



Nine Women and an Intrepid Male Pause for a Photo Break on the Missouri River
Photo Credit: John Wolverton

In This Election Year...

Vote for candidates who will advocate vigorously on behalf of our shared home and its air, water and soil;

Advocate for your family's and neighbor's constitutional right to a healthy environment in which to live, work and play;

Lead by example a life that honors the irreplaceable beauty around us;

Oppose entities that put profit before our health and the health of our planet;

Read *The Montana Sierran*; then enjoy, protect, join, vote.

--Maria Ibarbia



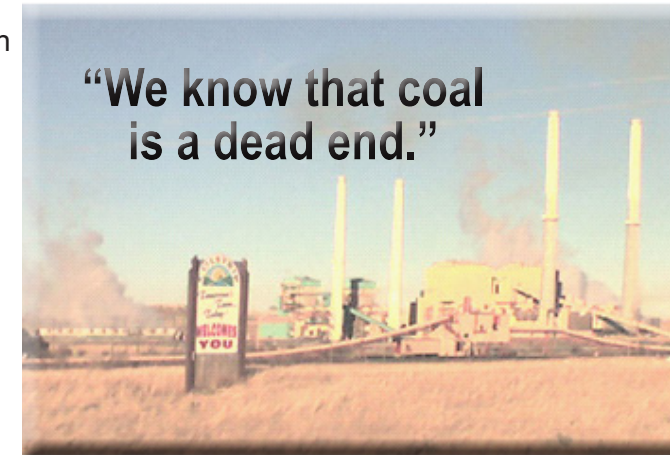
Montanans Want Pollution Controls for Coal Plants

By Bob Clark

In August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Final **Regional Haze Plan** for Montana. This safeguard is supposed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulates that impair air quality and visibility in Montana and neighboring states.

Under federal law, EPA must require large sources of air pollution degrading air quality of iconic national parks and wilderness areas to install the "best" systems of air pollution control. Unfortunately, EPA's final plan fails to require adequate reductions in coal-fired power plant and cement kiln pollution. It does not require major state polluters, including the Colstrip coal-burning power plant in southeast Montana, to install industry-standard pollution control technology. Essentially, the final plan fails to safeguard Montanans' right to breathe healthy air.

More than two hundred coal plants across the United States have installed industry-standard pollution control technology known as Selective Catalytic Reduction Technology (SCR) and EPA's plans for other states require SCR to be installed in many plants over the next five years. SCR, would remove a vast majority of smog-causing, – and asthma-inducing – chemicals from smokestack emissions. Montanans deserve the same protections. This decision to not require SCR installation puts Colstri



--Puget Sound Energy Vice President for Corporate Affairs (page 4)

Photo: Randy Stiles

corporate profits in front of the health of Montana families.

- Colstrip sends thousands of tons of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and soot into our air, emitting nearly 2 times as much smog-causing pollution as the next nine biggest polluters in the state combined
- Health officials have determined that pollution from the Colstrip plant is associated with aggravating respiratory disease, asthma attacks, decreased lung function and heart disease, and can lead to premature death.
- Colstrip burns a railroad car of coal every five minutes.



In June, Montana Sierra Club members testified at EPA hearings in Helena and Billings, urging the agency to require modern pollution controls for Montana coal plants, particularly, Colstrip. More than 38,000 comments were generated by Sierra Club members around the country and in Montana through e-mail and post card efforts. A letter signed by 43 physicians, nurses, and health advocate organizations from across Montana was submitted to the EPA as well as a letter signed by 22 State legislators.

We will continue to work with our conservation partners to advocate strong Regional Haze protections for Montana. A 60-day appeal period ends in November of 2012.

Over the summer the EPA received more than 3 million comments,

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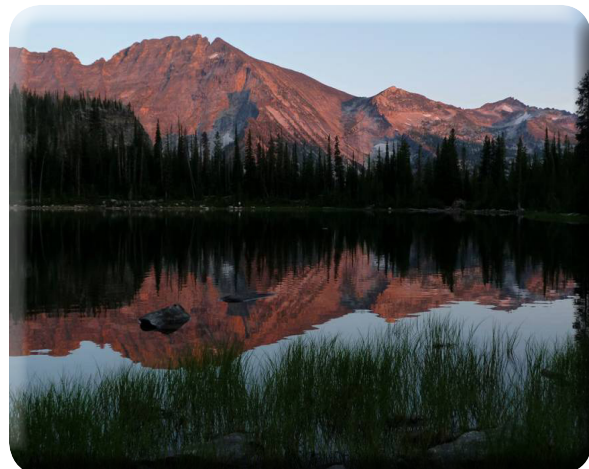
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"Alpine Glow"

