

Sarah Capdevil

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Montana Wilderness Association works with communities to protect Montana's wilderness heritage, quiet beauty, and outdoor traditions, now and for future generations.

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THE BIG ASSIGNMENT

In a letter to friends dated April 28, 1958, first MWA council chairman Ken Baldwin put forward nothing short of a mission statement: "This Association is dedicated to making a place for all Americans to enjoy, to the fullest extent, the beauty and peacefulness of this 'land of shining mountains' where unspoiled wilderness, wild rivers, wild animals, fish in clean streams, and clean campgrounds are everywhere."



Mark Hanson, council president

In the 60 years since, pursuit of this mission has seen great success. MWA has worked to enact the Wilderness Act of 1964, achieved designation of numerous wilderness areas, protected landscapes through federal agency planning processes, and defended against repeated threats to our wildlands. Those of us who have inherited this legacy and who seek to carry it on look back in humble gratitude.

But anyone who has celebrated an anniversary knows that there are challenges. Things change, and MWA has evolved as needed. Our willingness to take risks paid off. In 60 years, we've moved from an all-volunteer organization to a powerful team of skilled staff, council members, and chapters. We've had our trials. We know, however, that Montanans have more that binds us together than separates us, not least of which is the passion for wild places that MWA's founders so elegantly described.

I was reminded of this on a recent hike into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The western larch still glowed in golden bands, while high-elevation snows enhanced the mountains' grandeur. But the most precious view was that of my three-year-old daughter ambling down a stony path toward a mountain lake that would be our wild refuge from a world of division and upheaval. That image inspires my commitment to do all I can to ensure that she and those of her generation can find more such places 60 years from now.

I write this before the conclusion of the November election. But whether we believe the results bolster or diminish our hopes for protecting public lands and wild places, we know that our mission is not a short-term project, nor is it for the faint of heart. Sixty years of successes and disappointments have taught us that.

"We know we have accepted a big assignment," Baldwin wrote, "but we also know that it can be accomplished with the cooperation of all the people and organizations who will benefit from the work that can be done." I feel incredibly honored and blessed to have served as council president of MWA. After all the work of the past few years, I have never been more optimistic about the capacity of MWA to take up this big assignment with great success. New campaigns, big ideas, and innovative ways of working together are in the works.

As 2019 begins, please join me in welcoming and supporting Addrien Marx as MWA's new president. She and the council, staff, chapters, and members will no doubt build upon our 60-year legacy of bold passion and commitment to bring the achievement of our vision even closer.

Thank you!



On the cover: Sunrise over the Bob Marshall Wilderness

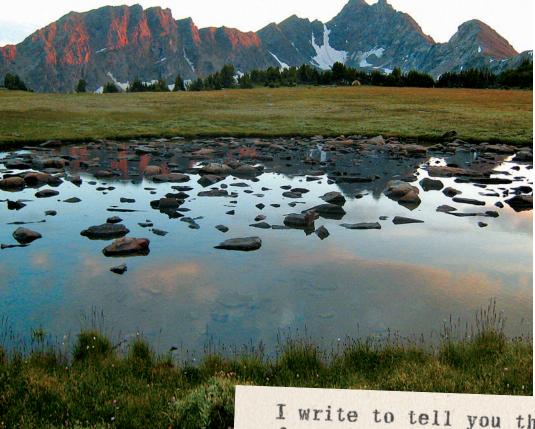
60 YEARS STRONG Looking back on six decades of

keeping Montana wild.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD The latest on our work standing up for public lands and wild places



YEARS STRONG



MWA IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PERSONAL CONVICTION MEETS POWERFUL ORGANIZING

manager of a bulk oil distribution plant in Bozeman. He and his wife Florence liked to spend their weekends hiking and hunting in the high country country of the Gallatin and Madison Ranges. At that time, unfettered motorized use, new roads, and intensive logging were taking a heavy toll on the wildlife and solitude in these areas, and it became



MWA's founders, Ken and Florence Baldwin

painfully clear to the Baldwins that Montana needed to preserve large parcels of public lands for wildlife and quiet recreation if the state was going to keep what made it so special.

