

MONTANA WILDLIFE

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Mark Dostal

WILDLIFE, ACCESS AT STAKE IN 2017 MONTANA LEGISLATURE

By Nick Gevock
MWF Conservation Director

Here we go again: the 2017 Montana Legislature will convene next month, and the Montana Wildlife Federation’s (MWF) members, volunteers, and staff will be taking a leadership role on issues that affect wildlife, habitat and public access.

MWF and our conservation partners had numerous successes in the last Legislative session two years ago. We helped pass a major overhaul of Montana’s hunting and fishing license structure and fees. That vital bill helped shore up the finances for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for years to come, while also simplifying the complex system of hunting and fishing licenses.

MWF also addressed several key conservation issues, including getting ahead of feral swine before they reach Montana; cracking down on in-

tentional abuse of replacement hunting licenses; and overhauling how hunters tag game animals in the field to make it easier for hunters.

2015 was, overall, a good session for wildlife, habitat and hunters. But there’s work to do next year. In 2017, we have a strong agenda to build on our conservation successes from two years ago.

The 2017 Legislature: An Overview

Republicans maintain their solid majority in the Montana House of Representatives, with a 59-41 seat advantage over the Democrats. In the Senate, Republicans expanded their majority to 32-18.

Governor Steve Bullock won re-election and will be working on some similar issues as last session, including infrastructure spending and early childhood education. He will also be advancing some proposals to protect and expand Montana’s public lands and public access, which will be of great value to Montana hunters, anglers, and other recreationists.

Budget issues will be front and center this session, with revenue projections down sharply and expected tough decisions on spending. Bullock

GET INVOLVED

MWF members, volunteers, staff and our lobbyist will be heavily engaged during the session. We need our grassroots members to be involved and make your voices heard to affect policy. Here are some ways you can stay informed and let legislators know what you think about key bills during the session:

JOIN THE MWF ACTION ALERT LIST

MWF’s email list will be a crucial tool during the legislative session for sharing information about key bills and votes. Sign up for the list at www.montanawildlife.org.

FOLLOW MWF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We will post regular updates on Facebook and Twitter, including a **weekly legislative preview**. We’ll also have an **online bill tracker** to provide real-time information to members and the public know about the bills affecting wildlife, habitat and access.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

Reach out to your legislators now to get to know them and introduce them to the wildlife and access issues that matter to you. A little relationship building goes a long way. It is much easier to ask your elected officials to cast a vote or take a stand when they know you.

SHOW UP

There are many opportunities to get involved in the legislative process by giving testimony and meeting with legislators. MWF can help you pick a time to make a trip to Helena to make your voice heard. We will also be holding rallies and events during the session to give you a voice.

has called in his proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget for some targeted tax increases on high income earners, as well as some special taxes on cigarettes and medical marijuana. He is also pushing for bonding roughly half of the proposed \$292 million in infrastructure spending. In addition, what to do about the looming closure of two units at the Colstrip power plants will be a big theme this session.

So where does that leave wildlife, habitat,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FINDING COMMON GROUND FOR WILDLIFE



By Kathy Hadley
MWF President

The last day of big game general season was unseasonably warm with beautiful clear skies and no wind. Sitting outside on the porch drinking coffee in the early morning hours I watched a small whitetail buck feeding in the pasture behind our house and marveled that he was there.

We are in block management and get lots of hunters during the season and they put plenty of pressure on the game.

A short while later, while I was doing breakfast dishes, I watched a small herd of antelope grazing out my kitchen window. Shortly after

that, I saw four whitetails running across the lower pasture. What incredibly rich wildlife we have in Montana!

It's our job as volunteer conservationists and as members of the Montana Wildlife Federation to work together to conserve and protect these incredibly rich and diverse wildlife populations and habitats.

Now that our elections are over we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

At the federal level, we are facing much uncertainty with President-Elect Donald Trump. His environmental and conservation positions are really unknown. There's lots of speculation on social media about what his positions might be on issues like climate change and environmental protection, but not a lot of hard facts. And candidates often change positions once they get elected.

One area where we may find common ground with President-Elect Trump is public lands. During the campaign, both presidential candidates professed clear support for keeping public lands in public hands and opposing the transfer of federal public land to state or private ownership.

Only time will tell how the Trump Administration will act. Our job is to be ready to work together, and prepared to stand up for the things we believe in with loud voices and unfailing persistence.

On the state level, MWF will again be fully engaged in the upcoming Legislature. Republicans continue to hold the majority in both the House and Senate. We are lucky that conserva-

tion in Montana are still bipartisan issues, and we will continue work with both Republicans and Democrats to find common ground and support scientific wildlife management, habitat protection, and public access.

However, we can expect that a few Montana politicians will be beating the drum for selling or transferring our public lands. This agenda has been repeatedly voted down by the Legislature, and survey after survey has shown that the vast

majority of Montanans use and treasure our public lands. This is a fight we will not lose because so many of you have worked tirelessly year after year to protect this incredible legacy we call our public lands.

Both the National Wildlife Federation and Montana Wildlife Federation have ex-

isted and thrived for more than 80 years. In all that time we have collectively worked together on fish, wildlife and habitat conservation issues. We have passed good legislation when we had Democrats and Republicans in the majority both at the state and national levels. We have been able to find common ground and shared values regardless of who is in office. This year will be no different.

Protecting the things we love: clean air and water, public lands and public wildlife should not be colored red or blue. These are things that all Americans and Montanans cherish.

Kathy Hadley is lifelong hunter, angler, and conservationist and a member of MWF for 27 years. Contact her at kathyh@ncat.org.

*We need to
roll up our
sleeves and
get to work*

MONTANA, WYOMING SPORTSMEN LAUD FEDERAL RENEWABLE LEASING RULE NEW ENERGY RULE PROTECTS WILDLIFE

By John Bradley
MWF Eastern Field Rep.

Hunters, anglers, and other public land users stand to benefit from a new renewable energy leasing rule released by the Department of Interior.

The rule sets up a process for competitive leasing and environmental review for renewable energy projects on public lands. This new rule will help protect our habitat for fish and wildlife and access for hunting and angling while charting a course to a cleaner energy future.

