Supporting the Conservation Community
MWF’s Priority for 80 Years

By Executive Director, Dave Chadwick

One reason why the Montana Wildlife Federation was created 80 years ago was to bring together the many organizations working on conservation issues. Our founders realized that real and gun clubs, birdwatching groups, garden clubs, and agricultural associations could accomplish more together than in isolation. Over time, we built powerful alliances to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife that support hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, and every other outdoor activity.

Bringing different voices together remains a core value for every other conservation organization you support! A strong conservation community will help us protect our hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage for future generations.

Contact Dave Chadwick at dchadwick@mtwf.org

Putting in Long Hours to Solve Tough Issues

By MWF President, Bill Geer

Finding solutions to the difficult issues affecting our lands, water, wildlife takes a lot of time and a willingness to put aside differences and appreciate other people’s values. Sometimes, it feels like it would be easier to just keep fighting. At MWF, we believe that finding common ground is worth the effort. Our volunteers and staff work around the state with landowners, state and federal agencies, conservation groups, agriculture organizations, and other stakeholders to find common ground.

For instance, we are working on several efforts to address national forest management, like the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group, Upper Blackfoot Working Group, and Gallatin Forest Partnership. We also work to support the outcomes of collaborative efforts, like funding for the 2015 sage-grouse conservation plan. Another top priority for MWF is improving relations between private landowners and hunters in order to improve wildlife management, open more public access, and keep farmers and ranchers on the land.

Only by sitting through long meetings and listening to diverse opinions can we continue to enjoy the bounty of public wildlife that we do. MWF stands ready to help, just as we have for 82 years.
In the 1980s, several bills passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Ted Schwinden aimed at protecting and enhancing those Montana values that are so important to so many who put an emphasis on outdoor recreation. Those bills had a similar theme and end results – to make the pursuit of hunting, fishing and the outdoors available to people regardless of income level or station in life. I would know, because throughout the eighties I served as director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The list of accomplishments throughout the decade was impressive: the duck stamp program; bighorn sheep and moose auction tag; Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program; and the flagship of them all, Habitat Montana. Each of these is funded by those who were most supportive of them becoming state law, Montana’s sportsmen and sportswomen.

Over the past 30 years, these programs collectively have been major tools for FWP and Montana’s hunters and anglers in meeting the changes facing our state’s landscape. They have been successful in all parts of our state. Most often those successes have been in partnership with private landowners, most of them agricultural producers. These programs often have a role in supporting traditional farms and ranches that are important to our state’s economy and wildlife heritage. It was disappointing to see the 2015 Legislature restrict Habitat Montana to conservation easements, with the only land purchases being those that were in the works at the time. The first two land acquisitions with Habitat Montana were in 1987 and 1988. In both instances, landowners approached FWP wanting to sell their property. And in both cases, a conservation easement did not fit their needs. They not only wanted to sell their property, they specifically wanted it to go to the people of Montana through FWP. The purchases were completed and as a result, over the past 30 years those properties have fulfilled their purpose as wildlife habitat. Just as important, the two landowners achieved the results they set out for. As hunters and anglers who love Montana, we all owe a major thank you to the Montana Wildlife Federation and the other groups and individuals who came to the forefront in 2017 and corrected the misguided actions of the 2015 Legislature. MWF worked to help build the Montana Sporting Coalition, which is comprised of 12 different hunting and angling organizations. Unfortunately, it appears those who oppose the Montana values embodied in Habitat Montana plan to attack the program again. Now we elected statewide officials who serve on the Land Board who want to deny a conservation easement proposed as a Habitat Montana project, the Horse Creek Complex project near Glendive. In this instance, the private landowner wanted to enter into a conservation easement with FWP.

It took two years to develop the terms of the easement, was thoroughly vetted and merited approval. It is difficult to follow the reasoning to question what a landowner wants to do with their property, particularly when it ranks high in the protection of those values for which the law was passed 30 years ago. It’s apparent that hunters and anglers cannot assume these laws will be implemented the way they were intended, given the recent actions of the Legislature and Land Board. Sportsmen and sportswomen will need to continue to speak up on Habitat Montana and hold lawmakers accountable for protecting Montana’s outdoor heritage. Habitat Montana was important in 1987 and has resulted in much good work to conserve land and open it up to public access over the past 30 years. It is important today and will be much more so in the future.


