

# the Montana Sierran

Published bi-annually  
by the Montana Chapter  
of the Sierra Club  
Spring 2017

*Gallatin Range*

*photo credit: Louise Johns/Louise Johns Photography*



## WILDLANDS

# Protecting and Connecting Public Lands in the Last Best Place

By **Bonnie Rice**, Senior Representative

Greater Yellowstone – Northern Rockies Campaign (Our Wild America)

**SIERRA CLUB**'s national Our Wild America (OWA) campaign is comprised of several regional campaigns in priority areas, including the Greater Yellowstone-Northern Rockies (GY-NR) region. The GY-NR campaign and the Montana Chapter work closely together on a number of public lands and wildlife issues in the state, including management of our vast national forests. Recently, our focus in this arena has been on the Flathead, Helena-Lewis & Clark, and Custer-Gallatin forest plan revision processes.

We engage in these processes, which are resource-intensive and seemingly never-ending, because they offer a rare opportunity to protect and connect Montana's incredible wildlands and waters, securing them for grizzly bears, wolves, bighorn sheep and other wildlife as well as for future generations of Americans. The fate of millions of acres of public lands is literally at stake.

Sierra Club has engaged in each phase of the Flathead National Forest plan revision and the associated Grizzly Bear Amendment for all five of the national forests in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), and we are awaiting a final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision. Through email alerts and other

ways, hundreds of our members in Montana have spoken up for the protection of wildlands and wildlife in the NCDE. Thank you!

Recently, we weighed in on the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest's Proposed Action; our comments centered on protection of linkage areas between the GYE and NCDE for grizzly bears and other wide-ranging species, and additional wilderness recommendations by the Forest. In southwest Montana, we participated in "community conversations" hosted by the Custer Gallatin National Forest to define our vision for the forest for the next several decades, and signed in support of the Pryor Coalition's "wilderness vision" for the Pryor Mountains, which was recently sent to the Forest Service in order to inform the wilderness evaluation process.

These revised forest plans will set the direction on how our national forests in Montana will be managed for decades to come. If we want Montana to remain the "last best place," it's critical for each of us to get involved and speak up for wildlife, connectivity, intact wildlands, free-flowing rivers, and quiet recreation.

When you see an email alert or get a text from us, please act! *These lands belong to all of us.*

# The Montana Chapter Joins Citizen Forest Plan Revision Task Force

By Claudia Narcisco

**THE MONTANA CHAPTER** has joined with the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force to get an early start on forest plan revisions for the Lolo and Bitterroot national forests. The Chapter participated in the Citizen reVision of the 2004 Western Montana Planning Zone plan revisions, which were not completed. Friends of the Wild Swan and Swan View Coalition also prepared a Citizen reVision of the Flathead National Forest in 2014.

Our goal is to provide the forest service with accurate maps and supporting documentation for our Alternative vision. While at the forest scale, it blends the Chapter's work with OWA's Greater Yellowstone and Northern Rockies campaign on wildland protection and landscape connectivity for grizzly bear and other imperiled wide-roaming species.

The Citizen Task Force has held several successful events since starting up. We hosted a public lands benefit and rally in February, a letter-writing event in March, and most recently a talk by long time Montana wilderness advocate, Bill Cunningham.

In mid-April, the Chapter joined in a cordial meeting with Tim Garcia and Julie King, respective Supervisors of the Lolo and Bitterroot national forests. We shared our interest in science-based forest planning per the 2012 planning rule with a focus on restoration, climate change, and connectivity.

Plan revisions for the Lolo and Bitterroot national forests have been delayed. This gives us more time to assemble scientifically based references and to study conditions on forest lands. Also, the Montana Chapter is emphasizing education for forest planning in its summer "Outings." *Please join us.*

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### The Saga of SB 236 to make trapping a constitutional right and commercialize Montana's wildlife

By Connie Poten, Secretary, Montanans for Trapping Reform and Safe Public Lands

**ON THE COLD EARLY** morning of April 3, 2017, in Helena's Capitol, the Montana House Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on SB 236, which had passed the Senate largely along party lines. Many more people were in the room to oppose rather than support the bill, but most were denied the chance to testify.