The Bureau of Land Management's new solar and wind leasing rule will help establish stability and consistency across BLM field offices in permit review, which will provide greater certainty and predictability for energy companies. Consistency and transparency will better provide information to the public, the energy companies, and

to investors. It will also establish a leasing process for more efficiently issuing permits, which can speed up permitting time and protect natural resources.

"The BLM's new rule strikes a balance between energy development and wildlife habitat. I'm glad to see this balance, as a public land hunter. As an American, I'm also glad to see our country work on becoming more energy independent" said Eric Wendt, an avid big game hunter out of Billings, MT.

The Bureau of Land Management's new solar and wind leasing rule will be essential while considering the needs of fish and wildlife populations and the interests of hunters and anglers when large-scale renewable energy projects are proposed. The leasing rule includes provisions that establish rates and fees to ensure the public get a fair return. Other provisions create designated leasing areas that promote the use of low-conflict development and take a region-wide

approach to mitigating the impacts from development.

"The new rule will help us anticipate and avoid harm to fish and wildlife habitat," said Dave Chadwick, Executive Director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. "This is a smart, balanced approach to developing renewable energy on public lands that avoids conflicts with wildlife and other public land users."

"This rule will set us up for future solar and wind development that avoids the conflicts we've seen in the past over other energy sources," said Chamois Andersen, Executive Director of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. "We can build wind and solar projects without harming the West's prized fish and wildlife habitat and public access."

John Bradley is the Eastern Field Rep. of the Montana Wildlife Federation. You can reach him at jbradley@mtwf.org.

FACEBOOK.COM/MONTANAWILDLIFE

A MONTANA ICON AT RISK PLIGHT OF THE BIGHORNS

By David Stalling
MWF Western Field Rep.

Back in October I took a break from elk hunting to photograph bighorn sheep at the National Bison Range in Moiese. I was surprised how close one ram let me get, and then I noticed something was wrong. Several times he dropped his head to the ground and struggled to lift it back up. The weight of his heavy horns, he long proudly carried, had apparently become too burdensome. He was dying. I returned the next day and found his body.

After posting a photo of the ram on Facebook, and speculating about his death, my friend Stacy Courville, a wildlife biologist with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, said the sheep most likely died from pneumonia, which had recently infected the Bison Range. So I talked to Jeff King, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manager who oversees the range. Courville was correct: A bacteria called *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* had infected the bighorn populations, causing pneumonia. More than 35 wild sheep had died in just a few months. King and others suspect that the bacteria was transferred to the wild herd from a domestic sheep herd about a mile west of the range.

Once the bacteria infects a herd of wild sheep, it can be devastating, and not much can be done.

"*Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* has no cell wall, so antibiotics do not work on it," says Mark Penninger, an Oregon-based wildlife biologist who heads up the bighorn sheep program for the U.S. Forest Service. "It is carried with no ill effects by many domestic sheep and goats, but is deadly to wild sheep. Our wild sheep have not evolved with this pathogen. It can sometimes kill wild sheep by itself, but is often a precursor that compromises the respiratory system's ability to move things, such as



bacteria and viruses, out with mucous. Then the sheep die when their body responds by producing more mucous, which results in pneumonia. It is quite the dilemma when trying to protect and restore bighorn populations."

When a bighorn sheep population is initially infected, often as many as a third, and sometimes up to 90%, of the herd may die from pneumonia. Most survivors are apparently immune, but their lambs are not and usually die before weaning. In some populations, annual pneumonia outbreaks in lambs continue for decades after the initial infection, which prevents the population from bouncing back. In other populations, lamb survival returns to normal relatively quickly.

*up to 90%
of a herd
may die from
pneumonia*

Why some populations recover and others do not is one of the most important questions scientists are trying to answer. Some researchers hope that wild sheep herds could eventually develop an immunity.

But in the meantime, bighorns are being infected and dying

throughout their range.

More than 90 bighorns recently died of pneumonia near Plains, and another 39 died near Gardiner. "We're losing hundreds of wild sheep to

this disease every year and it is decimating herds across the west," said Kyle Meintzer, director of the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) based in Bozeman. "For example, in 2013, 400 wild sheep in California were lost, and that's 80 per cent of what was the largest herd in the state. Wildlife managers were forced to sacrifice the herd in the Tendoy Mountains in Montana due to recurring pneumonia and low lamb survival. Wildlife managers, with the help of hunters, will remove 100 per cent of the herd and later will repopulate the herd with healthy bighorns."

Unfortunately, killing wild sheep because of suspicion of exposure is the prudent thing to do in many cases, according to Mark Penninger. "A wandering wild sheep can cover a lot of miles and return to its herd with death in its breath. Killing one sheep could prevent the loss of an entire herd. Capturing and testing is rarely practical due to urgency and terrain."

Although scientists don't know exactly how the disease is transmitted, what factors contribute to transmission and whether transmission of other bacteria, even among wild sheep alone, contributes to the bighorn die-offs, mounting evidence suggests that domestic sheep are a major vector. A 2008 study by Colorado Division of Wildlife scientists showed that a single domestic sheep that wandered onto bighorn winter range

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IMPORTANT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW ACCESS FOR MONTANANS HABITAT MONTANA: PUBLIC LAND AND ACCESS

By Nick Gevock
MWF Conservation Director

Attacks on public land are so common these days that it can feel like hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts are constantly on the defensive.

But in fact, Montana hunters keep picking up wins on the public lands front. In fact, we're adding public lands. And that's a good thing for

wildlife, for hunting opportunity and for wildlife watchers and other recreationists.

Last month that continued. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the addition of 640 acres to the Lost River Wildlife Management Area in Hill County, located in the north-central part of the state.

The addition will help with habitat for deer, antelope and numerous other non-game wildlife species. It will add to the area's hunting opportunity for upland game birds and big game. And it will also have the benefit of increasing access to

adjoining public lands.

It's a win, win, win. Wildlife gains habitat on lands that are specifically for that purpose. Hunters have more state land to pursue game. And hunters gain even more hunting opportunity by gaining access to other public lands.