In 1958, the Baldwins sent a letter to 100 friends and colleagues, inviting them to a meeting to discuss what they saw as a fast-growing need for wilderness protection in Montana. Two weeks later, 21 people from across the state met in a conference room at the Baxter Hotel, some traveling from as far as East Glacier. Among them were three local outfitters, a Madison Valley rancher, a Montana State College professor of geology, a University of Montana wildlife biologist, and a Butte physician. At that meeting, Montana Wilderness Association was born.

continued

I write to tell you that on March 28, 1958 the foundation was laid for the MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION. The founders of this new Association believe that if we all work together a new concept of thinking can be attained having an important bearing on the future of Montana.

Lee Metcalf Wilderness in the Gallatin Range

Zoot Dorto

FALL 2018

YEARS STRONG

After the meeting, Ken wrote, "This Association is dedicated to making a place for all Americans to enjoy, to the fullest extent, the beauty and peacefulness of this 'Land of the Shining Mountains.'

"We know that we have accepted a big assignment but we also know that it can be accomplished with the cooperation of all the people and organizations who will benefit from the work done. Our public lands can be a blessing to science, agriculture, industry, and recreation. Each has its place in the future of Montana, and therefore we must plan and act together for the common interest."

Acting on ardent personal conviction and finding solidarity with others who are compelled to protect the beauty and sanctity of our wild public lands emerged as the hallmark

Kerlee Lake in the

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of MWA's founding. It's also the bedrock upon which the organization – which held its first annual meeting on December 5, 1958 – has developed over the past six decades.

THE GOOD FIGHT

The first part of this "big assignment" was, of course, passing the Wilderness Act. As the first grassroots wilderness advocacy group in the country, MWA took a leading role in providing Congressman-turned-Senator Lee Metcalf and Senators Jim Murray and Mike Mansfield with the homegrown support they needed to champion the bill in Congress. With the passage of the bill in 1964, Montana gained its first five wilderness areas - the Anaconda-Pintler, Bob Marshall, Cabinet Mountains. Gates of the Mountains. and the Selway-Bitterroot.



Sen. Lee Metcalf



Doris Milner



Cecil Garland

As wilderness conservation was becoming a hot-button issue in Montana, MWA grew. Starting in 1960, the organization was holding Wilderness Walks every summer, and by 1968, MWA counted nearly 400 members from across the state.

From the campaign to pass the Wilderness Act emerged two future MWA presidents who would leave an indelible mark on Montana history. The first was a Hamilton resident named Doris Milner, whose steady advocacy played a pivotal role in the designation of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The second was a general store owner in Lincoln named Cecil Garland.

With machines poised to bulldoze a network of roads throughout his beloved Lincoln backcountry, Garland engaged MWA in producing the first citizen-initiated wilderness area in the country – the Scapegoat, designated during Garland's tenure as MWA's president between 1972 and 1974.

Milner and Garland's leadership in turn inspired another generation of conservation leaders, including John Gatchell, who has worked for MWA since 1985, most of that time as the organization's conservation director.

"I still remember her voice, impressing on me to have credibility in all my dealings," Gatchell said of Milner. "She's really the reason I'm involved and still working for Montana wilderness."

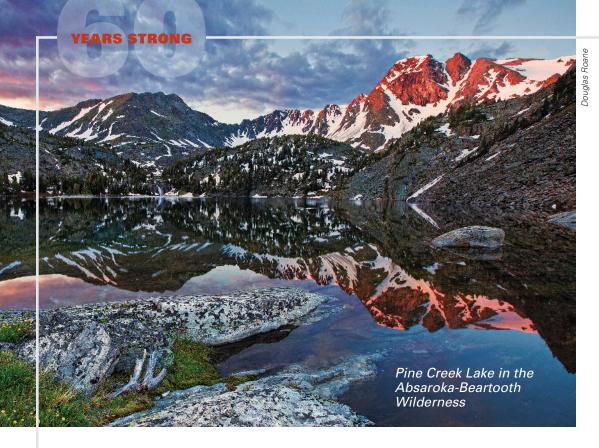
In 1975, Senator Metcalf wrote a letter to Doris Milner, looking back over the past few decades.

