

Happy July, Montana Conservation Voters!

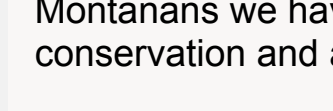
Summer is here and Team MCV is marching ahead. Now 118 days until the election, our efforts are focussed on November to ensure that champions of democracy and conservation are elected at all levels of government.

To stay connected with our communities, we're on the road and can't wait to see you at one of our upcoming events. Our next stop is on July 22 in Helena followed by evenings in Bozeman and Billings. But that's not all! Our Gala is set for October 5 and our Field Organizers host so many community events. For more details, be sure to check out our full list of events below!

Even in the midst of our busiest season, we want to make sure to thank you for your continued support. We can't do our work to protect Montana as the Last Best Place without supporters like you. Your membership fuels our fire and helps us continue fighting to protect Montana for future generations.

To help Team MCV celebrate our 25th anniversary, please share why you're an MCV member with your family and friends and encourage them to become members too. The more Montanans we have standing with us, the stronger we are together to stand up against anti-conservation and anti-democracy attacks threatening our future.

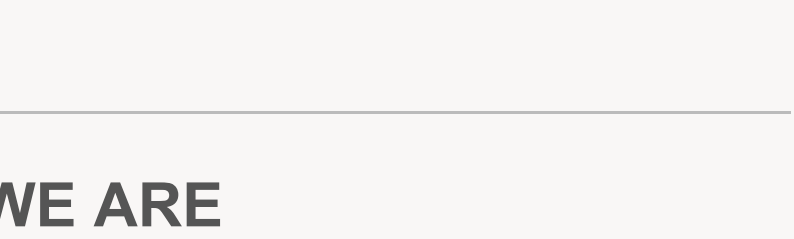
Thank you, and GO, FIGHT, WIN!



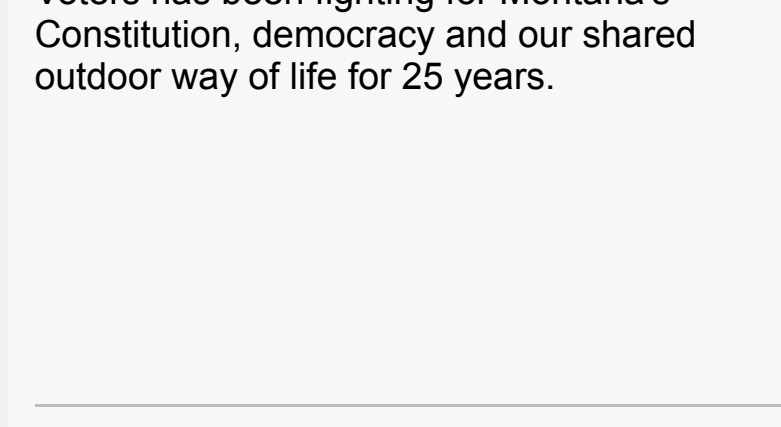
Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

WHO WE ARE

Who's Team MCV? Montana Conservation Voters has been fighting for Montana's Constitution, democracy and our shared outdoor way of life for 25 years.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL GALA



In 2023, Team MCV built power with new partnerships, elected with members in 15 statewides, and elected 15 public opinion candidates in municipal races across the state.

Though we're in the middle of summer, we can't help but look forward to the fall and the annual MCV Gala to celebrate MCV's legacy of 25 years. Watch your mailbox this month for an invitation to MCV's annual party to protect the Last Best Place on October 5! We hope to see you in Livingston for an incredible evening celebrating MCV, conservation, democracy and everyone who makes our work possible.

Don't miss out on this special event! Get your tickets today at mtvoters.org/gala.

Want to help bring this event to life? Become a 2024 Gala sponsor!

Each sponsorship level comes with tickets to the Gala and special ways to connect with MCV's supporters before and during the event.

We also welcome donations of quality gear and outdoor experiences to our silent auction.