Habitat Montana
Access Programs Record of Achievement Worth Defending

By Jim Flynn

Over the past 30 years, these programs collectively have been major tools for FWP and Montana’s hunters and anglers in meeting the changes facing our state’s landscape. They have been successful in all parts of our state. Most often those successes have been in partnership with private landowners, most of them agricultural producers. These programs often have a role in supporting traditional farms and ranches that are important to our state’s economy and wildlife heritage. It was disappointing to see the 2015 Legislature restrict Habitat Montana to conservation easements, with the only land purchases being those that were in the works at the time. The first two land acquisitions with Habitat Montana were in 1987 and 1988. In both instances, landowners approached FWP wanting to sell their property. And in both cases, a conservation easement did not fit their

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Removing Barriers to Public Access
An MWF Priority

By MWF Conservation Director, Nick Gevock

Access to public wildlife and public land is a top priority for hunters, anglers and other recreational users of Montana’s great outdoors. Over the years, Montanans have always encountered the challenge of illegal gates and fences popping up on public roads, trails that lead to public lands, and stream access points. This problem appears to be getting worse as demand to recreate in our mountains, prairies and streams grows. The Montana Wildlife Federation has been working to improve public access for decades. A top priority in our work has been to support policies that back up on-the-ground efforts to open public access by local rod and gun clubs and our statewide affiliate the Public Land/Water Access Association. These efforts include measures to increase the consequences for illegally blocking public roads and trails as well as voluntary incentives for landowners to open up routes to public land across their private property.

In the 2017 Legislative session, MWF led the push to increase the fine for illegally gating established county roads that lead to public land. The current fine is only $10 a day, which is comically low and by all accounts has never been levied anywhere. MWF supported a bill by Rep. Tom Jacobson of Great Falls that would have increased the fine to up to $500 per day - a level that would meaningfully deter illegal gates and other barriers to road and stream access. The bill was carefully written and drew support from hunters and anglers as well as county governments. Under pressure from anti-access special interests, the Montana House of Representatives leadership sent the bill to an unfavorable committee, where it was killed. We plan to bring this legislation back in 2019, because it is a common-sense way to resolve illegal road barriers, protect public access and private property rights, and give county attorneys a powerful tool to defend public access.

Just in the last few months, we have seen another excellent example of why this bill is needed. Earlier this summer, the Montana Supreme Court upheld a district judge’s decision on Hughes Creek Road in the Bitterroot Valley determining that an illegally gated road was in fact a public county road. The decision resulted from many years of hard work by the Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association to get the road open. It’s been closed for longer than four decades, cutting off a large area in the Bitterroot National Forest. If the fine had been substantial - as proposed in our bill - the gate could have come down much sooner.

In addition to increasing the fine for illegal roadblocks, MWF is also working on several other bills to increase public access to public land and public wildlife in the 2019 Legislative Session. But with well-financed anti-access special interests working against us, we will need to activate our grassroots to speak up. To stay informed and find out how you can help, sign up for email updates at www.montanawildlife.org.

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By Nick Gevock, MWF Conservation Director

Elk Shoulder Seasons to Undergo Review by Commission

The Montana Wildlife Federation continues to pay close attention to the elk shoulder seasons that are taking place in 43 districts throughout the state. Shoulder seasons are a rifle hunt for elk that is printed in the hunting regulations, and occurs outside of the general five week season. They are meant to address elk populations that are over the objective set by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. But they’re also controversial, because we know that we must have a strong general season harvest to not only manage elk numbers, but also help re-distribute elk off of private lands where they cause damage to crops and fences. The seasons are “performance based,” meaning they have criteria that at least half of the harvest of elk recruited into the population are killed during the general season. And that requires a lot of data collection by FWP. Yet we also know it’s important. Simply put, if we have areas where elk are getting no or very little hunting pressure, their numbers will build up. Elk find these areas and hang out there, making them in essence off limits to public hunters. And landowners know they need that healthy harvest to move elk around. FWP staff will be presenting the results of two full seasons worth of data in October to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and MWF staff will be there to provide comments.

