



New Standards on Carbon Pollution from power plants – Take Action Today!

By Bob Clark

On September 20th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new standards for carbon-dioxide emissions for future coal and natural gas power plants in the United States. The anticipated New Source Performance Standards is a big part of president Obama’s plan to tackle climate change.

With this rule, all future coal plants would be limited to 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt-hour of electricity produced. The current U.S. coal plant averages 1,768 lbs. of CO2 per megawatt-hour. The standard would make it nearly impossible to build new coal plants in the United States. Already, America’s electricity derived from coal is at 37%, down from 43% two years ago.

Natural gas power plants would be limited to 1,000 – 1,100 lbs. of CO2 per megawatt-hour depending on their size. Natural gas can already operate within the standard. This new rule could open the door for energy companies to shift more investments to clean energy such as solar, wind and energy efficiency. Montana is rated #2 in the nation for wind energy potential.

Carbon pollution standards for new power plants would prevent future power plants from dumping unlimited carbon pollution into the air and help protect us from the health risks and other impacts of climate change.

We have an obligation to protect future generations from the effects of climate change by addressing its causes and impacts. President Obama has proposed sensible carbon pollution standards for new power plants, the first of several commonsense solutions outlined in his national climate change action plan, including eventual limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants.

In 2014 the EPA will begin to address emissions from existing power plants such as the Colstrip coal-fired power plant in SE Montana. These plants are already emitting thousands of tons of carbon dioxide into the air.

In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA had the authority and was required, to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act (once found to pose a threat to human health and welfare). We’ve seen new, stricter fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks, and now carbon pollution from power plants.

There is currently a 60-day comment period for the New Source Performance Standards for new power plants.

***** The Most Important Action You Can Take This Fall to Stop Climate Change Please send in comments TODAY!**

Go to Sierra Club’s on-line commenting site: <http://tinyurl.com/pp22u22>

You may send your comments directly to the EPA by Fax, 202-566-9744 OR Mail, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.

Comments on the proposed standard should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0495.

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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.

Submission deadlines are **April 1** for the Spring/Summer issue and **October 1** for the Fall/Winter issue.

Please send relevant articles and photos by the deadlines to
bob.clark@montanasierraclub.org
or
The Montana Sierran
P.O. Box 7201
Missoula, MT 59807

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

Submissions must include first and last name, city, phone number and e-mail address.

Send digital photographs at 300 ppi in .jpg format. Photos must include credit (e.g. photographer's name and/or source). Please also provide text describing the photo.

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

Newsletter Committee. Janet Fiero, Liz Rantz, John Wolverton, Bob Hopkins; Bob Clark, Advisor

Newsletter design by Dan Funsch



The magic of wild places

By Julie Wulf, Sierra Club member

The magic of wild places has inspired me to draw and paint ever since I was a small child growing up in Great Falls. Great Falls is not exactly an alpine woodland, but luckily there were plenty of summer vacations at Lindberg Lake and Scoutana near Augusta. On winter ski outings, much to my parents' dismay, I would lose myself in the forest, take off my skis and build fairy castles in the snow. Fifteen years ago, I realized my lifelong dream of moving to western Montana. Now I live only 40 minutes from fairyland itself—Glacier National Park!

When I get out of my car along the Going to the Sun road or hike the trails around Logan Pass or at Two Medicine, the freshness and brilliance of the very air exhilarates me as if I am under a spell. The peaks have an enchanting presence. I am never happier than I am there overlooking a shimmering panorama or maybe in a mossy nook by a singing waterfall. My painting buddies and I hunker down in some lovely spot and spend the day trying to capture the beauty before us. We take lots of photos to help us finish our paintings at home, but they are just shadows of the magnificence we have seen. Glacier Park is like a sacred temple to me and, I am sure, to most humans who have been there.



