

# the Montana Sierran

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## WILDLIFE

### VICTORY! Yellowstone Grizzlies Saved from Trophy Hunts; Endangered Species Protections Restored

by Bonnie Rice, Senior Representative ~

Greater Yellowstone and Northern Rockies Regions, *Our Wild America Campaign*

On September 24th, the bears won.

**JUST DAYS BEFORE** a second temporary restraining order was set to expire, Judge Dana Christensen of the U.S. District Court for Montana ruled in favor of Tribal Nations and conservationists in reinstating Yellowstone grizzlies' Endangered Species protections, saving them from Wyoming and Idaho's planned trophy hunts. His decision stated that the federal government had acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in removing protections for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region in 2017. Working to protect grizzly bears from delisting and trophy hunting over the last 4+ years, I was, needless to say, elated by this decision, and grizzly bear advocates around the country breathed a huge sigh of relief that twenty-three grizzly bears would not end up as trophies on someone's wall.

In his decision, Judge Christensen ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must look at recovery of grizzly bears as a whole across the lower 48; in other words, the agency can't just carve out one grizzly population without analyzing how delisting that population would affect recovery of other grizzly populations, such as bears around Glacier National Park and the Cabinet-Yaak in northwestern Montana. "By refusing to analyze the legal and functional impact of delisting on other continental grizzly populations, the service entirely failed to consider an issue of extreme importance," Christensen wrote in his decision. "The Endangered Species Act's text requires the Service, when reviewing and redetermining the status of a species, to look at the whole picture of the listed species, not just a segment of it."

Sierra Club's national *Our Wild America* campaign, with support from our chapters in the region, has been at the forefront

of the fight against delisting and trophy hunting of grizzlies in Greater Yellowstone for years. We worked closely every step of the way with our Tribal allies, elevating the opposition of over 200 Tribal Nations to delisting and trophy hunting of the grizzly, considered a sacred relative, and supporting Tribes' calls for government-to-government consultation on the grizzly issue. Though he bills himself as a great friend of Native Americans, Secretary Zinke has shamefully ignored Tribes' calls for consultation.

In a press release, Chief Stanley Grier, Chief of the Piikani Nation and President of the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs, said:

*"In wake of the court's decision, we again offer our hand to Secretary Zinke and invite him to sit down with us on a government-to-government basis and discuss the implementation of the grizzly treaty signed by over 200 tribes. The treaty presents the solutions to this ongoing issue. The future of the grizzly bear and tribal, federal and state cooperation lies in the grizzly treaty. With our sister tribes in the coalition of conscience we prevailed today in defense of the sacred for our children and our future generations, and we did so without having to make some of our strongest arguments. As we have said repeatedly, the grizzly bear is fundamental to our religious and spiritual practices. Today, with Judge Christensen's decision, those religious rights and our treaty rights remain intact."*

Already, there have been Congressional attacks including stand-alone bills and riders that would legislatively delist Yellowstone's grizzly bears and preclude any review by the courts of such delisting. We also expect that the USFWS will appeal ~ continued on page 2

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

*Dear Readers,*

In a time of intense divisiveness in our country, stoked by those in top positions who seemingly condone political violence as a response to disagreement or challenge, we are compelled to come together in defense of the values that unite us. As members of the Sierra Club, we believe in defending the most vulnerable among us, be they members of our human community or other species we share this earth with. We believe in clean air, clean water, and clean energy, for all. We believe in defending wild places and wildlife. We believe in demanding truth, and respect, and civility even in the face of disagreement. This experiment in democracy was – is – meant to foster civil discourse and create room for better ideas and solutions to emerge as society grapples with the differences and challenges among us. While we may strongly disagree with others – whether members, allies or adversaries – respect for our shared humanity must be a guiding light.

At the Sierra Club, we believe the path to protecting those values and defending the vulnerable wild places, wildlife and people, means committing to a path of equity, inclusion and justice. Does this commitment mean a shift away from our environmental work and values? Not at all.