Committees

Executive Committee

Janet Fiero, Bruce Hunner, Rachel Jennings, Rod Jude, Jonathan Matthews, Claudia Narcisco, Jeff van den Noort, Gita Wohlsein, John Wolverton (emeritus),

Chapter Officers

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

Conservation/Litigation. Jerry Nichols, 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, Bruce Hunner, Carol Marsh, Rod Jude; Zack Waterman, Advisor

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

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

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

Nominating/Elections. Bruce Hunner, Rachel Jennings, Claudia Narcisco, Gita Wohlsein

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

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

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

Montana Chapter Newsflash

The Sierra Club's Greater Yellowstone campaign worked with several other Bozeman area conservation organizations to co-host a summer-long outings series called "**Explore the Gallatin Range,**" dedicated to building support for permanent wilderness protection for this spectacular area.

The Gallatin Range serves as a wild artery connecting YNP with other parts of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and provides critical habitat and a migration right of way for moose, elk, bighorn sheep, grizzlies, wolverines, and perhaps even lynx or two. It's also the only mountain range originating inside Yellowstone National Park that does not have wilderness protection at its core.

In an effort to raise awareness about the need to secure permanent protection for the Gallatin Range, the Sierra Club's Greater Yellowstone campaign hosted a series of three summer outings in the Bozeman area.



Tom Murphy, an internationally-know nature photographer, graciously led a series of amateur photographers into Montana's wild Gallatin Range.

Montana Chapter executive committee members John Wolverton, Jonathan Matthews and Claudia Narcisco stand in solidarity at the August 13 **Defend Our Communities from Big Coal** Rally at the Capitol in Helena.



The rally showed public opposition to Arch Coal and the State of Montana's plans to strip-mine Otter Creek in southeast Montana and export the coal to Asia.

In an effort to blend in with nine female paddlers, John Wolverton dons a mop of curls. With Janet Fiero, John co-guided a **women's only float down the Missouri River** from Coal Banks to Judith Landing in late August-early September.



Hikers pose for a photo opportunity after reaching their goal on a summer hike lead by Mary Owens to the summit of **St. Mary's Peak** in the Bitterroot Valley

In Memorium

We are sad to report that **Donna Craig**, an outings leader, died unexpectedly this past summer while visiting family in Kentucky. Donna fell in love with Montana many years ago and made the move to Roscoe upon retiring. Over the past two summers, she generously volunteered her time to lead outings in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Donna's efforts to help preserve the "last best place" and her love of Montana were infectious.

Donna will be greatly missed.



Action Alert: Extend Wind Energy Tax Credit

Take action—tell Congress to extend the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit! Extension of the critical wind energy tax credit MUST pass Congress before it is due to expire at the end of 2012.

The Production Tax Credit's (PTC) uncertain future puts the livelihoods of half of the estimated 75,000 American wind industry workers in limbo. The U.S. Congress begins the November "lame duck" legislative session in Washington, DC. on November 13 and must pass the bill..

The PTC, authored by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) in 1992, has been instrumental in encouraging investment in wind energy projects across the country.

The PTC is a 2.2-cent-per-megawatt tax incentive that levels the playing field for wind as compared to other forms of energy, but it is due to expire at the end of 2012.

PLEASE CALL our congressional delegation BEFORE November 13!

Max Baucus: (202) 224-2651



Jon Tester: (202) 224-2644

Denny Rehberg: (202) 225-3211

Thank our Montana senators for their support and leadership on this issue and urge them to make

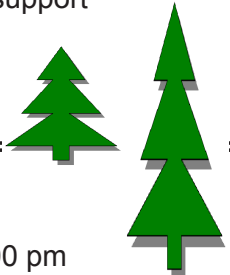
the extension of the PTC a year-end priority!

Urge Congressman Rehberg to vote for the extension.

- More than 1,100 workers have lost their jobs due to congressional inaction, and the world's largest wind manufacturer Vestas Wind says it may lay off 1,600 American workers the next year if the production tax credit is not extended. Industry-wide, an estimated 37,000 jobs could be lost.
- Beyond the immediate pain of losing these jobs, we will also miss key opportunities to become energy independent, more competitive in the global economy, and decrease harmful pollution that is making Americans sick and contributing to climate change.
- Extending the production tax credit has wide support, not just from businesses in the industry and environmentalists who support cleaner energy alternatives, but also labor unions, many of whom represent workers in the wind industry

We can't afford to have Congress drop the ball on this pivotal tax incentive. Thank you for your support

Celebrate the Holidays with the Montana Chapter!



Bozeman Party

When: Wednesday, December 12, 6:00-9:00 pm

Where: Beall Park Recreation Center, 415 N. Bozeman Ave.