Show your clients and community that you care about Montana by supporting MCV and sponsoring the best party in the West today by visiting mtvoters.org/gala.

TELL REP. ZINKE TO STAND WITH MONTANANS

The latest survey from the University of Montana shows 85% of Montanans support the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA) - that's the highest level of support yet!

BCSA is homegrown legislation that will add nearly 80,000 acres to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains Wilderness Areas and safeguard the four most critical tributaries of the storied Blackfoot River. In doing so, it will also help grow Montana's \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy, provide for appropriate forest management, and establish two outdoor recreation areas north of Ovando.

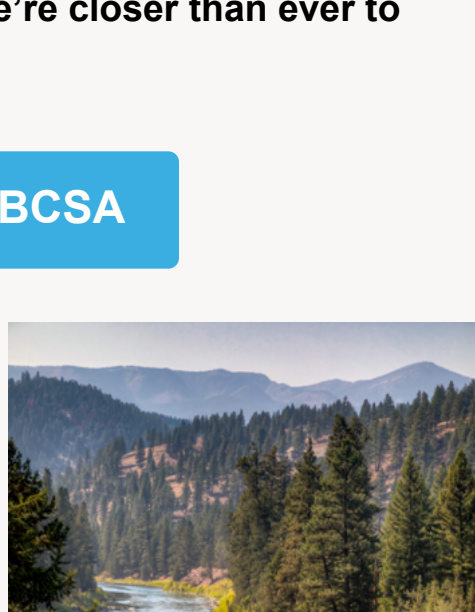
After years of collaboration and overwhelming public support, **we're closer than ever to getting BCSA passed.**

TELL REP. ZINKE TO SUPPORT BCSA

This popular bill championed by Sen. Jon Tester is now set for a vote on the U.S. Senate floor. However, it has yet to be introduced in the House of Representatives, which would maximize the chances that BCSA will be passed and become law this year.

Please help us tell Rep. Ryan Zinke to support this common-sense, collaborative solution by introducing a companion bill in the House. Send a note TODAY and share with your friends and family to help us move BCSA forward!

Thanks in advance for standing up for Montana's public lands!



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR POWER



Voting has not always been a default right for all Americans. Even now, there are many barriers to ensuring that the voices of all Americans are heard at the polls. It's important to be informed so that your voice can be heard! To learn more about voting in Montana, please visit mtvotersfund.org/voting.

Sign up [HERE](#) for a postcard reminder to vote this election!

Remember that YOUR VOTE, especially when combined with others in your local area, can directly influence electoral results – especially in our local and state elections.

MCV ENDORSEMENTS

Montana is quickly approaching the November election, and it is critical to stay informed and know your candidates. Following the primary election, MCV's independent PAC board endorsed the following 19 candidates for the State Legislature:

State Senators:

- Link Neimark (SD 5)
- Karen Lincoln (SD 26)
- Bruce Shultz (SD 39)
- Devin Jackson (SD 45)

State Representatives:

- Beth Sibert (HD 8)
- Shirley Azzopardi (HD 13)
- Jane Weber (HD 19)
- Andrea Payne (HD 37)
- Melissa Smith (HD 39)
- Alexander Clark (HD 43)
- James Reavis (HD 47)
- Scott Rosenzweig (HD 57)
- Josh Seckinger (HD 62)
- Brian Close (HD 65)
- Carl Anderson (HD 67)
- Nancy Jane Lien (HD 75)
- Luke Muszkiewicz (HD 79)
- Pete Elverum (HD 82)
- Melody Cunningham (HD 97)

You can find the full list of MCV-endorsed candidates on our website linked below.

MCV-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

SAVE OUR SMITH

The Smith River is Montana's only permitted river and is one of its most beloved. This remote area provides incredible habitat for fish and wildlife as well as unparalleled fishing and hunting opportunities, and holds cultural significance for Montana's First Peoples. The Smith River is also a lifeblood for southwest Montana, hosting important grazing lands for Montana ranchers in addition to recreational opportunities that generate \$11 million annually in economic activity for the region.

