

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2019 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

OVERVIEW OF THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Legislative session saw wins for habitat, wildlife, state parks and public access

The 2019 Legislature saw more than 80 bills affecting wildlife, habitat, hunting licenses, regulations and other important issues for sportsmen and sportswomen. It was a very busy session that had a return of large numbers of bills after two sessions in which the number of bills was far fewer, and more manageable.

We did see some significant wins for wildlife, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget, and other key priorities.

We did see some significant wins for wildlife, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget, and other key priorities. Habitat Montana, our best conservation and public access program, came out of the session intact, but only with the help of a veto by the governor on a bill that would have severely damaged the program. Montana FWP comes out of the session with the best budget it's had in over a decade. And we again funded the Aquatic Invasive Species program, which is essential to keep non-native mussels out of our waters.

For the second session in a row, the Montana Sporting Coalition played a key role in protecting Habitat Montana. MWF was among the leaders that worked to convene the Coalition and bring a strong, unified voice from sportsmen

and sportswomen to our issues. The Coalition helped host a legislative social in early January, submitted letters on our key budget priorities, and worked to protect Habitat Montana. We also came in with unified opposition to HB 161, a bill that aimed to severely limit public input in wildlife decision making.

In general, the 2019 Legislature was a really good one for fish, wildlife, habitat, sportsmen and sportswomen. The number of bills was significant, but many of those were positive bills that worked to simplify licensing laws, clean up outdated laws such as bird dog training on public lands, and continue to offer opportunities for hunters and anglers. In addition, the program to conserve important sagebrush-steppe habitat for sage grouse was continued, and actually strengthened.

The issue of specific wildlife location data based on collared animals that are part of wildlife research was elevated this session. A pair of bills to address the issue passed, including one to make it illegal to use specific wildlife location data from Montana FWP to hunt or harass wildlife (SB 349) and another to do a more thorough interim study of the issue (SB 30). The issue is growing throughout the West and Montana needs to get ahead of it by looking at whether we need more restrictive laws to prevent people from abusing modern technology to gain an unfair advantage in hunting and fishing.



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.

SPORTING COALITION CONTINUES TO BRING UNIFIED VOICE

The Montana Wildlife Federation played a key role in 2015 in forming the Montana Sporting Coalition in an effort to preserve the Habitat Montana program. The coalition is made up of more than a dozen hunting and angling organizations that worked together to bring a strong, unified voice in support of Habitat Montana. This is our state's best conservation and public access program that is used for targeted land purchases, conservation easements on private land and for access to private and adjoining public lands.

The Coalition led the way in 2017 in restoring full authority for Montana FWP to use Habitat Montana. In 2019, that voice was just as important. The Coalition held weekly conference calls to keep members informed and engaged, and rallied its members to speak up for Habitat Montana. We also for the first time branched out and engaged on other bills and budget issues, including on a bill that would have limited public input in wildlife decision making (HB 161) and on the need for a new Automated Licensing System for FWP (HB 10). In both cases, the Coalition sent in letters and had a spokesperson testify during bill hearings to bring that unified voice to these important issues.

Members of the Montana Sporting Coalition:

Montana Wildlife Federation
Ducks Unlimited
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Bowhunters Association
Orion, The Hunter's Institute
Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Mule Deer Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Montana Sportsmen Alliance
The Wildlife Society

ABOUT THE VOTING RECORD

The Legislative Voting Record is a compilation of how state legislators voted on key issues during the 2019 Legislative session. It is meant to provide information for the public on where legislators stand on issues that affect wildlife, habitat and public access. 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. Support for or opposition to any given bill or resolution is not intended to provide an endorsement or rejection of any state legislator.

SB 24 STATE PARKS AND TRAILS FUNDING

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill increases the optional fee on light motor vehicles from the current \$6 per year to \$9. It will pump an additional \$2 million annually into state parks and trails.

HB 265 HABITAT MONTANA EASEMENT BILL

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

The bill would have required state Land Board approval for conservation easements under the Habitat Montana program and injected politics into our state's best habitat protection and access program.

HJ 18 ELK SHOULDER SEASON RESOLUTION

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

This resolution called for allowing early and late "shoulder season" rifle hunts on public lands, allowing party hunting and dictating elk management from the Legislature.

HB 411 AIS FUNDING

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill provided the funding mechanism to keep the program to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species such as non-native mussels out of Montana waters.

