

Grab Your Hiking Boots: Local Outings Begin on Page 10

Outings continued from pages 10-11

Saturday, 29 September, Carlton Lake, Bitterroot Mountains. The Larch trees should be showing their autumn colors, making for a beautiful fall day hike. We will hike to Carlton Lake which sits at the base of Lolo Peak. This is a moderately strenuous hike that is 9.5 miles round trip with 2600 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Mary Owens at [mowens320\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com) (preferred) or 493-1139.

Get Involved.

To find out more about participating in the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club outings program, or if you'd like to share your favorite wild places by leading a hike or canoe trip in your region, please contact the Outings Coordinator, Mary Owens at [mowens320\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com).



"Four Days in Glacier," Watercolor by Kendahl Jan Jubb
Photo Credit: Ram Murphy of Murphy-Jubb Fine Art
Experience the vibrant colors of Kendahl's living art.
210 N. Higgins, Suite 300, Missoula, MT 59802
www.kendahljanjubb.com

"May Day Wild Flowers," Watercolor by Kendahl Jan Jubb
Photo Credit: Ram Murphy



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Montana Chapter Posts Win against Global Giant

By John Wolverton, Dirty Fuels Campaign Volunteer



Aerial Photos of Canada's Tar Sands Operations, Aided by Mega-Load Transports
Photo Credit: Jungbim (Wikipedia Commons)

Two years ago, Imperial Oil, a Canadian subsidiary of Exxon/Mobil, was moving full steam ahead with its plan to transform U.S. Highway 12 and Montana Routes 200 and 287 into permanent industrial corridors for massive Alberta tar sands-bound "mega-loads."

But the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club, along with the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC), the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Missoula County Commissioners and citizen activists in Montana stood up to Exxon by challenging the "mega-load" transportation project in court.

Montana District Court Judge Ray Dayton has ruled largely in our favor by telling the Montana Department of Transportation there must be further environmental review,

particularly of potential long-term impacts of the project. Thus far, Exxon has not indicated any initiative to reinvigorate their case or the environmental review process. Also, Exxon's intentions regarding the status of the 400,000-pound "TVM" (aka: Test Validation Module) currently sitting idle at Lolo Hot Springs remains undetermined.

All the remaining loads which had been stalled at Idaho's Port of Lewiston have been chopped-down to Interstate-sized loads and departed via an alternative route through

Idaho to Interstates 90 and 15. As a powerful reminder of the broad front of community resistance poised against this project and against the tar sands, every one of those chopped-down loads moved in the dead of night and was met in Moscow, Idaho by protests from members of Wild Idaho Rising Tide and Friends of the Clearwater.

Due to this true community and regional effort, and thanks to support from dedicated Sierra Club members and supporters like you, we have succeeded in stopping Exxon from running roughshod over rural highways along the scenic Clearwater, Lochsa and Blackfoot River corridors and the beautiful Rocky Mountain Front. Please reflect for a moment on the long road to our success against this project, which almost everyone had felt was inevitable.

On behalf of Montana Chapter, we extend a huge thank you to all the activists, attorneys, organizations and advocates who worked tirelessly in this effort!

INSIDE

MT Chapter Posts Win.....	1
Club Offices, Staff & Leaders	2
Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference.....	3
Fastpacking	4
Newsletter Information	4
EPA Regional Haze Plan for MT	5
EPA Proposes Standard for New Plants	6
Support Your Local Sierra Club	7
May 10, 2012 Trapping of Wolves Mtng	8
Newsflash.....	9
2012 Outings.....	10-11



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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2012 Montana Chapter Leaders

Executive Committee

Left to Right:

Jonathan Matthews, Claudia Narcisco, Janet Fiero, Bruce Hunner, Gita Wohlsein, Rachel Jennings, Rod Jude and John Wolverton (*emeritus*). Not shown: Jeff van den Noort

Photo Credit: Maria Ibarbia



Chapter Officers

Rod Jude, Chair
Gita Wohlsein, Vice Chair
John Rhodes, Treasurer
Claudia Narcisco, Secretary

Committees

Conservation/Litigation. Jerry Nicholls, Chair; Bruce Hunner, Rachel Jennings, Rod Jude, Claudia Narcisco, Owen Weber; Bob Clark & Bonnie Rice, Advisors

