

Happy December, Montana Conservation Voters!

As we wrap up another year, there's something about this season that invites us to pause, to take stock, of what we've built together, and look ahead at the work still to come. And if there's one thing 2025 has made clear, it's this: Montana's conservation movement is strong, motivated, and nowhere near finished.

All year long, you showed up. You organized, donated, testified, shared our posts, brought friends to events, and reminded your communities why conservation isn't just a value — it's a way of life. And honestly? It's pretty cool. We're pretty cool. This statewide network of people who care deeply about clean water, public lands, and a healthy democracy is something special.

But reflection doesn't mean slowing down. As we head into 2026 — and toward the midterm elections — we're gearing up. We have tough fights ahead, and we've only just started. The stakes for Montana's lands, waters, wildlife, and communities couldn't be higher.

That's why MCV is ready to raise the resources, build the movement, and fight for serious wins next year. We intend to elect conservation champions up and down the ballot, hold anti-conservation politicians accountable, and make sure every Montana voter knows exactly what's at stake.

With your support, **we'll meet this moment and win.** Because when this community comes together, when we organize and mobilize and lead with our values, Montana listens. And Montana moves.

So as you settle into the holiday season, know how grateful we are for you. Thank you for believing in this work, for sticking with us, and for helping fuel a movement that's only growing stronger.

Here's to rest, reflection, and getting ready — because next year is our time to fight.



Yours in conservation,

Ben Super  
Executive Director  
Montana Conservation Voters

## THANK YOU FOR A POWERFUL GIVING TUESDAY

Because of supporters like you, this year's Giving Tuesday was more than a single day of generosity: it was a reminder of the strength of Montana's conservation movement and the democracy we're building together.

Your gifts help fuel the work of the Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund all year long. From educating voters to protecting our clean water and public lands, your support ensures that more Montanans have the tools and information they need to participate in our democracy. This work is long-term, and it matters more now than ever.

If you made a Giving Tuesday contribution: thank you. Every dollar helps expand our nonpartisan voter education programs, strengthens community partnerships, and keeps conservation values front and center in Montana's future.

And we have exciting news: a generous supporter has offered a \$10,000 match for all year-end gifts to the MCV Education Fund. That means your tax-deductible donation will go twice as far to protect the Montana we all love.

Plus, as a fun year-end thank you, any gift of \$50 or more will receive our 2026 Pups for Public Lands calendar!

If you haven't yet made your year-end gift, there's still time for you to make an impact and receive your pups calendar.

Thank you for being part of this movement and for showing up when it matters most.



[CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR END OF YEAR DONATION](#)

## OUR TOP 10 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**1) Safeguarded conservation funding in Montana's legislative session:** MCV supported the passage of HB 932 — a critical piece of legislation for protecting conservation funding and strengthening its framework against future attacks. By establishing the Habitat Legacy Account, the bill increases flexibility to restore and protect Montana's natural resources in the face of drought, wildfire, invasive species, and other growing threats.

**2) Empowered Montanans through community organizing:** During the legislative session, MCV Regional Organizers hosted 52 community events statewide to educate, organize, and mobilize Montanans in response to actions in Helena. They also made more than 1,500 direct calls connecting constituents with their legislators and the governor, ensuring local voices were heard where it mattered most.

**3) Mobilized public pushback on the rate hike:** MCV organized a rally of nearly 100 people in Helena with partners and organizations to oppose NorthWestern Energy's proposed rate hike, and mobilized strong public testimony during the official hearing. We also drove significant public engagement by generating public comments at PSC meetings, keeping pressure on decision-makers.

**4) Released the 2025 Legislative Scorecard:** MCV published its scorecard for the 69th Legislative Session, providing a clear breakdown of how Montana lawmakers voted on key issues around public lands, clean air & water, energy freedom and democracy.

**5) Hosted inspiring Member Celebration and Annual Gala:** MCV brought supporters together at two cornerstone gatherings, our Member Celebration in Helena, where nearly 200 people connected around our mission and heard from featured guest author Betsy Gaines Quammen, and our Annual Gala, featuring keynote speaker Congressman Gabe Vasquez and a special video message from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. Both events celebrated the power of Montana's conservation movement and the people who make it possible.

**6) Mobilized action to defend public lands funding:** The MCV Education Fund energized Montanans to defend critical federal investments like LWCF through community tabling events. We paired this on-the-ground outreach with our "WTF is LWCF" education campaign, targeted press work, and direct engagement with Montana's delegation — keeping funding threats in the spotlight and rallying public support for long-term protections.

**7) Engaged Montanans through public lands events:** MCV built community and energized supporters through statewide Pint Nights, the Pups for Public Lands campaign, and a major public lands rally, bringing new and longtime supporters together to take action for the places that make Montana special.

