. Set to 1 when you go to bed.

Lever for opening and closing the flue. When pointing to the left, flue is all the way open. When pointing towards the roof, the flue is closed.

Ignore this. It controls a fan which isn't plugged in.



## Opening or Closing the Wood Stove

- To open the woodstove, grasp the 2 handles on the front and pull them down and out. This will unlock the door and allow you to lower and open the door.

Once you get your fire going, you will want to close the woodstove most of the way, but you may want to let it stay slightly open so that the fire gets more air and burns stronger and hotter for a while. To do this, play with the levers, moving them different amounts until the door closes partially, just as much as you want.

Once the fire is well established, you will want to “bank down” the stove – close it up so that not much air gets to the flames. This slows the burn rate of the fire and allows it to last much longer. It also keeps the fire from continually getting hotter and hotter, and can keep your cabin temperature steady for a while.



- To close the stove up fully, you grasp the handles, push in, and pull them downward and outward. As the stove fully closes up, the door handles will lock into place and the flue will close down most of the way.

## Getting it Hot Fast

The more air the fire gets the hotter (and faster) the wood will burn. The fire gets air from the front door and/or the flue being opened. When you want to heat up the cabin fast, open the flue all the way and leave the front door a few inches open.

You never want to leave the front door all the way open unless you are there to watch it – this is a major fire danger, as something burning could fall out.

You also won't necessarily get your hottest fire by leaving the door open. This gives the fire access to a lot of air, but by closing the door most of the way and leaving a few inches gap, the heat of the fire and cold air in the room act to pull air into the stove as if you are fanning the flames, making the fire much hotter than if the door simply stood all the way open.

## Damping it Down for Longer, Slower Burning

When the house is warm and the stove is going well, you will want to “damp it down.” This means closing up the stove so that minimal air gets in. This will cause the fire to burn hot but slowly, allowing it to last longer and keeping the cabin at a steady temperature.

You do this by closing the front door of the stove so that it latches completely. This will both close up the front (which is designed to let air in when not fully latched) and mostly close the chimney so that smoke still gets out but not much air gets in.

## Starting a Fire

Starting a fire is a skill that takes time and practice to perfect, but here are a few tips to get you going...

Without the Special Fire Starters:

1. Crumple up a bit of paper and put it in the middle of the stove.
2. Place some small kindling around and on top of the paper.
3. Get some slightly larger kindling ready to add.
4. Light the paper on fire. Make sure the sticks start to catch.
5. Add bigger sticks a few at a time, getting progressively larger as they catch.
6. Place a few small logs over or around what is burning.
7. Once those have caught, put a couple big logs on.
8. Pull the door closed most of the way, but let it rest open just a crack by not pulling the handles fully closed.
9. Once the fire is fully started and going strong, latch the front all the way.
10. Put new logs on periodically before the fire doesn't go out.

With the Special Fire Starters:

1. Place a couple logs in the stove, next to each other to make a floor of logs.
2. Place a couple logs cross-wise on top of those.
3. Wedge a Fire Starter under some of the cross-wise logs, on top of the floor logs.
4. Use a match to light the edge of the Fire Starter
5. Once the wood has caught, pull the door to the stove closed most of the way, but let it rest open just a crack by not pulling the handles fully closed.
6. Once the fire is fully started and going strong, latch the front all the way.
7. Put new logs on periodically before the fire doesn't go out.

## Cooking on the Colman Stove

We use the green Colman Stove for heating water and basic cooking. It runs off of a small propane tank which should be attached. If you run out of propane, let us know – we have plenty of refills!

The Colman Stove is not rated to be used indoors. Please take it out on the porch when lighting it!

Turning it On

Turning it Off

Propane Safety



## WiFi

We have limited WiFi at the ranch, based out of the main house. There is a booster in the window of the cabin which should allow you to use this WiFi while in the cabin.