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
Grizzly Bears on Track for Delisting

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is moving forward with plans to remove federal Endangered Species Act protection for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. The area encompasses Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall wilderness complex, and surrounding lands. Biologists estimate there are 1,050 grizzlies in the area, and the population is growing by an estimated 2.3 percent every year. It’s a conservation success story, following decades of conservation measures that includes habitat protection, sanitation measures and livestock loss prevention work in outlying valleys. Montana FWP put on an impressive presentation of its conservation strategy for the bears at the August Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. MWF is preparing our comments on that strategy, which calls for maintaining a minimum of 800 bears in the ecosystem. It also calls for efforts to improve connectivity with other grizzly bear populations, including in the Cabinet-Yaak of northwest Montana, the Selkirk in northern Idaho and northeast Washington, the Selway-Bitterroot in Montana/Idaho, and the Greater Yellowstone. Montana is really the key to long-term grizzly bear conservation, and MWF is committed to continuing to build on this success. In fact, MWF is already working with the National Wildlife Federation and other partners to help fund and implement strong livestock loss prevention and other conflict reduction measures that allows bears to coexist with humans and livestock on the same landscape.

Supporting Funding for Wildlife Management

MWF continues to work to ensure that the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has adequate funding to manage fish and wildlife across the state. Effectively managing the state’s wildlife, implementing hunting and fishing regulations, collecting data on imperiled species, and the countless other activities of the department all depend on adequate funding and staffing. Even though the department is funded primarily by hunting and fishing licenses, it still needs Legislative permission to spend those funds. The need for additional funding is always growing as well. Over the last several months, MWF...
For over 15 years, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has worked to reduce conflict between livestock and wildlife on public lands through voluntary agreements with livestock producers who graze on public lands. This includes places like the upper Gardiner Basin and Horse Butte to provide year-round habitat for bison outside of Yellowstone National Park. The program has also benefited livestock producers who face chronic conflicts with bears and wolves in places like Ash Mountain and Iron Mountain in the Beartooths.

The voluntary agreements are relatively simple and represent an equitable solution to a complex problem. NWF offers the livestock permittee fair-market value to waive their grazing permit back to the Forest Service. The Forest Service is then able to vacate or administratively close those permits based on Forest Plan direction. It’s a win for wildlife and livestock producers. The permittee is able to reinvest those funds back into areas of their operations where conflicts are minimal.

In addition to NWF’s work reducing conflict between large carnivores and livestock and bison habitat expansion, NWF is also working across the Northern Rockies with our affiliates and other wildlife conservation organizations, such as the Wild Sheep Foundation, to reduce the risk of disease contact between domestic and wild sheep on public land.

NWF has been playing a lead role in resolving Tendoy Mountains bighorn issues since we negotiated the retirement of the last two active sheep allotments in the range in 2013. Since then, NWF has retired additional allotments due south of the Tendoys in an effort to reduce the risk of contact between domestic and wild sheep once the Tendoys are repopulated (which could possibly happen within the next year.)

Ellis Peak in the Tendoy Mountains.

Supporting Funding for Wildlife Management Continued

staff and volunteers have participated in discussions convened by FWP to review the price of hunting and fishing licenses, as well as efforts to investigate funding for emerging issues like aquatic nuisance species and wildlife diseases. This process will inform legislative consideration of any necessary fee increases or other funding proposals next year.

In addition, MWF is working with a variety of conservation partners to identify new sources of funding for FWP. For more than a century, the hunting and fishing license system has provided reliable funding for wildlife management. However, this system also limits funding to just one set of users: hunters and anglers.

As the challenges facing conservation keep growing, there is a need for more funding to address more issues, and MWF believes that the agency should be funded by everyone who appreciates and benefits from wildlife conservation.

Affiliate News

The Public Land/Water Access Association

If you’re in Montana, odds are you’ve spent time on public land and water. The beauty of this land, and our ability to easily access it, is a source of pride around here. Montana’s stream access laws are the envy of the nation. But this wasn’t always the case.

The Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA) was born out of the struggle for stream access in the 1980s. Early conflicts in the 1970s led to groundbreaking Montana Supreme Court decisions, which in turn led to the passage of the 1985 stream access law. The people behind that effort decided to get organized and formed PLWA.

Since then, PLWA has been busy. The organization and its supporters have successfully defended public access at South Cottonwood Creek, Boadle Road, West Deer Creek Road, Tenderfoot Road, and many others. In 2008, PLWA stopped landowners from preventing public access to water at public bridges over the Ruby River. Whether you hunt, fish, hike, backpack, ride a bike, boat or ski, PLWA works to protect your access rights. But there is still work to do.

