

Happy November, Montana Conservation Voters!

Thank you to everyone who sent in their ballots and showed up at the polls earlier this month. We had some exciting wins for conservation up and down the ballot — 34 out of 51 MCV endorsed candidates won their race! This gives us hope and shows us that conservation values still matter to Montanans. Check out our full election recap below.

We're making a quick pivot to gear up for the upcoming legislative session, which is only a few short weeks away. We're prepared to fight back against anti-conservation leaders who want to scrap our state constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment and hamper all Montanans ability to vote. Have no fear, we'll be watching your elected leaders, making sure they are actually serving you, the people of Montana, rather than special interests. Please stay tuned for opportunities to get involved and take action in support of conservation, our voting rights and more.

Thank you!



Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

ELECTION RECAP: A HOPEFUL FUTURE FOR CONSERVATION

Conservation candidates won up and down the ballot on Election Day in Montana. Although many pro-conservation champions lost their legislative races, there were bright spots on Election Night that point to a hopeful future for our state and a favorable electoral landscape for 2024 and beyond. MCV's political action committee, the MCV Action Fund, is extremely proud of the work our organization did to help elect endorsed candidates this election cycle.

By re-electing pro-public lands Justices Ingrid Gustafson and Jim Rice, Montana voters showed that they are independent thinkers that care where candidates stand on conservation issues. Several legislators running on pro-conservation messages also flipped anti-conservation seats including Paul Tuss in Havre (HD-28), Jonathan Karlin in Missoula (HD-96) and Willis Curdy in Missoula (HD-98)

Throughout the course of this election cycle, MCVAF contacted voters across a variety of mediums using a variety of tactics.

- Our canvass team knocked 10,000 doors this election cycle primarily on behalf of Justice Gustafson and Senate Minority Leader and conservation champion, Senator Pat Flowers in Bozeman (SD 32).

- Over the course of the election, the MCV Action Fund also made 13,000 phone calls, sent 50,000 text messages, distributed 331,000 highly targeted mail pieces and created compelling digital advertisements that were viewed more than 400,000 times on various social media platforms.

Check out coverage of MCV's efforts and victories in [THIS Public News Service](#) story.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FALLS SHORT ON CONSERVATION FUNDING



This month, Governor Greg Gianforte released his draft of the state's two-year fiscal budget with a big hole in conservation funding. The draft fails to include any of the voter-approved revenue from the sales of recreational marijuana for public access investments to the Montana State Parks System, the Habitat Montana Program and non-game for the management of non-game wildlife management programs. Montana is the only state in the nation that has set aside taxes on recreational marijuana sales for conservation purposes.

The relatively new funding source was established by Montana voters, who approved Initiative 1-190 in 2020, and then authorized by lawmakers in 2021 through H.B. 701. From higher than expected recreational marijuana sales this year, conservation was projected to receive more than \$50 million! Cuts to these outdoor programs are being floated while the state faces a nearly \$2 billion surplus from the previous biennium's budget.

Just last month, the Governor used a portion of the marijuana revenue to purchase nearly 5,700 acres to be added to the Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area, opening access to 100k plus acres of public lands to Montanans. We will continue to advocate for more conservation opportunities like the Big Snowies and work hard to see that conservation is fully funded during the 2023 legislative session.

GIVE TO CONSERVATION THIS YEAR (AND GET A CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR!)



Giving Tuesday is November 29, a week from today! Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving where people come together and support the causes that mean most to them. This year, we hope you will consider showing your support for conservation by [contributing to the MCV Education Fund's end of year campaign](#). Thanks to one generous donor, from now until the end of the year your donation will be matched up to \$15,000! As we head into the 2023 legislative session, it's the perfect time to double your impact. And, if you give \$50 or more to our end of year campaign, we'll send you a special MCV Pups for Public Lands 2023 calendar, while supplies last!

[DONATE HERE](#)



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SHOP WITH A PURPOSE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Support the MCV Education Fund while shopping on Amazon this holiday season. Select the MCV Education Fund [HERE](#) and then Amazon will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to us! It's as simple as that.

WE'RE HIRING!

Interested in joining Team MCV? Submit your application to one of our open positions.

- We're looking for a talented **Program Director** to help us move our conservation priorities forward. See the full job description [HERE](#).

- We're hiring an energetic **Communications Manager** to help us create and amplify our messages across platforms. See the full job description [HERE](#).

Member of the Month!

Emma Berry
Billings, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

I'm a member of MCV because they work to protect our clean air and water, our access to public lands, and our democracy in an effort to preserve the Montana we all love. This is important to me, as it should be to all Montanans because it makes the places we share special. Growing up in Central Montana, the clean water of Big Spring Creek was where I spent the majority of my childhood fishing with my family. Over time I've witnessed firsthand the decline of rivers across our state and I recognize that good stewardship is vital to our future. Every year I spend the month of June on the Sun River outside of Augusta. Poor water management means that the majority of the flows from the Gibson Reservoir are diverted for agriculture leaving at times under 100cfs, a nearly uninhabitable environment. MCV fights for the wild places that have become an important part of my life and they fight to preserve them for the next generation.

What is your top conservation issue and why?

My top conservation issue is preserving our constitutional right to access public lands but more importantly, preserving the health of our rivers, ecosystems, and landscapes. It's hard to count the number of public access sites I've been to throughout my life. Public lands are where I learned to fly fish, I've been to build a fire and properly make cowboy coffee, discover wildflowers and paint them with my mom, and gather wild berries for pancakes. I know my time spent there was integral to developing my values and I know these experiences wouldn't have happened without the previous generation's fight to preserve these wild places. Clean water and healthy rivers in combination with public access are what make Montana unique.

What is your favorite outdoor spot in MT?

It's hard to choose! The Sun River, the Boulder River, Big Spring Creek, and the Yellowstone River are all on the top of my list.

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