

WHO WE ARE

Since 1983, the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club has worked as a powerful collective of local citizens and staff to protect our public lands, air, and water; advance solutions to address the climate and extinction crises and act for justice to promote sustainable local communities.



WHY WE ARE UNIQUE

Just Transition: We work directly with local communities to ensure that environmental protection does not come at the expense of community health and economic viability.

Volunteers: We empower volunteers and assist them in developing the necessary skill sets to ensure a sense of personal agency to better fight for environmental justice.

National Expertise: While the Montana Chapter focuses on local issues, we are able to draw upon the resources of national Sierra Club to support our local efforts.

Scope: While our programmatic work is funded via an IRS 501(c)(3) foundation, our legislative and political work is funded through 501(c)(4) donations. Our ability to work simultaneously on all fronts makes us highly effective in obtaining environmental wins.

Outdoors Program: In 2024, we plan to restart our outdoors program, after our covid hiatus.

GET INVOLVED

- Become a Supporter! Send us your contact information to get info on events, comment periods and public meetings.
- Become a Member! Join the Montana Chapter to get newsletters and other fun perks.
- Donate to support our programmatic, political and/or legislative work!
- Consider a planned gift.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Photographers: We always need cool photos to graphically support our work.
- Office Support: Help us stuff envelopes, organize electronic files, etc. in order to make our back office work as efficient as possible.
- Tech support: We need assistance with social media, website updates and working on various platforms to strengthen our outreach efforts.
- Writers: Become a contributing member of our Letter-to-the-Editor group, write articles for the newsletter or draft comments on a variety of lands, wildlife and climate issues.
- Organizers: Work with our staff organizers to build local power in our communities to make our voices heard!

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SIERRA CLUB

MONTANA



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instagram.com/sierraclubmontana/

WHAT WE DO

The Chapter works to protect wildlife statewide.

Grizzly Bears: We are working to ensure grizzlies remain listed under the ESA until the State demonstrates that it is capable of responsibly protecting bears. This includes opposing State regulations like SB 295 which allows for the shooting of non-conflict bears on public lands.

Wolves: We oppose regulations which further increase the number of wolves hunted and trapped, and to ensure that the pending wolf management plan adopted by MT FWP is based on scientific management principles not partisan politics.

FWP oversight: A 2023 legislative audit found FWP management practices to be lacking. The Chapter is further investigating to ensure that carnivore and ungulate hunting practices comply with both the letter and spirit of the law.

Legislation: Staff and volunteers worked the 2023 legislative session to ensure that the worst wildlife bills were defeated, including HB 372 (added the “right to trap” to the Montana constitution); HB 627/628 (allowed for expanded wolf trapping); and HB 630 (allowed for expanded black bear hunting).

National advocacy: This year, one of our most notable wins was the long overdue listing of wolverine as “threatened” under the ESA.



WHAT WE DO (CONT...)



The Chapter works to protect public lands throughout the State.

Sheep Creek: We are gearing up to oppose the proposed rare earth minerals mine on the Bitterroot National Forest. If approved, the project would adversely impact water quality and grizzly bear recovery.

Bitterroot Front: We are opposing the proposed timber sale on 143,340 acres of land in the Bitterroot National Forest due to its potential impact on old growth and the lack of sufficient environmental review.

Lolo National Forest Plan: We are participating in the Forest Planning process to ensure best possible outcomes for wildlife, lands and waters.

Legislation: Staff and volunteers worked to ensure that the handful of bills focused on protecting public lands made it out of committee during the 2023 legislative session. For example, SB 442 which creates a fund to purchase wildlife habitat with a portion of the State’s marijuana sales tax revenues passed with broad bipartisan support.

Litigation: SC prevailed against MT DEQ, with the MT Supreme Court vacating the Rosebud mining permit expansion. The decision safeguarded water quality in an area near Colstrip, MT.

WHAT WE DO (CONT...)

Climate change is the greatest threat Montana has ever faced. The Montana Chapter works to prevent new fossil fuel development, shut down existing fossil fuel plants, and replace them with renewable energy. We’re working in MT towards a 100% clean, renewable electricity system by 2030.

NorthWestern Energy. NorthWestern Energy favors dirty fossil fuels, ignores the climate emergency, and devalues affordable renewable energy. Working with our partners, the Montana chapter drove strong turnout for hearings on NorthWestern Energy’s Integrated Resource Plan in Missoula, Helena, Butte, Great Falls and Billings.

Laurel methane plant. NWE is nearing completion of its new methane gas plant in Laurel, whose airshed is already impaired by toxic pollution from existing plants. We have helped establish a grassroots organizing group on the ground to push back on NorthWestern Energy’s nearly completed methane gas plant.

Held v. State of Montana. *Held* was the first constitutional climate case to go to trial. The favorable ruling in this historic case was celebrated across the U.S. and globally. The ruling gives the Sierra Club and its partners a powerful legal lever to hold accountable the MT Dept. of Environmental Quality, the MT Public Service Commission and NWE for their support of fossil fuel development.

Source: Grist / Getty Images