Over 1.5 million acres of public lands in Montana are still inaccessible to the public for recreational use. Illegally locked gates and fenced off bridges prevent the public from reaching beloved streams and trails. If we work together, we can counter this privatization trend. At PLWA, we are committed to protecting the places you love. Make the decision to help. Join PLWA.
Protecting Habitat, Access in Central Montana

By Central Field Representative, Marcus Strange

In Montana, the outdoor recreation industry supports over 71,000 jobs and generates $7 billion in consumer spending annually. Montana’s public lands are a major economic driver that generate quality employment and help keep the rising generation at home in Montana.

To celebrate the economic power of our public lands, MWF co-hosted the Last Best Outdoors Fest at the end of August, along with Businesses for Montana’s Outdoors, Artemis, and the Montana Mountain Mamas. Taking place in Livingston, the event featured conservation powerhouses such as Senator Jon Tester, Sally Jewell, and Conrad Anker. The theme of this event was “Women in the Outdoors,” spotlighting the contributions to Montana’s outdoor economy made by women-owned businesses and women leaders in government and conservation.

In addition to co-hosting the event, MWF was there connecting with folks on the value of our public lands and water and growing our grassroots.

Supporting the Community of Women Who Hunt

In August, MWF teamed up with NWF’s Artemis Initiative to host the second annual Women Who Hunt in Helena, an evening of workshops and discussion between outdoors women. This event brought together women to discuss the conservation issues they feel passionate about and show of solidarity with their fellow female hunters. This event is further evidence that our hunting heritage is secure in the hands of passionate hunters who are breaking down stereotypes and redefining the modern hunter. MWF is grateful to the instructors and panelists for this event: Jessi Johnson, Rachel Vandevoort, Maranda Ratcliff, and Anna Strange. We also thank several sponsors for supporting this event and women who hunt: Sawyer Products, Vortex Optics, Stone Glacier, King’s Camo, Mystery Ranch, Alpz, OnXMaps, The Bohning Company, Black Eagle Arrows, Blackfoot River Brewing, MTN OPS, Counter Assault Bear Deterrent, and Kudupoint Broadheads.

Last Best Outdoors Fest Celebrates Women in the Outdoors

The crowd listened to event featured conservation powerhouses speak such as Senator Jon Tester, Sally Jewell, and Conrad Anker.

Fighting New Challenges to the Missouri Breaks

In 2018, MWF is continuing to defend the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. This means advocating for authentic local collaboration on monument management issues and defending the Antiquities Act, the landmark law that protects the Breaks and other unique and valued landscapes.

Last year at this time, Montanans enjoyed a conservation victory when we banded together and raised our collective voices in support of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Despite that victory, several areas along the Missouri River are again under attack: these lands are Wilderness Study Areas that are targeted for repeal by sweeping bills introduced by Senator Steve Daines and Representative Greg Gianforte.

The protection of these large, unfragmented blocks of public land that provide security habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for Montanans is a top priority for MWF and Montana hunters and anglers.
Speaking Up for Wildlife & Wildlands in Eastern Montana

By Eastern Field Representative, John Bradley

Lewistown Public Land Plan Held Up in Washington

After years of work by the local BLM field office the Lewistown Resource Management Plan is being held up in Washington D.C. The Department of Interior’s focus on oil and gas development has refocused the RMP’s Preferred Alternative from one of balanced multiple use with a focus on intact wildlife habitat and recreational opportunity, to one that strips most of the conservation measures out. The area includes over 200,000 acres of undeveloped, wild habitat along the Missouri Breaks National Monument and the Charles M. Russell Refuge river corridor, including one of the last intact river-to-prairie ecosystems. The Lewistown RMP draft will be up for comment this fall and unless hunters and conservationists get involved and push for intact habitat for wildlife, these lands will be open to development for decades to come. MWF will continue to push back on this top down approach to land management, but it’ll take a combined effort with a variety of stakeholders to keep this unbroken landscape wild and producing world class opportunity for upland birds and big game.

Helping “Keep it Public” By Restoring Public Lands

In July, MWF staff and volunteers joined with Keep It Public on their Conservation Camp Out on the Charles M. Russell (CMR) National Wildlife Refuge. Conservationists from around the state spent a few long days removing miles of dilapidated fencing and old abandoned farm equipment that was hindering wildlife movement. Budget cuts to the CMR Refuge closed the local field office in charge of this area, making the efforts of Keep It Public even more essential. The specific parcel, once a private inholding, became public with dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). America’s most important conservation and recreation program, LWCF has saved places in every county in Montana and across the nation. LWCF will expire on September 30, 2018 without action from Congress. MWF and Keep It Public are working hard to get LWCF reauthorized and fully-funded before the program expires.