It's exactly how the Habitat Montana program is supposed to work. It's also why it's so vital that this program that protects habitat and increases access continues.

Nick Gevock is MWF's Conservation Director. Contact him at ngevock@mtwf.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING SUCCESS, AND LOOKING AHEAD



By Dave Chadwick
Executive Director

As we close the books on 2016, the Montana Wildlife Federation can celebrate another successful year of fighting for Montana's fish and wildlife, our wild lands and clean waters, and public access to the outdoors for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

Looking ahead to 2017, our attention first turns to the Montana State Legislature. There will be plenty on the agenda for wildlife, habitat, and public access. As in past sessions, we will need to fight to protect science-based wildlife management from political interference. This session, we will be placing a major emphasis on protecting public land and expanding access to Montana's lands, waters, and wildlife.

Of course, we will continue to fight against misguided ideas to take over and sell off Montana's national forests and other public lands. This ridiculous idea is sure to return, despite

overwhelming public opposition and bipartisan criticism in the Legislature.

In addition to defending our public lands, we will also be pushing to expand public land and public access. We're already working with a diverse coalition to restore full funding to the Habitat Montana program, which is crucial for protecting wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational access. We'll be backing several new initiatives being advanced by Governor Steve Bullock to expand Montana's outdoor economy. And we're going to advance legislation to address the problem of illegal roadblocks on public roads and stream access points.

Even with a busy Legislative session, we can also expect a great deal of activity at the federal level as well. We're watching closely to see what direction the Trump Administration takes on public land protection and conservation issues. During the campaign, President-elect Trump clearly stated his opposition to transferring public land to state management and his support for some efforts to protect wildlife habitat. At the same time, he has also been very critical of some important environmental programs, and some of his initial advisers are not strong supporters of conservation. We look forward to engaging with the Trump Administration to find common ground when we can, and holding him accountable when we must.

As the oldest conservation organization in Montana, and one of the oldest wildlife federations in the country, and MWF has a long history of success because of the strength of our membership. For eight decades, we have combined the grassroots strength of thousands of boots-on-the-ground members with the policy expertise and political know-how needed to navigate the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Montana Legislature, and Congress. MWF members are passionate about the outdoors and dedicated to conservation – and we'll be continuing to grow and expand our membership over the next year.

Our network of affiliate organizations has also been a crucial source of influence for MWF for decades. In 2017, we'll be looking at some major enhancements to our affiliate system, and working to support our existing affiliate groups, create new local organizations, and bring new allies into our federation.

As we look ahead to a busy new year, I hope I can count on you to stay engaged, vigorously debate the issues, and hold fast to your commitment to wildlife, habitat, and access. And I hope you will consider making a year-end donation to celebrate MWF's successes in 2016 and help us get off to a strong start in 2017!

Dave Chadwick is MWF's Executive Director. Contact him at dchadwick@mtwf.org.

SAVE THE DATE

MWF
ANNUAL
MEETING

MARCH 31, 2017
HELENA, MONTANA

MWF DEPENDS ON YOUR YEAR-END DONATION

The Montana Wildlife Federation depends on donations from people who care about Montana's abundant wildlife, our natural lands and waters, and our unmatched public access to the outdoors. We are able to do so much to protect Montana's outdoor heritage because people like you decide to chip in \$25, \$50, or \$100 to support our work. Your financial support is crucial to our ability to stand up to well-funded special interest groups at the Montana Capitol and in Congress. 2017 is going to be a big year for wildlife – and we're counting on you.

There are many ways you can donate to MWF:

- Online: Make a fast, easy, secure donation at www.montanawildlife.org.
- By Mail: Send a check to Montana Wildlife Federation PO Box 1175 Helena, MT 59624.
- By Phone: Call our office at 406-458-0227 and we'll take a credit card donation over the phone.

Donating to MWF can also provide you with tax benefits. MWF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed under federal law. If you make a year-end donation before December 31, you can potentially reduce your 2016 tax liability.

MILD WEATHER, LOW HARVEST REDUCE HUNTER SUCCESS

ELK SHOULDERS SEASONS ENTER SECOND YEAR

By Nick Gevock
MWF Conservation Director

Montana's general deer and elk season is over, and it was a tough one for elk hunters in particular, with mild weather leading to difficult conditions.

Elk remained at higher altitudes in many parts of the state, which kept them on public land but also made for tough hunting conditions. That was reflected in the harvest data compiled at check stations in many parts of the state.

As a means to reach harvest levels to help get elk populations down to the target objective numbers laid out in state plans, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks last year began "shoulder seasons." These entail rifle seasons put in the hunting regulations that fall before and after Montana's five week general deer and elk season, which runs from late October through late November.

The shoulder seasons were highly controversial. Many hunters saw them as a way to facilitate private hunting on lands that are off limits to public hunters, leading to concentrations of elk that make it very difficult to reach harvest levels.

To address that, FWP instituted criteria for the general season harvest that require that at a minimum half of the harvest of the newly recruited elk into the population be killed during the general season. It's a measure that requires a tremendous amount of data collection by FWP, and Montana hunters want to ensure that the data is collected. If the target isn't reached in a district, the shoulder season is slated to go away under the criteria.

That was enacted to create an incentive for landowners to open up more private property to public hunting. And that's important. It helps

prevent large concentrations of elk on private land, pushes them back onto public land and can help achieve harvest while creating more opportunity for public hunters on both private and public lands.

This year, Montana has shoulder seasons slated for 43 hunting districts throughout the state. Some will begin before the general season, while others will take place after the general season.

In addition, Montana still has game damage and management seasons running in select areas. These are meant to address specific areas of crop and fence damage, as well as distribute elk

and reduce some populations. But they carry a requirement for reasonable public access during the general season.

This year's shoulder seasons will be a big test to determine whether they are successful in redistributing and spreading out elk, as well as opening up more private land for public hunters. Montana hunters will be monitoring them closely to determine how effective they are not only in killing elk, but also in reaching their larger goals.

Nick Gevock is MWF's Conservation Director. Contact him at ngevock@mtwf.org.



