

Happy July, Montana Conservation Voters!

It's a special time of year in Montana, with long, warm days and endless opportunities to get outside and enjoy the landscapes that make this place home. It's always a challenge to fit everything in, and this summer is no different for Team MCV. We've got a lot happening in the weeks ahead.

First, what's summer without a road trip? Our Summer Road Tour is nearing its end, with a final stop in Billings. Bring a friend or two and join us for a cold drink, community, and a chance to learn how you can stand up for Montana's clean air, clean water, and public lands.

During this month, we (along with the rest of the national conservation movement) have been focused on a serious threat that almost slipped through: an unprecedented proposal in the federal budget reconciliation bill that would have forced the sell-off of public lands across the West. Thanks to a clear ruling from the Senate Parliamentarian and strong public opposition from across the country, the proposal was withdrawn from the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill."

Your voices helped stop a major, explicit attack on public lands, and it was a powerful reminder of what public engagement can achieve. But the threat hasn't disappeared. The reconciliation bill was ultimately passed with massive giveaways to oil and gas companies that undermine decades of bipartisan conservation efforts. Furthermore, funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund remains at risk. Staying informed, involved, and united is more important than ever — and Team MCV is here to help you do just that.

Read on to dig deeper and learn how you can help hold the line for Montana. And if you're in Billings, swing by our Pint Night next Thursday, July 24 — we've got work to celebrate and more ahead!



Yours in conservation,

Renee Kelley
Interim Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

JOIN THE SUMMER SUSTAINERS

Make a monthly gift for Montana's future

At Montana Conservation Voters, we know that protecting what we love — our public lands, clean water, healthy communities, and democracy — takes consistent, year-round work. That's why, this July, we're celebrating the people who make it all possible year-round: our monthly donors.

Monthly giving is powerful. It provides the steady, reliable support we need to organize on the ground, show up in Helena and D.C. to defend our environment, and ensure every Montanan's voice is heard at the ballot box.

When you [start a new monthly donation or upgrade your current one this month](#), we'll send you our **exclusive MCV cup as a thank-you!** Whether you're hitting the trail or relaxing on the porch, it's a reminder that you're helping protect the places and values we all cherish.

[SET UP a new monthly donation now!](#)

And now, managing your giving is easier than ever! With our new [Donor Self-Service Portal](#), you can:

- Update your contact information
- Adjust or upgrade your monthly gift
- View your full giving history

[UPGRADE existing monthly donation or change payment information here!](#)

Together, our Summer Sustainers form the backbone of Montana's conservation movement. **Join us in building a stronger, more sustainable future month by month.**

KEEPING UP THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC LANDS TOGETHER

In late June, we saw a major victory for Montana: [the proposed public lands sell-off was not included in the language](#) of the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" considered by the U.S. Senate. This is an important win for everyone who believes public lands should remain in public hands.

Utah Senator Mike Lee withdrew the proposal after it was ruled ineligible for the budget process, but he's made it clear he still believes the federal government owns too much land. That means this threat could resurface.

We're grateful to the countless Montanans who raised their voices, and we appreciate Senators Steve Daines and Tim Sheehy for standing with Representatives Ryan Zinke and Troy Downing in publicly opposing the sell-off. When elected officials and everyday citizens stand together, it sends a powerful message: public lands aren't a partisan bargaining chip — they're an integral part of Montana's way of life.

This is a moment of celebration... and vigilance.

While the removal of this explicit public land sell-off provision is a big step in the right direction, the broader federal reconciliation bill as it passed still poses serious concerns. It includes massive giveaways to oil and gas companies that undermine decades of work toward a sustainable, clean energy future for America.

Furthermore, while public land sales are out, conservation is still at risk. The Trump administration's budget for Fiscal Year 2026 proposes to gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by diverting nearly \$387 million — roughly 43% of the overall fund — away from conservation, recreation, and sportsmen's access needs across the country. [Montana has long benefited from LWCF investments](#) — over \$649 million over the past five decades — which have protected working lands, improved access for recreationists, enhanced local parks and ballfields, and strengthened rural economies at no cost to taxpayers.

[TELL MONTANA'S DELEGATION TO PROTECT LWCF](#)

Thank you for being part of this fight. Together, we've proven that when Montanans speak with one voice, we can stop bad policy in its tracks. But the work isn't done. In the months ahead, we'll need that same energy and unity to defend conservation funding, protect public access, and ensure our lands and waters are preserved for generations to come.

Let's keep showing the country what's possible when Montanans stand together.

TELL THE EPA: PROTECT MONTANA'S AIR QUALITY

The EPA is [proposing to roll back critical air quality protections](#) by repealing several amendments to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS), which would weaken regulations on the pollutants coal-fired power plants can release into the air. **We need your voice to defend our clean air and public health.**

MATS, which was established in 2011 and updated in 2024, set stronger limits on harmful pollutants like lead, arsenic, mercury, and particulate matter — all of which are linked to serious health problems like cancer, heart disease, and asthma. It was a big win for both public health and the natural environment.

Now, the Trump administration's proposal to roll back MATS threatens to undo these important protections. The repeal effort is part of the administration's "Power the Great American Comeback" initiative, which sacrifices critical health and environmental safeguards for unchecked energy development.

Montanans must act quickly to stop this dangerous repeal. Colstrip — [the dirtiest coal plant in the nation](#) — has fought at every turn to [avoid protecting the public from toxic pollution](#). Earlier this year, the Trump administration already granted the plant a two-year extension to comply with MATS, allowing the plant to continue emitting harmful pollutants.

