

MCV MATTERS

CONNECT. PROTECT. ELECT. TURNING MONTANA VALUES INTO PRIORITIES.

December 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy December Montana Conservation Voters!



Dear Friends,

As 2021 comes to a close we are excited for the possibilities of another year dedicated to protecting Montana's public lands, air, water and climate for all.

Despite an anti-conservation governor and attempts by the legislature to gut many of Montana's environmental protections, we have achieved tremendous wins this year. We helped secure new funding for conservation through the legalization of recreational marijuana, helped elect and re-elect conservation leaders to local offices around

the state and we expanded our team to take on more work to protect Montana as the Last Best Place.

MCV is the only conservation organization in Montana that participates in the full election process. We are there from endorsing and supporting pro-conservation candidates to holding electeds accountable once they're in office and to getting voters like you involved in the process. Even during uncertain times, you can count on MCV to keep up the fight to protect Montana's one-of-a-kind outdoor way of life.

If you value this work as much as we do, we invite you to make a year end gift to MCV. Every gift — no matter the amount — will help us finish this year strong and get prepared for 2022, where our energy will be focused on supporting pro-conservation candidates for the congressional and state House and Senate races, leveraging federal investments to help address climate change and ramping up our efforts to reach more Montana voters while holding elected officials accountable to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

**Make your 2021
end of year donation
to MCV today!**



Send your donation via the enclosed envelope or visit our website: mtvoters.org/donate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MCV

Jock Conyngham
CHAIR
Sally Ericsson
VICE CHAIR
Clint Summers
TREASURER
Laura Wood Peterson
SECRETARY
Jill Lombardi
DIRECTOR/
MCV ACTION FUND CHAIR
Shoren Brown
DIRECTOR
Chris Saeger
DIRECTOR
Addison Sessions
DIRECTOR
Tim Sherry
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MCV EDUCATION FUND

Jock Conyngham
PRESIDENT
Jeanne Marie Souvigny
TREASURER
Nicola Laverack
SECRETARY
Robin Saha
DIRECTOR
Addison Sessions
DIRECTOR

STAFF

Whitney Tawney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jake Brown
POLITICAL DIRECTOR
Kristin Cordingley
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Angela Swatek
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Mat Willey
FIELD DIRECTOR
Christy McNeish
OFFICE MANAGER

Top 10 from 2021

[Which one means most to you?]

We're pleased to present our top highlights from MCV and the MCV Education Fund

(Listed in no particular order.)

- 1. SUPPORTED two conservation champions** and Montanans to important federal positions: Tracy Stone Manning as Director, Bureau of Land Management and Martha Williams as Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 2. FULFILLED the will of Montana voters** and secured new funding for conservation through the legalization of recreational marijuana.
- 3. LAUNCHED the Montana Pushback campaign** to keep Montanans informed and equipped to protect Montana's public lands during the 67th legislative session.
- 4. RELEASED our 2021 legislative scorecard** that tracks and grades Montana state legislators on their conservation voting records.
- 5. BROUGHT on three new staff members to Team MCV** to strengthen our efforts to protect Montana's outdoor way of life.
- 6. HELPED more than 3,000 Montanans** navigate the public comment process for Montana's congressional redistricting process.
- 7. SURPASSED our fundraising goal** for our first ever Campfires for Conservation fall membership campaign!
- 8. ELECTED conservation champions to local offices** during the November municipal election — 19 out of 21 MCV-endorsed candidates were elected to office! Winning or protecting six conservation majorities on city councils and commissions in Billings, Bozeman, Helena, Livingston, Missoula and Whitefish while also securing elections for three mayors in Bozeman, Helena and Missoula committed to addressing climate change.
- 9. FILED legal action** with Montana tribes and conservation groups to compel the state to enforce its own "Bad Actor" law against the mining company Hecla's top executive.
- 10. CHAMPIONED** Senator Jon Tester's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Build Back Better Act. Both bring historic funding to Montana, create clean energy jobs and help us build a climate resilient future here in the Big Sky State.



photo: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

A YEAR IN REVIEW:

Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act

BCSA had a big year in 2021 and made real headway for passage in 2022. The bill finally received a hearing in October in the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and now awaits passage out of committee and, ultimately, a full Senate floor vote.

The Montana-made, Montana-supported bill will protect some 80,000 acres of Montana wilderness while opening over 2,000 acres to recreational snowmobiling use and protect another 4,000 acres for biking and hiking access. Protecting Montana's land also puts money back into our local economy; passing BCSA will help grow Montana's robust \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy even further.