SB 236 aimed not only to make trapping a constitutional right, but also to elevate trapping, hunting and fishing above Fish Wildlife and Park's authority, trading scientific wildlife management principles for consumptive opportunities. As proposed, the bill could open the door to unlimited taking of our wildlife in one of the last states with vast public lands and superb big game hunting opportunities.

FWP and most Montana wildlife, sporting, and anti-trapping groups were lobbying hard against SB 236, yet it continued to survive in the Republican-dominated legislature. Sponsor of the bill, Senator Jennifer Fielder-R, boasted that the National Rifle Association wrote the model for the bill. Indeed fourteen other states had already passed it into their constitutions. It was necessary, she

claimed, because rich, out-of-state animal rights organizations were trying to take away our heritage. Her proof was the I-177 November 2016 ballot initiative to restrict recreational trapping to private lands. Yet there were no out-of-state organizations behind the initiative's funding and it had failed.

Supporters of SB 236 included Fielder's husband, of the Montana Trappers Association, as well as spokesmen for local chapters of the national groups – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Big Game Forever, and Safari Club International.

FWP legal counsel Rebecca Dockter argued against the bill's intent to undermine the agency. Noting that the bill put the right to farm and ranch "in direct opposition to the right to hunt, fish or trap," Representative Nate O'Connell-D said the internal inconsistency of "this giant lawsuit" is "a hole big enough to drive a tractor through." Still, the bill passed 10 to 9.

The next day the full House passed a surprising amendment by Rep. Tom Jacobson-D. It scrapped the bill's language and simply added the word 'trapping' to an existing constitutional amendment. This allayed concerns of sportsmen and

ranchers but struck fear into the hearts of those trying to limit trapping.

The House voted on the amended bill. SB 236 failed by three votes but was not dead yet. Rep. Kirk Wagoner-R, motioned for the House to reconsider. Minority Leader Jenny Eck-D stood firm, saying it was wrong to reconsider the bill. Then Jacobson - who had proposed the amendment - stood and agreed the bill should not be considered. The vote: 38 for, 62 against reconsidering SB 236. It was finally over.

Why did the vote swing so hard against SB 236 at the very end? Perhaps the national groups lost interest when Jacobson's amendment eliminated their goals. Another likely factor was that keeping SB 236 alive would waste time, in light of more pressing bills facing the legislative session. Perhaps the outpouring of emails and calls against the bill helped.

Whatever the reasons, we are grateful to the legislators who voted against SB 236. They voted against selling our wildlife to the highest bidders, against making the outdated and cruel practice of trapping a right, and they voted to maintain the integrity of Montana's constitution, regarded as one of the strongest in the nation.

# Montana Citizens Speak Up to Legislature

By Claudia Narcisco

**MONTANA'S 65TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION** started with the realization that we had a big fight ahead of us. But by the end of January we were energized by the strong showing at the two largest rallies ever held in the State. On January 21, 10,000 citizens joined in the Women's March in Helena. On January 30, nearly 1,500 jammed the capitol rotunda to support our public lands. While many of Montana's legislators abandoned Montanans' values on wildlife, public lands, clean water, women and families, and a renewable energy future, the grassroots voice, including many Montana Sierra Club members, helped make a positive difference.

The Montana Chapter coordinated with other wildlife groups to hire a lobbyist for wildlife and public land-related legislation. With that support we worked on several critical bills.

We opposed **HB 305** that allowed Counties to increase fees and encourage bounties. Bounties undermine the ecological role of predators and science-based management. We are concerned that removing predators results in a more rapid spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. However, significant changes were made to the bill due to grassroots pressure; as a result the bounty no longer applies to species that FWP manages. **HB 305** passed and was signed into law by Governor Bullock.