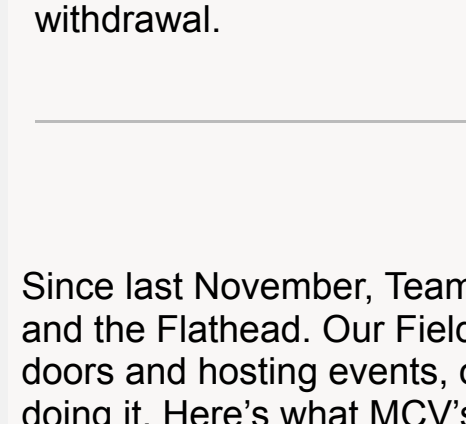
Despite all of this, an Australian mining company called Sandfire Resources wants to develop a large underground copper mine near the headwaters of Sheep Creek - an essential tributary to the Smith River. The project, known as the Black Butte Copper Mine, threatens to release acid mine drainage and wastewater containing arsenic and other toxins into the river, thereby posing a serious threat to the local fisheries, ranches, and recreational opportunities that are dependent on good water quality.

ASK THE FOREST SERVICE TO PROTECT THE SMITH RIVER

Sandfire's current proposal is to operate on private land. However, the mining company has leased parcels of nearby Forest Service land, and is eyeing expansion into these areas. While only the courts can decide the outcome of what happens on private land, the Forest Service can issue an administrative mineral withdrawal blocking expansion so that the public lands surrounding the mine can remain available for hunting, fishing, camping, and grazing, among other uses. Speak up now to #SaveOurSmith! Fill out [THIS FORM](#) to send a note asking U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief Chris Smith and Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor Emily Platt to protect the Smith by issuing an administrative mineral withdrawal.

FIELD NOTES

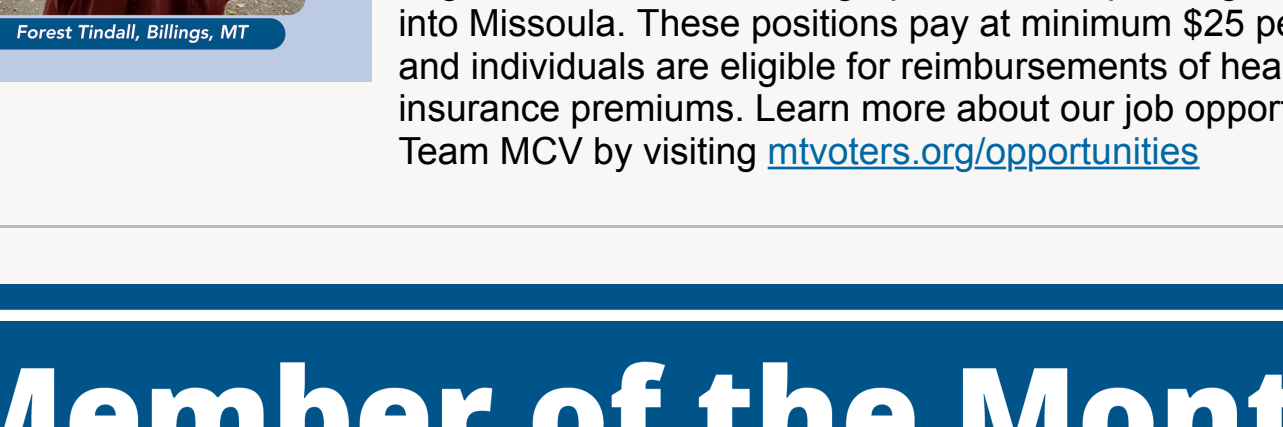
Since last November, Team MCV has had Field Organizers on the ground in Billings, Bozeman, and the Flathead. Our Field Teams are the face of MCV in our communities. Through knocking doors and hosting events, our Field Organizers are making an impact – and having fun while doing it. Here's what MCV's Field Organizer, Forest Tindall of Billings, has to say about being a member of Team MCV:



"With the current state of the world, working in the workplace has always been a sticky subject. Working with MCV has been an amazing and eye-opening experience, especially as we gear up to support the LGBTQIA+ community this month. I have never felt more accepted and even encouraged to be myself in a job. MCV is an amazing place to work for many reasons, but for now it's because of the acceptance!"