The proposed rollback would make a bad situation even worse. Repealing MATS threatens our health, increases pollution in the air we all breathe, and puts our future at risk — all while letting plants like Colstrip off the hook for these consequences. Montanans can't afford to reverse the progress we've made to protect our air and our health. **Public comments are being accepted until August 11, 2025.** Take action today to urge the EPA to keep the 2024 MATS rule in place.

[SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL GALA

While summer is in full swing, we're already looking forward to one of the best nights of the year — MCV's Annual Gala! Join us in Livingston on Saturday, October 11, for an unforgettable evening celebrating conservation, community, and the work we're doing together to protect the Last Best Place.

Watch your mailbox this month for your official invitation!

Don't wait — get your tickets today at [mtvoters.org/gala](#).

Want to help bring the event to life?

Become a 2025 Gala Sponsor! Sponsorships include gala tickets and special opportunities to connect with MCV's network of supporters.

We're also accepting donations of quality gear, outdoor experiences, and locally made goods for our silent auction.

Show your clients and community that you stand up for Montana's future. Sponsor Montana's biggest conservation celebration of the year by visiting [mtvoters.org/gala](#) today!

SPILLING THE TEA ON MCV'S COLLABORATION WITH STEEP MOUNTAIN

We've brewed up something special! This month, Team MCV partnered with our friends at [Steep Mountain Tea House](#) to launch our very own signature MCV Blend Tea.

Over the past few years, Steep Mountain has welcomed Team MCV to table and spill the tea on all the latest conservation issues in the heart of downtown Bozeman. Now, we've raised a mug together with this custom tea blend, created to celebrate our shared love of Montana's wild places and strong local roots. A portion of all proceeds from the MCV Blend goes directly back to support our work protecting clean air, clean water, and public lands across Montana.

We kicked things off with a tea party in Bozeman last weekend, just in time for this week's cooler temperatures! Swing by Steep Mountain Tea House at **402 E Main St** to grab a bag of the MCV Blend Tea. Whether for a cozy night camping or winding down after a long day outdoors, every cup supports a great local business and our fight for Montana's lands, water, and future!

JOIN TEAM MCV FOR THE LAST STOP ON OUR SUMMER ROAD TOUR

MCV is almost through our 2025 Summer Road Tour! We hosted events in Helena, Whitefish, Livingston, Missoula, and Bozeman, and we're wrapping up in the Magic City! Join us in Billings for an evening of local brews for a good cause, meaningful conversation, and community connection.

— **Billings** — Thursday, July 24 | 5–8 PM | **Thirsty Street Brewing Co.** ([RSVP HERE](#))

Meet MCV's Billings-based team members, 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

In this month's Field Note, Lindsay breaks down a dangerous proposal that was hidden in the supposed "Big Beautiful Bill" — an amendment that threatened to sell off millions of acres of public lands across the West. Although Montana was exempt, *all* public lands belong to *all* of us and their sell-off would have set a precedent that put every acre at risk.

"If you're reading this, you most likely care about conservation and heard about the threats to public lands in the Senate version of the federal budget reconciliation bill, also known as the "Big Beautiful Bill." If this is news to you, welcome to the conversation! The "Big Beautiful Bill" is, in fact, not so beautiful and contained an amendment that threatened to sell over 250 million acres of public lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.



Lindsay Wancour, Missoula, MT

Interestingly, Montana's public lands were exempt from the bill. While this was a win for our state and local economy, Montanans did NOT sit back and watch.

Any sale of public lands sets an incredibly dangerous precedent. My favorite thing about our nation's public lands is that they belong to every single American, not just those who live closest, visit most often, or value them the most. So, as Montanans, those lands that were for sale in Idaho, Wyoming, and across the West? Those are our lands too, and we would be remiss not to fight to protect them with the same voracity as the lands within Montana's borders.

The proposed public lands sell-off was ultimately removed from the bill once it was ruled ineligible for the budget process. But there are those in Congress determined to hand off our public lands to the highest bidder, so it would be wise to keep watch for this threat.

As Montanans, we are gifted with amazing public lands across the state. Please don't take the joy and beauty of these acres for granted. And please, remember the importance of fighting for others' access as well."

MEMBER of the MONTH



Benjamin Kuiper
Helena, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

I am a member of MCV because I believe it is critical that we have everyday Montana citizens engaging with our decision makers to ensure we continue to have access to the great outdoors in our state.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

My top conservation issue is the preservation of Montana's accessible public land along with the preservation of a clean environment for us and our wildlife.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

Statewide, my favorite outdoor spot is Iceberg Lake in Glacier National Park. Locally, I would have to say the Mount Helena Trail System is my favorite!

SAVE THE DATES

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

August 1: **Deadline for Municipal Endorsement Questionnaire** (Learn more at [mtvoters.org/endorsements](#))

September 9: *Municipal Primary Election Day*

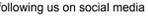
October 11: **2025 Annual Gala**, Livingston Depot in Livingston ([RSVP HERE](#))

November 4: *Municipal Elections*

STAY CONNECTED

We're halfway through a very busy summer at MCV! Our 2025 Legislative Scorecard is live, the Summer Road Tour is wrapping up, and there's still much more to come — events, updates, and ways to make a difference.

Make sure you're in the loop by following us on the social media — and share with a friend who cares about Montana's future, too! Just click the links below to stay connected.



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