We fought hard against two House joint resolutions that unfortunately passed:

- **HJ 15** requests Montana's Congressional delegation to introduce federal legislation to remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for grizzly bears throughout Montana. It elevates politics and is a dangerous departure from the science-based management that has made ESA so successful. As a result of strong opposition during the session, changes were made to the resolution; however, it still exempts grizzly bear delisting from judicial review and includes other problematic language. It passed the House along near-party lines. Keep your eyes open and be ready to act to protect grizzlies and the ESA.
- **HJ 9** urges Montana's Congressional delegation to release 663,000 acres of Montana's Wilderness Study Areas from consideration for the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas include

West Pioneers, Blue Joint, Sapphires, Ten Lakes, Middle Fork Judith River, Big Snowy Mountains, and Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Areas. Introduced in the Senate, it passed the House on a near-party line vote. Let your Congressional delegates know how important these areas are to you!

We had a major victory in defeat of **SB 236**, which called for a constitutional referendum on Montanan's right to trap and would override science as the preferred method of managing wildlife. The Montana Chapter testified in strong opposition. After a hard fight and opposition by private property interests it was finally killed on the House floor (see associated article, p. 2).

We also encouraged our members to take action on clean energy and water-related legislation. Among these we asked them to:

- Oppose **Senate Bill 78** that set net-metering reimbursement rates at below market value and charged a delivery fee to net-metering customers, both of which discourage investment in photovoltaics. We were present at the January 26 Senate hearing, where it passed out of committee despite weak testimony by its sponsor and industry, and a line of strong opposition delivered to a packed chamber. SB 78 was finally tabled in House committee. Its defeat is an important win for renewable energy!
- Support **SB 330** (PACE) Property Assessed Clean Energy financing, to help homeowners, businesses and industry finance renewable energy and efficiency projects. Despite widespread support, a Republican sponsor, and passage in the Senate, SB 330 was tabled in the House Natural Resource committee. Its failure amplifies the need to purge our government of big energy influence.
- Support **SB 215** that would have enacted Major Facility Siting Act review and oversight for large-scale water bottling facilities. Major water bottling facilities threaten our ground water and the quality of life in Montana's communities, and contribute to the spread of plastic trash and waste across our global ecosystem. SB 215 was tabled in committee, denying Montanans the needed discourse on this important issue.



*Rally for public lands in capitol rotunda in Helena*

## Newsletter Information

the *Montana Sierran* is published twice a year – Spring & Fall – by the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club, a division of the National Sierra Club



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

## Information about Montana Chapter

activities and meetings – contact Jonathan Matthews at (406) 447-4351 or visit [montana.sierraclub.org](http://montana.sierraclub.org)

Find us on Facebook



## *My Brother the Buffalo*

— by William C. Edwards

*When I was hungry, you fed me,  
When I was cold, you gave me your coat,  
When I needed shelter, you provided that too.  
My brother the buffalo,  
Why have you been so good to me?  
When I needed a thread to sew my clothes,  
When I needed a vessel to hold my drink,  
Or a stick to beat my drum,  
A rattle the Gods could hear,  
These you gave me, too.  
When your brothers and sisters  
wandered the plains,  
My people wandered on the plains too,  
While you grazed on the green grass,  
We followed you and watched your every move.  
When your brothers and sisters were displaced,  
My brothers and sisters were displaced too.  
Now as your spirit is fading,  
Our spirit is fading too.  
As your freedom is fleeting  
Our freedom is fleeting too,  
But our love of living,  
Is still with us.  
May it also always be with you,  
My brother the buffalo,  
Thank you for being so good to me.*

## Doubt Cast on Restoring National Bison Range to Tribes

**ON APRIL 12, 2017**, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced that the Interior Department, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), is shifting away from supporting restoration of the National Bison Range (NBR) into federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes). Secretary Zinke stated that the Tribes “will play a pivotal role in our discussions about the best path forward ... [and] will be instrumental in helping make this significant place a true reflection of our cultural heritage.”

