



March 2021



Message from Executive Director

Congratulations to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland!

MCV proudly advocated for Secretary Haaland's historic nomination and her bipartisan confirmation in the U.S. Senate. She is overwhelmingly qualified for the enormous challenges ahead of protecting our public lands, our climate, our natural resources and the countless jobs that rely on all of them. We honor her historic tenure as the first Indigenous person to serve in a cabinet position--and as the federal government's top liaison to Indigenous nations.

Secretary Haaland earned support during her vetting process from the left, the right and the middle. Why? Because she's the right person for the job. Senator Steve Daines, however, tried to make political hay out of her nomination. He voted against her with false claims, putting himself on the wrong side of history... again.

During Secretary Haaland's two-day Senate confirmation hearing, Senator Daines continuously mansplained and interrupted Haaland, using the opportunity to gaslight Montanans by cherry-picking Rep. Haaland's record in Congress. If that's the route Senator Daines wants to go, then he needs to finally answer tough questions about why he supported William Perry Pendley, the anti-public lands zealot who oversaw the Bureau of Land Management for over a year.

But we're not holding our breath. Instead, we're celebrating an important victory for conservation and Montana. We have a lot to do and are grateful for a strong leader in place to get the ball rolling.

And finally, in news from D.C. which you've all surely heard about, Americans will be receiving their third stimulus checks in the mail as early as this week! If you haven't already considered donating your check to MCV, [please consider joining](#) our other members who've already paid it forward!

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Whitney Tawney'.

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

One of the priorities of Montana Conservation Voters during the 67th session of the Legislature is to ensure that Montana's public lands get their fair share of tax revenue from our state's newly passed recreational marijuana program. An overwhelming majority of Montanans voted to make this public lands funding mandatory when they approved the legalization of recreational marijuana (Initiative 190) last November. Still, some lawmakers think funding public lands is optional, and we're working closely with all legislators to make sure they follow the will of Montana voters.

We're tracking several other concerning bills as well, and we're testifying on your behalf whenever we can.

In particular, we're encouraging all lawmakers to reject House Bill 176, which eliminates same-day voting registration in Montana (and moves the deadline to the Monday before Election Day). This bill is a smack in the face to voting rights; it's a solution in search of a problem.

We also oppose House Bill 320 which opens the door for the very dangerous and very real threat of transferring our federal public lands to the state, and eventually privatization. This legislation bars the State from selling any transferred federal lands, a first step in an attempt at a federal land grab by our foes in the Legislature.

And then there's Senate Bill 358, which would result in more pollution in our rivers and streams. SB 358 would eliminate numeric nutrient standards currently established and enforced by

MCV NEWSROOM

Our huge thanks to Mayors John Engen of Missoula, Cindy Andrus of Bozeman and Wilmot Collins of Helena. All three of these champs joined dozens of other mayors from across the country in supporting 30x30--the national effort to protect 30 percent of America's land and ocean by the year 2030. It's not only doable, it's essential for us and for future generations. You can check out their letter online at: bit.ly/30fPdY9.

Our fourth season of [MCVcast](#) is our biggest one yet! And every episode breaks down what's happening at the Montana State Capitol. We report on the bills making their way through the Legislature, the pros, the cons, the people and the issues. We also interview fascinating guests, from activists to journalists to conservation champions to voting rights advocates. Subscribe to [MCVcast](#) wherever you listen to podcasts.

SAVE THE DATE

What's so special about the 6th of April this year? Well, it's 4-0-6 Day, so we're planning an event to celebrate something uniquely Montana: our public lands! We're putting together a SAFE rally on that Tuesday, so that all Montanans can show support for our public lands. There will be a virtual event from **noon to 1pm** for anyone to participate, as well as an option for those of you who want to rally from your vehicle. Check in [HERE](#) over the next couple of weeks for forthcoming event details, but please mark your calendars now!

the Montana Department of Environmental Quality through administrative rules. Without an environmental baseline to maintain, polluters can throw caution to the wind.

These are just a handful of bills making their way through the Legislature. We encourage our members to follow our podcast, *MCVcast*, for regular updates on the bills--good-and-bad that affect our climate, our environment and our public lands. You can listen to *MCVcast* wherever you get your podcasts!

Member of the Month!



Paul Dinkins
Bozeman, MT

1. Why are you an MCV member?

Montana's vast public lands and stream access law are the reasons my family lives here. MCV is unapologetic in its defense of our environment and public lands heritage.

2. What's your top conservation issue and why?

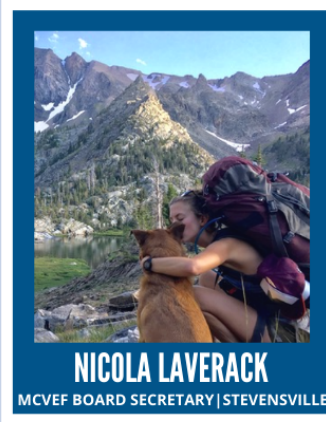
The federal lands transfer movement and efforts to commodify our wildlife for the benefit of the privileged few are threats that feel close right now. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and our diverse public lands are uniquely American and underpin the strength of Montana's economy and its citizens' quality of life.

3. Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

Too many to list, everything, all of it! Each trip down the Smith is a gift, a campsite five days back in a wilderness area, a cut bank on the Big Hole, a skin track in the Beartooths, under a sagebrush in eastern Montana, anywhere hunting with my son.

STAY CONNECTED

THE POWERFUL WOMEN OF THE MCV/EF BOARDS



This month, MCV is highlighting Women's History Month. Follow us on social media (we're on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)) to meet the women who serve on the boards of MCV and the MCV Education Fund, and to see the amazing work of women in conservation.

Donate



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 mtvotersfund.org for more information.

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