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# Second Homes

## *The Kootenai*

LOCATION:

*Bigfork, Montana*

SIZE: *42 acres*

COST: *Unfurnished cabin homes \$2 million; fully furnished cabin homes \$7 million*

PROPERTIES: *42 restored and new-construction cabin homes*

NEAREST SKIING:

*Whitefish Mountain Resort (45 minutes)*

NEAREST AIRPORT:

*Glacier International Airport (30 minutes)*

A good secret hook was a lot easier to find back in 1906, when Lewis Orvis Evans and Cornelius Kelley, the brains behind the Anaconda Copper Company, purchased 2,700 acres here along Montana's Swan Lake for a summer retreat. The years eventually whittled down their spread. By the time business partners/brothers Paul and Robert Milhous purchased the property in 2005, a dozen moldering cabins and out buildings and 42 acres remained. But what a 42 acres.

Under the Milhouses' watch, the original 10 cabins, great lodge and barn have been thoroughly restored and updated, and construction has started on an additional 32 homes. Borrowing in style and materials from the original structures, the new residences mix the best of big-shoulders Western architecture — including giant hearths and raw-timber beamed ceilings — with can't-possibly-leave-civilization touches such as computerized lighting systems and high-speed Internet. The lodge will feature a lounge, bar, catering kitchen and media room with giant plasma-screen TVs. And should one get sick of the great indoors (and yes, even with a full-service concierge, that does happen), the Evans Nature Center offers programs including fishing contests, marathon hikes and snowmobile excursions. Whitefish Mountain Resort, featuring 3,000 skiable acres and 93 runs, is less than an hour's drive away. 406-837-3000; [thekootenai.com](http://thekootenai.com)