In 2016, FWS Director Dan Ashe informed the Tribes that his agency might be able to support congressional legislation that would have returned the Bison Range to federal trust status for the Tribes, with requirements for continued bison conservation management and public access. The Tribes drafted legislation to accomplish such a restoration, met with conservation groups and other stakeholders, released a draft bill, held a public comment period and public meeting, revised the legislation to reflect comments, and requested that the Montana Congressional delegation

introduce it. The draft legislation, public comments, and Tribal responses can be found at a website created by the Tribes – <http://bisonrangeworkinggroup.org>.

The Sierra Club supported the idea, led by its Montana Chapter, Our Wild America campaign, and Washington, D.C., public lands office. In a letter to Tribal Chairman Vernon Finley dated October 27, 2016, Executive Director Michael Brune said that the Club “affirms the concept of restoring the NBR and its bison to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for the purpose of bison conservation and ensuring the long-term health of the bison population.”

In a statement released by the Tribes, Chairman Finley said, “The National Bison Range is located in the heart of the Flathead Indian Reservation and will always be a central part of the conservation areas managed by the Tribes’ nationally-recognized Natural Resources Department. Our stewardship interests there remain, and I look forward to continued discussions with Secretary Zinke and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding Tribal management.”

# Tribal Nations Take Grizzly Delisting Fight to Washington, D.C.

By Bonnie Rice, Senior Representative

Greater Yellowstone–Northern Rockies Campaign (*Our Wild America*)

**SPARKED BY** President Trump’s approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), thousands of people from tribal nations across the country traveled to Washington, D.C., in March to speak up for treaty rights, sovereignty, the sacred grizzly bear, and a host of other issues. Tribal leaders met with Congressional representatives for several days before a huge march to the White House, erecting a tepee at Trump Tower along the way.

Sierra Club’s *Our Wild America*, *Beyond Dirty Fuels/Keep it in the Ground*, and *Beyond Coal* campaigns have worked side-by-side with tribal allies in opposing the DAPL and Keystone XL pipelines, fighting Yellowstone grizzly bear delisting, and securing the Bears Ears National Monument.

Over 120 tribal nations have signed a treaty against removal of Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections (“delisting”) for Greater Yellowstone’s grizzly bear population, and in support of restoration of grizzly bears on suitable tribal lands, making it the most-signed treaty in history. Leaders from the Piikani and Crow Nations presented the treaty to Congressional leaders and to members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. ([www.piikanationtreaty.com](http://www.piikanationtreaty.com))

Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are predicting that a final rule stripping Greater Yellowstone’s grizzly bears of ESA protections may be released this summer, perhaps as soon as June. If protections are removed, management of grizzly



bears will be turned over to the states of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, which will undoubtedly display more ‘flexibility’ in killing grizzly bears, including authorizing trophy hunts. Sierra Club will continue to work with our allies in opposing delisting until grizzly bears are truly recovered, and a thriving, connected, well-distributed population of several thousand grizzly bears exists in the lower 48 states. And we will always oppose hunting of these majestic beings for “sport.”

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Vets Chill with Local Ice-climbing Pros

By Troy Carter, *Chronicle* Staff Writer

Reprinted from 3-10-17 *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*

**HYALITE CANYON** — Jose Jacinto is afraid of heights. So naturally the New Yorker would want to spend four days in March ice climbing with world-class alpinists.

“I’m a city boy,” he said after descending off a “bomber” ice formation near Grotto Falls. “There’s something about the outdoors that helps me keep an even keel.” But he wasn’t the only city boy in the group that’s shackled up in the Window Rock Cabin.

On Thursday, he was making ascents with Nick Grassano, a former combat medic from Chicago, and Dave Chien, a former submarine officer from Los Angeles — three of eight veterans flown into Bozeman for a four-day climbing trip with Montana Alpine Guides and sponsored by the Sierra Club.

“The first day it was hard to get the picks in and knowing where to kick,” said Chien. They had their sea legs underneath them on Thursday.

Their guide, Aki Joy, was commenting on their fundamental skills and added to them, giving a tutorial on installing ice screws. “You guys are looking great, today,” he said.