CCL Delegates. Rachel Jennings & Claudia Narcisco (alternate)

Energy. Jonathan Matthews, Chair; Bruce Hunner, Rod Jude, Claudia Narcisco, Owen Weber, Gita Wohlsein; Mike Scott, Advisor

- Dirty Fuels/Beyond Coal Campaign** Subcommittee. John Wolverton, Chair; Bruce Hunner, Rod Jude, Carol Marsh; Zack Waterman, Advisor

Finance. John Rhodes, Jeff van den Noort; Bob Clark, Advisor

Fundraising. Gita Wohlsein, Chair; Nina Corelli, Bob Hopkins, Rod Jude

Membership Engagement. Rod Jude, Chair; Carol Marsh, Kelly Waterman; Zack Waterman, Advisor

Newsletter Working Group. Maria Ibarbia, Liz Rantz, John Wolverton; Bob Clark, Advisor

Nominating/Elections. TBA

Outings. Mary Owens, Chair; Janet Fiero, Nancy Gibson, Rod Jude, John Wolverton; Bob Clark, Advisor

- Women-Only Outings** Subcommittee. Mary Owens, Janet Fiero, Nancy Gibson, Maria Ibarbia, Claudia Narcisco

Political. Jonathan Matthews, Chair; Janet Fiero, Bruce Hunner, Rachel Jennings, Rod Jude, Claudia Narcisco, Owen Weber, Gita Wohlsein; Bonnie Rice, Advisor

Website/Facebook. Owen Weber, Chair; Jeff van den Noort, Webmaster; Rachel Jennings, Rod Jude; Bob Clark, Advisor

For more information about the

- Montana Chapter activities and meetings
- Contact Rod Jude at (406) 579.7627
- Missoula/Bitterroot area activities and meetings
- Contact John Wolverton at yodelingdog(at)hotmail(dot)com

Visit our Chapter website at www.montana.sierraclub.org. "Like" and visit our Facebook page at Montana Sierra Club.

2012 Outings of the MT Chapter of the Sierra Club, continued

By Mary Owens, Outings Volunteer



The White Cliffs of the Missouri River
Photo Credit: Maria Ibarbia

with 1200 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Mary Owens at [mowens320\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com) (preferred) or 493-1139.

Saturday, 23 June—Elk Lake day hike, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The trail begins by winding through trees burned in the late nineties in the Shepherd Mountain fire. We will hike along and above East Rosebud Lake where evidence of the Shepherd Mountain fire still exists, but the forest has grown back substantially. As the trail climbs upward to Elk Lake, views of the surrounding mountains soar above the dramatic waterfalls of the East Rosebud River. We'll have lunch at Elk Lake then return the way we came. 6 miles round trip with 500 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Donna Craig at benannod@aol.com (preferred) or 328-4386.

Saturday, 30 June—Sourdough Ridge Exploration. Within view of Bozeman are some little-known gems of wild country. Walk a ridge you may have never noticed on a user-created trail. Explore deep woods and ridge-top meadows. Look for early summer wildflowers and seek views of the Gallatin Valley. Learn about why this area may deserve Wilderness protection. This hike is moderately strenuous – 8 miles round trip with at least 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 8 participants. Phil Knight, a long time Sierra Club member and local organizer, conservationist, guide, naturalist and author of two

books about traveling and living in the backcountry, will accompany us on this hike. To sign-up, contact Zack Waterman at zack.waterman@sierraclub.org (preferred) or 919-696-8329.

Wednesday, 18 July—St. Mary Peak, Bitterroot Mountains. This moderately strenuous day hike will take us to the top of St. Mary Peak at 9,300 feet in elevation. There is a working fire lookout on top and the views are incredible. 7.5 miles round trip with an elevation gain of 2400 feet. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Mary Owens at [mowens320\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com) (preferred) or 493-1139.

Saturday, 27 July—Lake Dinah Trail from Lake Elsina, Mission Mountains (women only). Both Lake Dinah and Lake Elsina are gorgeous subalpine lakes in the high country basins of the Mission Mountains. The trail winds through lush brush, dense forest and grassy meadows. 5 miles round trip with 700 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign-up, contact Janet Fiero at janetfiero77@gmail.com (preferred) or 970-260-7951.