It means taking time to recognize the impacts of our efforts, from acknowledging the original indigenous inhabitants in the places where we explore and advocate



*Summer Nelson*

inviting in new people and new ideas. Because the things we advocate for – clean air, clean water, clean energy, and access to wild places – are for everyone, the movement to protect them must include and support those who have too often been sidelined.

To carry out our role in that commitment, the Montana Chapter has been doing some hard work of reflection, growth and planning these past months, and we are committed to supporting your involvement as best we can. We hope you join us in this movement to explore, enjoy and protect this planet, together. ✧

*Summer Nelson,*

Montana Chapter Director

~ continued from page 1 **Yellowstone Grizzlies**

Judge Christensen's ruling. Sierra Club stands ready to defend this victory from any attack by the Trump Administration or Congress, in partnership with our Tribal and conservation allies.

Judge Christensen's ruling also has implications for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) surrounding Glacier National Park – the next population that the USFWS has slated for delisting in the coming year. Clearly, the USFWS moved too quickly in removing protections from Yellowstone grizzlies without properly determining how that action would affect other populations, as required by the Endangered Species Act, including bears in the NCDE and Cabinet-Yaak recovery areas. It remains to be seen if the USFWS will press the 'pause' button on the NCDE delisting process and take a step back to determine steps needed for full recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48. Sierra Club has long advocated that full recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48 means a thriving, connected population of several thousand bears.

Grizzly bears are the heart and soul of the Greater Yellowstone region. Thank you to all our members and supporters across the country who have fought alongside us for years to protect Yellowstone's majestic and still-vulnerable grizzly bears –



we couldn't have done it without you. With this legal victory, grizzlies in Yellowstone, and across the lower 48, now have a greater chance at full recovery. That's something we can all celebrate.

But we must remain vigilant and keep advocating for full recovery. Approximately 1,800 bears primarily in two largely isolated populations, occupying just 2-3% of their historic range, is not recovery – and 2018 is shaping up to be another year of high grizzly bear mortality; much more needs to be done to prevent conflicts between people and bears. Sierra Club's *Our Wild America* campaign and Montana chapter look forward to working with grizzly bear advocates throughout Montana and the country to protect Northern Continental Divide grizzly bears from premature delisting as well.

The importance of the NCDE as a source population for broader recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48, including the critically-imperiled Cabinet-Yaak populations and restoration of grizzlies to the Bitterroot ecosystem, cannot be overstated. Because four of the six grizzly bear recovery areas in the USFWS' 1982 grizzly bear recovery plan are wholly or partially in Montana, the state has an absolutely critical role to play in full recovery of grizzlies throughout the Northern Rockies and Greater Yellowstone regions.

Let's make sure Montana gets it right. ✧

# TRAPPING: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Practice In a Modern Recreational Landscape

by Brent Costain

**THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION** is in the process of revising recreational trapping regulation in Montana and is currently accepting public comment as to what changes make sense. I've been booting about on public lands in Montana for more than 40 years, and as a Forest Service wildlife biologist (now retired), I've spent the better part of three decades scrutinizing the effects of hunting and trapping on wildlife populations—as well as on people. So I have some thoughts on this.

Over the last five years our family dogs have been caught three times in coil-spring traps set along National Forest roads where we hike and ski. In addition, our son was snagged by a snare when we were out looking for a Christmas tree. Our dogs stick fairly close to us, but they do sniff around. And since traps are invariably set near roads and trails, the dogs, like all inquisitive carnivores, check out the bait. For us, and as it turns out, for many others, the outcome is an injured, traumatized dog and a bad end to an outing on the Forest. In spite of recent set-back adjustments by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, most traps can still be set within 50 feet of a road or trail. Otherwise, there are few restrictions that serve to protect people such as us. There is no requirement, for example, to post notice that traps are present. It's just something you find out when your dog gets trapped or your kid steps in a snare.

Fur-trapping is, of course, a key part of early Montana history. Modern-day trappers strive to honor this heritage by cruising up snow-packed Forest roads in 4wd trucks and snowmobiles and sowing the neighborhood with traps. This is not how Jim Bridger and Hugh Glass did it. And what made sense in the wild environment of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century wreaks havoc when inserted into the middle of a modern recreational landscape traversed by thousands of other people.