Grassano said he couldn’t believe how lucky he was. He’d



*Navy Veteran Dave Chien begins an ascent near Grotto Falls in Hyalite Canyon as part of Sierra Club Military Outdoors Program.*

watched a few climbing films before coming out, including *Meru*. And then he got to climb with Conrad Anker, one of the three professional climbers in the film. “Totally blown away,” Grassano said.

Anker helped Sierra Club put the trip together. He spent Tuesday and Wednesday with the vets. He wants to give them another kind of squad, whose enemy is gravity and weather.

“And it opens them to the opportunities of working in the outdoor businesses,” he said. “I didn’t serve. I used to train Navy SEALs, but this is a nice way for me to get back into it. And we have fun, we push each other. And around the campfire hearing their stories is really interesting.”

Anker also gave a shout out to Gallatin County for plowing the road to Hyalite, one of the most reliable ice climbing locations in America. “It’s another one of the resources on our public lands unique to Gallatin County,” he said.

# Power On! ————— By Claudia Narcisco

The Montana Chapter Sierra Club was well represented at the Women's March in Helena on January 21<sup>st</sup>. I cannot express how exciting, energizing, and empowering it was to be part of the birth of this movement. Women, men, children, tribal members, human rights activists, ALL came from across Montana on a sunny subzero day to challenge the dismal, disheartening tone set at the Presidential inauguration only one day before.

The Inauguration was described as midnight in America. Overnight, without missing a beat we turned that darkness into dawn. They know we were out not only in Helena but across the country and around the globe. And they know we are not going back in. We must remember and we must continue to remind them! POWER ON!



# Earth Day ~ March for Science



Montana Chapter Chair, Jonathan Matthews, represents the Sierra Club and marches with hundreds of other supporters of scientifically responsive environmental policy at the March for Science on Earth Day, April 22, in Helena.

# Speak for Wolves



Join the Sierra Club and other wildlife advocates for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **SPEAK FOR WOLVES** gathering July 27-29 at the Historic Union Pacific Dining Lodge in West Yellowstone, MT [www.speakforwolves.com](http://www.speakforwolves.com)



Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

# Meet Our New Executive Committee Members



**TOM MAGARIAN** — Tom has been a Sierra Club member since 2003. He is an avian biologist with 15+ years of field experience primarily with non-profits like New Jersey Audubon. He currently works, on an eagle conservation project at a wind energy facility in northern Montana as a Lead Site Biologist. From an early age, Tom has been into the outdoors, and chose a life path that has allowed him to be outside as often as possible. He currently birds around the local area of Cut Bank, MT, including Glacier National Park and beyond.



**BETSY BRANDBORG** — Betsy is the State Bar of Montana's Bar Counsel, a position she's held since 1995. Earlier, she did a 3 year stint as a U.S. Senate staff assistant in Washington, D.C., a clerkship with the Montana Supreme Court, and eight years as an assistant attorney general in Montana handling both criminal and civil litigation. Policy advocacy has been a component of her work throughout her career. Betsy's married to wildlife biologist Brent Costain and they have two children attending UM in Missoula.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

**LORI SULLIVAN**  
Director of Gift Planning  
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)  
[sierraclubplanning.org](http://sierraclubplanning.org)



## Babcock Mountain Trail ————— By Will Butler

**THIS IS MY FAVORITE** spring wildflower walk in the Missoula area. Not only are the flowers beautiful (an abundance of balsam root, shooting stars, and Indian paintbrush cover the meadows) but there are almost no weeds to spoil the scene. Bighorn sheep thrive in the area, and are frequently seen along the Rock Creek road. Some large firs and Ponderosa pines are found scattered along the trail with almost continuous views of Rock Creek itself to top things off. Mid-May to mid-June is an ideal time for a visit to capture the wildflowers at their best.