"We have fought the good fight together," he wrote. "... Generations to come will acclaim the combined efforts of Montanans, whether they be of the Montana Wilderness Association, the Congress, or other organizations, who fought to preserve the beautiful natural heritage which is ours."



This Association is dedicated to making a place for all Americans to enjoy, to the fullest extent, the beauty and peacefulness of this "LAND OF SHINING MOUNTAINS" where unspoiled wilderness, wild this "LAND animals, fish in clean streams, and clean campgrounds are everywhere.

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METCALF'S LEGACY

In 1972, the Roadless Area and Review Evaluations (RARE) program was instituted to identify potential wilderness areas on 56 million acres of roadless lands across the West. The first review fell apart. In the aftermath Metcalf introduced the Montana Wilderness Study Act. which passed Congress in 1977. The Act designated nine wilderness study areas (WSAs), comprising nearly a million acres of western and central Montana's wildest public lands, including the Big Snowies, West Pioneer, Madisons, Sapphires, and other ranges. (Forty years later, five of these remaining WSAs would come under attack as Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Greg Gianforte introduced legislation to eliminate them.)

The year after the passage of the Montana Wilderness Study Bill, Montana lost a wilderness champion when Senator Metcalf died at his home in Helena. Metcalf's death was keenly felt by conservation advocates in Montana and across the country.

"He was one of a handful of legislators who...before it became fashionable or politically acceptable, spoke out strongly and repeatedly for conservation and environmental protection legislation," noted Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. It didn't take long, however, for the silver lining of Metcalf's death to become apparent. When Washington Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson asked Metcalf's widow Donna how best to honor Lee's legacy, her response was simple: designate the Great Bear and

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Areas. Within months of the senator's death, both areas were designated, adding well over one million acres of Wilderness to Montana's ledger.

MWA's third decade ended with one final nod to Senator Metcalf. In 1983, President Reagan signed Congress's designation of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Five years after his death, the senator was memorialized by a landscape of deep canyons and tall peaks, a fitting tribute to a man who worked tirelessly to protect Montana's wildlands.

TIMES GET TOUGH

Upon learning of Metcalf's death, Doug Scott, former conservation director and associate executive director of the Sierra Club, warned Bill Cunningham, MWA's first conservation director, "Welcome to the real world." These words would, unfortunately, prove prophetic. Between 1983 and 2014, not a single acre of Wilderness would be added to Montana's ledger.

The lack of new Wilderness during this period was due to political machinations rather than want of effort. In 1988, Congress passed a 1.4 million acre wilderness package, designating 21 new Montana wilderness areas, only to have President Reagan pocket-veto the bill as a political favor for Montana congressional candidate Conrad Burns, who was running against incumbent John Melcher.

MWA faced one of its most challenging times during the Reagan Administration, which issued hundreds of oil and gas leases throughout the Rocky Mountain Front, including in the Badger-Two Medicine, an area held sacred by the Blackfeet Nation. MWA was involved from the get-go, leading the effort to protect the Front, especially the sacred Badger.

In 1990, MWA proved that we could make progress even in adverse times when it led the Kootenai and Lolo Forest Accords. Spearheaded by John Gatchell, the Accords accomplished the near-impossible task of bringing together conservationists and sawmill workers in support of the preservation of huge swathes of roadless land in northwestern Montana. A corresponding bill identifying Wilderness and timberland was introduced in 1991 by Montana Senator Max Baucus, but didn't make it through Congress.

MWA's John Gatchell, center, with members of the Kootenai-Lolo Accords



We know that we have accepted a big assignment but we also know that it can be accomplished with the cooperation of all the people and organizations who will benefit from the work done.

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AND SOULS OF PEOPLE"

At the dawn of the new millennium and after a lengthy campaign conducted by MWA, President Clinton signed the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument into existence, protecting 377,000 acres of river breaks, badlands, and historical sites along the Missouri River and its uplands. MWA had reason to celebrate again at the end of the aughts when the Lewis and Clark National Forest announced a prohibition on oil and gas leasing on the Rocky Mountain Front. Unfortunately, a handful of old leases within the Badger-Two Medicine were left in place.

