

Happy December Montana Conservation Voters!

As the year comes to a close, I feel proud of everything our team has accomplished because of your support. We finally were able to come together again for in person events, like our Member Celebration in Helena and Annual Gala in Livingston. We had canvassers out in the field earlier this year than ever before. And, we saw meaningful wins for conservation champions during the 2022 midterm elections. Overall, it's been a great year and I'm excited to share our top 10 list of 2022 below!

While we definitely have our work cut out for us during the upcoming legislative session and in 2024, I'm hopeful that conservation values remain at the heart of most Montanans, and that together we can protect our state constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our efforts this year. Your contributions mean the world to us and inspire us to keep fighting. There's a lot of work ahead and we hope you'll stay with us for the long haul.



Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

TOP 10 FROM 2022

We're pleased to present our top highlights from MCV and the MCV Education Fund (Listed in no particular order.)

1. Celebrated passage of historic federal climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act. (learn more at [TesterGettingItDone.org](#)).
2. Elected 34 out of 51 MCV endorsed candidates.
3. Re-elected pro-conservation Supreme Court Justices Ingrid Gustafson and Jim Rice.
4. Knocked 25,000 doors with our MCV and MCV Action Fund canvasses that began in April.
5. Raised and spent over \$370,000 for our electoral campaign to support our MCV-endorsed candidates.



6. Hosted our biggest Annual Gala ever at the Livingston Depot in October.
7. Connected with MCV supporters at eight Pint Nights across the state to talk about the election, redistricting and our public lands.
8. Launched [Partners for the Outdoors](#), our new MCV Education Fund business partner program that helps ensure Montana remains a place where businesses thrive.
9. Honored Montana's three National Monuments through three live art experiences with local artists (see photo below).
10. Completed strategic plans for MCV and the MCV Education Fund to update our mission and vision and outline bold goals for the next four years.



WHAT'S ON TAP FOR THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION



This legislative session, MCV will defend our freedom to access our public lands as well as protect our right to clean air and clean water. In his draft budget despite a \$2 billion surplus, Governor Greg Gianforte proposed eliminating voter-approved funding for our public lands generated through the sale of recreational marijuana. When Montana voters initially approved recreational marijuana on the ballot in 2020, they voted for a portion of the revenue to support conservation programs. Now dubbed the "Montana Outdoor Fund," the funding is intended to unlock access to our public lands through Habitat Montana, support state parks and trails and protect working lands. And the fund is popular with Montanans — a recent University of Montana poll found that 82% percent want to keep using recreational marijuana revenue to protect our public lands.

Thankfully the Governor's proposed budget is not final and we'll be working with you, our partners and the legislature to stand with Montana voters and restore the Montana Outdoor Fund in the final budget.

MCV is also working to protect our Montana Constitution. In 1972, delegates to Montana's Constitutional Convention enshrined a right to a "clean and healthful environment" in our state Constitution. For 50 years the Montana Constitution has protected our environment and public lands but now that's under threat. Powerful interests want to rip up our Constitution, threatening our freedom. In fact, an anti-conservation legislator has already introduced a constitutional amendment targeting our right to a clean and healthful environment. This threat is real and MCV opposes all irresponsible efforts to strip this provision from the Montana Constitution.

Join us as we **PUSH BACK** against out-of-touch politicians who threaten our public lands and outdoor way of life and celebrate those who protect what makes the Big Sky State so great. Sign up today for alerts at [MontanaPushback.org](#) to stay informed and engaged during the legislative session.



MAKING CONNECTIONS IN BOZEMAN

MCV sponsored and tabled at the National Association of Sportsmen's Caucuses hosted in Bozeman November 30 - December 2. We spoke with legislators from Montana and across the country about the need to protect the "clean and healthful environment" provision enshrined in the Montana Constitution. We also spoke to attendees about reinstating funding to the Montana Outdoor Fund in this year's state budget.

Pictured below: MCV Political Director Molly Bell with Montanan Senator Jeff Welborn (left) and Molly with Rep. Andrea Olsen, Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Rep. Marilyn Marler and Rep. Jonathan Karlan (right)



SAVE THE DATES!

December 10 - Public Redistricting Commission Hearing on Tentative Commission Plan 1 (HDP-8) in Helena

December 20 - Redistricting Commission Public Hearing and Work Session in Helena

(More info on these meetings here: [mtredistricting.gov/category/meetings](#))

December 31 - Get your tax-deductible [MCV Education Fund contributions](#) in by year-end!