Saturday, 18 August—Hidden Canyon Waterfalls. Despite being well traveled, Hyalite Canyon holds some hidden gems that few people get to see. On this day hike, come walk a little known route along hidden waterfalls to a high ridge above the East Fork of Hyalite. Look for signs of wildlife and enjoy breezy views from a remote summit. Learn about some of the controversial history of land management in the Gallatin Range and discuss the idea of Wilderness protection for the Gallatins. This hike is steep and strenuous! 10 miles total, with over 2,000 feet of elevation gain. Phil Knight, a long time Sierra Club member and local organizer, conservationist, guide, naturalist and author of two books about traveling and living in the backcountry, will accompany us on this hike. Limited to 6 participants. To sign-up, contact Zack Waterman at zack.waterman@sierraclub.org (preferred) or 919-696-8329.

Wednesday, 29 Aug to Sunday, 2 September—Missouri River Breaks Canoe Trip (women only). Join us for a peaceful 3 1/2 day float through the inspiring "White Cliffs" section of this famous river. Late summer can be ideal with less heat, less wind, less mud, less folks, almost no mosquitoes and tranquil riverside camping among the cottonwoods and coyote howls. Side hikes and fossil explorations will be on the agenda. Rent or BYO Boat/gear. To sign up, contact Janet Fiero at janetfiero77@gmail.com (preferred) or 970-260-7951.

2012 Outings of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

By Mary Owens, Outings Volunteer

Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club outings are free and open to the public. Liability release signatures are required. Please sign up in advance with the listed outing contact person. No companion animals, please.

Saturday, 19 May–Lake Como Loop, Bitterroot Mountains (women only). Take an easy day hike around beautiful Lake Como near Darby. A set of falls at the head of the lake will be our lunch stop, and we'll complete the loop by walking across the dam. 7.5 miles total with minimal elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Janet Fiero at janetfiero77@gmail.com (preferred) or 970-260-7951.

Wednesday, 23 May–Stuart Peak-Wallman Trail Loop, Rattlesnake National Recreation Area. This loop day hike begins at the main Rattlesnake trailhead, parallels Spring Gulch for a couple of miles, passes through several pocket meadows, then climbs gently before descending back to the main Rattlesnake trail. Nice views of Lolo Peak on the descent. Shallow water crossing required. 8 miles total with 500 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Mary Owens at mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com (preferred) or 493-1139.

Saturday, 2 June–Service Trip, Burnt Fork Creek, Bitterroot Valley. We will be partnering with Trout Unlimited to plant native tree and shrub species throughout a section of a heavily impacted stream channel. The Burnt Fork is an important tributary to the Bitterroot River, as it contains pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout at its headwaters and is a nursery for several species of trout and other aquatic species in the Bitterroot. The upper reaches of the watershed are National Forest lands while the last few miles of Burnt Fork Creek run through the Lee Metcalf Wildlife preserve. The land in between is privately owned and used primarily for cattle and agriculture. The section of stream that will be worked on was recently fenced off from cattle. This effort will jump start the establishment of a riparian community. Bring gloves, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, water and snacks. A sack lunch will be provided. To sign-up and for meeting time and place, please contact Bob Clark at bob.clark@sierraclub.org.

Saturday, 9 June–South Fork of Lolo Creek, Bitterroot Mountains (women only). This moderate day hike goes into the proposed South Fork Lolo Creek Wilderness addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The hike begins by following the South Fork of Lolo Creek, and then climbs moderately through open, old clear cut providing views of the surrounding country. Wildflowers should be plentiful. 7 miles round trip with 1600 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Fran Coover at fran@bresnan.net (preferred) or 544-2255.

Wednesday, 13 June–Bass Creek, Bitterroot Mountains. Bass Creek Canyon is typical of those in the Bitterroot Valley — U-shaped and glacially carved. This moderate day hike will follow the creek, gradually ascending to some spectacular waterfalls. We will hike through several pocket meadows, so expect to see wildflowers. 8.5 miles round trip with 1500 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Mary Owens at mowens320[at]gmail[dot]com (preferred) or 493-1139.