Featuring internationally-acclaimed photographer Tom Murphy with an awesome slide show.

Light appetizers, wine and beer at 6:00 pm; slide show at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact Zack Waterman at zack.waterman@sierraclub.org/406-582-8365.

Missoula Party

When: Friday, December 7, 6:00-9:00 pm

Where: Historic Stensrud Building, 314 N.1st St. W.

Celebrate the holidays with staff, members, volunteers and supporters for a great year of activism!

Light appetizers, wine and beer and a silent auction.

For more information contact Bob Clark at bob.clark@sierraclub.org /406-549-1142.



Bison Plan Illustrates Tremendous Progress

By Zack Waterman

A landmark proposal by the State of Montana may finally allow migrating Yellowstone bison to roam year-round on large areas of the Gallatin National Forest including Horse Butte, Hebgen Basin and other parts of the Upper Gallatin watershed.

For many years, Yellowstone's wild bison have been confined to the park's arbitrary political boundaries, unwelcome on adjacent public lands in Montana due to concerns that bison may transmit a disease called brucellosis to domestic livestock. Over the past decade, the state has spent approximately \$3 million taxpayer dollars each year to discourage, chase, harass, and haze bison back into the park using helicopters, ATVs, SUVs, and agency personnel mounted on horseback. Newborn calves are sometimes injured. Noncooperative bison are shot.

Many ranchers argue that these strict measures are needed to protect the livestock industry from the economic threat of brucellosis, while conservationists maintain that bison need and deserve a place on Montana's public lands as well.

While the debate continues, much has changed since the current prohibitive bison regulations were implemented in 2000, setting the stage for the possible return of migrating wild bison to public lands in Montana. For starters, many grazing allotments on Gallatin National Forest lands have been retired, creating a much larger area of minimal conflict for bison to use.

We've also learned a lot more about the disease and its risk of transmission from wildlife to cattle. Experts used to think that Yellowstone bison were the last wild reservoir of brucellosis in North America and, thus, the last battle ground for fighting the disease. However, we now know



"Two Bison," by Kendahl Jan Jubb
Photo Credit: Ram Murphy of Murphy-Jubb Gallery

that wide-ranging elk populations in Greater Yellowstone also carry brucellosis, which raises an important question: If elk and bison both carry brucellosis, why are bison confined to the park while elk are allowed to roam?

It's a good question, and the answer lies in the understanding that brucellosis is actually a political front for an issue that runs much deeper than matters of sound disease management. It's a battle as old as survival itself: Whose land is this and who controls it? Bison and cattle are in direct competition for grass, and many ranchers will tell you that like wolves, bison were exterminated from the landscape for good reason.

The good news is despite many years of controversy, Montana's Livestock Industry remains as vibrant as ever, and the State of Montana is finally on the verge of accepting the gift of wild bison that Yellowstone Park offers up every

winter.

Sierra Club's Greater Yellowstone campaign supports Montana's proposal to give room to roam for Yellowstone's wild bison, and we hope our members and supporters will speak up in support of year-round bison habitat in Montana as well.

If you support year-round bison habitat, please send a message of support to

Pat Flowers
Region 3 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
PFlowers@mt.gov

"Coal Plants," continued from page 1

including more than 8000 from Montanans, in support of the **Carbon Pollution Standard** for new sources of greenhouse gases (ghg) from power plants. This unprecedented tally reflects the strong desire of Americans for national leadership to address climate change and its impact on public health and our ecosystems. Industrial carbon pollution poses a wide range of threats to our communities as well as to wildlife and our outdoor heritage because of the impacts of climate change. This summer's devastating extreme weather events, record-setting heat waves, and drought give us an idea just how damaging and costly rising temperatures will be.

Existing power plants are responsible for adding more than two billion tons of carbon and other toxic pollutants into the air each year—nearly 13,000 pounds for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

Setting a standard for new power plants is a good first step. However, existing emissions of ghg need to be reduced as soon as possible and the environmental community will continue to pressure the EPA and congress to act.

The Final Carbon Pollution Standard is due in December, 2012.

Coal is becoming less popular as Americans begin to recognize the

negative impacts of burning coal and energy markets change. Natural gas plants can make electricity for half the price of coal. Electricity demand is down and producers and distributors of coal generated electricity have increasingly limited markets to sell to with states such as California, Oregon and Washington passing laws limiting their purchase of coal-generated electricity.

In September, Pennsylvania Power and Light decided to set a closure timeline culminating in 2015, for the Corette power plant in Billings. Fortunately, the long timeline helps mitigate the impact to workers. A "just transition" for affected workers whose jobs may be threatened by such closures is a basic principle of fairness which should be insisted upon.