This WiFi is usually good enough for checking email, sending texts or browsing the web, but should not be used for watching video clips or Netflix. (We are only able to get a limited plan up here and streaming videos takes too much data and can use up a whole month's worth of internet in one night).

If the WiFi is not working or not working well, feel free to check in with us. Sometimes there is nothing we can do about this but sometimes it just means the router needs to be re-booted.

WiFi Name: TheRanch-Guest

WiFi Password: calmgentlehorsem

***Note that for the Wifi to work, the electricity must be on in the cabin, as the booster on the back wall of the cabin which pulls the Wifi signal from the house runs on electricity.***

## Electricity

We have a limited amount of electricity set up in the cabin at this point. It should be enough to run a few lights and may allow you to charge your phone at night. The electricity comes from a battery in the corner of the living room, charged by a solar panel just outside that window.

When there has been no sun for a few days, this battery may run low and the electricity may not work.

At present, the plugs in the walls don't work – we are in the process of wiring those in permanently. For now, you may use one of the long extension cords (a big black one hangs in the back left corner of the cabin) provided to get electricity upstairs or anywhere away from the battery.

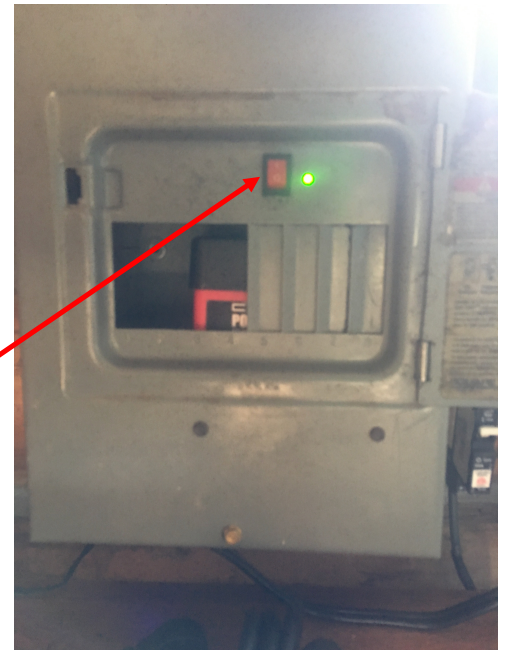
If you have any problems with the electricity, just ask! We can usually figure out what is wrong and fix it quickly.

### Turning the Electricity on or off

We've wired in an easy way to turn the cabin's electrical system off when not in use. In the back left side of the cabin, where the electrical equipment rests, there is a fuse box.

- Open the fuse box and switch the red switch to turn the electrical system on or off.

Red on/off button  
in fuse box for  
turning electrical



### Plugging things into electrical “outlets”

- For now the only electricity in the cabin is located in the back left corner of the living room. There is a small table with a surge protector into which thing may be plugged. There is also a thick, heavy-duty black extension cord which can be stretched upstairs or to other places around the cabin.

## Phones

Your phones are unlikely to work up here, as cell reception is sparse. Both Verizon and AT&T have towers relatively near by and when those towers are pointed our direction either may work to some extent.

At the house we have a booster which boosts all phones in its very small radius (basically the Livingroom or kitchen). You are always welcome to come over and try your phone under this booster if you want to try making a call. You are also welcome to use our phone if needed.

- ***In an emergency the best way for someone to reach you is through our house phone, which is hooked up to a signal booster. That phone number is: 406-239-4748. That number gets calls but not texts.***

## Water

There is no running water in the cabin. We are happy to provide drinking or washing water from the house, which is fed by a natural spring on the side of our mountain. We will try to have a large blue container in the kitchen which should be filled with good water for drinking or other uses. There is also a clear, smaller container which should have water in it but is labeled, "Do not drink." This water is fine for washing dishes but not purified for drinking.