Saturday, 16 June–Broadwater Lake, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Our day hike begins by immediately crossing a footbridge over the Lake Fork of Rock Creek, and gradually heading upstream along the beautiful Lake Fork. The water dramatically increases in volume and velocity as we follow alongside it the entire distance of our hike. This hike has no stream crossings. Often, moose and their calves are seen along the lower sections of this trail. We'll stop for lunch at "Broadwater Lake," a wide, beautiful place in the river. Depending upon our time and the needs of participants, we have the option of continuing another mile and a half up the trail where a left turn takes us to nearby "Lost Lake," a popular destination for campers. Adding to the appeal of this trail is a series of waterfalls cascading down from mountain peaks along the way. 7 miles round trip with 600 feet of elevation gain. Limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Donna Craig at benannod@aol.com (preferred) or 328-4386

Saturday, 23 June–Blodgett Canyon, Bitterroot Mountains (women only). This moderate day hike is in one of the most beautiful canyons in the Bitterroot, often described as "Yosemite-like." We will hike to the second set of falls. 9 miles round trip



"Cutthroat Comeback," Watercolor by Kendahl Jan Jubb
Photo Credit: Ram Murphy

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

By Claudia Narcisco, CCL Alternate/Volunteer

Several members of Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club attended the Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference in Los Angeles, California, on March 14-16, 2012.

Chapter executive committee members Rachel Jennings and Claudia Narcisco, SE Montana members Otto and Barbara Braided Hair and Missoula staffer Bob Clark were among over 700 attendees representing environmental organizations, labor unions, government agencies and businesses from around the country. All came to learn and share what they were doing to create jobs while protecting the environment, building sustainable communities, economies and future.

While labor was well represented, union friends from our local BlueGreen coalition were unfortunately absent. We hope to recruit local labor leaders for the 2013 conference.

Keynote speakers included Antonio Villaraigosa; Mayor of Los Angeles; James Hoffa; President of Teamsters; Phil Angelides; Chairman of BlueGreen Alliance; and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, along with Sierra Club's own Allison Chin; treasurer and past board president. Villaraigosa and Hoffa have been working together to clean up the Port of Southern California and Los Angeles Airport. As a result, emissions have been reduced by 50+ percent.

These reductions directly benefit the health of workers and their communities located near the ports, air quality of Southern California and climate change. While industry did not initially embrace these changes it was proved it could be done to economic advantage.

Recently, the City joined the Teamsters in a lawsuit on behalf of contract drivers.

The meat of the conference was in the workshops with topics ranging from clean energy manufacturing, infrastructure and transportation, investments, regional, State and local policy development, to local food and water supplies.

The resonating message is people at all levels are working to build



Chapter Executive Members Rachel & Claudia Show Support for Labor
Photo Credit: Bob Clark

economies that create green jobs based on sustainable energy, products and services. While we learned that the tasks are complex and success varies, the important take home is that discussions are happening in boardrooms, union shops, legislatures, ballot boxes, and on the streets with ordinary people making an extraordinary difference at many levels.

The event was rich with examples and many good contacts were made. Rachel and Claudia plan to take examples and ideas gleaned to the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club's Political and Energy Committee to help energize efforts at the state level.

It was not all work. Sierra Club held a roundtable the first evening. We had a chance to meet Chapter leaders from around the West and share the work being done from major victories in protecting coastal areas to closing a coal ash plant adjacent to a tribal reservation in Arizona to efforts to institute alternative energy funding options such as Feed in Tariff in Oregon.

We also enjoyed some California

sunshine while supporting our Teamster brothers and sisters at a rally for improved working conditions at an Australian owned recycle plant.

For more information visit: <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/>.

"We must face the prospect of changing our basic ways of living. This change will either be made on our own initiative in a planned way, or be forced on us with chaos and suffering by the inexorable laws of nature."

--Jimmy Carter, 1976

Quoted in *Solar Living Source Book: Your Complete Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living* 12th edition

Fastpacking

By Michael Jarnevic, Outings Volunteer

"He who would travel happily must travel light." --MWJ

With the advent of twenty-first century ultra-light camping equipment, it is now possible to put together a pack weighing less than twenty pounds for overnights to possibly three-day excursions into the backcountry. (This is for the warm months; cold weather camping requires gear too heavy and bulky for fastpacking.)