Sage-Grouse Repeal Kept Off Defense Bill

In a victory for conservationists, ranchers, and hunters, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) left out destructive language that would undermine existing greater sage-grouse conservation. The defense bill previously had language that would have allowed states to roll back the federal sage-grouse conservation plans and would have prevented the Department of the Interior from changing the bird’s status for ten years. MWF, along with National Wildlife Federation and our Western wildlife federation partners mobilized thousands of people to speak up and kill this extreme provision which would have ended years of bipartisan cooperation to avoid the sage-grouse from being listed under the Endangered Species Act. With the NDAA being passed without the negative sage-grouse rider attached, it’s now time for hunters and anglers, ranchers and farmers, state and federal land managers, and all who value the West to roll up our sleeves and work together to protect this unique western landscape.
Earlier this year, a brown trout was caught by an angler in the upper Kootenai River above an impassable barrier in Kootenai Falls, prompting Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to issue and immediate kill and report regulation for all brown trout. What’s the big fuss you may ask? This is yet another example of one of Montana’s major issues facing its fisheries, illegal fish introductions. There have been over 600 illegal fish introductions documented around the state. These unauthorized plantings of fish by people who want to create their own fisheries is detrimental to other fish species, increases management and suppression costs, and can lead to the destruction of entire fisheries in some cases.

Despite the plethora of negative impacts, illegal introductions continue to occur. MWF has begun a campaign to address the issue and educate anglers on the dangers of illegal introductions. Working with agency officials, MWF aims to bring more public information to anglers on illegal introductions, create awareness on an issue that is important for Montana’s anglers and fisheries, and ultimately increase enforcement against illegal fish dumpers.

The Flathead Forks Comprehensive River Management Plan Process Underway

The Flathead National Forest, in coordination with Glacier National Park, has begun the planning process to determine a new Comprehensive River Management Plan for the forks of the Flathead River. The forks were designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers in 1976 and are among the few water bodies in Montana currently classified as such. These areas are vital to Montana’s fish and wildlife and provide amazing recreational opportunities. The river management plan will assess the values of the river and surrounding areas and create a monitoring plan to protect those resources for future generations. With public listening sessions underway since May, the Forest Service will continue to collect information on fish, wildlife, and recreational values for the development of the plan. MWF will continue to monitor the upcoming plan and address concerns for fish, wildlife, and habitat.

Fighting Illegal Fish Introductions

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Supporting Collaboration on Western Montana Public Lands

Congressman Greg Gianforte and Senator Steve Daines continue to push their legislation to unilaterally remove protections of Wilderness Study Areas without public input, and MWF continues to push back. Over the last few months, we’ve helped turn people out for public meetings and speak up against repealing Wilderness Study Area protections across Western Montana. Whether you hunt or fish in WSA’s or not, many of them provide excellent summer range habitat for our elk and deer and are the source of clean water to many of our world-renowned trout streams. Most Montanans agree that addressing these areas is long overdue. But removing protections from all of these places without doing a thorough analysis of their habitat and recreational values is a mistake that could cost hunters and anglers in the future. In a time when Montanans should be coming together to find solutions to complex public lands issues, MWF will continue to advocate for collaborative processes to determine the right direction for management of our public lands and wildlife.
Expanding Access While Protecting Other Values

By MWF Board Member, Skip Kowalski

One of the most important issues facing Montanans -- and a priority for MWF for decades -- is protecting public access to public land for hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits. Sadly, “access” has become contentious because some legislators and political candidates are trying to use the issue for their own political advantage and divide the sportsmen community between hunters who prefer mechanized hunting against those who prefer backcountry hunting opportunities.

None of this is necessary. The definition of “access to public lands” depends on one’s objective. It can include: (1) how one legally crosses private lands, easements, rights of way, obtaining landowner permission; (2) the purpose for being there — hunting, fishing, hiking, getting away from it all; (3) the mode of travel — automobile, ATV, horseback, by foot; and (4) how one’s presence impacts the environment and other users — impacts to soil, water and wildlife, noise, solitude, camaraderie.

Most Montanans perceive access broadly, to encompass many different values. Instead of viewing access as unfettered motorized recreation everywhere, they consider access to include having many areas of public land open to motorized use and also having some areas limited to foot and horse traffic. We all recognize that not every area needs to be open to every use, and that we can provide access in a way that protects wildlife habitat and other uses.