A case can be made for trapping as a wildlife management tool—most often as live-trapping that leaves captured animals relatively unscathed. It can be useful in helping reduce local predator populations that threaten livestock, in removing individual carnivores endangering humans, dislodging beavers flooding roadways, capturing animals for research, collecting animals for reintroduction elsewhere, and so on. If done properly, such operations represent responsible wildlife management because they target particular

species in defined areas for specific purposes. On the other hand, wholesale trapping that hits an array of species, many of them playing beneficial roles in the ecosystem and posing no credible problem for humans, is not useful. This approach is akin to attempting to reduce crime by randomly rounding up people on the street and throwing them in jail.

Trapping advocates often seek to pair trapping with hunting, as if the two are equivalent. Hunting is a highly regulated, fair chase endeavor. Trapping, on the other hand, while requiring technical know-how and knowledge of wildlife, is not a fair chase activity. The traps are set, and any number of animals that frequent the local habitat can be snagged. For those of us with dogs, learning that there may be traps in a given area is reason enough to avoid it, totally. Trapping shuts out other forms of recreation in a way that hunting does not.

Trapping can be pragmatically regulated in ways that prevent it from continuing to subvert other forms of recreation enjoyed by large numbers of Montanans. Potential remedies include (1) establishing widespread trap-free zones in areas frequented by winter recreationists; (2) setting up non-trapping buffer zones of 500 to 1,000 feet in some drainages—thus allowing trappers the opportunity to push up into the off-road wildlands in the tradition of

Jim Bridger; (3) increasing standard set-backs for traps to something more than 50 feet (beyond casual dog range); and (4) requiring warning signs in drainages and at local sites where traps are set (as some trappers already do—and as all should be required to do).

Under such a scenario, trappers would continue to find abundant trapping opportunity in unrestricted areas and on private lands. More rigorous regulation of recreational trapping in Montana would not impair wildlife management, and would provide a practical way forward for the majority of Montanans, who look to the public lands as a haven from the kinds of human-contrived hazards that bedevil us everywhere else. ✧

Note: This perspective is from a Montana Chapter member and does not necessarily reflect the National Sierra Club's policy on trapping, which opposes body-gripping devices, including leghold traps.

FOR THE SIERRA CLUB POLICY SEE: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/uploads-wysiwig/Trapping-Wildlife.pdf>



*Bobcat caught in a leghold trap.*

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW** has had an encounter with a trap on public land, Montana's *Trapping Advisory Committee* needs to hear your story. We need your voices to make a difference. *Please comment.*

The *Trapping Advisory Committee's* next meeting will be January 31 and February 1, 2019, in a location to be determined.

Public comment from non-trappers has been sparse. The Committee is four non-trappers and seven trappers, a ratio determined by Fish Wildlife & Parks (FW&P) staff.

The point of contact for comments is FW&P staffer John Vore at: [jvore@mt.gov](mailto:jvore@mt.gov)

## Hot Button Issues:

- \* **MANDATORY SETBACKS OF TRAPS FROM ROADS AND TRAILS.** The current distance required from the centerline of roads and trails is 50 feet. The minimum distance should be at least 500 feet.
- \* **MANDATORY REPORTING OF ANIMALS TRAPPED.** Currently, trappers are only required to inform FW&P of trapped bobcats, swift fox, otter, fisher, wolves, lynx and wolverine. Trappers get to take unlimited beaver, coyotes, badger and other species.
- \* **MANDATORY 24-HOUR TRAP CHECK.** An animal can wait in a trap for many, many days before

the trapper comes to kill it.

- \* **MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION.** All it takes to become a trapper is ownership of traps.
- \* **ALL TRAPPERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO GET LICENSES,** not just fur-bearer trappers.
- \* **MANDATORY SIGNING OF TRAPS.** There is no obligation for trappers to inform the public that traps are in the area.