While this gear was designed predominantly for adventure racing, with the end goal being to cover a lot of ground in as little time as possible, fastpacking gear—and techniques—certainly have applications for those who simply want to take a lighter, more manageable pack into the woods.

The key to achieving this is two-fold: pare-down your equipment to the necessities and, for the gear that you do take, make it super light and packable.

Your packing list should consist of the following basics:

- Pack of around 1500-2000 cubic inches
- One-person tent or bivouac sack
- Sleeping bag
- Pad
- Waterproof Jacket and Pants (with gloves and a fleece cap in the pockets)
- Insulated vest
- Extra underwear/Socks
- Water (your heaviest item, but if you're in an area with access to water, carry a filter to cut down on weight)
- Food that requires little or no heating (e.g. trailfood, MREs)

In addition, you should carry basic daypack items:

1. 1st Aid Kit
2. Repair Kit
3. Flashlight
4. Knife
5. GPS
6. Sunblock/Bug Spray
7. Sunglasses
8. Hat

Add to this anything that you think you can't live without (but probably can) and you have your fastpack kit. And this setup can be applied not only to backpacking, but biking



Heading up Sheep Mountain, Nancy Gibson hauls a large backpack while Michael Jarnevic totes a fastpack

Photo Credit: Carla Abrams

and kayaking camping as well. Flying out of state and want to do some backpacking? This is the perfect setup that can be dismantled and packed away in your luggage, then reassembled at your destination.

So who makes this stuff, you ask? Here are some brands/stores to check out:

Snugpak (Sleeping bags) <http://www.snugpak.com/>

Black Diamond (Tents/Bivvys) <http://www.blackdiamondequipment.com/en-us/shop/mountain>

Montbell (Clothing) <http://www.montbell.us/>

Thermarest (Pads) <http://cascadedesigns.com/therm-a-rest>

Maxpeditions (Packs) <http://www.maxpedition.com/>

Osprey (Packs) <http://www.ospreypacks.com/>

UltraLiteGear <http://www.ultralitegear.com/>

Yes, this gear is not cheap, but the entire

Newsletter Information

The Montana Sierran (TMS) is published twice a year by the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club, a division of the national Sierra Club.

Please send letters, articles, photos and illustrations to

maire-mt[at]earthlink[dot]net

or

Maria Ibarbia, TMS Editor
P.O. Box 277
Milltown, MT 59851

Submission deadlines are April 15 for the Spring/Summer issue and October 15 for the Fall/Winter issue.

The Montana Sierran reserves the right to edit or reject submissions at its discretion.

Submissions must include first and last name with city or town. Please include your phone number and e-mail address in case we need to contact you.

Send digital photographs at 300 ppi in .jpg format. Including a caption and photo credit is always appreciated.

Please contact me via e-mail if you have questions.

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

Maria

setup can be put together for \$500-1000.00, depending on what you already have and buy, but imagine arriving at your destination with the equivalent weight of a daypack and staying overnight comfortably. Priceless.

Happy trails to you and yours....

By Maria Ibarbia, Editor/Volunteer

In December, 2011, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party at Zootown Brew in Missoula. Approximately 75 people attended the party.

The inaugural Volunteer of the Year award and plaque was presented to John Wolverton, long-time Dirty Fuels activist, former executive committee member and outings coordinator, for his many years of strong leadership and recent advocacy work against the mega-loads. Gia Rondono, treasurer of the Montana Chapter for over seven years, received recognition for her stellar volunteer work, and Bob Clark, Missoula-based Senior Organizing Representative for the Sierra Club, received an award for his environmental activism.

Many thanks to all of Montana Chapter's many volunteers across the state, the volunteers who organized the party and the businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction, which raised over \$700 to support the work of the Chapter. Photo Credit: Diana Griffith



accompanied the screenings, where Montana Chapter volunteers disseminated materials like "No Toxic Mercury" information. Photo Credit: Bob Clark

Montana Chapter Newsflash

The annual meeting of Montana Chapter's staff, executive committee members and committee chairpersons and members

was held at Carroll College in Helena, Montana in February, 2012. Executive Committee members welcomed the newly elected officers, established the chairs and membership of standing committees and reviewed the budget for fiscal year 2012. Photo Credit: Maria Ibarbia



In March, 2012, several executive committee officers and committee members attended the public lecture by Paul Cienfuegos entitled "Cities across the Country are Exercising Their Right of Self-Governance: Will Missoula Be Next?" at the University of Montana. Executive committee members Janet Fiero, Jonathan Matthews and Claudia Narcisco also attended Mr. Cienfuegos' weekend workshop "First Steps in Dismantling Corporate Rule: We the People Are More Powerful than We Dare to Believe."

Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club and its many allies held a "Mega-Bratation" in April, 2012 at the Stensrud Building in Missoula. Participants celebrated Montana District Court Judge Ray Dayton's ruling that a better environmental review must be conducted on Exxon/Mobil's mega-load project, particularly of potential long-term impacts on the environment. Photo Credit: John Wolverton



NOTE: Please read Wolverton's "Montana Chapter Posts Win against Global Giant" on page 1.

May 10, 2012: FWP to Discuss Trapping of Wolves

By Connie Poten, Footloose Montana

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will hold a meeting to discuss the trapping of wolves. The agenda will be set about ten days prior to the meeting, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day on May 10, 2012.

Please write to addresses below protesting the trapping of wolves, and please plan to attend this important meeting. FWP has informally decided to trap wolves, but we can stop it.

For updates, go to <http://www.footloosemontana.org/>.

Please join us at the following venue and/or contact the FWP Commissioners TODAY:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Phone: (406) 444-2535
Fax: (406) 444-4952
E-mail: fwpgen@mt.gov



"Wild Wolves," Watercolor by Kendahl Jan Jubb
Photo Credit: Ram Murphy of Murphy-Jubb Fine Art

District 3

Ron Moody, Commissioner
109 Bach Avenue
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-2698

marketplace helps the best producers to succeed and the best opponents draw the most spectacular performances from the top athletes. Generations of elk have suffered functional decline during the decades that wolves have been missing from Montana."

District 4

A.T. Stafne, Commissioner
8079 US Highway 2
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(406) 653-2881

--Excerpt from Jonathan Matthews' "Wolves Benefit Elk and All of Montana" (*The Montana Sierran*, Spring/Summer 2011 issue)

District 5

Shane Colton, Commissioner
335 Clark
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 259-9986

Thank you for your vital support in helping to protect Montana's wolves.

"The strongest elk are not killed by wolves.

Wolves take the easiest meal. They eat weaker and slower elk. In contrast, human hunters prefer to take the most impressive looking, robust individuals. Wolves help insure that the healthiest elk thrive and reproduce just as surely as the competitive



Elk grazing in Yellowstone National Park
Photo Credit: Michael Jarnevic

E-MAIL

FWP Commissioners at fwpcmm@mt.gov.

FWP Director Joe Maurier at jmaurier@mt.gov

COPY

- Governor Schweitzer at governor@mt.gov
- FWP Commissioner Ron Moody at Couleeking@hotmail.com
- FWP Commissioner Bob Ream at bobream@mt.net

<http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/insideFwp/commission/upcomingMeetings.html>

WRITE/CALL YOUR COMMISSIONERS!

District 1

Bob Ream, Chairman
521 Clarke Street
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 461-3202

District 2

Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chairman
PO Box 668
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-0624

Comments Needed on EPA Regional Haze Plan for Montana

By Mike Scott, Billings Office Staff

In Montana, it's common to hear the old saying made popular by Robert Frost: "Good fences make good neighbors."

Ever think about what it means? Here, it means we don't let our problems go onto our neighbors' place. In terms of energy development and production, it means do unto those downwind as you would have done unto yourself.

However, the good old boys from Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL), the operators of Colstrip Power Plant, don't seem to share these values. Instead of protecting Montana from their dirty pollution by upgrading Colstrip with 21st century, industry-standard, pollution controls, they are lobbying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to weaken the controls in what is called a Regional Haze Plan.

Fortunately, the EPA is taking comments on a draft regional haze plan for Montana until **June 19, 2012**.

Unfortunately, the current draft doesn't require PPL to invest in strong pollution control technology.

Tell the EPA to protect Montanans from dirty coal pollution and pass strong Regional Haze standards for Montana.