MWA followed up on this prohibition with a legislative campaign to permanently protect the Rocky Mountain Front. The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act - crafted by a local coalition of ranchers, outfitters. MWA staff, and other Montana conservationists – passed at the end of 2014, breaking a 31-year Wilderness drought in Montana and adding 67,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

White Cliffs at Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument



MWA past presidents. Standing left to right: Doris Milner, Lou Bruno, Ed Madei, Arnold Bolle, Ken Baldwin, and Joan Montagne. Kneeling left to right: Elaine Snyder and Emily Seeger.

"The Heritage Act is as much about the people who live along the Front as it is about the limestone reefs, the mountains, and the wildlife that populates them," said Casey Perkins, MWA's former Rocky Mountain Front field director. "This is a bill written with the hearts and souls of the people who make this part of Montana home and love it like no one else."

Not included in the Heritage Act was the Badger-Two Medicine, which was, at the time, still facing more than a dozen existing oil and gas leases.



It took two more years, but after a 30-year battle, the U.S. government finally cancelled all remaining leases in the Badger-Two Medicine at the very end of the Obama administration.

Despite a challenging political climate at the end of our fifth decade, MWA has led the way on making sure that public lands in Montana stay in public hands. We successfully led the fight to defend the Upper Missouri River Breaks when President Trump signed an executive order mandating Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke to consider shrinking and possibly eliminating the national monument. We've also fought back three bills, introduced by Senator Daines and Congressman Gianforte, that would strip protection from 29 WSAs across the state, comprising more than 800,000 acres of our wildest public lands.

passing the Blackfoot Clearwater

Stewardship Act and adding 80.000 acres to the Bob Marshall. Scapegoat, and Mission Mountain Wilderness Areas. We're also committed to permanently protecting the Badger-Two Medicine and adding 180,000 new acres of Wilderness in northwest Montana's Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Scotchman Peaks, and Yaak River valley through our involvement in the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition.

Protecting Montana's wild places is still a "big assignment," just like it was in 1958, but we're unwavering in our belief that together we can create "a place for all Americans to

enjoy, to the fullest extent. the beauty and peacefulness of this 'Land of the Shining Mountains." Thank you for standing with us.



Moreover, we remain committed to

we must plan and act together for the common interest.

FALL 2018



BANNER SEASON FOR TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Above the North Fork of the Blackfoot This summer, MWA's trail stewardship program hit pay dirt. One hundred-seventy-one volunteers, the most ever engaged since our program's inception in 2012, contributed 4,000 hours of volunteer service, valued at over \$88,000.

Our trail stewardship program proves that MWA's collaborative spirit is thriving as we find new ways to help land management agencies address their backlog of trail maintenance. This summer, we worked with more land management partners than ever before, with projects on six of Montana's seven national forests as well as on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

MWA volunteer crews completed five projects specifically focused on rehabilitating trails that were hit by the heavy 2017 wildfire season. We also launched our Adopt-A-Trail initiative, mobilizing members of MWA's Madison-Gallatin Chapter to steward trails in the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area and in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

Our trail stewardship program continues to be a terrific avenue for our next generation of conservation champions to step up. Youth participants comprised 27 percent of our Volunteer Trail Crews, helping pack mules into the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness, maintain trails in the Jewel Basin, and build turnpikes on the Continental Divide Trail. MWA also partnered with the Salish Kootenai College's Upward Bound program and with the Piikani Land Crew, composed of Blackfeet youth and led by the Montana Conservation Corps.

MWA members proved again this summer that we aren't armchair advocates; we're the soot-covered, blister-heeled, Pulaski-toting champions of our public lands. Trails are our way of life, and we'll continue to do our part to protect one of Montana's most valuable resources.