HB 132 BISON REDEFINITION

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

This bill would have redefined all bison within Montana as livestock.

HB 550 GAS TAX MAP CHANGES

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

This bill would have redefined certain roads under the gas tax maps and could have erased a portion of the public record of what constitutes a public road that has received public funding.

House Legislator	House District	SB 24	HB 265	HJ 18	HB 411	HB 132	HB 550
Abbott, Kim [D]	83	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Anderson, Fred [R]	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bachmeier, Jacob [D]	28	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Bahr, Jade [D]	50	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Ballance, Nancy L. [R]	87	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bartel, Dan [R]	29	A	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
Beard, Becky [R]	80	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Bedey, David [R]	86	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Berglee, Seth [R]	58	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Bessette, Barbara [D]	24	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Bishop, Laurie [D]	60	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Boy, Jonathan Windy [D]	32	Y	N	N	A	N	N
Brown, Bob [R]	13	N	Y	Y	A	N	Y
Brown, Zach [D]	63	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Burnett, Tom [R]	67	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Buttrey, Edward [R]	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Caferro, Mary M. [D]	81	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Curdy, Willis [D]	98	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Custer, Geraldine [R]	39	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
DeVries, Creg [R]	75	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Doane, Alan [R]	36	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Dooling, Julie [R]	70	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dudik, Kimberly [D]	94	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Dunn, David [R]	9	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Dunwell, Mary Ann [D]	84	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Duram, Neil A. [R]	2	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Farris-Olsen, Robert "Rob" [D]	79	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Fern, Dave [D]	5	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Fitzgerald, Ross H. [R]	17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fleming, Frank [R]	51	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Fuller, John [R]	8	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Funk, Moffie [D]	82	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Galt, Wylie [R]	30	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Garcia, Rodney [R]	52	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Garner, Frank [R]	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Glimm, Carl [R]	6	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Greef, Sharon [R]	88	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grubbs, Bruce [R]	68	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gunderson, Steve [R]	1	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Hamilton, Jim [D]	61	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Hamlett, Bradley "Brad" [D]	23	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Harvey, Derek J. [D]	74	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Hayman, Denise [D]	66	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Hertz, Greg [R]	12	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Holmlund, Kenneth L. [R]	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hopkins, Mike [R]	92	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Jones, Llew [R]	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Karjala, Jessica [D]	48	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Kassmier, Joshua J. [R]	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Keane, Jim [D]	73	Y	N	N	Y	N	N

House Legislator	House District	SB 24	HB 265	HJ 18	HB 411	HB 132	HB 550
Kelker, Katherin "Kathy" A. [D]	47	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Keogh, Connie [D]	91	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma [D]	49	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Knudsen, Casey [R]	33	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Knudsen, Rhonda [R]	34	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Krautter, Joel G. [R]	35	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Krotkov, Jasmine [D]	25	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Lenz, Dennis Robert [R]	53	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Loge, Denley M. [R]	14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lynch, Ryan [D]	76	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Mandeville, Forrest J. [R]	57	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Manzella, Theresa [R]	85	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Marler, Marilyn [D]	90	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
McKamey, Wendy [R]	19	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Mercer, Bill [R]	46	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Moore, Frederick "Eric" [R]	37	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Moore, Terry [R]	54	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Morigeau, Shane A. [D]	95	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Mortensen, Dale [R]	44	N	A	A	N	A	A
Noland, Mark R. [R]	10	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Olsen, Andrea [D]	100	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Peppers, Patricia Rae [D]	41	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Perry, Zac [D]	3	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Pierson Jr., Gordon [D]	78	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Pope, Christopher [D]	65	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Read, Joe [R]	93	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Redfield, Alan [R]	59	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Regier, Matt [R]	4	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Ricci, Vince [R]	55	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Runningwolf, Tyson T. [D]	16	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Ryan, Marilyn [D]	99	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Sales, Walt [R]	69	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schreiner, Casey [D]	26	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Shaw, Ray L. [R]	71	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola [R]	22	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Skees, Derek [R]	11	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Smith, Bridget [D]	31	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon [D]	42	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Sullivan, Katie [D]	89	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Sweeney, Mark A. [D]	77	Y	A	N	Y	N	N
Tschida, Brad [R]	97	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Usher, Barry M. [R]	40	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Vinton, Sue [R]	56	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Weatherwax Jr., Marvin R. [D]	15	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Webb, Peggy [R]	43	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Welch, Tom [R]	72	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
White, Kerry E. [R]	64	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Winter, Thomas [D]	96	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Woods, Tom [D]	62	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
Zolnikov, Daniel [R]	45	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