To review the current trapping regulations and quotas, go to: [fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/huntingGuides/furbearer/](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/huntingGuides/furbearer/)

**IT MAY SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT LAST SEASON 1,541 BOBCATS WERE TRAPPED IN MONTANA**

# The Chapter Joins Montana Wild Bison Restoration Coalition — by Claudia Narcisco

LAST SPRING, WE REPORTED ON WILD BISON restoration on Montana's northern plains. With some consideration and positive feedback from our members, we joined the Wild Bison Restoration Coalition as a way to engage in this important discussion. Jim Bailey, retired professor of wildlife biology and management at Colorado State University, is Coalition coordinator. Rod Jude, outgoing ExCom member, is representing the Chapter. Visit the website at: <http://www.mtwildbison.org/>

The mission of the Coalition is raising public awareness of opportunities for wild public bison in Montana and establishing a bison herd on public and private lands within and near the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. While the Coalition's focus is on public and private lands, the Montana Chapter strives for tribal acknowledgement and input in any bison restoration effort.

In June several Chapter members attended the 'Bison Unite Us' conference in Polson. Sponsors included the Confederated Salish

and Kootenai Tribes, National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Conservation Society, and American Prairie Reserve. Bison are integral not only to grassland ecosystems but are of immense spiritual and cultural significance to many tribes. In 2009, the Blackfeet Confederacy launched the Innii Initiative, a partnership with governmental and non-governmental entities to conserve the traditional lands, protect the culture, and restore the bison. The international Northern Tribes Buffalo Treaty created in 2014, is an outcome of the initiative.

In November, the Wild Bison Restoration Coalition held a forum in Bozeman. Sean Gerrity, Founder and Managing Director of the American Prairie Reserve, described the Reserve's program. Jim Bailey spoke on opportunities to establish wild bison and challenges including political. The Chapter plans to co-sponsor an event in

Missoula this winter. While in the formative stage, we hope to feature some short films in addition to the forum. Please stay tuned. ✧



## WSAs and Wildlife Corridors Inextricably Linked — by Michael Jarnevic

A SOMEWHAT OVERLOOKED ASPECT of the recently proposed demotion of many of Montana's Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is that it came at a time when grizzly bears were being slated for delisting in both the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). Together, two pieces of legislation from our Congressional republicans – Steve Daines and Greg Gianforte – would release approximately 1,273 square miles of currently protected WSAs to multiple use, potentially forever preventing them from becoming designated wilderness ... and central pieces of *crucial* wildlife corridors. To give you an idea of the magnitude of this combined area, it is well over three-quarters the size of the Bob Marshall Wilderness – not exactly chump-change.

Why are the WSAs so crucial to species like grizzly bears? Because many of these wildlands are "anchor points" for the formation of wildlife corridors connecting the GYE and the NCDE. According to the Wilderness Society, "The so-called 'carnivore intactness' of most of the WSAs outpaced that of half of the national parks and wilderness areas. Carnivores are considered key to a balanced ecosystem." While the scientific models for corridors don't necessarily run through each WSA,

large mammals shockingly don't subscribe to the scientific journals – they will find their own way, and that way might very well be different than what the models predicted, especially when one looks at the significant wildlife barriers such as fences, houses, roads, highways, and the two interstates.

These WSAs are important for a variety of reasons besides corridors and when viewed from satellite imagery show clearly why they exist at all: they are, for the most part, in the very center of steep, forested areas that were difficult to access and still are; their boundaries are often times angular and show timber harvesting and roads, right up to the borders. And contrary to the alleged wisdom of Daines and Gianforte, Montana's WSAs have not been "languishing" in purgatory since they were proposed, but were included in the 1988 wilderness bill pocket vetoed by President Reagan as a political favor to Conrad Burns, another of Montana's senators who viewed Montana's wildlands as federally managed warehouses of corporate convenience to be bargain basement shopped, by the wizards of exploitation.

Wilderness Study Areas and wildlife corridors are inextricably linked: *protect the wildlands and you protect the wildlife.*

Should we settle for anything less? ✧

### 2019 SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND HOW TO BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER

Next year, the Montana Chapter Outings Program will highlight the **WSAs** around the Missoula area: Wales Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, the Sapphires, and Blue Joint.