Julie Wulf is a professional artist in silk painting, batik and watercolor. A native Montanan, her work has appeared in many prestigious shows including the C. M. Russell Auction and Art Show. Her work is exhibited widely in galleries throughout Montana, Florida and Oregon. She teaches classes on silk painting and watercolor. <http://www.juliewulf.com/>

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Greater Yellowstone Update

Hope on the Horizon for More Bison Habitat

By Bonnie Rice

In July, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) and the Montana Department of Livestock released an historic proposal to allow wild bison year-round access to over 420,000 acres of land in Montana adjacent to Yellowstone, primarily on the Gallatin National Forest. This proposal was a result of over a year of sustained work by the Bison Citizens Working Group (CWG) to create more space and tolerance in Montana for wild bison. Sierra Club was a key member of the CWG and we were thrilled to see this proposal for year-round access presented to the public this summer. MFWP has reported that they have received over 100,000 comments from the public on this historic proposal. Thank you to all for helping us push for expanded habitat and humane treatment for wild bison in Montana, and a special thanks to those who submitted comments in support of year-round habitat for wild bison!



Photo courtesy of Buffalo Field Campaign.

Alternative B, the proposal's most expansive alternative in terms of habitat, would allow year-round access to significant areas north and northwest of the park, including Horse Butte, Madison Flats, Monument Mountain unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Cabin Creek Wildlife and Recreation Area, and the Upper Gallatin River corridor to Buck Creek, for both male and female bison; and year-round access to the Gardiner Basin on the north border of the park for bull bison. Sierra Club is advocating for female bison to have year-round access to the Gardiner Basin also. Over 96% of the lands proposed for year-round bison habitat are publicly-owned lands.

Because MFWP and the Department of Livestock have joint management authority over wild bison, the two agencies have to agree on the path forward, which will undoubtedly be a difficult process. Their decision is expected by the end of the year.

Bison are an iconic symbol of the American West, and Sierra Club believes wild bison deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Again, thank you to all of you for helping to advance this goal.

Southwest Montana Grizzly Plan Falls Short

In July, MFWP released a draft management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) for grizzly bears in Southwest Montana, which will guide management of the iconic grizzly in Montana's portion of the Greater Yellowstone region for years to come.

State grizzly management plans such as the one for Southwest Montana will be even more important if federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections are removed. If this happens, states will then have full management authority over grizzlies. We expect that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will again propose delisting the Yellowstone grizzly population in spring 2014, despite the deep uncertainty that exists over shifting food sources for grizzlies due to climate change, and recent research that suggests the Yellowstone grizzly population may actually be in decline.¹ It is thus more important than ever that the states make every attempt to reduce conflicts and limit mortality of this extremely slow-reproducing species, and ensure connectivity with grizzly populations in other parts of the state.

¹ Doak, D. F. and Cutler, K. (2013), Re-evaluating evidence for past population trends and predicted dynamics of Yellowstone grizzly bears. Conservation Letters. doi: 10.1111/conl.12048

— continued on page 5 —

Unfortunately, the draft plan/EIS is vague and contains virtually no specifics or actions MFWP will take to further protect grizzlies in southwest Montana. Specifically, the draft does not address:

- changes in key grizzly food sources, such as the steep decline of whitebark pine;
- concrete steps to connect currently-isolated grizzly populations in Montana;
- additional measures to further reduce conflicts between people and bears, such as hunter education, changes in livestock management, or community garbage sanitation programs.

And – unlike the last plan – the draft plan does not support even a short-term moratorium on grizzly hunting if ESA protections are removed. The draft plan actually promotes hunting of grizzlies as a way to reduce conflicts.

The draft plan/EIS must be considerably strengthened in all of these areas in order to adequately protect grizzlies. There is no more beautiful or powerful symbol of wildness than the grizzly bear. Montana's role in insuring the health of this iconic animal cannot be overstated.

What's Next for the Gallatin Range?

Southwest Montana's spectacular Gallatin Range is home to grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines and a host of other irreplaceable native species, and it contains some of the wildest and most rugged country in the lower 48. It absolutely deserves permanent protection. But the future of the Gallatin Range has long been a controversial subject.