- You are welcome to come over to the house for refills on water as necessary. The blue frost-free hydrants in the yard are piped to the same source as the house water, so you can drink anything that comes out of them. Use what you need!
- It is also usually fine for guests to come over to the house and use our shower, if needed. Just come on over and ask – this is rarely a problem!

## The Outhouse

The outhouse is the only bathroom for the cabin. It is just off the driveway by the cabin. It should be stocked with plenty of supplies, but if you run out of anything please let us know.

***Don't drop anything that isn't toilet paper down the outhouse – it doesn't decompose right. There is a trashcan in the outhouse for female supplies or anything else you need to throw away.***

If you need to use an indoor bathroom or shower, just check with us – There's usually no problem with letting you use the house facilities!

## Food

There is no refrigeration in the cabin, but we will provide a cooler with frozen jugs of water for ice. If those melt, you can switch them out in the garage, back at the main house anytime.

If you need to keep food in a freezer, we can often loan you use of the chest freezer in the garage, as long as we don't have it too full at the time. Just ask!

- Don't leave any food around the cabin not protected by airtight containers. The local mouse population is very observant and will quickly move in to share your meals if anything is accessible.
- Also, don't leave food or foodstuffs outside, as we do have bear in this area. Well, bear and our dogs, who might also be excited to find an unexpected treat when they come calling...

## The Kitchen Sink

The kitchen sink drains outside the cabin, so feel free to let water run down the pipes there. Just try to keep the plug in the bottom of the sink when you aren't using it because mice will climb up it and come in if its left open!

## Trash

There are some small trash cans around the cabin and in the outhouse. Use them as needed. If you need to empty a can, you can use old grocery sacks or the white trash bags in the cabinet under the stairs, and bring the bag over to the house or take it into town and dispose of it yourself. We don't have trash pickup here and pay to take all our non-recyclable trash to the dump, so we have a small trash house near the main house which we fill until its time to do a dump run.



## The Intercom

We have an intercom set up at the cabin which allows you to easily communicate with anyone at the main house and vice versa. Feel free to use it any time. Especially feel free to use it late at night, if there is a problem or you feel nervous about anything. Never worry about waking us up – we are always happy to help.

The intercom is sitting on a desk in the back left corner of the living room.

### How to Call Us

The “CALL” button can be used to get our attention. Hold it down a few seconds and it will ring in the house. Repeat a few times until you hear back from us.

Once we’ve answered, hold down the “GROUP” button and talk. Hold it down a second before and after you talk and talk clearly. It’s not the clearest system in the world and it can sometimes be hard to understand the person talking. Let the GROUP button up when you are done so you can hear our reply.

### How to Answer When We Call You

If we call you – either by ringing the CALL button or by speaking into the microphone (We would say something cheesy like, “Main House to Cabin, Main House to Cabin, Come in Cabin. Over.”). When you hear this, go to the intercom, hold down the GROUP button and talk. Then let the GROUP button up when you are done talking so you can hear us reply.



Hold down the GROUP button whenever you are talking to us. Let it up when you are done talking so you can hear our reply.

Press the CALL button to ring the main house.

## Locking the Doors

The cabin has a front and a back door. The back door is kept closed right now, because the back porch area is in the process of being re-built and is not safe to stand on. However, in an emergency, you could go out that door.

### Locking the Front Door When You Are Inside

When inside, you can pull the wooden arm down to “lock” the door so that it can’t be opened from outside or blown open by the wind. (Please note that if you don’t do this you may get a surprise visit from our dogs!)

This wooden bar slides back and forth to lock or unlock the door from the inside.



### Locking the Front Door When You Are Outside

When you leave the cabin for any length of time, “lock” up the door so animals don’t push it open. You do this by sliding the black lever into the hole and then locking the latch onto the metal ring.

When the door is unlocked, the black lever will be pulled back out of the hole. Leave the latch on the metal ring so it doesn’t get lost.