We are working to add outings to WSAs in other parts of the state as well. If you live near or are familiar with another of the 44 WSAs

in Montana, please consider leading a chapter outing into one of these last wild places.

Sierra Club outings leaders are required to attend courses in wilderness First Aid and CPR, and a *FREE* Outings Leader online course. Financial assistance for First Aid and CPR may be available.

#### Other Outings:

We are also planning outings to renewable energy sites, to bison herds and habitat, and to other areas of interest. Keep an eye on our website calendar for additional outings, and contact us if you want to join the outings team and lead some yourself!

If interested, e-mail Outings Chair Mike Jarnevic for more information at: [grossbison@gmail.com](mailto:grossbison@gmail.com)

**RIISING LIKE RAMPARTS** from the high rolling plains of Central Montana, the Crazy Mountains are the highest and most rugged of Montana's "Island" mountain ranges. To the Crow people they are known as Awaxaawapia Pia (Ominous Mountains) and are a place of power and religious significance. Crazy Peak and other mountains here are vision quest sites for the Crow. The high-country lakes of the Crazies are world-class and the peaks steep and hard to reach. The few trails traversing the range offer amazing adventures.

With nearly six thousand feet of



*Unnamed peak in the northern Crazies*

prominence, Crazy Peak (highest in the range at 11,214 feet) stands out like a beacon when seen from the plains. The Crazies are also a magnet for wildlife. Elk survive in large herds, moose prowl the willows and mule deer browse the forests. Although grizzly bears are not known to be present in the range, the bruins are well established in the Absaroka Range to the south and have recently been documented in the Little Belt Mountains to the north. The

Crazies are also a stronghold for mountain goats and may hold a remnant population of rare wolverines.

Grizzly bears and other wildlife traveling between Yellowstone and Glacier may use the Crazy Mountains as a pathway between the ecosystems. Unfortunately the range suffers from split management and lack of coordination between two



*Backcountry skier above the Porcupine Lowline Trail*

national forests, the Custer-Gallatin and the Helena-Lewis and Clark. There are also many private land sections in the range, making for difficult management and a roadless area perforated by inholdings. The core of the range contains over 90,000 roadless acres, but inholdings have prevented any serious consideration of a Crazy Mountains Wilderness.

Despite these hurdles the Crazies remain remote, wild and alluring. This amazing mountain range deserves all the protection we can give it. ✧

## TALE OF TWO TRAILS: DEFENDING PUBLIC ACCESS IN THE CRAZY MOUNTAINS

by Kathryn QannaYahu and Claudia Narcisco

**THE CRAZY MOUNTAINS STAND** between two trails. On the eastside, the first public access obstruction occurred on Big Timber Canyon road, almost 80 years ago. In 1948, the Forest Service took Paul Van Cleve to court and secured a preliminary injunction, to restore access. In 1953 the case was settled, in the Forest Service's behalf. This decision was based on Northern Pacific Railroad Grant deed language: "The lands hereby conveyed being subject, ... to an easement in the public for any public roads ... existing over and any part of the premises." Many railroad grant deeds exist in the Crazy Mountains due to Native American and mining trails and roads.

Recently, on the west side of the Crazy Mountains, public access on the Porcupine Lowline Trail was challenged. The Chapter commented on the Porcupine Ixib Trail relocation project. We urged the Forest to defend the public interest by exploring alternatives before rerouting and relinquishing rights to the existing trail; relinquishing it to

private interests could set poor precedent.

In the early 1970's a Sierra Club wilderness team studied the Crazy Mountains, reporting on its pristine nature and quality waters, cautioning mass recreation could affect its delicate balance. In our comments, we emphasized the importance of the area to wildlife connectivity and wide-roaming species.

In August, the Forest announced it would proceed with the higher elevation reroute

as a non-motorized trail, open to foot, stock, and mountain bikes and closed to winter motorized use. We're concerned mountain bikes could affect the delicate balance and disrupt wildlife, including wolverine.

Public access to our public lands will remain an issue, in the Crazy Mountains and elsewhere. You can count on the Sierra Club participating in the conversation and advocating as we can. ✧



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.