The way begins steeply across from the parking area as the trail ascends a ravine and then turns right, gradually switch-backing up the flowery meadows and stands of Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine. Eventually the path hop-scotches back and forth along a narrow grassy ridge. After a couple of miles with audacious views of fields of flowers and Rock Creek far below, you leave the meadows behind and enter a Douglas fir forest. A half mile or so later the trail abuts into a seldom-used forest service road which eventually leads to the summit of Babcock Mountain. Most will be content with the lower couple of miles or so of trail which harbors the rich flowery meadows and the views.

**June 3rd** — Join Will for a hike up **Babcock Mountain Trail** and learn about the native plants and wildflowers of the area. This moderately strenuous hike is 5 miles round trip.

Contact Will Butler, [willbutler0@gmail.com](mailto:willbutler0@gmail.com)

**Survival Class and Welcome Creek Outing** This is a two-part presentation on “down and dirty” basic survival techniques that will keep you alive in the extreme environments of Montana. Participants can come to either one, or both — the class and/or the outing.

**Part I — June 7, (Wednesday) Survival Class** Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Missoula Public Library. The class will cover putting together a survival kit and the *Three Priorities of Survival*: 1) Shelter/Warmth, 2) Water, and 3) Signaling.

**Part II — June 10-11, Welcome Creek Wilderness** For a follow-up outing we will hike into a local area near Missoula, set up standard backpacking equipment, and then demonstrate survival techniques. Participants will be given the opportunity to sleep in an expedient shelter, construct a fire, and learn other techniques of survival.  
Contact Michael Jarnevic, [grossbison@gmail.com](mailto:grossbison@gmail.com)

**June 24, Shafthouse Ridge Day Hike** This half-day hike will explore the Shafthouse Ridge area, on the east flank of Hard-scabble Peak in the Bridger range, north of Bozeman. We'll follow a maintained Forest Service

trail to the ridgeline, and then complete an easy ridgetop walk along the divide between Fairy and Frasier Lakes. The ruins of a century-old gold mine are along the route, and there will be good wildlife viewing opportunities and exceptional panoramas throughout. Total distance will be about 4 miles, two-thirds of which will be off-trail, with about 1,000' of elevation gain. Learn about the long history of multiple use in the Bridger Range, and its impacts on the natural landscape.

Contact Mark Hufstetler, [pitamakan@mac.com](mailto:pitamakan@mac.com)

**July 8, Hanging Valley Hike near Helena** The Hanging Valley hike has a huge pay-off midway, as we will peek out from the side of a massive limestone cliff, hundreds of feet in the air (don't worry, there is a railing). This wonder is caused by the Montana Overthrust Belt, in which sedimentary rocks buckled upward as the North American and Pacific crust plates collided 70 million years ago. We will be hiking in the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, which is currently in the early stages of the revision of its forest plan. We will discuss this as we engage in the moderately



photo credit: Mark Hufstetler/pitamakan.com

Outings are **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. Each outing will emphasize forest planning, and have educational features about the natural environment we are visiting. Liability release signatures are required. **YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE** by **emailing the listed contact** or go to **Meetup.com** (and join Montana Sierra Club Outings). Most trips are limited in size from 10-12 participants. No pets are allowed. Bring your own food, water, and rain gear. The outing leaders will email you more information after you have signed up.

strenuous hike, with some steady, long climbs and some switch-backs. We start at 4500' above sea level and top out at 6800'. Most of the uphill happens in the first few miles, when we are fresh. It is 12 miles of total walking, with no water along the way, so bring your own.

Contact Jonathan Matthews, [jmatthews@carroll.edu](mailto:jmatthews@carroll.edu)

**August 17 (Wednesday) @ 6:00 pm, Fastpacking Class** This class will cover fastpacking equipment (overnight packs of 20 pounds or less) and techniques including brands, packing lists, and overall light-weight packing techniques. Class will be in the large meeting room (bottom floor) of the Missoula Public Library.

