

A PARTY TO PROTECT THE LAST BEST PLACE!

We can't wait for our 2023 Gala at the Livingston Depot on Friday, October 13. This annual party brings together Team MCV and 200+ conservationists for an evening of local flavors and entertainment. As we enter the 2023 election cycle, coming together to celebrate our wins and prepare for 2024 is crucial.

That's why we are especially thrilled to announce our special guest: Supaman! An innovative, award-winning Native American dancer and hip hop artist, Supaman is a member of the Apsáalooke Nation who grew up in Crow Agency, Montana. His work combines Native, comedic, and urban hip hop cultures, captivating audiences worldwide and spreading resiliency, love, laughter, and inclusion.



Our first two pint nights of the summer were a blast.

At Bonsai Brewing in Whitefish and Gild in Missoula, over 150 conservation champions joined us to talk about the recent legislative session and what's up next.

Sad to have missed the fun? Join us at one of the next pint nights. Our pint nights include hard copies of our legislative scorecard and freshly minted MCV pint glasses for new members (just \$35/year) or an additional donation for current members.



July 24, 6-9 pm - MCV & Vet Voice Foundation Pint Night
The Brothers Tapworks at The Confluence, Helena

August 10, 5-8 pm - MCV Pint Night
Thirsty Street Brewing, Billings

Stay in touch as we confirm more events around Montana this summer, including a pint night in Bozeman!

MCV Member of the Month



Colleen Martin, Helena

Why are you an MCV Member?

Access to the public lands we are blessed with is so important to me, and MCV is the premier resource for information on what legislators are actually doing to protect that access and maintain the Montana way of life.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

Turquoise Lake in the Mission Mountains feels so wild and untouched, but it's fairly accessible for anyone willing to do some hard hiking. It has a similar "wow factor" to Glacier but without the crowds.

How has starting a family impacted how you think about conservation?

My husband was born and raised in Montana, but I grew up in a place without much access to public land. The outdoors is a central part of our lives, and we cannot wait to raise our daughter to value nature and integrate her into all our hiking, camping, and outdoor adventures!



Connect with us on social media!

@mtvoters Stay up to date with Team MCV. We're on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Become a 2023 Gala sponsor!

Sign up to be a Premium or Platinum sponsor by July 7, and your logo will be included on the Save the Date postcard! We also welcome donations for our silent auction.

Questions? Contact Renee at renee@mtvoters.org.

Summer Canvassing



The MCV Education Fund is kicking off a summer canvass, going door-to-door to engage communities in conversations on issues that matter—like protecting our clean air and water and the public lands we all enjoy. As national politics become more polarized, neighbors connecting with neighbors face-to-face is how we will continue to make connections to protect the Big Sky State.

Interested? Email Molly Bell at atmolly@mtvoters.org.

MONTANA
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

MCV MATTERS

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

June 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy June, Montana Conservation Voters!



Dear Friends,

Summer is off to a busy start at MCV, with plenty of work and fun planned for the season ahead. First, now that the legislative session has ended, we're celebrating our leaders who fought for conservation and holding accountable those who did not. MCV's 2023 Legislative Scorecard (mtvoters.org/scorecard) is being used by both press and the people to analyze the votes of our legislators, revealing not what they say about conservation, but what they actually do.

We kicked off our Summer Pint Night tour with packed events in Whitefish and Missoula. Join us at our next stops in Helena (7/24) and Billings (8/10). Make a donation or become a new member at our events and you'll get a newly minted MCV pint glass.

We're also hitting the ground running with canvass teams deploying across the state this summer to talk face-to-face with folks about how policies crafted in DC and Helena affect our local communities. Our canvassers will be going door-to-door to engage Montanans in conversations on issues that matter—like protecting our clean air and water and the public lands we all enjoy.

In the news... Montana has a new director of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and three iconic landscapes in Montana just got \$26 million for restoration projects, as part of the Inflation Reduction Act championed by U.S. Senator Jon Tester. We're looking forward to seeing how this funding benefits our communities and helps us keep Montana the Last Best Place.

Get ready for the fight ahead and happy summer!

Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

JOIN / RENEW



Join or renew for \$35 today and get an MCV sticker to show off your support!
mtvoters.org/join

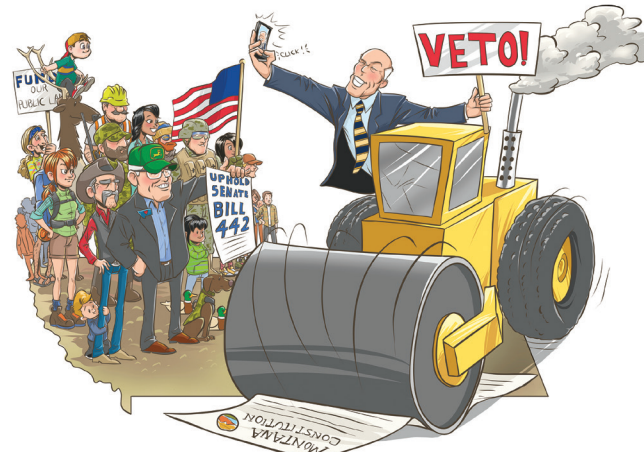
Montana Conservation Voters is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, and membership dues and contributions are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the MCV Education Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit mtvotersfund.org for more information.

2023 Legislative Scorecard and Wrap Up

The short, jam-packed nature of Montana's unique citizen Legislature can make it hard to keep up with what's happening in Helena. Elected leaders often say one thing when talking to constituents and then do the exact opposite when it's time to legislate.