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

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## Youth and Tribes Invigorate Missoula People's Climate March — by David Merrill

**WELL OVER 200 PEOPLE** engaged in the People's Climate March and rally in Missoula on September 9.

The Sierra Club's *Montana Beyond Coal* campaign is working to elevate Native American and youth voices in our drive to clean energy, and some of the fruits of that outreach were evident in this festive public event.



Members of Montana's Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) led the march, carrying a giant trout to make known that here in Montana the most spectacular endowment of fly-fishing streams in the lower 48 is at risk.

A posse of youth showed up early to make posters onsite in the cool, sunny morning, and two high school students were rally emcees.



Jack Gladstone of the Blackfeet Tribe played guitar and sang; the Salish drum group SnYelMn performed as members of Hellgate High School's SAVE group gathered. Two of the five speakers were Native American: D'Shane Barnett, from the University of Montana Sociology department is a member of the Mandan and Arikara tribes; Mike Durglo is the head of the CSKT Preservation Department.



We have been cultivating relationships with Montana veterans, encouraging them to engage on climate change. Montana has the second largest per capita veteran population in the country. This outreach led us to Julie Sirrs, a former intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency, who accepted our invitation to speak about the effects of climate change on our national security.

Sierra Club partner 350 Montana spoke about the challenges we face from NorthWestern Energy, which is trying to extend the life of the aging Colstrip coal-electric

plant, despite the fact that other owners will be gone as early as 2027, rendering the plant inoperable. Something's gotta give and our coalition continues to highlight the risk this creates for rate-payers.



Josh Slotnick, an organic farmer and newly-elected Missoula County commissioner, said that when the Clark Fork River spilled over its banks earlier this year Missoulians stepped up to help. Humans are very good at responding to immediate threats, he said, but the challenge we face in addressing climate change "requires forethought."



And I would add that it also requires power to challenge the

vested interests that are resisting change, such as NorthWestern Energy, which is clinging to coal well past its discard date.



As the event drew to a close, the Salish drummers asked marchers to join in a friendship dance. This impromptu joining of hands while trying to step to drum beats delighted everyone. In my opinion, we need as much music and dance and art in our organizing as possible. ✧



Thanks to event co-organizers: 350 Montana, Climate Smart Missoula, Environment Montana, National Wildlife Federation, Northern Plains Resource Council, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, and Missoula Urban Demonstration Project.

## The Answer My Friend ...

by Summer Nelson

**FOR TWELVE YEARS** Rick Jarrett of the Crazy Mountain Cattle Company in Big Timber, Montana, has been trying to put wind turbines on his property. No surprise that Montana residents like Jarrett are looking to harness the power of the wind; Montana is tied with Kansas in having the second-best wind potential in the country. And as farmers elsewhere have learned, wind turbines can provide a stable income in the unpredictable world of agriculture. Says one renewable energy advocate, in the film, *Reinventing Power*: "I've been farming corn, soybeans, and wheat all my life, but I never thought I'd be farming wind."

Jarrett was one presenter among a group of panelists sharing thoughts and experiences about the renewable energy sector in Montana following a Bozeman screening of *Reinventing Power*. Like any significant development, the 24-turbine wind farm has triggered resistance from some people in the area that don't want to see a wind farm in their Montana viewshed. But as some of the stories highlighted in the film demonstrate, people are becoming increasingly intrigued by the presence of wind turbines, as well as finding they provide benefits that outweigh any downsides.

As North Carolina farmer Steve Harris explains in the film, farming is "like gambling." A farmer can do everything right and still lose their crop due to weather or other factors. His farm was the first to lease wind turbines in the state, and he says it is providing income security for his family as well as "grave" income to the county (the county did not have to invest a single cent). Another advocate featured is a former coal miner turned solar installer. He was proud of his job in the

mines and considered solar a "hippie" thing. But since training as a solar installer, he has found pride in his new line of work as well, and a stability for his family that couldn't be guaranteed in the coal industry.