Contact Michael Jarnevic, [grossbison@gmail.com](mailto:grossbison@gmail.com)

**August 19-20, Monture Falls** This overnight backpacking trip will be an easy (12 miles round trip) hike to the falls on Monture Creek, on the edge of the Scapegoat Wilderness near Ovando. We'll journey through old growth forest, while demonstrating fastpacking techniques and equipment. We'll camp close to the falls and do day hiking around the area. This a designated US Fish and Wildlife

Service Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone; thus, our group will be especially “bear aware” and take all precautions. This trip does not require participants to purchase any specialized gear.

Contact Michael Jarnevic, [grossbison@gmail.com](mailto:grossbison@gmail.com)

**September 24 (Sunday) McCormick Peak, Nine-mile Divide**

Explore the heart of this beautiful and wild mountain range. The Nine-mile/Reservation Divide is a 1,000 acre roadless area on the Lolo National Forest and Flathead Indian Reservation. The area has a resident grizzly bear population and serves as an important biological corridor for bears. Streams support pure strain west-slope cutthroat trout. Great views of the Mission and Bitterroot Mountains from the summit! Learn about the current Lolo National Forest Plan revision process and how it could affect the future of this wild area. This will be a moderate 8 mile round-trip hike with about 1500' of elevation gain.

Contact trip leader Bob Clark, [bobclark1111@gmail.com](mailto:bobclark1111@gmail.com)

**Please go to our Meetup.com or Facebook page for additional outings not included in this newsletter.**



Montana Chapter – Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 7201  
Missoula, MT 59807

## SC Offices in Montana

### MISSOULA

101 East Broadway, Suite 204  
Missoula, MT 59801

#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 9283  
Missoula, MT 59807

#### Staff

David Merrill, Senior  
Organizing Representative  
david.merrill@sierraclub.org  
(406) 549-1142

### BILLINGS

2401 Montana Ave. Suite 5  
Billings, MT 59101

#### Staff

Mike Scott, Senior  
Organizing Representative  
mike.scott@sierraclub.org  
(406) 839-3333

### BOZEMAN

424 E. Main Street, Suite 203C  
Bozeman, MT 59715

#### Staff

Bonnie Rice, Senior Campaign  
Representative  
bonnie.rice@sierraclub.org  
(406) 582-8365

## MONTANA CHAPTER • 2017 LEADERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jonathan Matthews, Chair  
& CCL Delegate;  
Rod Jude, Vice Chair;  
Claudia Narcisco, Secretary  
& Alternate CCL Delegate;  
Betsy Brandborg, member;  
Teresa Brock, member;  
Stacey Hellekson, member;  
Tom Magarian, member;  
Diana Vanek, member

### Conservation/Litigation:

Claudia Narcisco (Chair),  
Phil Knight, Teresa Brock,  
Jonathan Matthews,  
Stacey Hellekson, Rod Jude,  
Bonnie Rice (staff)

### Energy:

Tom Magarian (Chair),  
Jonathan Matthews,  
Claudia Narcisco, Diana  
Vanek, Summer Nelson Merrill,  
Rod Jude, Mike Scott (staff),  
David Merrill (staff)

### Finance:

Mark Hufstetler (Treasurer)

### Fundraising:

Stacey Hellekson (Chair)  
Rod Jude, Mike Scott (staff)

### Newsletter:

Teresa Brock (Chair),  
Jonathan Matthews, Diana  
Vanek, Claudia Narcisco

### Nominating/Elections:

Jonathan Matthews (Chair)  
Rod Jude, Janet Fiero

### Outings:

Vacant (Chair),  
Bob Clark, Michael Jarnevic,  
Jonathan Matthews,  
Diana Vanek, Will Butler,  
Mark Hufstetler

### Political:

Jonathan Matthews (Chair),  
Claudia Narcisco, Rod Jude,  
Mark Hufstetler, David Merrill,  
Mike Scott (Staff)

### Website/Facebook:

Jeff van de Noort (Chair),  
Rod Jude

Thank you for  
your support of the  
Montana Chapter  
of the  
Sierra Club  
and the  
Montana Sierran



# SIERRA CLUB

Explore, Enjoy and  
Protect the Planet

Find Us On Facebook