The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is Montana’s oldest, largest, and most effective conservation organization. MWF was founded in 1936 by hunters, anglers, landowners, and other conservationists who were concerned about the loss of Montana’s natural lands, healthy waters, and abundant wildlife.

Our dedicated volunteers and staff maintain this legacy.

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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- Secretary: Kathy Hadley
- Past-President: Skip Kowalski

Board Members
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- Jim Vashro- Helena
- JW Westman- Park City
- Bradley Jones- Helena
- James Wyatt-Great Falls
- Chris Marchion- Anaconda
- Harvey Nyberg- Lewistown

Affiliates
- Anaconda Sportsmen’s Club
- Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
- Gallatin Wildlife Association
- Great Falls Archery Club
- Helena Hunters & Anglers
- Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
- Laurel Rod & Gun Club
- Public Land/Water Access Association
- Rosebud/ Treasure Wildlife Association
- Russell County Sportsmen
- Traditional Bowhunters of Montana
- Western Bear Foundation

Cover Story
Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) member and ambassador, Nancy Anderson, fishing on the Bighorn River in January. This photo was taken by Alexis Bonogofsky who is also a Montana Wildlife Federation member.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working Together in 2019

By Executive Director, Dave Chadwick

As we close the books on 2018, 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.

2019 is going to start with another Legislative Session, where we have plenty of tough fights ahead to protect Montana’s outdoor heritage. We also have our work cut out for us at the federal level, where we will need to persuade Congress to increase funding for public land and wildlife conservation.

As the oldest conservation organization in Montana, and one of the oldest wildlife federations in the country, MWF has a history of success because of the strength of our grassroots membership and our willingness to speak up for what we value. In the year ahead, we will continue to fight to give everyone a voice on conservation – it’s the only way that future generations can experience what we enjoy today.

As we look ahead to a busy new year, I hope I can count on you to stay engaged, speak up for wildlife, and fight for wildlife, habitat, and access. And I hope you will consider making a year-end donation to celebrate MWF’s successes in 2018 and help us get off to a strong start in 2019!

Contact Dave Chadwick at dchadwick@mtwf.org

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Montanans Come Together For Our Outdoor Heritage

By MWF President, Bill Geer

Another election is over, and most Montanans are glad for it. This was a particularly tough election year with millions of dollars spent on federal and state races, as well as ballot initiatives. Even with a lot heated rhetoric, one thing remained clear: Montanans of all political stripes value our public lands, waters, wildlife and access to them. That’s why the Montana Wildlife Federation has worked for eight decades to bring people together to pass good policy for wildlife, habitat and access. We have partnered with landowner groups, conservation interests and others to pass bipartisan bills that benefit wildlife, hunters, and farmers and ranchers. The list is long, but it includes a revamp of our hunting and fishing licenses to put Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on sound financial footing; boosts in funding for Block Management; increased funding for weed management on public and private lands; and increased funding for voluntary public access to private land.

That work will continue in the 2019 Legislature. MWF is working with numerous interests to address the many challenges we face. This will include defending funding for land protection, fighting aquatic invasive species, keeping politics out of wildlife management and working for better public access to public lands.

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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A

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2019 Legislature Overview
By Nick Gevock, MWF Conservation Director

The 2019 Legislature will, as always, be a busy one for issues that affect wildlife, habitat and access for sportsmen and sportswomen, as well as recreationists. The session will be dominated by issues surrounding the state budget, Medicaid expansion, infrastructure funding and education issues. But as always, natural resources bills will be prominent with Montanans. In the state Senate, Republicans will hold a 30-20 majority, while in the House of Representatives, Republicans will have a 58-42 seat majority. Scott Sales, R-Bozeman, will again serve as Senate President, while Jon Sesso, D-Butte will be the Senate Minority Leader. In the House, Greg Hertz, R-Polson, will serve as Speaker, and Casey Schreiner, D-Great Falls, is Minority Leader.