Land management agencies need to look at the entire landscape before determining how much access is appropriate and necessary. They have a responsibility to provide for a variety of access types that accommodate the entire range of public land users while also protecting soil, water and wildlife. Managers should also consider the long-term availability and potential loss of access for specific recreation user groups. Because much of our public lands are already accessed by some type of road, we probably need fewer developed areas — not more.

A comprehensive land use strategy that accommodates all users while protecting wildlife, soil and water should eliminate much of the confusion and conflict over public access. Ideally, such a strategy would be developed during Forest Plan revision. Everyone may not get all they want, but, done correctly, there should be sufficient amounts and kinds of access to meet everyone’s desires and provide for the needs of Montana’s precious fish and wildlife.

Affiliate Update: Great Falls Archery Club

MWF is thrilled to welcome the Great Falls Archery Club back into the MWF affiliate network. Historically, GFAC has been an active affiliate and a passionate advocate for our hunting heritage. Founded around 50 years ago, the Great Falls Archery Club is a family-friendly group of archers dedicated to involving young people involved in bowhunting. The club is excited to continue their affiliation with MWF, and to work on public access issues and conservation in order to preserve the bowhunting heritage in Montana.

The Great Falls Archery Club puts on three shoots during the year that are opened to the public, including their popular Foul Weather Shoot in March, Safari Shoot in May, and one of the most well known shoots in the state, the King’s Hill Shoot in July. The Great Falls Archery Club will be hosting the Montana Bowhunter Association banquet in Great Falls in March of 2019.

MWF Member Profile: Haley Miller (Helena & Fort Benton)

By Central Field Representative, Marcus Strange

As outdoors users and conservationists our passions define us, but sharing and instilling our passion for the natural world in others ensures the future of the things we hold most dear. No one know this better than MWF member Haley Miller. Originally from the Paradise Valley, Haley spent several years living and working outside of Montana before moving back in 2011. Haley now splits her time between Helena and Fort Benton, where she and her partner Brett Berglund own and operate Upper Missouri River Guides. The company, which provides guided canoe trips through the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, was originally founded by two long-time MWF members, Glenn and Nancy Monahan. As guide on the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Haley shares amazing adventures, stories of Lewis and Clark, phenomenal food, and her passion for the outdoors with people from all over the world. As a small business owner who relies on public lands and waters, Haley is keenly aware that the conservation of our wild places is vital for a vibrant economy and our Montana way of life. When not cruising the Missouri in a canoe, Haley and Brett work hard to speak up for the Missouri River and all of Montana’s lands and waters.

Joining MWF’s Team: Zach Angstead

Zach Angstead has joined the MWF staff as our Membership & Engagement Coordinator.

Zach comes to the Montana Wildlife Federation to combine his passion for the outdoors and wildlife with his experience in grassroots organizing. As the Membership and Coordinator his goal is to expand membership and help increase the impact of the organization on wildlife and public lands issues. Zach graduated from Montana State University with a degree in both Ecology and Political Science. Since graduation he has worked on big game habitat improvement, bat conservation and public land issues. When he isn’t working you can find Zach hiking, fishing, camping with his family, and caving to explore the Montana underground.
A lot has changed since the Montana Wildlife Federation was founded over 80 years ago. The threats to wildlife, habitat, and public access keep growing and getting more complex. One thing that is easier today than in the past is your ability to financially support our mission. In just a few minutes, you can join the growing number of people who support MWF with a monthly donation.

Giving monthly is convenient, easy, and provides MWF with the funds we need to advance our conservation mission. You can enroll online in just a few minutes and provide the organization with dedicated funding to fuel our grassroots outreach and advocacy on behalf of Montana’s wildlife, habitat, and public access.

**Signing up as a monthly donor to MWF**
- Gives you an easy and seamless way for you to donate by credit/debit card.
- Makes a big difference to MWF every single month. A small donation every month adds up to a lot more over time! Reduces MWF’s fundraising expenses, meaning even more dollars can go to our conservation mission.

You can sign up as a monthly donor at www.montanawildlife.org, or you can call our office at 406-458-0227.

Supporters like you make MWF’s work a reality, and with your monthly investment MWF will be here to protect wildlife and recreation for generations to come. Sign up to become a monthly donor today so future generations can enjoy our abundant wildlife, habitat, and public lands tomorrow.