

PROTECTING WILDLIFE, HABITAT, AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOR EIGHT DECADES

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2017 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Overview of the 2017 Legislative Session:

Some Wins for Habitat, Wildlife and Access

The 2017 Montana Legislature was overall a good one for wildlife, habitat and public access for hunters and anglers. The total number of wildlife and habitat bills was far lower than in previous years, and there were more good bills that worked to proactively address emerging issues including bills affecting aquatic invasive species and chronic wasting disease.

The top success in 2017 was the full restoration of the Habitat Montana program, our state's premier habitat protection and public access program. This was a major win for Montana's outdoors enthusiasts, and it will allow Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to again make purchases of key wildlife habitat to provide winter range and habitat for numerous game and nongame species.

This Legislative Session saw the passage of a bipartisan bill to enhance public access by increasing payments to landowners for participating in the Block Management Program. We also secured passage of several bills to increase funding for habitat improvement, reduce wildlife-livestock conflict, and stem the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.

We headed off efforts to push for the state takeover of federal public lands, working with a coalition of other Montana conservation groups to prevent the introduction

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of any bills that would allow for the transfer of public lands. We also defeated several bills that would have impeded scientific management of wildlife.

In addition, we joined a large number of other organizations in opposing a referendum which would have unnecessarily amended the Montana Constitution and was full of problems for private landowners, resident hunters, and for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. We defeated, with the help of one veto by Gov. Bullock, two bills to split the Parks division off from FWP, or make it less accountable, and threaten sportsmen's license dollars.

Our defeats primarily came on the issue of public access to public lands. We brought two bills that would have addressed the issue of people illegally gating public roads that lead to public land. These bills drew support from county governments, which helped craft them, but ultimately they were both defeated by access opponents in the House and Senate.



The Montana Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 by hunters, anglers, trappers, agricultural landowners, and other conservationists who were concerned about the loss of Montana's natural lands, healthy waters, and abundant wildlife. For the last eight decades, MWF has been Montana's leading voice for wildlife, wild lands, and outdoor recreation. As Montana's oldest and largest wildlife conservation organization, MWF is a grassroots organization that depends on the involvement of volunteers and members to speak up for wildlife, habitat, and public access to the outdoors.

About the Voting Record

The Legislative Voting Record is a compilation of how state legislators voted on key issues during the 2017 Legislative Session. It is meant to provide information for the public on where legislators stand on issues that affect wildlife, habitat and public access. Votes were identified by a committee of MWF volunteers to provide a spectrum of high profile issues. Data were compiled by MWF staff from official Montana legislative records. This report uses the vote on a given bill that is most reflective of a legislator's stance on the issue.

MWF has compiled a Legislative Voting Record at the conclusion of each Legislative Session for more than 20 years. This report is produced for nonpartisan informational purposes so that MWF members can understand how lawmakers voted on issues of concern. Support for or opposition to any given bill or resolution is not intended to provide an endorsement or rejection of any state legislator.

Working Together to Support Hunting, Angling, and Trapping Opportunity

The Montana Wildlife Federation played a key role in forming and organizing the Montana Sporting Coalition. This group included several hunting, angling, and wildlife conservation organizations with tens of thousands of members across Montana.

The Sporting Coalition started working together well over a year before the session. During the session, we met weekly to share information and identify common priorities. Member groups agreed to disagree respectfully while uniting behind shared goals.

In addition to participating in the legislative process, the Sporting Coalition also provided several opportunities for organization members and leaders to meet with and interact with lawmakers to help build strong awareness of our issues and shared agenda.

2017 Montana Sporting Coalition

Montana Wildlife Federation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Montana Bowhunters Association
Mule Deer Foundation
Wild Sheep Foundation
Montana Trout Unlimited
Pheasants Forever
Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation
Ducks Unlimited
Montana Sportsmen Alliance
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society

HB 5 LONG-RANGE BUILDING APPROPRIATIONS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**

This was the state capital improvements bill and contained key habitat protection programs, including Habitat Montana, the Upland Game Bird Enhancement program, and others.

HB 324 REVISE LAWS RELATED TO STATE PARKS' ADMINISTRATION

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Oppose**

This bill would have given the State Parks Board the ability to hire and oversee the director of the Parks Division. It would have undermined the ability of the FWP director to run the agency and could have threatened federal excise tax dollars from hunters and anglers.

HB 434 CREATE MONTANA WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACT

Vote: Third Reading Conference Committee Adopted Vote

MWF: Support

This bill set up a council to review habitat enhancement projects, including noxious weed treatments and other measures, which will use hunter dollars and undergo review by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

HB 97 INCREASE BLOCK MANAGEMENT LANDOWNER PAYMENT CAP

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**

The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council recommended this bill to increase the maximum payment a landowner can receive for participating in the Block Management Program from the current \$12,000 per year to \$15,000 per year. It also increased the daily payment per hunter for a landowner by \$2.