As the majority party, Republicans will chair committees in both houses. The Senate Fish and Game Committee will be chaired by Senator Jennifer Fielder, R-Thompson Falls and the Senate Natural Resources Committee will be chaired by Sen. Jeff Wellborn, R-Dillon. In the House, the House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee will be chaired by Rep. Bob Brown (R-Thompson Falls) and Natural Resources Committee will be chaired by Rep. Kerry White (R-Bozeman). MWF will be working closely with lawmakers of both parties to ensure that FWP’s budget is sound, and that key conservation priorities get the staffing and funding needed to manage our public trust resources.

Speak Up and Show Up for Wildlife

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

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

Join the MWF Legislative Action Team
MWF’s Legislative Action Team is a committed group of Montana hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts across the state who are willing to step up and help with the measures that affect our state’s public trust resources. Team members will push out information on bill hearings through their own social media and email networks to help get even more Montanans involved when needed. Join MWF’s Legislative Action Team by signing up 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 have an online bill tracker to provide real-time information to members and the public know about the bills affecting wildlife, habitat and access.

Watch our Bill Tracker
MWF will have an online bill tracker, which will cover key bills affecting wildlife, habitat and access. It will be updated very regularly, with the status of bills, when committee hearings are scheduled, and updates on votes by both committees and both legislative chambers. Find the bill tracker at www.montanawildlife.org.

Send in Comments
When a particular bill is of high interest, send an email to or phone your legislator. The MWF staff can help you prepare comments that will deliver your message with impact.

Show Up
There are many opportunities to get involved in the legislative process by giving testimony and meeting with legislators. Stay up to date on key bills and pick a time to make a trip to Helena to make your voice heard.
**MWF’s Priorities & Partners**

As we have in years past, MWF will be at the Capitol every day during the 2019 session to monitor issues and speak up for wildlife and our outdoor heritage. We will work to build partnerships and coalitions with other organizations to ensure a strong voice for conservation. Habitat Montana will need another strong defense in 2019. Land acquisition has always been a target for anti-conservation interests, but pressure is also growing to roll back conservation easements. Over the past year, Gov. Steve Bullock has been in a dispute with the rest of the state Land Board over conservation easements. Bullock determined that Board approval isn’t needed for easements, a decision he made after three members – Corey Stapleton, Matt Rosendale and Elsie Arntzen – attempted to block important easements near Wibaux and Boulder. Both projects had been negotiated over years and had been unanimously approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The move by Bullock has already triggered a bill draft that would give the Land Board the final say and ability to block Habitat Montana conservation easements. MWF and our conservation partners will strongly oppose this measure, as well as any other bills or budget measures that threaten Habitat Montana. This program has protected through easements and fee title purchases more than 400,000 acres around Montana, which provide crucial winter range for big game and other wildlife, as well as public hunting and wildlife watching access to these areas.

In order to help defend Habitat Montana, MWF is again taking a lead role in the Montana Sporting Coalition. This group of a dozen hunting and angling organizations led the way in 2017 to fully fund Habitat Montana. Collaboration across the diversity of groups that represent Montana hunters and anglers - and with other conservation interests across the state - will be crucial to protecting this important program.

Another big priority for MWF is increasing access to public land. We led the way in 2017 with a bill to increase the fine for gating or otherwise blocking public use of an established county road, from the current $10 per day to up to $500 per day, with no minimum. The current $10 fine, which is rarely even levied, gives little disincentive to people who seek to gate public roads and turn public lands into their own private hunting reserves. In addition, MWF is looking at several other bills to increase public access and put more teeth into laws to prevent people from blocking off public lands.

MWF will continue to work with a diverse, statewide public lands coalition to protect our federal public lands from attacks in the Legislature. Over the last several sessions, this coalition of hunters, backpackers, horseback riders, birdwatchers, and other public land users has turned out thousands of Montanans for public lands rallies to speak up against calls for the “transfer” of federal public lands to state control. These measures are meant to trigger a sell off of these lands, and MWF will stand up as we have for eight decades to keep public lands in public hands and protect our world-class hunting, angling and wildlife watching for all Montanans.

Other issues that will surface this session include funding to monitor and control for aquatic invasive species, state parks funding and a handful of licensing bills. MWF will be there to oppose any efforts that impose on scientific wildlife management, works to set seasons or attempts to micromanage the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).
Federal Policy Update

Clock is Ticking for Congressional Action on Public Lands, Wildlife

By MWF Staff

The midterm congressional election was bruising in Montana and nationwide. Fortunately, conservation was one issue that was not a point of contention in these divided political times. Montana saw the re-election of Senator Jon Tester and Representative Greg Gianforte, both of whom are on record supporting several important Montana conservation priorities.