**8) Prevented rollbacks of public lands protections:** The MCV Education Fund helped keep public lands sell-off proposals at bay by spotlighting the multibillion-dollar costs of transferring federal lands and generating broad media coverage of our findings. We increased public pressure through rapid-response communications and a highly visible yard-sign campaign across Bozeman, Belgrade, and Livingston — helping ensure harmful sale provisions were stripped from federal legislation and widely rejected by Montanans.

**9) Improved election integrity at the local level:** Phonebanked with volunteers to contact voters who had undeliverable or rejected ballots, ensuring their votes counted in communities across Montana.

**10) Helped elect pro-conservation leaders statewide:** Through 6,464 door knocks and targeted outreach, we helped elect 21 of 25 MCV-endorsed candidates in municipal races across Montana. This is testament to the impact we make when we show up, engage voters, and support leaders who share our conservation values.

## TELL THE EPA TO PROTECT MONTANA'S CLEAN WATER



With everyone traveling and racing to beat the weather to be with loved ones, we know the holidays are a busy time. But our environment needs constant safeguarding!

That's why, in the midst of this season, we're asking you to [submit public comments](#) on the EPA's proposed **Polluted Water Rule**. This rule would further restrict which water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act — weakening protections for the rivers, streams, and wetlands we rely on every day and putting corporate polluters ahead of our health and safety.

The comment period is open now through Jan. 5. **Don't wait — tell the EPA to protect our clean water today!**

[SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS HERE](#)

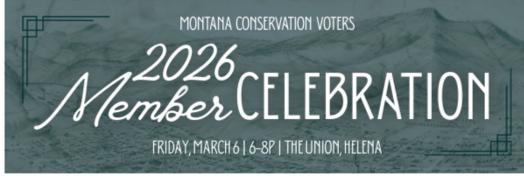
Here are some **talking points** you may find useful in drafting your comment. Please include what feels most relevant for you, and also know that **personal stories** tend to be the most impactful.

**1: The Polluted Water Rule prioritizes polluters over public health.** The proposed rule weakens protections for wetlands, streams, and rivers, giving polluting industries more freedom to discharge waste and destroy natural habitats. This reduces oversight, increases risks to drinking water, and undermines the EPA's core mission to protect communities and the environment.

**2: Weakening protections will harm communities and the economy.** Removing safeguards from wetlands and waterways leads to more flooding, water contamination, and droughts. When natural buffers like wetlands are lost, communities must build and maintain costly artificial systems — such as stormwater management, flood control infrastructure, and water treatment facilities — that these ecosystems once provided for free. Families face higher water bills due to increased treatment costs, taxpayers cover higher infrastructure and emergency response expenses, and industries that depend on clean water — like tourism, recreation, and agriculture — face losses from pollution, degraded habitats, and reduced water availability.

**3: Wetlands and streams provide essential environmental benefits.** Wetlands and streams are vital for healthy ecosystems and clean water, providing wildlife habitat, storing carbon, preventing flooding, and filtering pollution. Protecting even small waterways is essential because pollution flows downstream, and these natural systems act as the watershed's "kidneys," keeping rivers, lakes, and drinking water clean.

*Thank you for taking the time to stand up for our clean water during this busy season!*



Don't miss the chance to come together with conservation champions from around the state for an evening of community, celebration, and shared commitment to Montana's future. Join us on March 6, 2026, in Helena at [The Union](#). Tickets are live now, and stay tuned for exciting announcements — including our guest speaker. We can't wait to see you there!

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

## MEMBER of the MONTH



Katie Craig  
Gallatin Gateway, MT

**Why are you an MCV member?**

*I'm a member because MCV wins elections for conservation candidates, gives them the tools they need to fight for conservation and holds them accountable after they are elected.*

**What's your top conservation issue and why?**

*My top conservation issue is permanent Wilderness protection for the entire Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range. This area is a critical component of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and a crucial wildlife corridor. With all the development and recreation encroachment in the area it is imperative that this area be protected. We have it to future generations and all the wildlife that rely on it to where it intact. Once it's gone, we can never get it back.*

**Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?**

*One of my favorite places to recreate is on the Yellowstone River in Paradise Valley.*

## SAVE THE DATES

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve

**Dec. 25 - Jan. 2:** MCV offices closed for the holidays

**March 6:** [MCV Member Celebration at The Union, in Helena](#)

## STAY CONNECTED

While Team MCV is gearing up for some holiday downtime, you can still stay connected. We share updates, action alerts, and conservation news on our social channels — and we want you with us.

Give us a follow at the links below to stay in the loop as we head into a big year for conservation. Conservation is cool — come hang out with us!



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