A new process called the "Gallatin Community Collaborative" (GCC) is getting underway, in an attempt to help determine the future of the Gallatin Range. The Gallatin Community Collaborative "is a community-wide collaborative designed to achieve a broad, adaptive and durable resolution, of all the interests involving the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (HPBH WSA), that can be implemented."

Delisting update

In October, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will release its analysis of the impacts of declining whitebark pine on grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. The analysis will also look at what alternative foods grizzly bears are eating, and how those compare to current high-protein food sources such as whitebark pine seeds, and if these alternative foods -- because of where they are located -- will likely result in more conflicts between humans and bears and thus higher rates of grizzly mortality. Based on this analysis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide later this year or early 2014 whether or not the agency will propose removing ESA protections and issue a proposed delisting rule for Yellowstone grizzlies. Sierra Club is tracking these processes closely and will keep our members informed.



Photo by Bob Clark.

Though the outcome of a collaborative process is far from certain, Sierra Club believes it is important to be "at the table" and to advocate for protecting wildlife habitat and permanent protection for the HPBH WSA and surrounding wildlands. We hope our members will join us in being a strong voice for wildlife, quiet recreation and permanent protection.

The first round of public meetings will be held in mid-October, before this newsletter reaches you. However, you can still be involved. Please contact one of us listed below for more information – we'd love to hear from you! You can also visit the GCC website: gallatincollaborative.org.

Additionally, over the next several months Sierra Club will be organizing informal meetings for our members and supporters in several communities surrounding the Gallatins, to develop our vision for long-term protection of the Gallatin Range. Stay tuned for more details on these meetings as the fall progresses.

Help us ensure a wild future for the Gallatins!

Bonnie Rice, Senior Representative Greater Yellowstone (Bozeman) bonnie.rice@sierraclub.org, 406-582-8365x1

Rod Jude, Montana Chapter Chair (Big Sky), rjjude@gmail.com, 406-579-7627

Phil Knight, Greater Yellowstone Campaign volunteer (Bozeman), pknight@q.com

Sound-Off: Anthropogenic Climate Change is Real

By: B.C. Hunner

Executive Committee member-volunteer

In way of review regarding the change in earth's climate I present a few facts. Temperature in the Arctic has risen more than 4°F in the past 30 years with some areas up to 7°F warmer. Arctic pack- ice thickness (monitored by nuclear submarines) averaged a 9 foot thickness in 1957 and is now 5 foot. Since 1979 forty percent of the Arctic ice cap has melted with a complete melt anticipated within the next two decades. Atmospheric CO2 was at 318 ppm in 1958 at the Mauna Loa Observatory and has now pushed over 400 ppm with the norm closer to 250 ppm pre-industrial revolution. Sea level rise (due to ice melt) is averaging 3.4 millimeter/yr. Missoula has a 50-year temperature trend showing us to be 4.66°F warmer than normal. In July 2007 Missoula hit 107°F, it's highest temperature ever while days over 95°F/yr have quadrupled! In the Pacific Northwest there is an average of forty percent less snow pack than 50 years ago and Montana's August stream discharge (data from the last 57 years) is 30% lower

than it was 50 years ago. Facts and figures like this, around the world, can be regurgitated ad nauseam yet still the corporate right wing politicians (read Republicans) deny, delay and obstruct any and all solutions.

Recently the right wing took an extremely warm year (1998) and said the warming trend is down since then. The trend is still for warming but obviously not as radical an upward trend line if you start your graph with an abnormal figure as 1998 represents. If you take any other year in the last two decades the warming trend line is more obviously upward and it is still upward even with this right wing trick! This issue, which should never have received the dignity of press coverage, is a trick of semantics. Semantics will not suffice to fool the public with the recent United Nations release of their study on statistical numbers of professionals claiming warming and those claiming neutrality or cooling. The results of 12,000 atmospheric research articles from

peer reviewed journals found concurrence of anthropogenic global warming in 99.3%. Only 0.7% disagreed. 99.3% is statistically a phenomenal number! Any reasonable person would expect their politicians to alter the nations energy policy when 99.3% of the professionals warned of CO2 producing runaway warming! It's an issue called "majority should rule."

