



# MCV MATTERS

**Connect. Protect. Elect.**

*Turning Montana values into priorities.*

**2020  
YEAR-END ISSUE**

Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Bob Danley, USFWS

Dear Montana Conservation Voter:



**W**e are close to beginning an important new era for the conservation movement in Montana. A new administration is about to take over in Washington. In Helena, many of our newly elected statewide leaders have very troubling conservation records. And the upcoming session of the Montana Legislature poses a grave threat to our climate, our environment and our public lands.

That means your support of MCV is more important than ever. We will always hold our elected leaders accountable, and we will always do our best to engage all Montanans to make sure those leaders hear from all of us.

As we close out this bizarre and challenging year, we are asking you to please consider giving whatever you can to MCV and our shared mission of fighting for a better future for our state, our communities, and our children. Despite all the curveballs of the last few months, we are proud of the work we did.

- ▶ We played a key role to prompt the introduction of the Great American Outdoors Act, which fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in perpetuity. Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester introduced this bill after MCV ran a hard-hitting TV ad, saying we Montanans were tired of “lip service” when it comes to funding our public lands.
- ▶ We made sure conservation remained a front-and-center issue for all candidates, and we ran the largest and most sophisticated political program in MCV’s history! Two of our endorsed county commission candidates, and 26 of MCV’s endorsed legislative candidates, won their elections—and we’re excited to work with them in the months ahead.
- ▶ We were the first conservation organization to support the effort to fund public lands through Initiative 190 and Constitutional Initiative 118. We deployed a virtual field team to get both measures passed, and voters approved them with significant bipartisan support.

- ▶ We launched a successful new professional-quality podcast, *MCVcast*, which will begin its fourth season in the new year. We’ve featured big names and important perspectives, and we plan to grow *MCVcast* in the new year. Find *MCVcast* wherever you get your podcasts, or online at [mtvoters.org/podcast](http://mtvoters.org/podcast).
- ▶ We significantly turned up the heat on the illegal acting director of the Bureau of Land Management—William Perry Pendley. MCV became a leading voice of opposition to Mr. Pendley’s unlawful tenure.

We also launched new MCV and MCV Education Fund websites, a new YouTube channel, and a monthly newsletter to make sure our members stay informed of our work. We held a successful “virtual” gala in October, and we brought on a new Development Director this past spring.

In other words, we’re just getting started! But we need your help now more than ever. Please consider stopping by [mtvoters.org/donate](http://mtvoters.org/donate) to keep our work going. And thank you for the support you have already given us. We are nimble, thrifty and unafraid of tough accountability. We do these things thanks to your generosity.

Thank you for considering a year-end gift to this organization. We look forward to continuing our fight, with you at our side, in 2021.

Respectfully,

Aaron Murphy, Executive Director

## MCV’s Annual Gala is Online



**T**o everyone who attended and contributed in October for our first-ever virtual gala, thank you! If you weren’t able to join us live, it’s not too late to check out a recording of our virtual gala online at [bit.ly/mcv2020gala](http://bit.ly/mcv2020gala).

## Message from the Board Chair



On behalf of MCV's Board of Directors, I echo thanks and deep appreciation for all you do for this organization. We have never let a tough Election Day slow us down, because

we are in this for the long haul and focus on so much more than immediate political outcomes. MCV is about **communities**. And we are honored to count you among our community.

In Montana, we are headed toward uncertain times. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that our new governor and our statewide elected leaders make good decisions about climate change, the future of our public lands, and the potential of renewable energy development in our state. We will ask them to grow our economy wisely, sustainably, and for all Montanans. We will hold them accountable to their campaign rhetoric and promises.

To that end, thank you for considering MCV in your annual giving plans. As defenders of our clean air and water, our climate, and our public lands, we ask you to "give 'til it hurts." Our commitment is to keep fighting for everything Montana stands for—even when that hurts.

Thank you for your membership, and thank you for being our financial partners in our continued fight for Montana.

*Jock Conyngham*

## Political Update:



After a tumultuous election cycle, MCV stands ready to protect our natural resources and great outdoors at the 67th Montana Legislative Session. Montana voters elected Greg Gianforte to serve as our next Governor, along with a whole host of other legislators who will undoubtedly challenge our conservation values in Helena. An entirely new state government

will take the helm in January, so it'll be up to MCV to make sure Montanans know what is going on in the hallways of the capitol. After the passage of the MCV-supported marijuana ballot measures, the conservation community will be focusing on making sure the Legislature uses the revenue to fund our public lands. Voters passed the measures knowing that the revenue could fund our outdoor places up to \$18 million a year, so it'll be up to us to make sure we get that revenue across the finish line. As always, we will continue to hold politicians accountable and make sure our members know what's at stake for Montana.

## GIVING TUESDAY

**SAVE THE DATE:  
December 1st, 2020**

Established in 2012, *Giving Tuesday* is a global generosity movement that has inspired hundreds of millions of people to give and celebrate generosity. *Giving Tuesday* kicks off the year-end season of giving, and we'd be honored to have your support on this special day. You can donate through our MCV Education Fund Facebook page or visit us at [mtvotersedfund.org/donate](https://mtvotersedfund.org/donate) to make a tax-deductible donation.

You can also make a year-end donation to MCV by sending a check in the enclosed envelope. Your support directly funds the important work of protecting our clean air, clean water, public lands and communities for future generations. **During the month of December 2020, all donations up to \$20,000 will be matched by an anonymous, generous donor.** The holidays are also a perfect time to make a gift in honor or memory of someone special.

## Shop AmazonSmile!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you plan on shopping online this holiday season, did you

know that Amazon will make a donation to the MCV Education Fund on your qualifying purchases? Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and add MCVEF as your charity of choice to make purchases and generate no-cost charitable donations on your behalf.

## Stay Connected!

If we don't have an email address on file for you, please be sure to stay in touch by subscribing to our new e-newsletter at [mtvoters.org/signup](https://mtvoters.org/signup). Follow us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and listen to *MCVcast* wherever you listen to podcasts.



Montana Conservation Voters is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, and membership dues and contributions are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the MCV Education Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit [mtvotersedfund.org](https://mtvotersedfund.org) for more information.