

Happy June, Montana Conservation Voters!

Summer is off to a strong start at Team MCV. With the legislative session behind us, we're turning our focus to accountability, action, and community connection.

A Personal Farewell

As my time at MCV has come to an end, I want to share my heartfelt thanks to all of you — our members, partners, and friends — for making these past seven years so meaningful. It's been the honor of a lifetime to lead this team and fight for the Montana we all love.

From my first board meeting with a baby on my lap to today, I've grown so much as a mom, a leader, and an advocate. I'm incredibly proud of all we've accomplished together and will carry this experience with me forever.

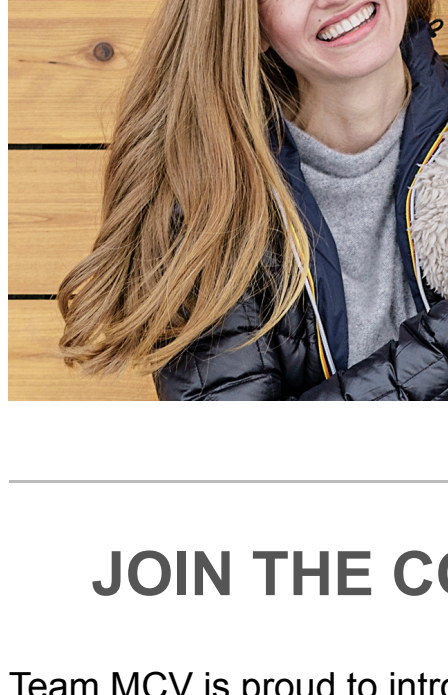
Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the power of people working together to protect this place we call home. I'm leaving with deep gratitude and full confidence in the capable hands of Renee Kelley, our Operations Director, who is stepping in as Interim Executive Director until we find MCV's next permanent leader. Her leadership, experience, and commitment to MCV's mission will serve the organization well.

Looking Ahead

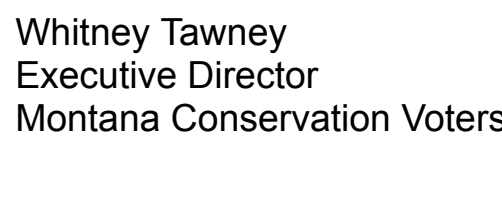
The Summer Pint Night Tour is underway! We kicked things off with packed events in Helena, Whitefish, and Livingston last week — and we're just getting started. Read on to get all the details about joining us in Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings.

Our regional organizers have events planned all summer long you won't want to miss. And don't forget, Public Lands Month is coming up in September and that means the return of our annual Pups for Public Lands photo contest. *Crush that hashtag #pupsforpubliclands!*

I hope to see you on the trails, in the mountains, and enjoying our beautiful state — but I also hope to see you raising your voices. Although my chapter with Team MCV is complete, let's keep showing up, speaking out, and standing strong for the Montana we believe in — together we can protect Montana as the Last Best Place.



Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

JOIN THE CONSERVATION IMPACT PARTNERS

Team MCV is proud to introduce the Conservation Impact Partners, a special circle of donors who give \$1,000 or more annually to support our mission of protecting Montana's public lands, clean air and water, and democracy.

This program is more than just a giving level — these partners are building a stronger, more resilient Montana. Impact Partner contributions provide critical, flexible funding that fuels our bold vision: a Montana where elected leaders put conservation first, where every voter has a voice, and where future generations inherit a healthy environment and a thriving democracy.

As a member of this group, you'll receive exclusive benefits such as:

- Invitations to private events and briefings
- Early access to important updates
- Recognition in Team MCV publications
- A deeper connection to our advocacy and impact

This program helps sustain our year-round advocacy — from boots-on-the-ground organizing, to voter education and legislative defense. If you're ready to expand your role in shaping Montana's future, we invite you to join us.

Are you ready to level up for the Montana's vast landscapes? Then join us as a Conservation Impact Partner.

Learn more at mtvoters.org/give/conservation-impact-partners

BECOME A PARTNER TODAY

THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD IS LIVE

The session may be over, but accountability is just beginning. Our [2025 Legislative Scorecard](#) is now out. The Scorecard is your comprehensive guide to how every state legislator voted on key bills impacting Montana's environment and democracy.