Across the country, over 200 coal-fired power plants have installed strong pollution controls. This technology is called Selective Catalytic Reduction technology, and it works much like a catalytic converter you are required to have on your car, keeping dangerous toxic gas from spewing into the air.

But PPL refuses to upgrade its facilities voluntarily--content to continue polluting our Big Sky with noxious gas that threatens our health and our air quality.

We still have time to influence the draft regional haze plan from the EPA. Colstrip's owners have a ton of



Jonathan Matthews, Chair of Montana Chapter's Political and Energy Committees, testifies at a press conference on the EPA's Regional Haze Plan in Helena, Montana.

Photo Credit: Bob Clark

money and lobbyists on their side, but we have something even better: *the determined voices of Montanans who value and are owed a clean and healthful environment.*

Stay tuned for more information on this important decision, as the EPA held hearings in Helena and Billings on May 1 and 2, 2012, respectively.

The Sierra Club will let you know the specifics as information becomes available. To submit your own comments, follow these instructions:

- Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0851:
- On the web <http://www.regulations.gov>, follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: hinkle.vanessa@epa.gov

Mail:
Carl Daly, Director
Air Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at
Region 8, Mailcode 8P-AR,
1595 Wynkoop Street,
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.

Thank you for all you do for the environment!

Note: Please see related article entitled "Send Comments Today: EPA Proposing Greenhouse Gas Standard for New Power Plants" on page 6.

Send Comments Today: EPA Proposing Greenhouse Gas Standard for New Power Plants

By Bob Clark, Missoula Office Staff

On December 15, 2009, the EPA Administrator found that the current and projected concentrations of greenhouse gases endanger the public health and welfare of current and future generations.

Fast-forward: Today, the EPA is proposing that new fossil fuel-fired power plants meet an output-based standard of 1,000 pounds of CO2 per megawatt hour.

The proposed carbon rule would apply only to new fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units including fossil fuel-fired boilers, integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) units and stationary combined cycle turbine units that generate electricity for sale and are larger than 25 megawatts.

This proposed rule is an important first step in tackling climate change.

The EPA is currently accepting comment on this proposed rule during the 60-day comment period. **Deadline is June 12, 2012.**

HOW TO COMMENT:

Comments on the proposed standard should be identified by **Docket ID No. EPA HQOAR20110660**.

Website:

www.regulations.gov: Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

E-mail:

Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to aandrDocket@epa.gov

Mail comments:

Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
Environmental Protection Agency,
Mail Code: 2822T



Photo Credit: N/A

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC, 20460.

QUICK FACTS:

- For the first time ever, there will be federal limits on carbon

- Fish and wildlife—and our hunting, fishing and recreation heritage—are in real danger

- Greenhouse Gasses are responsible for a growing number of serious health and environmental problems

- Climate change is degrading Glacier National Park and other high mountain regions

- Cleaning up our air creates jobs

- Montana's Colstrip coal-fired power plant is one of the dirtiest in the country

- Americans want and deserve cleaner air

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The proposed rule called "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units" is posted at www.epa.gov/carbonpollutionstandard.

Note: Please see related article entitled "Comments Needed for EPA Regional Haze Plan for Montana" on page 5.

"It's now crystal clear that our species cannot survive the continued loss of biodiversity, the decimation of forests, shrinking ocean fisheries, falling water tables, foul water and air, and the relentless increase in carbon dioxide emissions that is changing the Earth's climate forever."

--John Schaeffer, Real Goods Founder and President

Quoted in the "Introduction" to Schaeffer's **Solar Living Source Book: Your Complete Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living**, 12th edition

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By Gita Wohlsein, Fundraising Volunteer

Please consider a donation to the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club!

This is a special appeal to our Montana members. We need your help in achieving our shared conservation goals. Your contributions really do make a difference to us and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness, wildlife, air and water--to improve the quality of life in Montana and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you can. Remember: these funds directly affect your way of life in Montana. Donations will stay with the state chapter and are independent of annual membership dues. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club! Please send donations to

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PO Box 7201
Missoula, MT 59807
Attention: Special Appeal

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Climate change adversely impacts wildlife and their habitat. High elevation species like the pika are especially vulnerable.

Photo Credit: Bob Heil



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