Matt Patrias

PERSPECTIVE FROM THE LEGISLATURE

TOUGH DECISIONS, HARD WORK AHEAD

By State Representative Zach Brown

During this holiday season, Montana sportsmen and women have much to be grateful for when it comes to the state of our public lands and wildlife.

Many of us were blessed by another successful hunting season that has left our freezers full. Grizzlies are coming back, we are expecting record duck migrations this winter, and many antelope and mule deer populations are rebounding in parts of the state where they have struggled in recent years. Challenges are certainly abundant, but it doesn't hurt to begin with our blessings.

With the 2017 Legislative session quickly approaching, those of us serving in and around the Legislature have our work cut out for us. We have tough decisions in front of us as we craft a state budget with lower revenues. We must fund infrastructure projects that put Montanans to work. We have to do something about Colstrip.

And beyond those high profile issues, we will consider thousands of other more obscure bills that would impact the future of our wonderful state. And when it comes to hook and bullet issues, we will debate issues ranging from grizzly delisting, to block management practices and shoulder seasons, to funding for our state parks.

As a member of the Private Lands Public Wildlife Council (PLPW), my personal agenda will begin with the bills that are coming from PLPW. One proposal would raise the cap on landowner payments in the Block Management program to \$15,000, while another would combine the Coming Home to Hunt and Native Montana Nonresident licenses into a single license type. Overall, I will continue to work with sportsman and landowners to support incentives and other creative proposals that increase quality hunting access opportunities for Montanans.

Finally, we must support the rapid response to disasters like the Yellowstone River fish kill in August and the aquatic invasive species outbreak in the upper Missouri River system. And more than just responding to these disasters, we

also have an obligation to understand their root causes so we can work to prevent future problems. In the Yellowstone watershed, for example, perhaps conservationists and law makers can do more to support farmers and ranchers who make cooperative voluntary water-use cuts during times of drought. (In fact, I'm bringing legislation that will explicitly protect irrigators' water rights when they enter into voluntary drought management plans.) And when it comes to aquatic invasives, we must continue to educate the public on their role in containing these outbreaks and preventing further spreading.

My New Year's resolution is to do my part to protect and strengthen our state's hunting and fishing heritage. With your continued support and participation in the coming months, I am confident that we will find good fortunes in this important endeavor. Tight lines and full freezers!

An avid hunter and angler, Zach Brown Represents House District 63 in the 2017 Montana Legislature. Contact him at brownformontana@gmail.com

YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD

HELENA-LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

By David Stalling
MWF Western Field Rep.

We all enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and other activities on the public lands that surround our homes, and as owners of that public land we all have a say as to how it is managed.

Now is a chance to make our voices heard regarding the management of a significant portion of National Forest lands here in Montana – the nearly three million acres that make up the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (HLCNF).

The Forest recently released a draft of proposed actions within a revised Forest Plan covering all aspects of multiple-use management of the forest – including logging, mining, grazing, wilderness, scenic rivers, watershed protections, wildlife and recreational activities. Citizens have 120 days to review and comment on the plan.

The HLCNF represents the best of what makes Montana a hunting and fishing paradise. The Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit, Continental Divide Scenic Trail, Rocky Mountain Front, numerous mountain lakes, Smith River,

Blackfoot River, Missouri River, Big Belt, Little Belt, Snowy, Crazy, Highwood and Castle Mountains are all places that quicken the pulse of hunters and anglers in Montana and throughout the Country. Aside from world class hunting and fishing, these public lands have one thing in common: their future management and ability to sustain outdoor traditions will be determined by this forest plan revision.

Hunters and anglers have a large stake in this process and it is imperative that we ensure the revised forest plan provides for healthy habitat and robust fish and wildlife populations. Quality hunting and fishing starts with quality habitat, and for us this needs to be the foundation upon which this forest plan is built.

The Montana Wildlife Federation and its affiliates have been working cooperative with Trout Unlimited, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to provide public input as the revised plan was being developed. We have urged the forest service to revise abandoned mine clean-up; withdraw mineral development, particularly the proposed Black Butte Mine, from the Sheep Creek drainage of the Smith River; update and revise outdated gas and oil leasing decisions to ensure protection of hunting, fishing, and fish

and wildlife values on the Forest; protect high-value fisheries and, particularly, threatened populations of Westslope cutthroat trout; conserve and restore big game habitat, especially critical winter range, migratory corridors, and fawning and calving habit for deer and elk; revise grazing practices to protect and restore the health of rivers and streams; protect undeveloped, back-country wildlands including wilderness and non-wilderness lands; protect and enhance access to public lands, and encourage collaborative efforts that include all stakeholders and users of our National Forests to seek common ground and find cooperative solutions to land-management issues.

We encourage all those interested to review the revised forest plan on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest website and attend one of the following public meetings:

- January 23rd: 5–7 pm, Lincoln Community Center
- January 24th: 4–7 pm, Helena Radisson Colonial Hotel
- January 25th: 5–7 pm, Townsend Library
- January 26th: 5–7 pm, White Sulphur Springs High School Library
- January 30th: 11 am-1 pm, Harlowton Library
- January 30th: 5–7 pm, Stanford City Hall
- January 31st: 4–7 pm, Great Falls Civic Center
- February 1st: 5-7 pm, Browning Holiday Inn
- February 2nd: 5-7 pm, Choteau Stage Stop Inn

Public comments can also be emailed from the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest website, or sent or hand-delivered to: the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office, ATTN: Forest Plan Revision, 2880 Skyway Dr., Helena, MT 59602.

Comments should be submitted by March 30, 2017.

For more information, go to the Forest Plan Revision website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/hlc/forest_plan_revision or contact Dave Stalling on the MWF staff.

David Stalling is the Western Field Representative of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Reach him at dstalling@mtwf.org.



GREAT NEWS FOR A SPECIAL PLACE

BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASES CANCELLED

By David Stalling
MWF Western Field Rep.

Montana hunters and anglers can celebrate the recent announcement of the cancellation of additional oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine Area.

U.S. Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell joined U.S. Senator Jon Tester, Blackfeet Nation Chairman Harry Barnes and Devon Energy Corporation President and CEO David Hager to an-

nounce that, through a collaborative agreement, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has canceled 15 additional oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest in northwestern Montana. Devon Energy owns an interest in these federal leases.