So conscientious folks who love our blessed earth with all its natural glories and myriad precious species should take it upon themselves to reduce their carbon output irrespective of the path of denial the right wing would have us stumble down. The average car releases 20 pounds of CO2 into the atmosphere with every gallon of fuel burnt. A person flying round trip from San Francisco to Frankfurt is personally responsible for approximately 5 tons of CO2 released to the atmosphere. Conscientious folks would recommend you deal with it because Uncle Sam's laws are not. Bicycle, walk, use mass transit, live in a smaller, well insulated home, have highly fuel efficient vehicles, buy foods produced close by and/or buy carbon offsets. There are dozens of agencies that take carbon offset money and direct it to farm methane projects, wind farms, solar banks, insulation projects, etc. The Sierra Club Montana Chapter spends \$30/ton for carbon released during our travels to meetings, lectures, etc. To mirror that your trip to Frankfurt would have a carbon offset price tag of \$150. We send that amount, on average, to native energy.com. Other highly respected and honest groups taking carbon-offset monies would be: cleanair.com, treecanada.ca, tripleE.com, carbonfund.org, Americanforest.org and CO2.org. Get to it! This treasured earth would thank you.

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html>



Hagadone Homestead on the Missouri River Breaks (Photo by Bob Hopkins).

A Great Missouri River Float - September 2013

By Bob Hopkins, Executive Committee volunteer

I was nervous about spending five days on the Missouri River with 15 experienced water rats. Still, I was looking forward to the journey and hoping the scenery would make it worthwhile. The plan was to put in at Judith Landing and to extract ourselves at the James Kipp Recreation Area just past the Fred Robinson Bridge. The scenery was spectacular and I learned that bighorn sheep really can scamper across the face of a cliff (well, it looked like a cliff to me) and that after a cold rain it does help to huddle up with your fellow drowned rats. Seven of us stood together during and after a late afternoon downpour and it didn't take long for our body heat to help us stop shivering.

There were a number of moments that stand out in my mind. The first was sighting a bald eagle perched above the river on a cliff as we floated by him (or her). We saw a total of eleven bald eagles during the float. The second was watching the face of a fellow paddler as she gazed at the sunset our last night out. This lady is an artist so she must have been looking with her artist's eyes at the sun setting behind some isolated clouds. The combination of clouds, sky, cliffs, and setting sun created a wide variety of colors ranging from subtle shades of red, to purple, to orange, and to pink. Her expression was rapt as she watched the colorful display in the twilight sky. The third was sitting around the campfire



Photo by Bert Lindler.

passing an odd shaped stone around our circle. The River Otter's Daughter had dubbed it the "omphalos" or the "Navel of the World" and explained to us all that the stone had great power. Whatever power the stone had, the shape compelled you to gently massage it and there was much laughter and joking about it as it was passed from hand to hand around the campfire. It was a delightful trip with many good memories.



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Montana Sierra Club Holiday Party

Missoula Holiday Party

When: Friday, December 13th, 6:00 pm

Where: Stensrud Events Center, 314 N. 1st W.

Celebrate the holidays with staff, fellow members, volunteers and supporters for a great year of activism! Light appetizers, wine and beer with a silent auction.

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



Artwork by Julie Wulf.

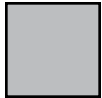
Come celebrate the holidays with us!

Sierra Club ExCom Elections

All Sierra Club members who reside in Montana are invited to elect new members to serve on the Montana Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom consists of eight at-large members, each of whom are elected for a two-year term. The ExCom provides oversight for all Montana Chapter's activities. Each candidate is elected to one of four, open at-large positions and will begin her or his term in January, 2014. The candidates below were selected by the Nominating Committee appointed by the current ExCom.