Immediately after the election, Congress returned to Washington for a “lame duck” session that will continue through adjournment in December. MWF and our conservation partners will be watching closely and working tirelessly to get several Montana priorities enacted in this crucial window of time.

Restoring the Land and Water Conservation Fund

At the end of September, Congress allowed the 50-year old Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to expire. LWCF is one of the nation’s most important programs, funding the acquisition of public land and public access. In Montana, the program has funded projects in every county of the state, including everything from wilderness lands to local soccer fields. It has been crucial to our state’s unmatched access to the outdoors and abundant wildlife populations.

Unfortunately, the authorization for LWCF expired at the end of September, endangering future conservation projects. Senator Jon Tester has long been a champion for permanent authorization and full funding for LWCF, and in recent months he has been joined by both Senator Steve Daines and Representative Greg Gianforte in supporting this important Montana priority. LWCF also enjoys broad, bipartisan support nationwide.

During the closing weeks of the year, MWF will be working with our partners in Montana and across the nation to secure permanent reauthorization and full funding for LWCF.

Funding to Recover America’s Wildlife

Another priority for MWF is the passage of legislation to increase funding to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would dramatically increase funding for every state wildlife agency, including $29 million/year for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, to implement on-the-ground projects to conserve fish and wildlife.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would be good for wildlife and for people. By supporting early intervention to conserve wildlife before they reach the brink of extinction, it would reduce the cost to taxpayers and the regulatory burdens on farmers, ranchers, and other resource users. The bill enjoys broad support from conservation organizations, the energy industry, businesses and wildlife managers.

Like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act enjoys broad, bipartisan support. The bill has more than a hundred cosponsors, including both Republicans and Democrats, from all over the country.

Initiatives to Protect Important Montana Landscapes

Finally, some important bills are awaiting action to provide protection for important lands and waters in Montana. Two of the most crucial are the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act and the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act.

The Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act would permanently block mining in the headwaters of the Yellowstone River, just outside Yellowstone National Park. The bill has strong support from residents and businesses in the Paradise Valley and across Montana, and has the support of Senator Tester, Senator Daines and Representative Gianforte.

The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act would add new wilderness lands in the headwaters above Seeley Lake while also supporting much-needed forest management activities and the development of more recreational trails. The bill is the product of more than a decade of local collaboration and enjoys strong local support, and it has been championed by Senator Tester.

Even with a number of contentious national priorities on the agenda, our elected officials should be able to move forward bills with such broad support. MWF will be working hard to make sure that the voice of Montana’s hunters, anglers, and other conservationists are heard in the final days of this Congress. And if anything does not pass before the end of December, we stand ready to raise these issues again in 2019.
Working Together in the Upper Blackfoot

Anyone who has spent time hunting elk on Baldy Mountain or fished the Upper Blackfoot River knows the value of the stunning landscape around Lincoln, Montana. Over the last few years, MWF has been working as part of the diverse coalition, representing a variety of interests to protect the natural, economic, historic, and social values of the Upper Blackfoot region.

This has included many long hours of discussion about how to balance forest management, recreational trails, and backcountry habitat protection. Finding common ground across diverse interests is challenging, but it demonstrates the power of collaboration as a tool for conservation. With a concerted focus on advancing habitat protection, forest restoration, and recreation opportunities, this group of stakeholders and the local community are committed to preserving the Upper Blackfoot for future generations of Montanans.

By Central Field Representative, Marcus Strange

Local Outreach Across Central Montana

In the last few months MWF field staff have been busy across Central Montana organizing events and opportunities for people to learn more about MWF and what we do. We’ve hosted “Ales for the Outdoors” events at breweries in Helena and Havre, participated in the annual Ennis Hunter’s Feed, conducted a series of hunting workshops for new hunters in Helena, and co-hosted several events with Artemis Sportsmen.

If you’ve never been to an MWF event you’re missing out: they are fun and informative. Our events over the just the last few months have reached hundreds of people in communities from the Madison Valley to the Hi-Line, growing our membership and involving more people in our work. We look forward to these events and engaging with the public and our members who attend.