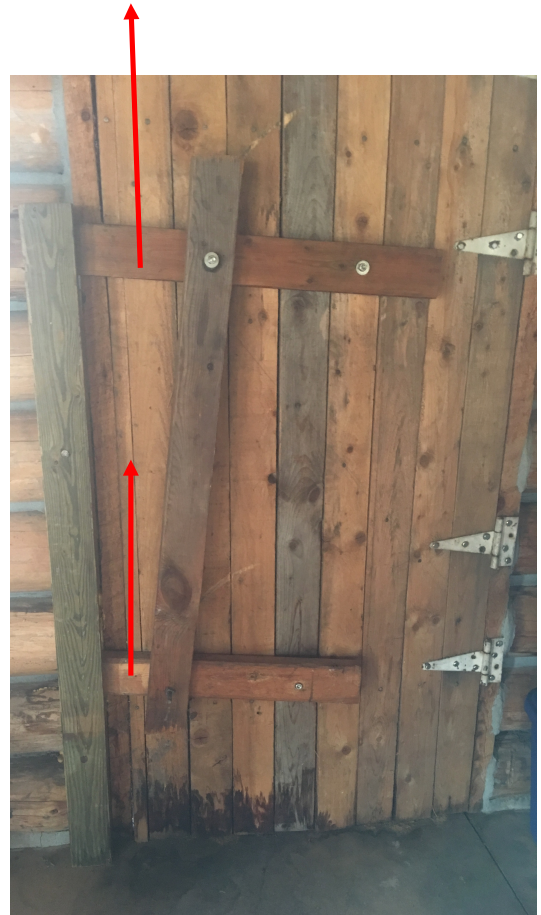
**LOCKED**



**UNLOCKED**

## Opening the Back Door

The back door should not be opened except in an emergency, as it leads to a porch which is under construction and not safe to stand on. If you need to open it, simply push up on the horizontal bars and this will allow the door to swing open. You can then break through the screen tacked over the opening to get out that way.



## Mice

When we were first talking about offering this cabin on Airbnb we were concerned about the mouse presence any remote cabin like this inevitably has, and one of our friends suggested we call them an amenity and charge extra for them! (“Companionship provide just for you!”) Untimely we decided to just do our best to reduce the issue as much as possible.

We suggest you keep all food in closed containers. Anything left out will almost certainly bring mice in during the night.

We trap before you get here and have our cats spend some time over here between guests, but we try to keep mousetraps out of your way while you are here. If you want us to set some up we are happy to. Just let us know.

## Pets

### Your Pets

- If you are bringing any pets with you, we ask that you talk to us about that first. We rarely have a problem with it, but like to check out the details to be sure. We do have free-ranging chickens that are tempting for some dogs to chase, and at times have a large number of dogs on the ranch. Its always good to make sure the various animals we have around are compatible.
- If you have a dog with you, you can keep it on leash or we can provide a dog tie for the cabin's yard. You are also welcome to let your dog run free, if you are not worried about his/her safety, if your dog will generally listen to commands off leash, and if it isn't a danger to people or animals at the ranch.

### Our Pets

- We have dogs and cats which roam the property at will.
- The big white dog (Cirrus) is a working dog and it is her job to protect the ranch from predators and keep bears, mountain lions and wolves off the property. She does this by patrolling at night and barking regularly from various vantage points around the ranch to let other animals know to steer clear of this property. She is friendly but sometimes shy of strangers (especially men) so if she moves away from you when you reach for her, just give her some space. She may need to watch you for a while to be sure it is okay to get close. She is likely to come check on you in the evenings before she begins her night's work and you can give her one of the dog treats in the glass jar in the cabin, if you want to!
- We also have two German Shepherds. Jana (pronounced Yana) is the older and smaller one. She is completely friendly and loving to everyone but is also a little senile and hard of hearing these days. The bigger, younger Shepherd is Kal (he's Jana's son). He is also very friendly, but does have some issues with barking protectively when he sees a strange dog or (sometimes) a strange person. Mostly, though, the biggest problem you will have with either of these two is that they think they are lap dogs and that everyone in the world loves having them around at all times. Kal is rarely off on his own, however, and if he is around I am almost certainly outside near-by. Jana occasionally goes outside by herself but never goes very far from the house.
- Our brown tabby cat, Faithful, is likely to show up at the cabin to check on you regularly. She is our ranch manager and considers it her job to make sure everything is running well each day. You are welcome to let her into the cabin or keep her out as you will. She