Know anyone who may be interested in becoming an MCV Field Organizer? We're still hiring - plus we're expanding our efforts into Missoula. These positions pay at minimum \$25 per hour and individuals are eligible for reimbursements of health insurance premiums. Learn more about our job opportunities at Team MCV by visiting mtvoters.org/opportunities

Member of the Month



Doug James
Billings, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

I am a member of Montana Conservation Voters because its mission aligns perfectly with the Montana Constitution and the responsibilities we all share to protect and enhance our environment for present and future generations. The Montana Constitution, specifically Article IX, section 1, mandates that the state and each individual shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana. By supporting leaders who uphold these principles and holding accountable those who do not, MCV ensures that our air, water, public lands, and democracy are safeguarded. We have a duty to hold our government accountable to fulfill this constitutional mandate, and MCV plays a crucial role in this effort.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

My top priorities for MCV is the preservation and protection of our democracy. In these unprecedented times, our way of life and the fundamental rights of countless individuals are under threat. We are fervently defending the right to vote, the right to participate in our democratic processes, and the right to access information. In tandem with these efforts, safeguarding public access to public lands remains a critical concern. There are forces at work that seek to privatize these treasured lands for personal gain, and we are steadfast in our commitment to preventing this. Equally pressing is the issue of climate change, which stands as both an urgent challenge and a profound moral imperative. The impacts of a changing climate are far-reaching, affecting millions of people and entire nations, leading to widespread disruption. The urgency of this situation cannot be overstated; it is our duty and obligation to act decisively for the sake of present and future generations. We are driven by a sense of responsibility to uphold these values and ensure a better, more sustainable world for all.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

One of my favorite outdoor spots in Montana is the Memorial Falls Trail in the Little Belt Mountains, just outside of Neilhart. This stunning area features a picturesque waterfall and a charming trail that meanders through the lush forest. When driving between Great Falls and White Sulphur Springs, it's the perfect spot to stretch your legs and enjoy a refreshing hike. In the winter, the trail transforms into an idyllic snowshoeing destination, offering a serene and almost magical quietness that is difficult to put into words.

SAVE THE DATES

JULY

- July 11: **FLATHEAD** Whitefish Gallery Night (Walking Man Frame Shop and Gallery, 5-8 p.m.)
- July 11: **BOZEMAN** Paint 'n' Sip (Steep Mountain Teahouse, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)
- July 13: **BILLINGS** Strawberry Festival (This House of Books, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- July 13: **LIBBY** Lincoln County Pride (Kootenai Memorial Center, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- July 19: **BOZEMAN** Ladies Day Night (Glen Lake Rotary Park, 4-7 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)
- July 20: **DILLON** Bannack Days (Patagonia Outlet, 12 p.m.)
- July 20-21: **BILLINGS** Yard Sale (First Congregational Church, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 a.m.-12 p.m.)
- July 22: **HELENA** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Brothers Tapworks, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)
- July 24: **BILLINGS** Trivia Night (The Casual Space, 6 p.m.)

AUGUST

- August 5: **BOZEMAN** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Bridger Brewing, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)
- August 12: **BOZEMAN** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Bridger Brewing, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)
- August 15: **BILLINGS** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Thirsty Street Brewing, 5-9 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

OCTOBER

- October 5: MCV's Annual Gala in **LIVINGSTON** (5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

Stay connected with Montana Conservation Voters by following us on social media to be informed about our Summer Road Tour, events, endorsements, educational resources and so much more! It's the best way to engage with our latest updates and be a part of our conservation and election efforts across the state. Follow us today to join the movement to protect Montana for future generations.



Paid for by Montana Conservation Voters
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MCV is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. 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 to learn more.

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