RALLYING VOTES FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Thanks to the MWA staff and volunteers who hit the streets and knocked on doors in the months and weeks leading up to the 2018 elections, more than 8,000 Montanans pledged to vote to keep public lands in public hands. These pledges are important because our success depends on public lands supporters of all stripes voting in large numbers and, when they do, identifying themselves as conservationists. By showing our elected state and federal officials that conservationists constitute an important voting bloc, we can hold them accountable if they don't vote in alignment with our values.



IT'S WONKY, BUT IT'S HOW WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT MANY OF OUR WILDLANDS

Thanks to your unwavering dedication, we are one step closer to protecting wildlands in two of Montana's national Forests, the Helena-Lewis and Clark and the Custer Gallatin.

Over the course of the summer and fall, many of you submitted comments on the draft plan for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, which spans from the Continental Divide to the Big Snowy Mountains in the center of the state. This meant voicing your support for the protection of wild places like Nevada Mountain, Big Snowies, and the Badger-Two Medicine area. You may have also participated in one of our forest plan events in Lewistown or Great Falls or attended one of the ten meetings that the Forest Service organized. Either way, by October, over 400 of you submitted comments through our website, with more commenting directly to the Forest Service. Our staff – including Casey Perkins, John Gatchell, and Mark Good – worked together to distill hundreds of pages of Forest Service text and tables in order to help inform your participation and involvement. The result of the Draft EIS comment period ended in more comments than ever before in MWA's history of forest planning engagement.

Meanwhile in southern portion of the state, we are gearing up for the release of the Custer Gallatin National Forest draft plan this winter. In preparation, MWA field directors Emily Cleveland and Aubrey Bertram traveled to Billings, Red Lodge, Bozeman, and Livingston and shared some best practices and ideas for participating in the lengthy and complex forest planning process. It was apparent how dedicated and engaged you are in learning the wonky specifics of the process. This winter when the draft is released, we will all be more prepared to voice our support for the protection of the Pryor Mountains, Gallatin Range, the Crazy Mountains, and other important areas in the Custer Gallatin.



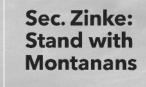
MWA TAKES STAND FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND AGAINST ANTI-PUBLIC LAND EXTREMISM

MWA organized two rallies this fall, one in Helena to reclaim public involvement in public land management decisions and another in Whitefish to counter an anti-public lands event featuring Ammon Bundy.

On September 20, over 60 Montanans from across the state gathered at the Rally to

Reclaim Public Say Over Public Lands. MWA organized this rally in response to a disturbing pattern among our decision-makers in recent years of alienating the public from having a say on the future of our public lands. Speakers included Anson Nygaard, MWA public lands field organizer, as well as Ravalli County resident and MWA volunteer Pat Tucker. Both addressed Senator Steve Daines' and Congressman Greg Gianforte's wilderness study area bills, which they introduced without holding a single public meeting or hearing. Guy Alsentzer, executive director of Upper Missouri River Waterkeeper, addressed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to allow the Bureau of Land Management to auction off leases for 76,751 acres of public land in southwest Montana for oil and gas drilling and fracking, including parcels along two of Montana's blue ribbon streams – the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers. The BLM cut the public comment period to just 15 days.

On October 13, MWA teamed up with Love Lives Here to host Montana Undivided: A Rally for Human Rights and Public Lands. The rally, which drew around 400 people, celebrated the values that bring people together across Montana: a love of public lands and a respect for our neighbors. The event was held in response to another event happening the same day in Whitefish that featured Ammon Bundy, who led the armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016. Nearly 1,000 Montanans signed our open letter denouncing the event featuring Bundy and calling on Sec. Ryan Zinke, who is from Whitefish, to do the same. We also took out a full-page ad in several newspapers in the days before calling on Sec. Zinke to denounce the event. He refused to do so.



Denounce an event in your hometown promoting a dangerously extremist, anti-public land agenda

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MWA PRESENTS THE 2018 FOUNDER'S AND KEEP IT WILD AWARDS

The heart and soul of MWA reside with those who volunteer for the organization and dedicate their time and energy to our mission. Every year at our annual gathering, we honor those whose contributions have been profound.

This September at our annual gathering in Livingston, we gave the Founder's Award posthumously to Barbara Geller and the Keep It Wild Award to four young men who ran from Bozeman to Red Lodge.