does help keep the mice at bay, so we encourage her to hang around there from time to time. There are cat treats in a glass jar in the cabin if you want to offer her some.

- Our other two cats rarely make it down to the cabin on their own, though once or twice I have seen Jasper, the big orange one, go that far.

***If you are allergic or just not comfortable with dogs or cats, please let us know! We can generally keep the dogs away and try to discourage the cats from visiting while you are here!***



Faithful



Kaladin

Cirrus



Kari



Rocky



Jana



Jasper



## Camp Fires Outside

There is an official fire pit over by the house you can use if you want to do a real cookout or campfire. However, during the spring, when the ground water is high and there is no fire danger in our area, you are also welcome to have a fire at the cabin. We have an area in the center of the yard which is used to burn slash and is safe when fires are legal.

## The Property

Our property is a semi-working horse ranch complete with a stallion and lots of other animals. You are welcome to come over to the house area and visit, walk or commune with the animals, but its probably best to ask us if you want to go into any pastures that have horses in them. We don't want anyone getting hurt!



## The Horses

Our horses are really friendly and largely quite the characters. We enjoy introducing you to them and can sometimes arrange to do lessons/games with kids or adults and take people on trail rides for an extra fee.

The horses love apples and carrots and any chance of being petted and fussed over. You are welcome to greet them and feed them across the fence when they are out, and we are happy to take you into pastures and let you interact with them, but please don't go in with them without our permission. Horses move around suddenly and we don't want anyone getting hurt!

For an extra fee we can sometimes offer horseback rides, riding lessons or horseback games for kids while you are here.

## Trails

There are endless trails to hike or horseback ride out here leaving right from the ranch. At the moment we don't have maps of them or any clear way to mark what is public land from what is privately owned. Until we get a more official way of letting you know what is around, ask us where it is okay to go or for advice on hiking routes.

## Closing Up

When you go, we hope you had a great time while you were here. There are a few things you could do to help us on your way out...

- Remove any food from the cooler and turn the cooler upside down in the yard or on the porch so it dries out.
- Take any towels or bed sheets off the beds and dump them on the couch downstairs so we can wash them for the next people.
- Remove any food and trash.
- “Lock” the door on the way out.
- Close the gate onto Mill Creek Rd. when you leave.

## Contacting Us

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns, day or night. Use the intercom or come over or you can try texting us – sometimes that works from the cabin, sometimes it doesn't.

We are:

Christie – (cell for texting, doesn't get calls well up here) 406-239-0057

Dave – (cell for texting, doesn't get calls well up here) 406-531-5588

Ben – (cell for texting, doesn't get calls well up here)

Home Phone Number: 406-239-4748 (no texting)

Email: [Info@WildMountainFarms.com](mailto:Info@WildMountainFarms.com)

Mail:

PO Box 209

Frenchtown, MT 59834

Physical Address: (post office will not recognize this for delivering mail but sent to that address, UPS or FedEx will hold a package in town for us)

25111 Mill Creek Rd.

Frenchtown, MT 59834

## Emergency Directions

Here are basic directions to the ranch in case of emergency...