Vote for up to four candidates.

Ballots must be received by December 15, 2013.



Claudia Narcisco, Missoula

My passion for the environment is long standing. I was active in many campaigns as early as the late 1970's and later received degrees in environmental science and geology.

Since retiring from the forest service I have renewed this activism. I have served on the Sierra Club executive committee for the past 2 years, and have also served on the legislative committee, and most recently have been the chair of the conservation committee.

During my first term in the executive Committee, I lobbied the U.S. Congress on behalf of our public lands. In our State legislature I provided testimony on behalf of the Chapter on a number of bills representing the interest of Montana's iconic wildlife, including wolves and bison and on climate change and mega load bills. I've helped coordinate comments on a number of issues, mostly pertaining to wildlife and coal trains, and have tabled and circulated petitions.

If elected I will continue to bring experience and passion in service to the Club and the environment.



Diana Vanek, Bozeman

I am an avid outdoor enthusiast with a deep appreciation for the natural world and strong commitment to environmental stewardship. My academic background and early career as a public service archaeologist in Montana provided fieldwork opportunities and firsthand experience with regulatory compliance issues in cultural resource management and natural resource conservation. Other professional work included serving as an editorial researcher/writer for National Geographic Special Publications Division, outreach coordinator for university-based research centers, and as a liaison promoting international scientific exchanges for preserving biodiversity in developing countries. My work over the last decade has involved grant writing and collaborating with a broad network of educators and tribal leaders on STEM education initiatives, workforce development, and environmental health awareness.



Bruce Hunner, Hamilton

I received my undergraduate degree in ecology from Humboldt State University with a minor in environmental law. Since the 1970's, I have worked on resource-use issues, as a public radio meteorologist and on research biology. I worked with a Montana county's environmental office on development and pollution issues and with Lockheed Environmental on the effects of excess water draw down on two endangered fish. My biologic work has often centered around endangered species programs with the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of dams and predator introductions on major western rivers. I studied the effects of logging on herbivore populations; ways to protect pristine, high mountain water quality from sediment and nutrient loading; and effects of a toxic tanker spill on aquatic populations.

I climb mountains, race bikes and ski. I have lived off-grid on solar photovoltaics for 26 years and regularly bicycle commute. Off-grid living is NOT a hardship; a high quality life is happily sustained.



Gita Wohlsein, Troy

My first memory of the Sierra Club is my grandma's membership. This is significant for several reasons. It highlights the longevity of the Sierra Club, the typical member age, and the power of exposure to activism at an early age.

My first two years on the executive committee coincided with returning to the wilderness of the Yaak where I grew up and welcoming our second daughter and thirteen months in a wall tent, including pregnancy, birth, and her first three weeks. It strengthened my bond to the wild and my resolve to preserve it for future generations.

My goals on the committee are the same for my family - teaching children the responsibility to protect the wild lands we explore and enjoy.

Make a trifold envelope of the ballot. Please tape shut; do NOT staple. Thank you for your vote!

Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 7201
Missoula, MT 59807
ATTN: Election Committee

Please
affix first-class
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Looking for Volunteers!

50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act

Many activities are planned with plenty of opportunities to participate.

Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club is taking a lead role in organizing:

- Wilderness Film Festivals (Sept 2014) including participation in the February 2014 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival
- Special Wilderness 50 Outings throughout the summer

To help with the Sierra Club's efforts in Montana contact Executive Committee member Claudia Narcisco at cnarcisco@yahoo.com.

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Women's Como Lake Hike, May 2013

In 2011 we started offering women-only outings with the hope of encouraging more women to experience the great outdoors. Since we started offering these special hikes our participation in outings and committees has increased significantly. Of the 16 outings in 2013, 6 were women-only, which is about 37%. Women-only outings tend to be shorter, less difficult hikes. We continue to experiment with outings of different lengths, for different groups in different locations. If you have suggestions please email Mary Owens trekker320@aol.com.