That's why we design our 2023 Legislative Scorecard (mtvoters.org/scorecard) to cut through the noise and focus on the facts. It's a detailed report to the people of Montana, recording how every member of the legislature voted on the most critical bills affecting public lands, conservation, and democracy. It allows Montanans to celebrate and thank our leaders who fought for conservation and to hold accountable those who did not. It goes into detail about the most important issues of the session and highlights those whose actions earned them a place on the Honor Roll. Please give it a read if you haven't already done so, then—and most important—reach out to your legislators and let them know what you think of their scores and votes.

Protecting public lands funding from recreational marijuana revenue was one of the most contentious and difficult fights of the session. As most of you know, Governor Greg Gianforte used shady tactics to veto **SB 442, a bipartisan bill that garnered over 85% of the legislature's support and support** from hunters, hikers, veterans, counties and many other communities



across the state. In doing so, the Governor **took tens of millions of dollars away** from our public lands, rural communities, and veterans. The impacts of the Governor's inexplicable veto still aren't clear, so it's imperative that we **keep fighting to save SB 442 and keep the pressure on Governor Gianforte.**

Want Governor Gianforte to be reminded of the importance of public lands funding on his way to work every day? Contribute via the QR code enclosed here to help us get the above cartoon onto a billboard in the heart of Helena. Help Governor Gianforte learn that, regardless of party, Montanans know SB 442 provides common sense funding to protect the public lands we all cherish!



Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Appoints a New Director

Upon the retirement of Hank Worsech, Governor Gianforte appointed Deputy Director Dustin Temple to lead Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Temple has worked at Montana FWP since 2004. This is an incredibly important position in the state of Montana as the FWP Department has historically been seen as one of the leading departments for scientific research. We as Montanans do not take this lightly as many of the decisions that the Director makes will impact our hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching, and conservation resources for generations to come.

As Director Temple steps into this role, we think it is important that he consider what the people of the state expect, so that FWP can maintain its reputation as a thoughtful, rigorous, and science backed agency. Please take a look at the MCV Wishlist!

MCV Wishlist for the New Director:

- ✔ Dedicated to expanding, restoring, and care-taking our public lands, waters, fish, and wildlife for the benefit of this and future generations
- ✔ Ensures that Montana's strong public lands and stream access laws and ethics are maintained
- ✔ Prioritizes scientific research through internal programs and partnerships with universities across the state
- ✔ Committed to transparency and public engagement through the elevation of Citizen Advisory Councils
- ✔ Committed to leading an agency which prioritizes science based fish and wildlife management that does not benefit commercial interests over the interests of Montanans
- ✔ Prioritizes the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat by utilizing important programs such as Habitat Montana and Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- ✔ Ensures that the agency maintains a positive and collaborative working environment with federal agencies, especially relating to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funding.

BLM Gives \$26 Million for Three Montana Restoration Projects

Great news! The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has allocated \$26 million for restoration projects in three of Montana's largest and most important landscapes. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland made the announcement on May 31, saying the "Restoration Landscapes" program will invest \$161 million into ecosystem restoration and resilience on the nation's public lands as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. This work, led by the Bureau of Land Management, will focus on 21 "Restoration Landscapes" across 11 western states and will range from restoring wildlife habitat in the sagebrush steppe of the high desert to re-creating wetland meadows to repairing watersheds on former industrial timberlands.

The funding comes from the Inflation Reduction Act and will leverage close to \$40 million that the BLM has already deployed from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for restoration activities.

“If we are going to ensure America’s public lands are available to everyone, we must invest in their health.”

— Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior

"The pressures on our public lands – from invasive species, unprecedented wildfires, drought and increasing use – are being exacerbated by the climate crisis, degrading landscapes and impacting public uses," said Secretary Haaland. "If we are going to ensure America's public lands are available to everyone, we must invest in their health. Through the President's Investing in America agenda, we will increase the ability of public lands to provide clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife, opportunities for recreation, and other important benefits."

Montana landscapes were chosen for three of the 21 restoration areas. The Missouri Headwaters region is getting \$10 million, the Blackfoot-Clark Fork landscape east of Missoula is getting \$9.54 million, and north of the Missouri River and Fork Peck Reservoir, the High-Line Sagebrush Anchor, is getting \$6.76 million. According to the BLM, they focused on areas where the funds would have a big impact in protecting important areas from threats like wildfire and also restore critical habitat in a way that endures for decades to come.

The participation of local communities and partners is also a key component of the program, and the BLM stressed that the projects won't bar other land uses in the regions.

"With today's investment, we will be able to pass these lands to future generations in better shape than we find them today," said BLM Director (and Montanan) Tracy Stone-Manning. "We're thrilled to be able to put people to work to benefit wildlife habitat, clean water and the overall health and productivity of our public lands."

This is great news, and again, an opportunity brought about by Senator Tester's work championing the Inflation Reduction Act. Stay tuned for more as this exciting work begins.



The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act: public lands protections by, and for, Montanans

In western Montana lies the pristine Blackfoot Watershed, incredible habitat with healthy populations of bears, moose, deer, elk, and wolverines. The rivers and streams contain cold, clear water that supports Montana native fishes such as westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and sculpin. No matter who you are, you can find something special about this landscape. That is why, for more than a decade, Montanans of all stripes have worked to find a lasting solution to protect this landscape. That solution is the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA).

BCSA is a soon to be reintroduced federal public lands protection bill sponsored by U.S. Senator Jon Tester and supported by 84% of Montanans. You'd be hard pressed to find something else that 84% of people agree on, which is why now is the time for Congress to pass BCSA. By expanding key areas of wilderness, BCSA provides protection for the headwaters of one of western Montana's most popular and beloved rivers. The Act also incorporates special recreation areas to ensure that these areas can be enjoyed, as they are, for generations to come.

Have a story about the Blackfoot-Clearwater landscape that you'd like to tell? Get in touch via mcv@mtvoters.org!