25111 Mill Creek Rd.  
Frenchtown, MT 59834

### From Frenchtown (I-90):

(From I-90, driving west from Missoula)

1. Exit I-90 at the only Frenchtown Exit (15 miles west of Missoula)
2. Turn right off the ramp, then take an immediate right again so that you are on the frontage road, going back towards Missoula.
3. Less than a mile down, turn left onto Mill Creek Rd. (There is a Mormon church on the corner).
4. Come 9 miles up that road.
  - a. Our place is 9 miles from the turn onto Mill Creek Rd. However, the last 7 miles of that drive is on an unmaintained forest road, mostly going up a canyon. For much of the drive it will look like no-one could possibly live up here, and, once you get to the top where the land opens up and people have homes, there are no street signs to tell you if you are going the right way.
5. The first 2 miles on Mill Creek are a relatively normal, first asphalt, then gravel road. After 2 miles you come to a large turnout where the road begins going up a canyon. At this point it becomes a forest road.
  - a. The road from here on is often not wide enough for 2 cars to pass. If you meet a car, slow down or stop and assess which of you needs to back up.
  - b. There are periodic turnouts (wide spots in the road) at which a car can pull over and let someone else pass.) Watch for these and if you meet someone, whichever of you is nearest to a turnout should be the one to back up (unless one of you is pulling a trailer – then the person not pulling a trailer always backs up).
  - c. As you go up the hill, watch for the yellow plastic mile markers on the trees (starts with mile 3 and continues on). Many of these are missing now and have been replaced with spray painted numbers on rocks or trees. These things will help you keep track of how far you have come – it can be misleading because you will be driving much slower than normal.
  - d. Expect to drive between 5-20 miles per hour on the way up. Cars with lower clearance drive slower so they don't bottom out over bumps. You can expect this last 7 miles to take about 30 minutes, double that if you are going extra slow.
6. Mile 6 is not marked. As you come up a steep hill and begin to pull out of the canyon, you will go over a bridge so that Mill Creek is now on your left. That is Mile Marker 6.

7. There are 2 places where large roads join Mill Creek and it can be hard to tell which way to go to stay on Mill Creek.
  - a. The first is at the 7 Mile Marker. Stay RIGHT and DON'T cross back over the creek.
  - b. Shortly after that you pass the first cabin you will come to, then you come to a Y in the road. At that Y, stay LEFT.
8. After the Y you will see some homesteads and there will probably be animals of all kinds roaming the road (cows, goats, pigs, rabbits, chickens...) The road winds through the valley for a mile or two. You pass the 8 mile marker and keep coming.
9. After the 8 mile marker, you will wind around a bit, then pass a cabin on your left. Those are our nearest neighbors. Keep coming past their field of old cars, around the bend and up the hill.
10. Our driveway is the next one on the LEFT. There is a green gate which is open unless the horses are loose in the yard. Come down to the house or keep going on Mill Creek to your next LEFT for the cabin road. Go through the wooden gate and you will see the cabin just over the creek on your left.
11. If you get to the 9 Mile Marker, you are still on our property but you have come just a bit past the driveways.

Remember, your cell phone wont work once you head up the canyon.

In case of a true emergency, you can tell the emergency personnel that, there is plenty of space to land a helicopter in any of our many fields near the cabin or house.

Christie and Dave Goodman: 406-239-4748 (for calls at house), 406-239-0057 (for texting)

[From Arlee \(Highway 93\):](#)

## Extras

For an extra fee we can often offer some extra services.

1. For an extra fee we can sometimes offer horseback rides, riding lessons or horseback games for kids while you are here.
2. Bring your horse with you on vacation. We can board it and you can ride your own horse while here.
3. Looking to breed your mare? We have an amazing stallion and if you bring her while you are here, it's a perfect time to breed her.
4. Christie sometimes plans horse vacations for people, providing lessons and riding every day according to whatever it is you are wanting to learn. She specializes in teaching adult beginners, so if you have always dreamed of learning to ride but don't know how, spend a week at the ranch and Christie will teach you everything you need to know from the ground up.
5. We can take you hiking in the area for an extra fee.
6. We can pick you up from the airport and bring you up here for an extra fee.