The decision to close the Corette power plant was a corporate decision intended to maximize profits for shareholders and CEOs. The plant can not compete in the modern energy market.

A recent statement by Puget Sound Energy Vice President for corporate affairs sums it up well: "We know the end for coal is soon. We know that coal is a dead end."

Puget Sound Energy is the largest owner of the Colstrip power plant.

Newsletter Information

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

Please send articles, photos and illustrations to

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or Maria Ibarbia, TMS Editor
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Milltown, MT 59851

Submission deadlines are April 15 (Spring/Summer) and October 15 (Fall/Winter). Please use Ariel regular font in 11-point size for article submissions.

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

Submissions must include first and last name with city/town. Include your phone number and e-mail address in case we need to contact you. Send digital photographs at 300 ppi in .jpg format. Please include a caption and photo credit for your photos.

Thank you for your support of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club!

Maria

Washington Coal Export Terminal & Montana's People's Hearings

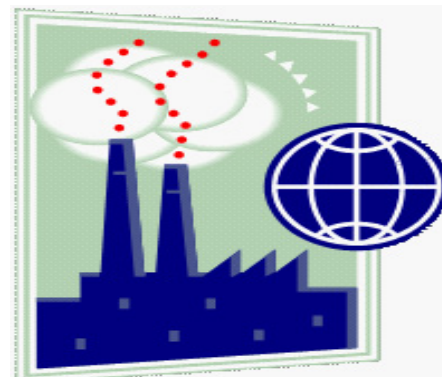
Montana is being excluded from the Army Corp of Engineers Environmental Impact Statement for the Cherry Point coal export terminal -- Even though approval would mean strip-mining Powder River Basin coal in eastern MT and shipping it via rail through Montana communities. Coal headed to proposed Northwest ports such as Cherry Point would be shipped to, and burned in Asia.

Please attend a People's Hearing:

- **November 20, 7pm, Bozeman**, Emerson Center
- **November 28, 7pm, Missoula**, University of Montana, Dennison Theater
- **Billings Hearing TBA** check for updates: www.northernplains.org

For more information, go to

- www.sierraclub.org/coal/coalexport/
- www.powerpastcoal.org/
- www.northernplains.org/the-issues/coal/



Summer Outings + Leaders = Outdoor Enjoyment

By Mary Owens, Outings Coordinator/Leader

Outings are one of the best ways to engage people in conservation. The Sierra Club Motto, "Explore, enjoy, and protect," is really the motivation behind the outings program.

Once you experience a place for yourself—feel it, learn about it and make your own memories—it becomes personal. And when something becomes personal, you are more likely to want to protect that "personal" place.

This year's outings program was one of our more successful ones, and I would like to thank all of the outings leaders who volunteered their time to help make that happen – Fran Coover, Donna Craig (posthumous), Janet Fiero, Bonnie Rice, Zack Waterman and John Wolverton.

We introduced a lot of people to what makes this place we all call home so special. We ran 17 outings in the Bozeman, Red Lodge, and Missoula areas, and introduced women-only outings for the first time. The outings ranged from day hikes in the Bitterroot and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, a photography workshop, a multi-day backpack working with the citizen-science program, and a five-day, women-only river trip.

The Montana Sierra Club Outings Committee introduced women-only trips this year with great results. Four of 17 hikes were women only with around ten participants

each.

We hope to build on the 2012 success with an even more ambitious outings program for 2013.

However, in order to do that, we need more volunteer outings leaders.

We are especially looking for individuals who can lead outings in the greater Billings/Red Lodge area. While some training is required to become a leader, it isn't too difficult or time consuming to accomplish. If you have an interest in leading local outings, or if you have an idea for an outing, please get in touch with me at

Mary Owens
Outings Coordinator/Leader
Trekker320[at]aol[dot]com

Thank you for your interest!



Hiking the Blodgett Canyon Trail

2013 Calendars for Sale

Oder your 2013 Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar Today!

Great for the home, office, or as a gift for that nature-loving friend or relative.

	Cost
• Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$12.95
• Wilderness Engagement Calendar	\$13.95

Add \$2.50 postage for each order.

Send a check to the Missoula field office listed (see inside front cover), and your calendar(s) will be mailed immediately. Or purchase a calendar at the following locations:

1. **Big Sky:** Bugaboo Cafe (Big Horn Center) and Conoco gas station, both on U.S Highway 191;
2. **Bozeman:** Sierra Club office at 424 E. Main, Suite 202;
3. **Missoula:** Sierra Club office, 101 E. Broadway, Suite 204 and Office City, 115 W. Broadway.

Proceeds from Calendar sales support the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club. Contact Bob at bob.clark@sierraclub.org if you've questions.

Thank you for your support.



Buy from us and support local conservation work!