To find out more about upcoming events in Central Montana, contact Marcus at mstrange@mtwf.org.

Continuing to Fight For the Badger-Two Medicine

MWF has been working for decades alongside other conservationists, the Blackfeet Nation, the energy industry, and numerous other stakeholders to protect the Badger-Two Medicine area on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Efforts to protect the Badger-Two Medicine faced a setback in October when a district judge in Washington, DC reinstated two oil and gas leases in the area. Over the years, numerous oil and gas leases have been voluntarily retired by energy companies. These last two leaseholders have rejected all offers by the federal government and the Blackfeet Nation and instead opted to pursue their claims in court. In response to the ruling, MWF rallied a diverse group of Montana hunting and fishing organizations to send a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke asking him to appeal the decision and work for permanent protection of the Badger-Two Medicine area.

Drilling and road building in the Badger-Two Medicine would displace wildlife, degrade habitat, and ultimately limit hunting and angling opportunities along the Rocky Mountain Front. MWF will continue working with our partners to protect this important area.

By Central Field Representative, Marcus Strange

© Kendall Flint, President, Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance
New Partners and Initiatives in Eastern Montana

By Eastern Field Representative, John Bradley

MWF Finds New Partners, Continues Mission

Preventing, Containing, and Controlling the Spread Of Aquatic Invasive Species

The Montana Wildlife Federation has always had a broad membership, from the Western Montana fly fisherman to an Eastern Montana farmer – our diversity has been our strength. MWF is continuing to bring hunters and anglers to the table with other outdoor recreationists to discuss Montana’s wildlife, wildlands and waters.

The same cattail marsh that is important to the waterfowl hunter is also important to the local birder. The large tracts of intact big game habitat also provides the backpacker with a quiet escape from the city. As much as hunters and anglers have owned the issues facing our public lands, wildlife and access in the past, we are stronger when we have allies standing at our side on these fights.

While our core membership will always be Montana’s hunters and anglers, now more than ever, it is critical that we have broad support for science based wildlife management, our public lands, and our shared outdoor heritage. To find out more about the next conservation round-table or event contact John Bradley at jbradley@mtwf.org

Updates From the Field

Field to Freezer:
New Initiative in Northeast Montana Pairs Seasoned and Beginning Hunters Together

The Hi-Line Sportsmen out of Glasgow is offering a new opportunity this fall to new hunters. Their new “Field to Freezer” initiative aims to harvest deer and provide venison to hunt participants as well as the local food bank.

The project combines volunteer mentors from the Hi-Line Sportsmen with beginning hunters of any age from the area. The mentors educate the beginning hunters about multiple topics, from regulations and conservation issues to skills like field dressing and butchering of the harvested animals. The initiative aims to tackle the national problem of hunter recruitment. The biggest obstacles to a new hunter is knowing where to start and finding a place to hunt.

Having a mentor solves both these problems, easing the new hunter into the sport. MWF thanks the Hi-Line Sportsmen for their efforts to mentor new hunters and protect Montana’s outdoor heritage. To learn more about the program check out the Hi-Line Sportsmen’s Facebook page.
Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers That Benefit Watershed Health and Resiliency

It's fairly common to see evidence of beavers on many streams and rivers throughout Montana. But did you know that some researchers have estimated that there used to be anywhere from 60-400 million of them in North America? It’s pretty fascinating to know that at one time there may have been as many beavers as there are United States citizens today.

Known as the “ecosystem engineers,” beavers manipulate the physical and biological characteristics of their surroundings. Specifically, the structures that beavers build such as dams can help create new wetland habitat that increases groundwater storage and exchange.

Researchers are continually finding that beavers may play an important role in the future of watershed resiliency to the impacts of climate change such as reduced snowpack, changes in runoff, extreme drought, and increased water temperatures.

Despite the benefits that beavers provide to watersheds, their populations in North America today are estimated to only be a fraction of what they once were. Throughout Montana, there is growing interest in partnering with beavers for aquatic and riparian health.

