



SEPTEMBER 2021: MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Fall Montana Conservation Voters!

It's here! It's officially sweater weather and hunting season -wahoo!

As we dive into a long awaited fall with cooler temperatures, Team MCV is excited for the launch of CAMPFIRES FOR CONSERVATION, our Fall Membership campaign. I love this campaign because it's a celebration of BOTH our commitment to conservation and one of the best fall activities ever, CAMPFIRES! What a great, safe way to gather outdoors with friends and family, tell stories about your latest adventure and help spread the word about the work we're doing at MCV.

We decided to launch this campaign in lieu of our in-person gala, which usually takes place in October. Instead, we're inviting you to join us for our virtual KICK-OFF CAMPFIRE coming up next week October 5 at 6PM. Senator Tester will be there with a special toast to MCV and we have more surprises to come. It's a free event but please register [here](#) and consider donating. Donations of \$35 or more will receive an "I Heart Public Lands" facemask.

We also want to thank you for celebrating National Public Lands Day with us! In the coming weeks and months please tag us on social media while enjoying public lands. We can't wait to see and reshare your adventures.

Yours in conservation,

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

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

MONTANA NEWS

Montana's independent Commission on Redistricting and Apportionment is rapidly closing in on their deadline to vote on and approve the new Congressional districts that Montana will use in future elections. After 30 years of only having one voice in the U.S. House, Montana will finally have an additional representative in Washington, D.C. to represent the more than one million Montanans. Fighting for clean air and water, public lands and our outdoor way of life means that we need districts that are fair and competitive. Communities should choose their elected officials, not the other way around!

The Commission will narrow down the hundreds of maps that were submitted from the public on October 5th and then begin deliberations on the final maps on October 19th. This short window means that MCV members only have two weeks to submit written comments to the Commission about the maps they would like to see approved. If you would like to receive more updates about redistricting, you can [sign up here](#).

We're calling on all conservationists to weigh in on this critical process. If we want to adopt congressional districts that are fair, competitive and represent our unique love of the outdoors, we'll need everyone to get involved. In the coming days, we'll be sending out several updates asking for people to submit written comments after the Commission chooses the final maps on October 5 — so please stay tuned!

CLIMATE ACTION NOW: ART ACTIVATIONS IN BOZEMAN & HELENA



Team MCV hit the road over the last few weeks partnering with three different local businesses in Bozeman and Helena to highlight the urgent need for climate action. We teamed up with local Montana artist, Terri Porta, to connect climate issues in the state with the stories of the people and the communities impacted by the climate crisis.

In Bozeman, Terri created bobcat inspired window art at Wild Joe's Coffee Spot and bison chalk art at Bozeman Brewing. In Helena, the Montana Book Company provided the

backdrop for more window art and a press conference with Mayor Wilmot Collins. During these events, Team MCV collected signatures from Montanans urging Senator Jon Tester to continue working towards bold public investments in climate smart solutions, clean energy and tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

Finally, the MCV Education Fund released [a letter](#) to Senator Tester signed by 35 local Montana businesses thanking Senator Tester for his work to include climate provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and Build Back Better Reconciliation bill.

Don't forget: if you haven't signed our public letter telling Senator Tester thanks and keep going, visit testergettingitdone.org. Plus, if you make a donation of \$25 or more, we'll send you a FREE yard sign!

Member of the Month!



Christopher Cordingley
Helena, MT

1. Why are you an MCV member?

I believe in the power of people and the need for action. Montana Conservation Voters is using smart strategies and building a more sustainable life for Montanans, often thanklessly. I also believe in being an active part of the solution. Being a member of MCV is an accessible way for anyone to be part of something bigger than themselves. We need more community in our lives and I'm proud to be of the MCV community seeking common sense solutions to our climate crisis. Also stickers. I love stickers.

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

I have a new niece and she's a queen! She's a concrete example of why we need to preserve our wilderness and build a sustainable economy. I grew up playing outside and we need to make sure it stays clean and accessible.

3. Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

I'm a sucker for the outdoor recreation on Mt. Ascension in Helena. It's a playground for the city that is open and accessible to everyone. Love seeing everyone out there on bikes, hiking shoes, or strollers! Sharing our trails is basic access, and I love seeing it.



CAMPFIRES FOR CONSERVATION - KICK-OFF CAMPFIRE

Pull up a chair and join us on Oct. 5 at 6PM for our virtual Kick-Off Campfire! This free event is the official launch of CAMPFIRES FOR CONSERVATION, our Fall Membership Campaign. Gather 'round the campfire with us as we welcome fall and celebrate our commitment to conservation in Montana. Featuring a special toast to MCV from Senator Jon Tester and much more. **Register now [here](#).** And if you're interested in becoming a sponsor for the event, please be in touch with our Development Director, Angela Swatek at angela@mtvoters.org.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE

Want to use your voice for the cause? Team MCV is looking for Montanans to write Letters to the Editors and Op-Eds on a variety of vital issues including protecting our public lands, promoting clean energy jobs, combating climate change and holding our elected leaders accountable.

Are you interested in making your voice heard? If so, please [sign up here](#) or reach out to our Field Director, Mat Willey at mat@mtvoters.org.

LTEs and Op-Eds are important tools to help amplify important conservation issues from across the state — thank you in advance for lending your voice!

STAY CONNECTED & SHARE

Looking for more ways to get connected with MCV? Follow us on social media [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) where we post highlights from ongoing campaigns and updates about our upcoming events! Check it out and help us spread the word about all things conservation.



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