HB 295/SB 538 INCREASE FINE FOR GATING A PUBLIC ROAD/REVISE LAWS REGARDING REMOVAL OF HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENTS

Vote: Blast Motion Vote **MWF: Support**

These companion bills would have addressed the issue of people who gate public roads that lead to public land to cut off public access. Both would have increased the fine for gating a public road from the current \$10 per day, while also giving county commissioners the ability to issue encroachment permits into the right of way for farmers and ranchers as needed while still guaranteeing public access.

HB 651 REVISE LAWS RELATED TO PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS

Vote: Second Reading Vote **MWF: Oppose**

This bad bill would have gutted one of our most successful conservation programs, Habitat Montana. It would have changed the nature of the program from habitat protection and instead created a second access specialist position in state government who would answer to the state Land Board, not FWP.

House Legislator	House District no.	HB 05	HB 97	HB 295	HB 324	HB 434	HB 651
Gunderson, Steve (R)	1	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Cuffe, Mike (R)	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Perry, Zac (D)	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Regier, Matt (R)	4	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Fern, Dave (D)	5	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Glimm, Carl (R)	6	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Garner, Frank (R)	7	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lavin, Steve (R)	8	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Brodehl, Randy (R)	9	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Noland, Mark (R)	10	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Skees, Derek (R)	11	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Hertz, Greg (R)	12	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Brown, Bob (R)	13	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Loge, Denley (R)	14	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
Kip III, George (D)	15	Y	Y	A	A	Y	N
Webber, Susan (D)	16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Fitzgerald, Ross (R)	17	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Cook, Rob (R)	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
McKamey, Wendy (R)	19	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Anderson, Fred (R)	20	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Jacobson, Tom (D)	21	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola (R)	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hamlett, Bradley (D)	23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Price, Jean (D)	24	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Trebas, Jeremy (R)	25	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Schreiner, Casey (D)	26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
O'Hara, James (R)	27	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Bachmeier, Jacob (D)	28	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Bartel, Dan (R)	29	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Galt, Wylie (R)	30	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Smith, Bridget (D)	31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)	32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Knudsen, Casey (R)	33	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Knudsen, Austin (R)	34	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Staffanson, Scott (R)	35	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Doane, Alan (R)	36	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Harris, Bill (R)	37	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Holmlund, Kenneth (R)	38	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Custer, Geraldine (R)	39	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Usher, Barry (R)	40	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Peppers, Rae (D)	41	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon (D)	42	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Webb, Peggy (R)	43	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Mortensen, Dale (R)	44	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)	45	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jones, Donald (R)	46	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Kelker, Kathy (D)	47	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Karjala, Jessica (D)	48	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
McCarthy, Kelly (D)	49	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Court, Virginia (D)	50	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N

House Legislator	House District no.	HB 05	HB 97	HB 295	HB 324	HB 434	HB 651
Rosendale, Adam (R)	51	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Patelis, Jimmy (R)	52	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lenz, Dennis (R)	53	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Essmann, Jeff (R)	54	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ricci, Vince (R)	55	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Vinton, Sue (R)	56	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
Mandeville, Forrest (R)	57	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Berglee, Seth (R)	58	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Redfield, Alan (R)	59	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Bishop, Laurie (D)	60	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Hamilton, Jim (D)	61	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Woods, Tom (D)	62	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Brown, Zach (D)	63	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
White, Kerry (R)	64	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Knokey, Jon (R)	65	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Hayman, Denise (D)	66	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Burnett, Tom (R)	67	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Grubbs, Bruce (R)	68	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Sales, Walt (R)	69	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Flynn, Kelly (R)	70	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Shaw, Ray (R)	71	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Welch, Tom (R)	72	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Keane, Jim (D)	73	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Curtis, Amanda (D)	74	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Wagoner, Kirk (R)	75	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lynch, Ryan (D)	76	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Swanson, Kathy (D)	77	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Pierson, Gordon (D)	78	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Eck, Jenny (D)	79	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Beard, Becky (R)	80	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Ellis, Janet (D)	81	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Funk, Moffie (D)	82	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Abbott, Kim (D)	83	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)	84	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Manzella, Theresa (R)	85	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Ehli, Ron (R)	86	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Ballance, Nancy (R)	87	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Greef, Edward (R)	88	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
McConnell, Nate (D)	89	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Hill, Ellie (D)	90	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Bennett, Bryce (D)	91	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Hopkins, Mike (R)	92	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Fleming, John (D)	93	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Dudik, Kimberly (D)	94	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Morigeau, Shane (D)	95	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Hertz, Adam (R)	96	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tschida, Brad (R)	97	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Curdy, Willis (D)	98	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Ryan, Marilyn (D)	99	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Olsen, Andrea (D)	100	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N