MWF is working closely with National Wildlife Federation to implement the resolution passed unanimously at the 2018 annual meeting, endorsing beaver restoration as a practical strategy for climate adaptation on western public lands headwaters.

If you would like to receive updates on beaver-related activities and resources, please contact Sarah Bates, BatesS@nwf.org

Protecting Public Lands and Watersheds in Western Montana

There are few places in Montana that are a sportsmen’s paradise more than the Big Hole Valley. From National Forest lands teeming with rutting elk in September, to the beautiful runs and riffles of one of Montana’s blue ribbon trout rivers, it’s a place with life times worth of opportunities for hunters and anglers to explore. Unfortunately, this paradise is now under threat.

Last summer, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced plans to auction off thousands of acres of public lands for oil and gas leasing in and around the Big Hole for as little as $2 per acre, even though the BLM found that the probability of producing any oil is “low” to “very low.” Even more concerning, the BLM limited public comment on the proposal to only 10 days.

Drilling, fracking and exploration in and around the Big Hole threatens fish and wildlife as well as hunting and angling opportunity. Ground and surface water contamination, habitat degradation and industrial development are just a few of the threats that will negatively impact a place where traditional agriculture and outdoor recreation already sustain the local economy while protecting the landscape.

The initial round of leases have been temporarily deferred, and MWF is working with the Anaconda Sportsmen’s Club to secure permanent withdrawal for the area. The Department of Interior should know that places like the Big Hole are too valuable to drill. Let’s protect the Last Best Place, and our high quality hunting and fishing experiences.
After making major strides during the 2017 Montana legislative session, the Montana Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus (Caucus) stands poised to continue serving as a force for the Treasure State’s hunters and anglers in the state legislature.

The Montana Sportsmen’s Caucus is a voluntary group of legislators, committed to protecting and advancing Montana’s hunting and fishing traditions. The Caucus’ membership is bipartisan and bicameral, as is our leadership. The Caucus meets frequently during the session to discuss legislation and other policy issues affecting Montana sportsmen and women, and in part serves as an informational and educational resource for legislators to learn more about hunting and angling policy issues. The Caucus will occasionally take collective positions supporting or opposing specific policy issues concerning hunting and angling in Montana.

The Caucus works closely with both state and national sportsmen’s conservation organizations to make sure that Caucus members and leadership are kept up-to-date on issues and trends impacting hunting and angling in the state. Members rely on a diverse array of sportsmen’s groups who help advise the Caucus on sportsmen’s legislative and regulatory issues, and we are in the process of creating a formal advisory council comprised of varied sportsmen’s organizations that will help provide insight on these issues. In addition to policy-related meetings and briefings, the Caucus will also host events in concert with the state’s sportsmen’s community, further strengthening the bonds between sportsmen’s groups and legislators committed to advancing our outdoor heritage. The aforementioned policy meetings and briefings, meanwhile, serve as excellent forums by which legislators can learn more from those in the field about a specific issue or subset of related issues.

The Caucus is part of the greater National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses (NASC) network, which consists of 48 state legislative sportsmen’s caucuses (over 2,500 state legislators) united under the NASC umbrella. The NASC facilitates the interaction and idea exchange among state caucus leaders and the outdoor community on issues of importance to America’s hunters and anglers.

The Montana Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus looks forward to another legislative session of working to protect and advance hunting and angling in Montana.

Representative Zach Brown D-Bozeman, Senator Jill Cohenour D-East Helena, and Representative Matt Regier R-Columbia Falls are the Co-Chairs of the Montana Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus.
Looking Ahead from the 2018 Elections

In the wake of the 2018 midterm elections, the National Wildlife Federation is urging Congress and the White House to work together on recovering America’s wildlife, natural infrastructure, and other common-sense, bipartisan solutions.

“From the sportsmen who campaigned for Senator Martin Heinrich, Senator Jon Tester, and Senator Joe Manchin, to the diverse coalition working to support conservation in Georgia and renewable energy in Nevada, voters demonstrated strong support for candidates who are committed to American conservation values,” said Collin O’Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

“We need solutions as big as the problems we face. With scientists warning of a growing wildlife crisis and worsening climate impacts, Congress now has an opportunity to make progress where we all can agree: recovering America’s at-risk wildlife, investing in natural infrastructure that improves community resilience, and advancing wildlife-friendly clean energy. With the government divided, Congress and the White House should seize this opportunity to set aside partisan gamesmanship and work toward these common-sense conservation goals.”