You'll see how lawmakers voted on major legislation, including two critical conservation funding bills: HB 932 and SB 537 — both focused on protecting and expanding how marijuana tax revenue is used in Montana.

You'll also find a list of lifetime champions, new lawmakers to watch, and those who tried to undermine what makes Montana the Last Best Place.

Want to learn how your legislators stacked up? Click the button below to check out our 2025 Legislative Scorecard!

READ IT HERE

STAND UP AGAINST THE RATE HIKE

Thank you to everyone who showed up at the "Rally Against the Rate Hike" yesterday in Helena! Your energy, voices, and signs sent a powerful message to the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC): **Montanans are fed up with skyrocketing energy bills and being ignored by a monopoly utility that puts profits over people.**

But the fight isn't over yet.

NorthWestern Energy recently **slapped customers with a 17% rate increase, about \$204 a year for the average household, without PSC approval or even notifying the public.** The company exploited a little-known Montana law that allows monopoly utilities to impose their requested rates if the PSC doesn't rule within nine months. That's exactly what happened with NorthWestern's July 2024 rate request.

Now, the company wants even more money to fund a **\$310 million methane gas plant in Laurel** and other outdated fossil fuel projects. Instead of investing in affordable, renewable energy like wind and solar, NorthWestern continues to chase profits by building expensive infrastructure — because the more it spends, the more it earns. Montanans are left footing the bill.

Let the PSC know enough is enough. They're **accepting public testimony throughout the hearing, and you can sign up to testify in person or online** by calling or emailing the contacts below. You need to sign up to testify at least one day ahead of time. We are encouraging small business owners to testify on June 13, so be sure to get in touch with the PSC by June 12.

- Call (406) 444-6199
- Email pschelp@mt.gov
- Or send a message through our advocacy form [HERE](#).

So sign up TODAY to testify or submit a public comment. **Every voice counts.**

URGENT: Your Voice is Needed to Protect our Public Lands!

Thanks to the efforts of Representative Ryan Zinke, a dangerous amendment that would have allowed for the sale of up to 500,000 acres of public land in Utah and Nevada was removed from **Congress's budget reconciliation bill**. We were initially relieved, because this provision would have threatened public lands used for hunting, fishing, and recreation all across Montana.

But now, [E&E News reports](#) that Senator Steve Daines is working to reintroduce language to sell off public lands.

This threat is *on top* of the attacks to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Montana's public lands in the **White House's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget**.

What can you do to help?

1. **Call Sen. Daines TODAY at (202) 224-3121** and urge him to reconsider this flip-flop on the budget reconciliation bill. Tell him to join Rep. Zinke in demanding that public lands sales stay off the table.
2. **Click the button below** to tell Montana's federal delegation to oppose the harmful budget cuts in the White House's proposed FY 2026 budget.

Contact Montana's Federal Delegation

Together, let's make it loud and clear: **Montana's outdoor way of life is worth protecting and we will not tolerate any threats to our public lands.**

DON'T MISS OUT: PINT NIGHTS ARE COMING TO YOU

Montana Conservation Voters is halfway through our 2025 Summer Road Tour! We kicked off with events in Helena, Whitefish, and Livingston last week, and we've got more in the works. Join us at an upcoming stop for an evening of local brews for a good cause, meaningful conversation, and community connection:

- **Missoula** – June 30 | 5–8 PM | **GILD (RSVP HERE)**
- **Bozeman** – July 9 | 5–8 PM | **Bozeman Taproom (RSVP HERE)**
- **Billings** – July 24 | 5–8 PM | **Thirsty Street Brewing Co. (RSVP HERE)**

Meet Team MCV, hear about our work during the 69th Legislature, and learn how you can help keep up the pressure on key conservation issues facing Montana!

