



## May 2021: Message from Executive Director

Dear Montana Conservation Voters -

With a tough session in the rearview mirror, we're excited to look ahead! And we've got a heck of a lot of work to do.

Please join us on MCV's 2021 Summer Road Tour for a beverage at your local watering hole, consider running for office and stay engaged!

We cannot do this work without you. Our kids, their kids and future generations are counting on us all to protect Montana's outdoor way of life.

Summertime is one of my favorite seasons because of all the memories to be made outside but without places to hike, camp, bike, hunt and fish this all could be a distant memory.

From all of us at MCV, thank you for opening your wallets year after year to support our work and helping us spread the word to connect, protect and elect those who will defend what we hold dear. Together, we can keep Montana the Last Best Place.

Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney  
Executive Director  
Montana Conservation Voters

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## Your 2021 Legislative Scorecard is Here

MCV is excited to release our 2021 Legislative Scorecard this week! This tool provides voters with a clear and concise reflection of the Montana legislative session, summarizing the good and the bad of this tumultuous season.

Throughout the session, MCV identified and determined legislative priorities in collaboration with the Conservation Working Group (CWG), a diverse coalition of organizations working in the legislature. And every Monday, MCV produced "Conservation Hotlists" describing CWG's position on legislation and providing contact information for experts to discuss the issues. Hotlists were distributed to legislators, partners and the public each week.

This scorecard informs the public on how legislators voted on key legislative priorities, holding our elected officials accountable to the priorities of the conservation community and our Montana values.

And despite the unprecedented nature of this session, we were still able to get a whole lot done. We killed catastrophic bills that would have facilitated public land transfer, decimated solar energy investment and undermined

our outdoors. Our historic win this session was the passage of HB 701, which will send millions of dollars to public lands, state parks, trails, working farms, ranches and wildlife each year. Thanks to fierce collaboration between voters like you and our legislators, we were able to safeguard critical conservation funding through our state's recreational marijuana program.

Access the 2021 Montana Legislative Scorecard [HERE](#).

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## Montana News

Senator Jon Tester reintroduced the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA) earlier this month, a critical piece of collaborative legislation built by Montanans to support and protect our outdoor way of life. BCSA is a three part plan to foster a sustainable timber economy, recreation and conservation.

BCSA will create thousands of acres of new multi-use recreation space and add nearly 80,000 acres of stunning landscapes to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Mission Mountains Wilderness areas. BCSA will also protect our crystal clear waters in the North Fork of the Blackfoot, Monture Creek, Swan Front, Grizzly Basin and the West Fork of the Clearwater. These initiatives will help insure Montana remains the Last Best Place, preserving our iconic lands and waters for generations to come.

Senator Tester has once again proven his status as a conservation champion, fighting for Montana values and the places we love to hunt, camp, bike, fish and hike. It's far past time for the rest of the Montana Congressional delegation to remember who they represent in Washington and fight for legislation created by, and for, Montanans. We're keeping the pressure on Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Matt Rosendale to stand up for the Big Sky State, and back Senator Tester's landmark legislation that 75% of Montanans support.

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# Member of the Month!



**Brandon DeMars**  
Helena MT

**1. Why are you an MCV member?**

I grew up in Billings going hunting, fishing and camping with my family so it's only natural that I joined MCV because of their mission of protecting public lands and the special places I care about.

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

My top issue is protecting our stream access laws. Montana rivers are some of the best in the nation because of our stream access laws, so we need to do whatever it takes to make sure they stay the same.

**3. Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?**

I love hiking and fishing in the Beartooths but especially the lakes along the Beaten Path.

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With the 67th session of the Montana Legislature under our belt, here at MCV and the MCV Education Fund we're already excited for this summer and hope you are too! To celebrate the warmer weather and safer conditions, we're hitting the road to grab a beverage with our supporters from across the Big Sky State.

The MCV Road Tour is passing through Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Missoula, Whitefish, Helena, Great Falls, Livingston and Glendive! We'll be stopping at local watering holes along the way to chat about the future of Montana politics and conservation. We can't wait to hear your take on the session and what you see in store for our great state.

Our dates for Billings (May 27), Butte (June 17), Livingston (August 5) and Bozeman (August 27) are already finalized! We'll be scheduling the rest of our events over the next few weeks and posting updates [HERE](#). Stay tuned to find out when we'll be stopping in your neck of the woods.

Make sure to come on by to hear what's on tap for MCV in 2021 and support our local Montana businesses. To RSVP for your local pint night please email Christy at [christy@mtvoters.org](mailto:christy@mtvoters.org).

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## Interested in running for office?

After a session like this, with out-of-touch legislators attacking our clean air, clean water and public lands left and right, it's easy to feel disheartened with the state of Montana politics. But the good news is that these legislators work for us, they answer to us and they can be voted out by us. And even better? You can be the person to run against them.

In order to pass strong public policy that protects our climate and our outdoor way of life for future generations, MCV depends on strong conservation and environmental leaders to step forward and run for office at every level of government.

When it comes to finding future conservation champions, we know MCV doesn't have to look much further than our own members. If you've ever considered running for office or are intrigued by the prospect, please reach out to us!

[CLICK HERE](#) to let us know if you are interested in running for public office! And we'll follow up to answer any questions that you might have. We're here to help! We offer candidates resources and training for all levels of office. Let us help you identify the path towards a successful campaign.

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## Donate to Support our Work

Our last few months sure have been hectic and we couldn't have made it through without you! Your support throughout the session, through your generous donations and immense people power made all of the difference this spring. Thanks to you, we were able to ensure reliable funding for our public lands from the sale of recreational marijuana, as well as trounce the threat of land transfers and keep our utility rates at bay.

Your continued partnership is vital in keeping our critical work moving forward. Please [DONATE TODAY](#) to help MCV continue holding our elected representatives accountable to Montana values.

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## Stay Connected and Share!

Are you all caught up on the fourth season of [MCVcast](#)? We're just about to release a bonus episode recapping the good and the bad of the 67th Montana Legislature, covering impactful bills we lead through to laws and those we halted in their tracks. This season is filled with exciting political updates from our team in Helena, as well as 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 MCV on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)!



Paid for by Montana Conservation Voters  
2822 3rd Ave N Suite 208  
Billings, MT 59101  
United States

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