January 2 - Kickoff of the 68th Session of the Montana State Legislature

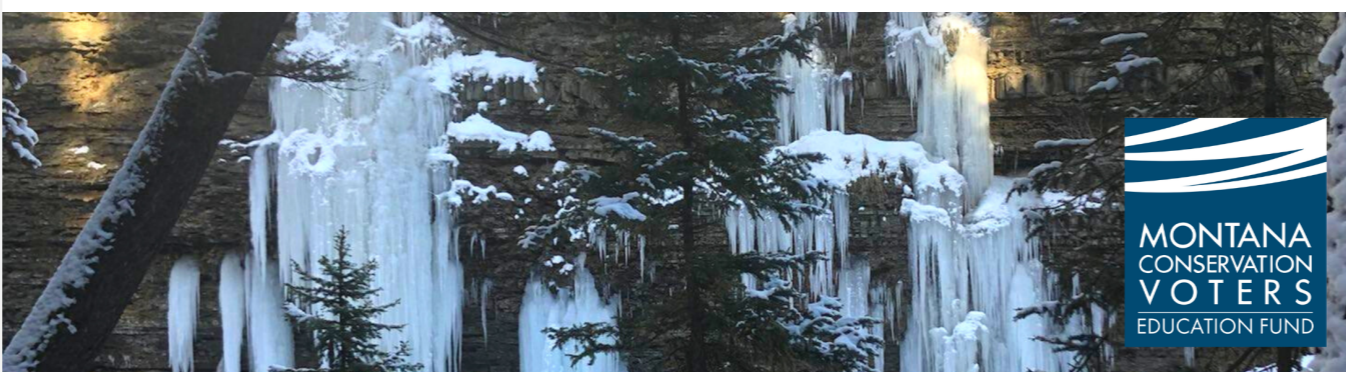
January 19 - Legislative Social at the Hotter in Helena

January 20 - Climate Rally at the Capitol

February 23 - Public Lands Rally at the Capitol

March 3 - Annual Member Celebration at the Hotter in Helena

October 13 - MCV's Gala at the Depot in Livingston



DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN



Giving Tuesday might be behind us but you can still make your end of year donation to the MCV Education Fund. **Donate \$50 or more and receive a 2023 Pups for Public Lands calendar!** Plus, your donation will help support our work to protect our public lands, clean air, clean water and voting rights during the upcoming legislative session. **All donations from now until December 31 will be matched up to \$15,000** thanks to the generous support of the Cimmaron Foundation! We're more than a third of the way there — every dollar counts!

[GIVE HERE](#)

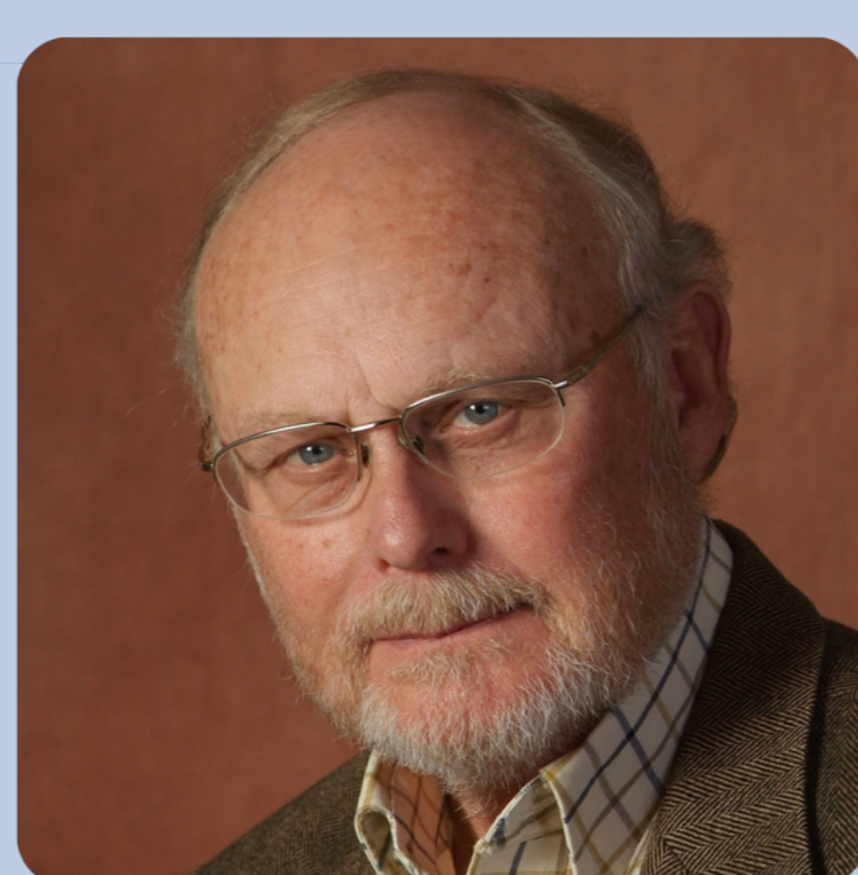
CONGRATULATIONS CONSERVATIONISTS!

Every year, the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame honors the passion and contributions of Montana conservationists. MCV congratulates all 2022 inductees, especially MCV members Stan Bradshaw, Bruce Bugbee, John Gatchell, Land Lindbergh and Barbara Rusmore.

To learn more about the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame and this year's inductees, visit [mtoutdoorhalloffame.org](#).



Member of the Month!



Bob Brown
Whitefish, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

In my public life I've always been sort of "pale green." An influence in the development of that point of view was my friend Phil Tawney, an environmental thinker and idealist who lobbied for clean causes in the legislature when I began service there in the 1970's. When his daughter Whitney contacted me about supporting Montana Conservation Voters, I was eager to join in.

What is your top conservation issue and why?

I'm concerned about the abrupt and great changes in the natural and deep of the Flathead Valley where I grew up. In the bigger picture, global climate is a deep and vital concern to me.

What is your favorite outdoor spot in MT?

Probably my favorite place will always be Swift Creek between Whitefish Lake and Upper Whitefish Lake, where fly fishing in the canyons has brought me great joy since my boyhood.

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We're on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) — all @mtvoters! Follow us and share with your friends!



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