FIELD NOTES

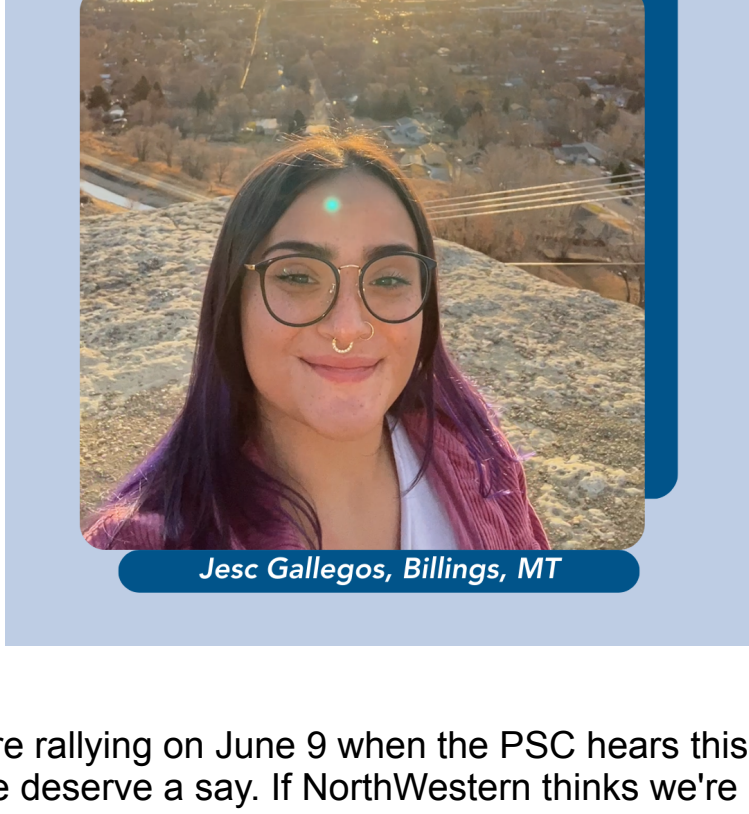
NorthWestern Energy's latest rate increase is hitting home for Montanans. As we're in the middle of a critical rate case hearing, our team is mobilizing to make sure our voices are heard. In the field note below, Jesc Gallegos reflects on what this rate hike means in her own life, and why speaking up matters.

"No press release. No email. No warning. Just a surprise 17% rate hike! I pay that bill every month. I know what that increase looks like in real life. It's groceries, gas, rent. Not just some number on a spreadsheet. It's real, and it hits hard.

NorthWestern Energy used a loophole to push the hike through and now here we are: paying more for energy from a gas plant that isn't even fully running. It's frustrating. It's shady. And it feels like we're being played.

What gets me is how easy it would be to let this slide. To throw my hands up and say, 'Well, that's just the way it is.' But I can't. This affects all of us—my friends, my family, my neighbors. People are already choosing between what bill to pay first every month.

So yeah, I'm mad and fired up. That's why we are rallying on June 9 when the PSC hears this case in front of the public. Our voices matter. We deserve a say. If NorthWestern thinks we're going to sit quietly while they take more from us every month... they are wrong."



Member of the Month



Bob Mackin
Billings, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

MCV keeps me informed on environmental and legislative matters, allowing me to vote intelligently. MCV gives me great talking points so I can rally my friends and neighbors.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

Protecting Montana's land and water for present and future generations. Promoting small scale solar projects.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

The Yellowstone River at John H. Dover Memorial Park in Billings

SAVE THE DATES

STARTING THIS WEEK: PSC hearing on NorthWestern Energy rate hikes (read more and sign up above 🙌👉)

June 11: *Municipal Candidate filing closes*

June 30: Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, GILD Brewing in Missoula ([RSVP HERE](#))

July 9: Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Bozeman Taproom in Bozeman ([RSVP HERE](#))

July 24: Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Thirsty Street Brewing in Billings ([RSVP HERE](#))

September 9: *Municipal Primary Election Day*

October 11: Annual Gala, Livingston Depot in Livingston ([RSVP HERE](#))

November 4: *Municipal Elections*

STAY CONNECTED

So much is happening at MCV this summer! Our 2025 Legislative Scorecard is out, and we're right in the middle of our annual Summer Road Tour. We always have more events, updates, and ways to engage. Want to stay informed? Click the icons below to follow us on social media so you can keep up with all things MCV!



Paid for by Montana Conservation Voters
432 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite J
Helena, MT 59601
United States

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