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) has been working cooperatively with the Badger Two Medicine Alliance and other partners to help protect the unique array of fish, wildlife, habitat, and related hunting and fishing opportunities in the area.

“We fully support responsible gas and oil

development in appropriate places,” says David Chadwick, the Executive Director of MWF, “But this is one place that is too wild, too special, and too important to drill. With a tremendous diversity of wildlife — including elk, bighorns, mule deer, mountain goats and grizzlies – and one of the last strongholds for native westslope cutthroat trout, the Badger-Two Medicine area offers some of the best hunting and fishing in Montana. We plan to keep it that way.”

David Stalling is the Western Field Rep. of Montana Wildlife Federation. Reach him at dstalling@mtwf.org.

ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS: A PRICELESS TRADITION

CHASING MEMORIES ON PUBLIC LAND

By Marcus Strange
MWF Member

It's difficult for me to put into words how I feel about public lands. I've sat on mountainsides and looked out as far as I could see, knowing that, in a sense, all the land in view belonged to me. It belongs to me, my friends, my family, and our future posterity.

My excitement at having access to wild places is, at times, tempered with concern for the future of public land access. I grew up where there was no public land access. It has made me keenly aware that if we ever become complacent regarding public lands, they will be taken from us. I've lived in that void, and it saddens me to know I missed out on so many years of memories I could have made exploring, adventuring, and hunting public lands.

Although I didn't begin hunting until three years ago, and I've only been bowhunting for the last two years, I've quickly become a passionate bowhunter and an advocate for public land conservation. I want others to discover and experience what I have. It's a source of pride for me that I hunt public lands. I trek to public land hoping to rekindle that side of me that modern society attempts to suppress. I love to bowhunt because it allows me to immerse myself in the wild and pit my skills against wild animals using nothing but stick and string.

In the fall of 2016, I went on a week-long public lands archery elk hunt in central Montana. My hunting partners and I set up in hopes that the elk would enter the coulee upwind of us. I let



Marcus Strange

my camouflage blend me into the surrounding foliage and clipped my release to my bowstring. As I settled in, my partner set up several yards downwind of my position and let out an estrus call. The silence that followed that call was palpable. I had millions of thoughts and second guessed our plan just as many times. But just as I

was ready to give up, a twig snapped, shattering the silence that had been weighing down on me. I froze, and my heart quickened in anticipation. Not daring to move, I let my eyes travel down the coulee to my left and saw a cow elk tentatively peeking her head over the rim of the coulee.

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2017 LEGISLATURE (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

access and hunters and anglers? It is likely that our issues will not be at the forefront, although as always there will be bills that need scrutiny and debate. Montana FWP has a few bills it is proposing, mostly clean up measures.

The Senate Fish and Game Committee will have new leadership this session. Sen. Jennifer Fielder, R-Thompson Falls, has served on the committee for the past two sessions and will take over as chair.

In the House, Rep. Kelly Flynn, R-Townsend, will return to chair the committee. Flynn is a rancher and outfitter who chaired the committee last session. He brought a bill to increase funding for the popular Block Management program last session, and has worked on an effort outside of the Legislature to improve landowner-hunter relations.

MWF's Agenda

MWF will be bringing a bill to improve public access to public land. It is based on a bill we brought last time that would increase the fine for

gating a public road that leads to public land. Currently the fine is \$10 per day, far too low to serve as a deterrent for illegally blocking public roads. Our bill would raise the fine to a minimum of \$100 per day.

We will also be working, as always, to maintain a strong defense against any bills that would interfere with scientific wildlife management. Already there are several bills in the hopper that look troublesome, including one that would require payments of hunter dollars to landowners for crop damage. These programs in other states have led to disastrous consequences, costing state wildlife agencies millions and leading to landowner tag programs that impede management and reduce public hunting opportunity.

MWF will also be working to gain some additional funding for livestock loss prevention work to keep grizzly bears out of trouble, as well as wolves. And we will be pursuing a bill to increase the payment to landowners in the popular Block Management hunter access program to create more of an incentive to join the program.

Finally, we will be working to ensure that full funding is restored to Habitat Montana, which is Montana's most successful habitat protection program. The program uses hunter license dollars to pay landowners for conservation easements on private land, as well as to purchase key habitat for wildlife from willing sellers. Habitat Montana has increased available winter range for wildlife, helped keep working farms and ranches in business and helped reduce conflicts with wildlife. It has also increased public hunter access and opportunity.

Last session the Legislature put a budget rider on Habitat Montana that barred any land purchases that weren't already in negotiation. That has caused some lost opportunities for FWP from willing landowners, and hurt hunters from Montana and around the country. It's crucial that we get the program renewed and continue to protect key habitat in Montana.

Nick Gevock is MWF's Conservation Director. Contact him at ngevock@mtwf.org.

LEARNING TO HUNT IN AN UNFORGETTABLE LANDSCAPE HUNTING THE MISSOURI BREAKS

By Eric Wendt
MWF Member

The Missouri Breaks has a special place in my heart. This area, with miles and miles of breaks, coulees, cottonwood draws, sagebrush, and short-grass prairie was instrumental in forming my view of what hunting in Montana involves.

The Breaks, which include thousands of acres of undeveloped, wild, and public land along the Missouri River corridor is up for a new resource management plan (RMP) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Lewistown RMP encompasses a stunning, intact river-to-prairie ecosystem that holds some of the best big game populations in the world. Big game needs big country, and this area has it.

I drew my first antlerless elk tag in this area when I was 14. My experience in the breaks included gumbo, lots of greasy mud that can make for a long trip if you aren't careful. On the drive in I had to hop out of the truck multiple times to turn in the hubs to engage the four wheel drive, luckily for us, we made it to camp in one piece.

On opening day we woke up at 5 AM, even with the heater on in the camper I could see my breath. After a steaming bowl of oatmeal my first of many elk hunts began. Years later the details blur together a bit, but it seemed like we hiked up more hills than down. We saw elk two coulees over and put the sneak on them. By the time we were in shooting position the elk had disappeared in the topographic maze. I did not mind, the beautiful, immense landscape with the big sky overhead made the hike worth it.