That message of benefits and possibilities is precisely why Sierra Club's *Ready for 100* campaign exists: to help local communities secure clean, renewable energy options and be leaders in the transition from a fossil-fuel energy system to a renewable energy system. *Ready for 100* supports citizens obtaining a commitment from their local government to transition to 100% renewable energy, through a public and transparent process. That message – and the potential to replace coal and gas with clean, renewable energy on the Montana grid – is resonating with many Montanans.

Some Montana communities are already exploring how to get to 100% clean, renewable energy, beginning with energy efficiency and the electricity sector. In Missoula, several partners are coordinating to gather citizen input and explore options for making the transition. And conversations have started in other communities, where teams are forming to take up the renewable energy cause, including Bozeman and Helena. As momentum builds across the state, and word gets out that this is not a partisan issue but one that makes good economic sense, we anticipate more communities will be leading the way to a renewable energy future designed to benefit all Montanans. ✧

To join or start a local team, contact Chapter Director Summer Nelson at: [summer.nelson@sierraclub.org](mailto:summer.nelson@sierraclub.org)

## Chapter Prepares for 2019 Session

by Art Compton



**THE CHAPTER'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** is preparing for the 2019 Session on several fronts. A call will go out soon for members interested in assisting with the lobbying effort. We will be looking for member involvement ranging from helping us frame our priority issues, to contacting their legislators to help drive home important points, to attending

hearings and providing testimony. We have contacted the leadership of conservation organizations who have assisted our lobbyist training efforts in the past, so that we can again offer training to interested members. Finally, we will be participating in the weekly legislative coordination and strategy meeting with other conservation organizations to ensure that our lobbying efforts are focused on priority issues and complement each other's work. ✧

## MISCELLANEOUS

### VOTE! Montana Chapter Executive Committee Elections

The Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club is a volunteer-led group, with an Executive Committee (ExCom) providing governance and oversight to the local entity. The Chapter ExCom is comprised of eight volunteers serving two-year terms, and manages the affairs of the Chapter, such as finances, budget, publications, conservation and energy issue priorities, outings, and opportunities for member involvement. Each year, four of the ExCom terms are filled by vote of Sierra Club Montana members.

Voting will be online this year, from December 3 to December 31. For your vote

to count you must have an active membership and valid member number by the start of the voting period (the Elections Committee will verify member numbers).

There are seven candidates on the ballot for four two-year positions; members may vote for up to four candidates, but votes cannot be pooled for any one candidate.

#### The seven candidates are:

- Bob Clark
- Len Broberg
- Sarah Kruger Haivala
- Cory Beattie
- Valerie Coulter
- Claudia Narcisco
- Betsy Brandborg

Find voting information and candidate bios at: [montana.sierraclub.org/candidates](http://montana.sierraclub.org/candidates)

Vote during the voting period at: [sierraclub.tfaforms.net/299](http://sierraclub.tfaforms.net/299)

### National Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune



took time from his family vacation in Glacier Park to speak with members of the Montana Chapter in Missoula last summer. The gathering was to thank Montana supporters and volunteers, and to start building stronger connections in our community of dedicated members.

### Milltown State Park Outing

At the overlook of the Milltown State Park, manager Mike Kustudia, tells stories of the Milltown Dam removal and the newly restored confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, to Sierra Club outings participants.



### Benefit for Public Wildlands



The Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force and the Montana Chapter staged an outdoor fundraiser for public wildlands with musicians Rob & Halladay Quist and Jack Gladstone last September in Missoula.

The music was magic, and we were treated to a fabulous alpenglow sunset that brought it all home and reinforced our vision that we do, indeed, live in the last best place.



### Wilderness Survival Outing



Michael Jarnevic carried all of the student's packs across Welcome Creek during the Wilderness Survival Class outing this summer. The unexpected removal of the bridge required participants to cross on the log – the first survival challenge of the trip.



Students learn how to construct a lean-to shelter and build a fire in the Welcome Creek Wilderness.

Newsletter design, layout, copy editor — Celeste River



# SIERRA CLUB

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Teresa Brock, member; Art Compton, member  
Michael Jarnevic, member; Rod Jude, member

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