KEY: Y = VOTED FOR BILL; N = VOTED AGAINST BILL; A = ABSENT; E = EXCUSED

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Senate Legislator

Senate District No.	SJ 9	SR 45	SB 50	SB 73	SB 171	SB 187	SB 236	SB 264	SB 358	SB 363
Vincent, Chas (R)	1	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Brown, Dee (R)	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Regier, Keith (R)	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Blasdel, Mark (R)	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Keenan, Bob (R)	5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Olszewski, Albert (R)	6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Fielder, Jennifer (R)	7	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Whitford, Lea (D)	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Jones, Llew (R)	9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Buttrey, Edward (R)	11	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Boland, C ie (D)	12	Y	Y	A	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Hoven, Brian (R)	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	E
Tempel, Russel (R)	14	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Osmundson, Ryan (R)	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Smith, Frank (D)	16	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Lang, Mike (R)	17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Hinebauch, Steve (R)	18	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Moore, Eric (R)	19	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Ankney, Duane (R)	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Small, Jason (R)	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Kary, Doug (R)	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Webb, Roger (R)	23	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
McNally, Mary (D)	24	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Cross, Jen (D)	25	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
MacDonald, Margaret (D)	26	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Smith, Cary (R)	27	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Richmond, Tom (R)	28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Howard, David (R)	29	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Swandal, Nels (R)	30	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Phillips, Mike (D)	31	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Hinkle, Jedediah (R)	32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Pomnichowski, JP (D)	33	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Vance, Gordon (R)	34	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Sales, Scott (R)	35	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Welborn, Jeffrey (R)	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Sesso, Jon (D)	37	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
McClafferty, Edie (D)	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Vuckovich, Gene (D)	39	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Gauthier, Terry (R)	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Caferro, Mary (D)	41	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Cohenour, Jill (D)	42	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Connell, Pat (R)	43	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Thomas, Fred (R)	44	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barrett, Dick(D)	45	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Malek, Sue (D)	46	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Salomon, Daniel (R)	47	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Volken, Cynthia (D)	48	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Sands, Diane (D)	49	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Facey, Tom (D)	50	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y

SJ 9 INTERIM STUDY REGARDING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE AND UNGULATE POPULATIONS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**
 This study bill called for a study by the Environmental Quality Council of chronic wasting disease (CWD). This debilitating disease is found in several adjoining states and provinces and poses a major threat to our ungulate populations.

SR 45 CONFIRM GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEE AS DIRECTOR TO FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**
 This resolution was to confirm Martha Williams, the governor's appointee to be the director of Montana FWP.

SB 50 ALLOW DIGITAL CARCASS TAGS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**
 This bill allowed FWP to follow other states that have implemented digital tags for hunters.

SB 73 REVISE LAWS RELATED TO LIVESTOCK LOSS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**
 This important bill renewed the state Livestock Loss compensation program, which pays for losses caused by wolves and grizzly bears. It included funding for prevention work including carcass management, range riders and electric fencing of attractants to prevent attacks and benefit wildlife.

SB 171 PROHIBIT RESTRICTION OF CERTAIN DEER PERMITS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Oppose**
 This was a bill that would have barred the ability of FWP to issue unlimited mule deer permits in certain districts. This is a tool FWP uses to try to limit the number of hunters who go to a certain area in an effort to achieve certain management objectives.

SB 187 PROHIBIT IMPORTING CERTAIN ANIMAL BODY PARTS FROM CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE STATES

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Support**
 This bill imposed regulations on importing body parts of game animals that could pose a risk of the spread of chronic wasting disease.

SB 236 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM TO SAFEGUARD RIGHT TO HUNT, FISH, AND TRAP WILDLIFE

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Oppose**
 This measure would have put before Montana voters in 2018 a referendum that would have elevated hunting, fishing and trapping to a constitutional right. It was rife with problems for private landowners, for resident hunters because of potential sharply raised license fees and for Montana FWP to manage wildlife.

SB 264 REVISING RULEMAKING FOR REPORTING TO BOARD OF OUTFITTERS

Vote: Third Reading Vote **MWF: Oppose**
 This measure would have eliminated the ability of the state Board of Outfitters to require reporting of game harvest or other information from licensed outfitters. It would cost Montana FWP valuable information at a time when the agency most needs it.

SB 538/HB 295 INCREASE FINE FOR GATING A PUBLIC ROAD/REVISE LAWS REGARDING REMOVAL OF HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENTS

Vote: Blast Motion Vote **MWF: Support**
 These companion bills would have addressed the issue of people who gate public roads that lead to public land to cut off public access. Both would have increased the fine for gating a public road from the current \$10 per day, while also giving county commissioners the ability to issue encroachment permits into the right of way for farmers and ranchers as needed while still guaranteeing public access.

SB 363 GENERALLY REVISE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Vote: Third Reading Vote after Conference Committee **MWF: Support**
 This bill set up the funding sources to pay for stepped up efforts to combat aquatic invasive species, primarily non-native mussels.