Around 4 PM we decided to head back towards camp. We came across a stand of willows in a bottom where we could hear movement and bugling. My hunting mentor, Mike, positioned himself on a hill at the end of the willows and signaled for me to walk through the middle. I did not come from a hunting family so my hunting experience was extremely limited. This was the

first time I was on my own. Being an avid reader, I had come across the term "buck fever" and told myself that this would not happen to me. Boy was I wrong. I was shaking like a lone leaf in a Big Timber wind storm.

As I weaved in-between the willows I came upon a clearing. Forty yards away five cows and a bull were stock-still staring at me. I fumbled my .270 into position, the world froze. And I squeezed the trigger. The world came rushing back in an instant. My cow stumbled but was looking like it could run forever. The next thing I knew I was viewing the world through my scope and it was slow again. The second shot rang true. I looked up and there she was on the ground. I cannot describe the feeling beyond that it was intense and awe inspiring and left me in a daze.

Through the haze I heard Mike shouting, asking if one was down. He showed up later and proceeded to show me how to dress her. We went back to the truck and grabbed our "game cart," really an old rusted out wheelbarrow. It took us about four exhausting hours to get back to the truck. I doubt I have ever slept so well.

I was able to draw the same tag in following years and had similar luck. After that I went to college out of state and was unable to make it home to hunt. Now, three unsuccessful elk seasons since graduation, I realize how spoiled I was in my youth with amazing places to elk hunt. I am grateful for my first few seasons hunting when I was able to fill my deer, elk, and antelope tags and gain confidence as a hunter. It is our duty to provide these same hunting opportunity to the next generation.

I would not be the hunter I am today without the Missouri Breaks. The wild character of this landscape and our big healthy populations of big game is the reason why so many people choose to live, visit and hunt here. Elk, deer and other wildlife need wide open, quiet spaces, native range flora, and healthy watersheds. The BLM should prioritize those needs in their new plan to ensure that hunters, young and old, have the same quality habitat to chase game that I did.

A native Montanan, Eric Wendt is an MWF member in Billings.



Matt Patrias

BIGHORNS (CONT. FROM PAGE 3)

caused a die-off of more than 86 bighorns from 1997 to 2000.

What can be done? The most viable – yet controversial – proposals involve separating wild and domestic sheep by large distances to prevent contact. "The science is clear that domestic and wild sheep can't live together," says Kevin Hurley, Conservation Director for WSF.

In the Salmon River country of Idaho, where 76-percent of the bighorn populations was lost to pneumonia, legal battles ensued between sheep herders, conservationists and the U.S. Forest Service when the Payette National Forest decided to keep domestic sheep off grazing leases within bighorn sheep range. In 2008, a U.S. District Judge ruled in favor of the decision. But leaders of hunter-conservation organizations, and wildlife biologists and managers with state and federal

agencies, would prefer to work with the sheep ranching industry to find viable solutions rather than fight things out in court.

The WSF recently met with members of Congress and federal wildlife agencies on solutions to create safe zones against deadly pneumonia bacteria and viruses that are infecting wild sheep herds in the U.S. "Having a disease-free zone around the new herd is necessary to prevent new infection and assure the success of restoration," says Kyle Meintzer.

Steve Torbit, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Rocky Mountain Regional Center in Boulder, Colorado, calls for "livestock producers and wildlife folks to roll up their sleeves and work together to find areas suitable for domestic sheep." Torbit and other bighorn advocates hope they can persuade western

sheep ranchers and federal officials to develop a strategy that will allow bighorn sheep populations to expand through conservation and further reintroductions across the West. "I don't want to start a new range war, because it's not good for anybody, and it's certainly not good for wildlife," he says. He favors a collaborative process that brings ranchers, sportsmen, tribes and conservationists together to protect the range and wildlife but still allows ranchers to thrive – creating safe zones for wild sheep far from domestic sheep, and setting aside other zones for domestic sheep far from bighorn habitat.

As Kevin Hurley puts it: "If you believe in compromise and conservation, both sides have to give up something."

David Stalling is the MWF Western Field Rep. Reach him at dstalling@mtwf.org.

LAND TRUSTS CONSERVE WILDLIFE HABITAT ON WORKING LANDS

PROTECTING HABITAT ON PRIVATE LANDS

By Gusty Clarke
Montana Land Reliance

A course in hunter safety is a coming of age requirement in the life of every hunter in Montana: the hunter learns how to carry his or her rifle, point a barrel in a safe direction, and basic survival skills.

These shared lessons ensure a quality hunting experience for all hunters. Another lesson equally affecting everyone’s hunting experience and that significantly threatens the future of everyone’s favorable hunt experience is the growing threat to Montana’s wildlife populations from habitat loss. Today in Montana, the loss of countless acres to development is creating disruption of ecosystem patterns, food sources, and water resources essential to maintaining favorable hunting and fishing habitat. Conservation easements, undertaken by thoughtful private landowners across Montana, may hold a solution.

Habitat Loss

Wildlife and game populations need several types of habitat to thrive. These include food and water, cover, and space. Habitat loss prevents wildlife populations from accessing these necessities, and the loss of any of these leads to diminution of the wildlife community in question.

According to a study conducted by the Center for American Progress entitled, “The Disappearing West,” America’s western states lose a football field of open space to development every two and a half minutes. Montana loses about 1,500 acres, or 2.4 square miles, of open space to development every month. Additionally, the development on this lost open space is not compact, or contained to small portions of land. A 2009 study by the Sonoran Institute reported that since 1970, the population in the Gallatin Valley has increased by 139% but the amount of developed land has increased by



A Pronghorn antelope enjoys his open space on a Paradise Valley Ranch protected by The Montana Land Reliance.

271%, signifying that people are not only developing land, but also are using more land in the process. More recent developments demonstrate that this rural sprawl epidemic is not improving.