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

Senate Legislator

Senate Legislator	Senate District	SB 24	SB 127	SB 174	SB 224	SB 349	SB 299	HJ 18	HB 265
Ankney, Duane [R]	20	Y	Y	N	A	Y	N	Y	Y
Barrett, Dick [D]	45	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Bennett, Bryce [D]	50	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Blasdel, Mark W. [R]	4	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Bogner, Kenneth [R]	19	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Boland, Carlie [D]	12	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Brown, Dee L. [R]	2	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cohenour, Jill [D]	42	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Cuffe, Mike [R]	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Ellis, Janet H. [D]	41	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Ellsworth, Jason W. [R]	43	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Esp, John [R]	30	N	N	N	A	N	Y	Y	Y
Fielder, Jennifer [R]	7	N	N	N	A	Y	Y	A	A
Fitzpatrick, Steve [R]	10	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N
Flowers, Pat [D]	32	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Gauthier, Terry J. [R]		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gillespie, Bruce "Butch" [R]	9	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Gross, Jen [D]	25	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Hinebauch, Steve [R]	18	N	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y
Hoven, Brian [R]	13	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Howard, David [R]	29	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Jacobson, Tom [D]	11	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Kary, Douglas "Doug" [R]	22	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Keenan, Bob [R]	5	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lang, Mike L. [R]	17	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
MacDonald, Margaret E. [D]	1	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Malek, Sue [D]	46	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
McClafferty, Edith "Edie" [D]	38	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
McConnell, Nate [D]	48	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
McNally, Mary [D]	24	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Olszewski, Albert D. [R]	6	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Osmundson, Ryan [R]	15	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Phillips, Mike K. [D]	31	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Pomnichowski, Jennifer [D]	33	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Regier, Keith [R]	3	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Richmond, Tom [R]	28	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sales, Scott [R]	35	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Salomon, Daniel R. [R]	47	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Sands, Diane [D]	49	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Sesso, Jon C. [D]	37	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Small, Jason D. [R]	21	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Smith, Cary [R]	26	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Smith, Frank J. [D]	16	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Tempel, Russel "Russ" [R]	14	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

Senate Legislator

Senate Legislator	Senate District	SB 24	SB 127	SB 174	SB 224	SB 349	SB 299	HJ 18	HB 265
Thomas, Fred [R]	44	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Vance, Gordon [R]	34	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Vuckovich, Gene [D]	39	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y	N
Webb, Roger [R]	23	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Webber, Susan A [D]	8	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	N	N
Welborn, Jeffrey W. [R]	36	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N

SB 24 STATE PARKS AND TRAILS FUNDING

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill increases the optional fee on light motor vehicles from the current \$6 per year to \$9. It will pump an additional \$2 million annually into state parks and trails.

SB 127 SALE OF WILDLIFE DATA

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

The bill would have made it illegal to sell specific wildlife location data to help protect fair chase hunting ethics.

SB 174 CROSSBOWS IN ARCHERY SEASON

Vote: Second Reading **MWF: Oppose**

This bill would have allowed disabled and hunters over 70 to use a crossbow during the archery-only season.

SB 224 ROAD FINE BILL

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill would have increased the fine for gating an established county road from the current \$10 per day to up to \$80 per day.

SB 349 FWP WILDLIFE LOCATION DATA

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill made it illegal to use specific wildlife location data from FWP to hunt or harass wildlife.

SB 299 SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Support**

This bill further wrote into state law protections for sage grouse habitat and the statewide conservation plan for the species.

HJ 18 ELK SHOULDER SEASON RESOLUTION

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

This resolution called for allowing early and late "shoulder season" rifle hunts on public lands, allowing party hunting and dictating elk management from the Legislature.

HB 265 HABITAT MONTANA EASEMENT BILL

Vote: Third Reading **MWF: Oppose**

The bill would have required state Land Board approval for conservation easements under the Habitat Montana program and injected politics into our state's best habitat protection and access program.