

April 2021: Message from Executive Director

Dear Montana Conservation Voters -

It's been a whip quick spring and I'm looking forward to hitting the trails in warmer weather with my toddler and dog in tow.

But before I get ahead of myself in the final weeks of the state legislature in Helena, I want to say thank you. Montana's legislative session has been challenging with attack after attack on our clean air, our clean water, our public lands and our communities. But you have kept showing up, making your voices heard and fighting for future generations, and together we have stopped a lot of bad bills from moving forward. We cannot do this work without your support.

The next few months will be busy. Not only is it the legislature's home stretch, but the Biden Administration is moving full steam ahead restoring balance back to the management of our public lands, addressing climate change head on, making record investments in clean energy, and taking on visionary conservation initiatives like conserving 30% of America's land and water by 2030. This is the kind of leadership we need to keep Montana the last best place.

So please stay engaged, spread the word about our work and [donate](#) when you can.

Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

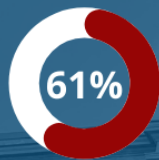
Legislative Update

With the 67th state legislative session coming quickly to a close, don't hesitate to make your voice heard!

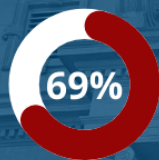
At MCV, we've been pushing legislators all session to fund our public lands with recreational marijuana tax revenue as approved by voters last November in Ballot Initiative 190. **We strongly encourage you to take action this week by [watching our video](#), [signing our petition](#), and sharing our work with your family and friends.** Your voice is important!

SB 379

NEW PUBLIC SURVEY DATA



61% OF RESPONDENTS *OPPOSED* SB 379



69% OF RESPONDENTS HAD *VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS* ABOUT SB 379 BYPASSING THE PSC TO RAISE RATES



60% OF RESPONDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS *REPUBLICAN* HAD *VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS* ABOUT SB 379 RAISING RATES WITHOUT PSC APPROVAL

PUBLIC POLICY POLLING SURVEYED 922 MONTANA VOTERS ON APRIL 12 BY TELEPHONE AND HAS A MARGIN OF ERROR OF +/- 3.2%

Our sister organization, the MCV Education Fund, is also tracking the progress of several bills including SB 379, which would authorize Northwestern Energy to purchase the coal-fired power plant in Colstrip and make Montanans foot the bill - no questions asked! This terrible legislation could raise Montanans' annual energy payments to Northwestern by over \$700 per person. A [recent survey](#) of this legislation by the MCV Education Fund demonstrated broad unpopularity with **69% of Montanans expressing serious concerns about SB 379**. Male or female, young or old, Republican, Democrat, or Independent - Montanans everywhere know that this is a really bad bill! Learn more via [THIS](#) story from the Public News Service and click [HERE](#) to contact your lawmakers and ask them to oppose SB 379 today and spread the word!

But wait! There's more...The MCV Education Fund has made it easy to take action on other legislation - check out our [action center](#) at MontanaPushback.org to learn more. If you're unsure of how exactly to engage with your lawmakers, our handy [legislative guide](#) can be a helpful resource!

MCV Newsroom

THANK YOU!

#KEEPITPUBLIC



On Montana Day, April 6, along with many of our conservation partners we (virtually) gathered Montanans from across the state to rally for our public lands and call legislators to action. With bad bills hitting the state legislature left and right, threatening our public lands, clean air and clean water, this rally united public lands lovers to call on fringe politicians to respect and protect Montana's outdoor way of life. The powerful words of MCV member Andrew Posewitz, Francine Spang-Willis, Conrad Anker and Rachel Schmidt struck a chord with our supporters and with the Montana press. You can read articles covering the event from the [Missoulian](#), [The Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#) and [Q2 Billings](#).

Directly after the rally we held a Vehicle Parade for Public Lands, inviting all of our local conservationists to get loud with us in Helena. We had a small but mighty team circle the Capitol honking and hollering for our public lands. Over 600 people took part in the virtual rally and over 400 supporters took action and contacted their legislators after the two events. If you missed the 2021 Virtual Rally for Public Lands, you can watch a recording of the event [HERE](#).

Member of the Month!



Harry Mitchell
Great Falls, MT

1. Why are you an MCV member?

I believe in the MCV principles and their efforts to “educate” the 2021 Montana Legislature

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

Public lands, fish and game policies and the Montana Land Board --i.e. really keeping Montana “the last best place.”

3. Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

The Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Specifically on a June 1973 float and fishing trip with the “true believers”: Jim Posewitz, Brad Parish, Harry Mitchell, John Kuglin, Don Aldrich, Dale Burk-(unfortunately half have passed).

Voters to Lawmakers: “We voted for our public lands”



This month, Montana Conservation Voters released a new multimedia campaign, titled "[We Voted](#)," pushing legislators to appropriate the tax revenue generated from recreational marijuana sales to our public lands through Habitat Montana, as stated by the language in Ballot Initiative 190. House Bills 670 and 701, which passed the State House of Representatives last week, snub Habitat Montana of any funding from the new tax revenue, putting our public lands on the chopping block. The two bills are now being heard by a select committee on marijuana in the Senate.

I-190 was slated to bring in at least \$18 million annually for the popular state conservation tool Habitat Montana used to improve public access, acquire more public lands, and preserve working farms and ranches. "We Voted" urges Montanans to call on their legislators and demand support for the public lands funding 57% of Montanans voted for in November. The will of the voters is crystal clear on this measure, and we can't stand by while legislators strip away the funding Montanans overwhelmingly supported on both sides of the aisle.

Please share this video widely and encourage your family and friends to support our public lands by [signing our petition](#).

Donate to Support our Work

Your continued partnership is vital in keeping our critical work moving forward.

This month, with a donation of \$50 or more you will be entered into a drawing for an "I LOVE PUBLIC LANDS" Patagonia trucker hat.

Please [DONATE TODAY](#) to help MCV continue to elect leaders to drive positive change, keep Montanans informed about how our elected representatives are performing and keep them accountable.

Stay Connected and Share!

Are you all caught up on the fourth season of [MCVcast](#)? We just wrapped this riveting season with a bonus episode featuring Barrett Kaiser speaking on the rise of "Bundyism" in Montana. This season is filled with exciting political

updates from our team in Helena, as well conservation news from across the country. You can subscribe to *MCVcast* wherever you listen to podcasts. As always, stay in touch and up to date on our work by following us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#)!



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