Senator Jon Tester first introduced BCSA last session and again in April 2021 at the request of the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project (of which the MCV Education Fund is a proud member) with the support of the local timber industry. Unfortunately, Montana's junior Senator Steve Daines doesn't agree with the more than 70 percent of Montanans who support the bill. MCV will continue to push for the bill's swift passage and encourage Senator Daines to see its many benefits.

Join our call to Senator Daines by visiting mtvotersfund.org and signing our petition today.



photo: MCV Member Deb Carstensen of Condon, MT

Montana to Benefit from Federal Climate Programs

This fall, MCV traveled the state — from Billings to Butte to Kalispell and more — to host nearly a dozen events focused on how Senator Tester’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the robust climate investments in the Build Back Better Act will benefit Montana and help us move toward a clean energy future. We heard resounding support from fellow Montanans outside at college campuses, bookstores, coffee houses, breweries and more. Be sure to stay tuned as we hit the road again once weather permits!

A quick refresher on the upcoming historic climate investments: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, now signed into law, not only brings ample funding to Montana’s aging bridges and rural water projects but also invests in grid-resiliency and infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations. Its companion, the Build Back Better Act, makes historic investments in Montana’s clean energy economy, specifically through the creation of thousands of good-paying, clean energy jobs right here in Montana. The investments from both pieces of legislation put Montana on the right track to fight the effects of climate change and keep us competitive in the clean energy economy.



To learn more and support Senator Tester as he pushes forward climate solutions and more, visit TesterGettingItDone.org!

“Bad Actor” Case Filed Against Baker



Throughout the fall, the MCV Education Fund continued our ongoing and joint efforts to pressure the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to enforce the Bad Actor provision against Hecla Mining Company CEO, Phillips S. Baker, Jr. and its subsidiaries.

In November, the MCV Ed Fund joined with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Ksanka Elders Advisory Committee, Earthjustice, Earthworks, Montana Environmental Information Center, Clark Fork Coalition and Montana Trout Unlimited in legal action against Governor Greg Gianforte urging him to protect our constitutional right to a “clean and healthful” environment by enforcing the Bad Actor provision against Baker.

The coalition also delivered a petition signed by more than 3,000 Montanans to the Governor’s office, calling on him to direct DEQ to enforce the state law.

For more information about the MCV Education Fund, please visit mtvotersedfund.org

ARE YOU READY FOR A PARTY? SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars!

JOIN US!
Friday, March 4, 2022

for our Annual

MCV Member Celebration

at the newly renovated

Holter Museum of Art
Helena, MT

Further details will be announced in the coming months.

Please note: This event is subject to change as we remain committed to protecting Montanans’ health in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will abide by CDC safety recommendations.

MCV Member of the Month



Joshua Lozman
Whitefish, MT

To become a MCV Member, please visit:
mtvoters.org/join-montana-conservation-voters

Why are you an MCV member?

When I moved to Montana, I sought out communities and organizations that are focused on coming together to support progress in our political and policy processes. The combination of focus on mitigating the impacts of climate change and engaging voters in the political process drew me to MCV. The energy and passion for MCV of your Vice-Chair Sally Ericsson also helped! I have found the MCV scorecards and endorsements to be enormously helpful in tracking progress and challenges among our elected officials.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

Supporting a transformation of our energy grid is critical to slowing and eventually stopping the warming of our planet, protecting land and wildlife that make Montana so special, and to creating jobs for millions of people. MCV's work on climate and energy transformation — including recent work on the American Jobs Plan and Infrastructure Bill — are critical to this goal. I am constantly frustrated that the promise of renewable energy for the planet and for creating jobs has become such a politically contentious issue.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

I'm still discovering new ones regularly, but so far I love Windy Pass in the Gallatin Mountains. I don't like the spring mosquito swarms at the bottom of the hike in, but the combination of mountain peaks and endless wildflower fields are stunning!

Get Social with Team MCV!

Are you connected with us yet on social media?

Be the first to hear policy updates and opportunities to get involved by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

@mtvoters   



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Please consider making an end of year donation to MCV.

Your contributions will help us finish out this year strong and set us on a path for success in 2022.

Send your donation via the enclosed envelope or visit our website: mtvoters.org/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 mtvotersedfund.org for more information.