Gardening For Wildlife
Billings Community Wildlife Habitat Project

Since 1973, the National Wildlife Federation’s (NWF) Garden for Wildlife program has been educating and empowering people to turn their own small spaces into a thriving habitat for birds, bees, and other wildlife. MWF is partnering with NWF to certify Billings city-wide as a Community Wildlife Habitat under the Garden for Wildlife program. As only the second city in the state to register, Billings is dedicated to creating a healthier place for people and animals to call home.

Homeowners, businesses, schools, and other properties can receive recognition for landscaping practices that provide quality habitat for desirable wildlife, such as native birds, amphibians, and pollinators like bees and butterflies, while deterring undesirable species from gathering in the urban setting. These practices include reducing the use of chemicals pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, planting native plants, removing invasive weeds, and composting. As an adjunct to MWF’s goals, the project creates a framework to enhance and restore wildlife corridors in urban and suburban areas, improves resistance to drought and other climate changes, conserves water, and makes the environment healthier.

The Billings Community Wildlife Habitat project has two components. The first is individual property certification. Currently, 27 homes, one school, and six common areas in Billings are certified under the program. The second aspect is bringing together community leaders, partner organizations, and citizens to build a foundation to support long-term project success.

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers: Affiliate Update

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers is ecstatic about our current project where we will open Montana’s first, free public archery range in Missoula County. HHA has been working on getting this project off the ground for four years and we are quickly moving toward the construction phase.

This year we secured a lease with Missoula County for the future Hellgate Archery Range which will be located at Big Sky Park, directly behind Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 2 office. FWP has afforded HHA a reimbursement grant for the archery range and we are partnering with the Big Sky Stewardship Committee and Missoula County to bring this project into fruition. HHA is currently working on seeking formal bids for contract work to be performed with a target date of opening the site in 2019.

Due to the extensive costs associated with necessary excavation and paving, HHA will begin a substantial fundraising campaign. The site will feature a new road, parking, shooting stations, and multiple targets out to 80 yards. The range will be crucial in meeting the needs of the burgeoning archery community in western Montana.

Please feel free to direct any questions about this archery range project to HHA President Adam Shaw at a.michaelshaw@gmail.com.

MWF Member Profile: Chuck Hunt

By Nick Gevock, NWF Conservation Director

Chuck Hunt can still remember his first deer, a blacktail buck taken near his childhood home in the logging country of the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. That led to a lifetime of hunting and working to protect wildlife, wildlife habitat and public access for everyone.

That strong conservation ethic is what led Chuck to get involved with the Montana Wildlife Federation over a decade ago.

Chuck grew up near Morton, Washington, a working class logging town nestled in the shadow of Mt. Rainer. Hunt grew up hunting deer and elk, and eventually took on bowhunting. Chuck is also an avid wildlife photographer, spending as much time afield as he does with a rifle, bow or fly rod.

Eventually Chuck made his way to Montana, after watching opportunity for average hunters disappear in Washington, and other states. Through the years, Hunt has immersed himself in conservation. He is a lifetime member of several organizations, and he served as president of Flathead Wildlife, Inc., and on the MWF Board of Directors.

“My whole goal is to protect our heritage and give it to our kids and grandkids, to enjoy the things we’ve enjoyed our whole life,” he said. “Montana is the last best place in the world to live and hunt.”
Help MWF Make A Strong Start in 2019

For 80 years, the Montana Wildlife Federation has depended on donations from conservationists like you to support our work to protect 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. 2019 is going to be a big year for wildlife – and we’re counting on you. Please donate to MWF today!

The MWF Board of Directors Needs You

MWF depends on a volunteer Board of Directors to set our agenda and manage our Federation. Serving on the Board is a great way to help lead the organization while also getting an insider view on important issues. Board members are expected to participate in 4-5 meetings a year and serve on one or more committees.

Several seats will be open on the Board in the spring of 2019. If you are interested in joining the Board, contact Nominations Committee Chair Kevin Maki at kg_maki@yahoo.com.