Barbara was nominated by the Madison-Gallatin Chapter Board of Directors for her visionary leadership and instrumental contributions to the Hike Wild Montana online hiking guide; her tireless initiative in developing the Explore the Gallatin Range map: her steadfast commitment to trail stewardship and forest planning on the Custer Gallatin National Forest: and her passionate work as an ambassador for MWA and Montana's wild places as a hike leader, mentor, and teacher. Barbara possessed a rare combination of big-picture vision, relentless drive, and inspiring passion. She passed away in January, and while she is dearly missed, her enduring love of the outdoors and dedication to wilderness values live on.

Zach Altman, David Laufenberg, Anthony Paykovich, and Eli Abeles-Allison were nominated by the Madison-Gallatin Chapter Board for the creation of the short film Common Ground, which highlights our connections to our public lands and the importance of protecting their wild character. The four winners ran 250 miles from Bozeman to Red Lodge, a journey conducted almost entirely on public lands, and have been touring the state to raise awareness about the value of public lands and the importance of our wild places. Through their advocacy and outreach, these four have truly exemplified MWA's commitment to keeping it wild.

MONTANA OUTDOOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY AND BANQUET

You are invited to join us at the induction of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame class of 2018. This year, the Hall of Fame will be honoring 16 Montanans who have made lasting contributions to the restoration and conservation of Montana's wildlife and wild places.

> Among the inductees are a number of people with ties to MWA, including Dale Burk, Smoke Elser, and Arnold and Helen Bolle. The banquet will take place on December 1 at the Marriott Colonial Hotel in Helena.

To purchase tickets, visit montanaoutdoorhalloffame.org.

MEMBERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Thanks to the new members who joined Montana Wilderness Association from August 7 to November 5, 2018.

EASTERN WILDLANDS CHAPTER

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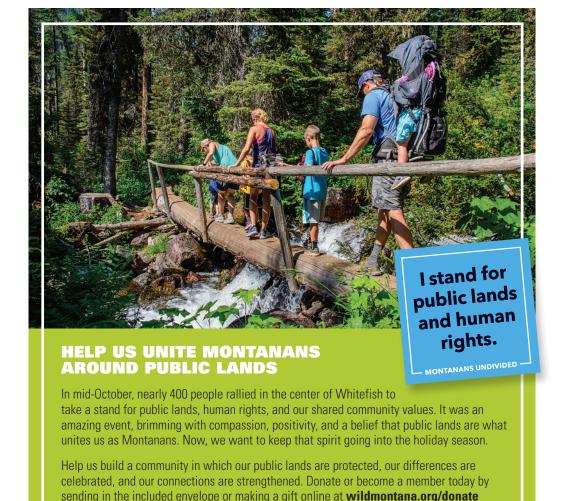
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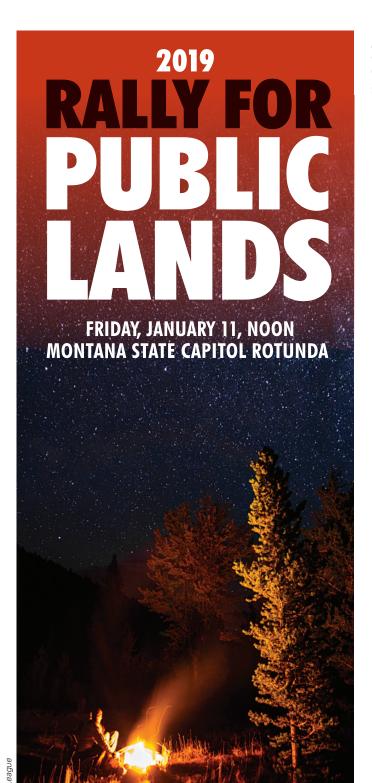
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WILD MONTANA FALL 2018 14



Join us in the Capitol Rotunda

to remind our decision-makers that we will not tolerate or allow special interests to decide the fate of our public lands, and that we will fight tooth and nail to ensure that all Montanans, irrespective of wealth, can continue to access and enjoy those lands.





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