Conservation Easements

Private land conservation assumes many identities. The most pertinent to preventing habitat loss is a tool called a conservation easement. Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between landowner and land trust that curtail or proscribe certain land uses in the interest of preserving a property’s conservation values into perpetuity. Easements include provisions that prohibit open pit mining and inappropriate development, for example, thereby protecting Montana’s special open spaces forever.

The Smith River corridor, for example, is a private land conservation success story. The Montana Land Reliance (MLR), one of Mon-

tana’s 12 major land trusts and a member of the Montana Association of Land Trusts (MALT), has worked with 26 landowners to protect nearly 40 miles of the Smith River’s banks, and over 20,000 surrounding acres. It holds and monitors an additional 823 easements on nearly 1 million acres in the State of Montana.

As of today, MALT member land trusts have protected over 2.5 million acres of Montana’s open spaces and important wildlife habitat in over 1,300 conservation easement agreements. As the majority of Montana’s land is privately owned, efforts such as that among the landowners along the Smith River and those of other dedicated landowners across Montana will be invaluable to preserving the quality and quantity of Montanan’s hunting and fishing opportunities for future generations.

Gusty is a public lands hunter and angler living in Helena, who works to protect Montana’s open landscapes as Development and Outreach Coordinator for The Montana Land Reliance.

Montana loses 1,500 acres of open space a month

THE MWF LICENSE PLATE



GET THE PLATE: SUPPORT WILDLIFE, HABITAT & ACCESS

MWF AFFILIATES CELEBRATE & SHARE THE HUNT
NEWS FROM AROUND THE FEDERATION



Helena Hunters and Anglers:
Celebrate the Hunt Potluck

Helena Hunters and Anglers came together with AERO, the Alternative Energy Resources Organization, for the second time to hold a ‘Celebrate the Hunt Potluck’ at the MWF headquarters in Helena.

The potluck combined people from different sides of the DIY food spectrum, who too often don’t have the chance to interact. AERO members’ interest in sustainable, local foods and Helena Hunters and Angler’s interest in wholesome, wild meats is a natural pairing that will produce discussion on sustainable food, harvesting, and land use, as well as delicious, home-made dishes of wild game, and harvested foods.

This year’s potluck was also the capstone to Helena’s successful Plan to Hunt workshops aimed at preparing new hunters for success in the field.

Hellgate Hunter and Anglers:
Game Butchering Demonstration

The Montana Wildlife Federation’s Missoula affiliate, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, held their 3rd annual butchering demonstration on Tuesday night, October 18th, at the Burns Street Bistro in Missoula. Abraham Jindrich of Cloven Hoof Butchery shared his skills and expertise at cutting up wild game, and chef and owner of the Burns Street Bistro, Walker Hunter, shared some tips on braising and preparing wild game. Walker also prepared and served up a delicious pot pie for all to enjoy.



Flathead Wildlife, Inc:
Preserve The Tradition

For more than a decade, MWF’s Kalispell affiliate, Flathead Wildlife, has placed weekly ads in the Flathead Beacon, throughout hunting season, featuring young men and women out hunting. The ad’s theme: “Preserving the Tradition: It’s better to take your kid hunting than to hunt for your kid.”

“It was started by Chuck Williams, who has since passed away,” says Jim Vashro, president of Flathead Wildlife. “We carry on that tradition to encourage other kids to hunt, and show people that hunting is a wholesome, healthy activity for our youth.”

After the hunting season, at their December meeting, Flathead Wildlife invites young hunters to share stories and celebrate hunting, and holds fun raffles in which the young hunters can win hunting gear. This year’s meeting was held on December 8, at the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Office in Kalispell.



MEMORIES (CONT. FROM PAGE 7)

Satisfied with her initial investigation of the coulee, the elk headed right toward us. She stopped at thirty yards and started to drop her head to eat. I slowly raised my bow and drew. As I reached half draw, she whipped her head up and looked at me, staring through me. I could hear my ragged breathing, and my muscles shook, fighting to hold my bow at half draw. I was certain I had blown my chance, but she dropped her head and began feeding, mercifully allowing me to let down.

I was rattled and my muscles ached. I wanted this elk, and I was terrified she would spook. After an eternity had passed in seconds, she once again headed toward my position. As she drew even with me, I gathered my remaining strength

and came to full draw. The sound of my arrow against my rest froze her as she tried to identify what she was sensing but couldn’t see. I was shaking, but I forced my body and mind to focus on one thought: “PULL BACK.” My arm went back, my release fired, and my arrow leapt from the string. The silence was shattered as my arrow hit home. The elk’s shoulders hunched forward, absorbing the impact, and she quickly spun and ran for cover. A restless night and hours of searching later, I crested the hill and saw her down, culminating in one of the sweetest memories of my life.

I didn’t set out on this public land elk hunt to get the biggest set of antlers. I trek to public land not for an ivory trophy but hoping to re-

kindle that wilderness part of me that modernity endeavors to subdue. The thrill of hunting public lands resonates with man’s desire to return to the primitive, where we can still pit our skills against the wild. No matter what we are hunting, perhaps the greatest rewards we receive for our efforts are memories. We chase these prizes, memorialize them, share them until they are well worn, and file them away in the recesses of our minds, pulling them out to relieve those primal emotions we long to feel. In the end, we are all just chasing memories.

MWF member Marcus Strange is a native Pennsylvanian and converted Montanan. He shares his outdoor experiences on his website www.urbantocountry.com.

MORE MONTANANS INDUCTED INTO OUTDOOR HALL OF FAME

HONORING OUR CONSERVATION LEADERS

By MWF Staff

On December 3, 2016, the second class of conservation leaders was inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was created to honor the men and women who have made significant and lasting contributions to the restoration and conservation of Montana’s wildlife and wild places.

The Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame also aims to capture the stories of these individuals in an effort to contribute to public awareness and education. By celebrating the accomplishments of these men and women who contributed so much to Montana, we can inspire future generations to work to protect the Treasure State’s natural re-

sources and outdoor traditions. The current inductees were all nominated by members of the public. A selection committee of conservationists from around the state was tasked with reviewing the applications and selecting those who best represent the ideals of Montana’s unique outdoor heritage. The inductees includes Margaret Adams, Bob Anderson, Ken & Florence Baldwin, George Darrow, Jim Goetz, Bud Lilly, Pat McVay, Bob Munson, Jim Posewitz, Bob Ream, Tony Schoonen, Thomas ‘Bearhead’ Swaney, and Pat Williams. MWF is proud that nearly half of these inductees have been dedicated members of MWF and our affiliates, and that many of their historic causes have been our causes too. When Jim Goetz and Tony Schoonen were leading the fights for healthy streams and river access, they often did so through the Libby Rod & Gun Club, Anaconda Sportsmen, and especially the Montana Coalition for Stream Access, which later be-



came the Public Land/Water Access Association. Before Ken & Florence Baldwin helped found the Montana Wilderness Association, Ken was hard at work as president of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Today, Bob Ream and Jim Posewitz both contribute their considerable expertise to MWF’s efforts.

To learn more about the MOHF and its inductees, visit montanawildlife.org.

ORGANIZING OUTDOORS ENTHUSIASTS IN THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY

NEW CONSERVATION GROUP FORMS IN BILLINGS

By MWF Staff

A new conservation group formed in Yellowstone County earlier this fall. The group, Yellowstone Valley Sportsmen, was formed to fill a void in the hunting and fishing community.

A few Billings residents, wanted a club that provided fun events where they could hang out with friends, swap stories over beer, and learn new tips and tactics for their outdoor pursuits. They believe that this sort of format will attract new hunters and anglers who may come to the sport from a non-traditional background. The group aims to connect new hunters and anglers

with the resources they need to be successful as sportsmen and women and conservationists. These types of clubs are becoming more and more important in a time when it can be intimidating to get into hunting and fishing. The club hopes to make it easier for anyone who is interested in the outdoors, but doesn’t know where to start, to get involved. With a membership that is as diverse as the city itself, all members- whether they are lifetime hunters and anglers or someone just starting out, can learn something new and get engaged. By prioritizing fun events, field projects, and tutorials from hunting and fishing experts, Yellowstone Valley Sportsmen will be protecting and enjoying Montana’s land and waters, wildlife, and outdoor heritage. The club will work closely with the Montana Wildlife Federation on issues and hopes of be-



coming an affiliate of the organization in the future. If you want to get involved with the club, like Yellowstone Valley Sportsmen on Facebook and keep an eye out for upcoming events in the Billings area or email John Bradley at jbradley@mtwf.org

WHAT IS THE MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION?

The Montana Wildlife Federation is a statewide conservation organization dedicated to promoting wildlife, wildlife habitat, and sportsmen’s interests. Our membership includes thousands of Montanans and others around the nation who are dedicated to conserving Montana’s wildlife and outdoor heritage.

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AFFILIATE CLUBS

Anaconda Sportsmen’s Club
Bear Paw Bowmen
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Helena Hunters & Anglers
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
Laurel Rod & Gun Club
Libby Rod & Gun Club
Park County Rod & Gun Club
Public Land/Water Access Association
Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association
Rosebud/Treasure Wildlife
Russell County Sportsmen

AFTER A TOUGH ELECTION, WE CAN COME TOGETHER

UNITING AMERICANS BEHIND CONSERVATION

By Collin O'Mara
CEO National Wildlife Federation

As America's largest conservation organization, the National Wildlife Federation congratulates President-elect Donald Trump and the newly elected Congress and commit to doing our part to work together to protect and restore America's wildlife.

During the campaign, President-elect Trump spoke out against the sale, privatization or transfer of cherished public lands, in support of wildlife conservation and expanding hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities and in favor of necessary infrastructure investments to address water quality crises, like the lead contamination in Flint. We look forward to working together to address these and other conservation challenges.

These elections were often polarizing and divisive, demonstrating a deep disaffection and frustration with government dysfunction in Washington, D.C. But there were signs of progress, including the election of Governor Steve Bullock in Montana and other Democratic and Republican conservation champions across the nation. We also saw some real wins on state ballot initiatives, with conservation funding overwhelmingly passed in Missouri and a measure to reduce wildlife trafficking sailed to victory in Oregon, and voters in Oklahoma defeated a constitutional amendment that would have removed state oversight of agricultural activities. These election wins serve as reminders that Americans overwhelmingly support wildlife, clean water, clean air, a cleaner energy future, and action on climate change.



Collin O'Mara, CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, addresses attendees at a rally to show support for protecting our national public lands. Credit: Conservation Federation of Missouri.

We believe that restoring our wildlife and America's natural resources have the potential to unite Americans from both parties, from all backgrounds and walks of life. To that end, we look forward to navigating difficult issues with the Trump Administration, some of which include revitalizing coal country, ensuring clean water for all Americans, reforming government mandates and subsidies that harm wildlife, accelerating deployment of clean energy and addressing climate change, and restoring

America's public lands. We know that we can simultaneously enjoy both healthy natural resources and a vibrant national economy and we look forward to advancing these important policies at all levels of government to achieve real and lasting progress for America's wildlife, great outdoors, and for current and future generations of conservationists.

Collin O'Mara is CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR MONTANA'S WILDLIFE

WHY LEAVE A LEGACY TO MWF?

Leaving a portion of your estate to the Montana Wildlife Federation helps ensure our long-term stability as an organization while also supporting what you love. Your donation would allow us to continue to serve outdoorsmen and women across the Treasure State and work to advance our mission of protecting wildlife, habitat and public access. As a donor, there are many benefits such as tax incentives, income, and the knowledge that you are helping advance Montana's outdoor heritage.

You do not have to be wealthy to leave a gift to MWF. The benefits of planned giving

are available at any income level. Even a modest donation can contribute to MWF's operations and endowment funds, helping sustain the work you care about for years to come. Your gift helps ensure your children and your children's children can enjoy the access to wildlife, water, and public lands that we value today.

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Including MWF in your estate planning is one of the most important ways you can support our work to protect Montana's abundant fish and wildlife, natural lands and waters, and public access for future generations.

LET US THANK YOU

If you have included MWF in your estate plans, please let us know! We want to thank you for your gift and make sure that we understand the purpose of your gift.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, call MWF at 406-458-0227 or send an email to mwf@mtwf.org.



MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION