

# the Montana Sierran

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Vermillion Valley and East Pryor Mountain  
See article inside

photo credit: Dick Walton



**ENERGY**

## Montana Chapter A **National Leader** in Calling for Effective Action Against Global Warming

by Jonathan Matthews

**WITHIN WEEKS OF HIS ELECTION**, President-elect Trump promised to:

- 1) cancel U.S. participation in the Paris Agreement on climate change,
- 2) cancel the Clean Power Plan,
- 3) cancel U.S. financial support for U.N. climate programs,
- 4) restart construction of the Keystone XL pipeline,
- 5) greenlight projects to frack, drill, and mine adjacent to National Parks, and
- 6) cancel clean water protections.

He has called global warming a hoax invented by the Chinese to harm U.S. industry. In short, he is promising the most anti-environment administration in history. This startling prospect makes the Montana-authored “Resolution to Act Effectively Against Global Warming,” passed by the Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders this past September, more important than ever.

The Montana Chapter finds itself in a unique position of national chapter leadership on the crucial issue of our time—catastrophic climate change. We are faced with a unique and historic opportunity to do vital environmental work that, if we are successful, will

fundamentally change our country’s energy stance from being a huge source of the problem to beginning to reverse global warming.

Global warming is arguably the greatest threat humanity has faced, yet we have failed to respond with the urgency required to address it. The scientific community has warned us for many years but, rather than respond with a requisite level of policy ambition, we have allowed fossil fuel emissions and global temperature to rise dramatically.

Global temperature has increased about 1 degree Celsius since preindustrial times, and that warming is already wreaking havoc on the planet. The recent international agreement to limit warming to under 2 C, and to strive for 1.5 C, is inadequate and frightening. Some of the world’s best climate scientists have explained why we must limit long-term global warming to no more than 1-degree C (and even bring the temperature increase below 1 C in time, while bringing CO2 concentrations below 350 ppm by 2100), and how that can be accomplished. There is no excuse for failing to heed their warning and their prescription. We are now ominously close to triggering the collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, which would flood coastal cities worldwide. We are in a climate emergency that requires policies and actions commensurate with the danger. As James Hansen and his 17 co-authors explained in their 2013 report, “Assessing ‘Dangerous Climate Change:’ Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature,” if we make emissions reductions and carbon storage

changes, global warming would peak at about 1.1 C and drop to slightly below 1 C by 2050. We strongly disagree with Hansen's belief that nuclear power is integral to this effort, because the work of Jacobson and Delucchi demonstrate the technological and economic feasibility of producing 100% of global energy for all purposes from wind, water, and solar power (Mark Z. Jacobson and Mark A. Delucchi. "A Path to Sustainable Energy by 2030," Scientific American, Nov. 2009). As the club has already recognized, we must work for a 100% clean-energy future, but we must work for a goal that will actually arrest and reverse our current climate emergency, and our current club commitment to a 1.5 C limit is inadequate to the task. Though we disagree with Hansen on nuclear power, we cite his work because it provides strong scientific evidence for the necessity of a long-term temperature target of no more than 1-degree Celsius, and it provides a prescription for achieving the four points outlined below, when augmented by the work of Jacobson and Delucchi.

- 1) Long-term global warming of no more than 1-degree Celsius;
- 2) U.S. and global fossil-fuel emissions reductions of at least 6% a year, beginning immediately, in conjunction with 100 gigatons of carbon storage, to be secured through improved forestry and agricultural practices;
- 3) U.S. and global carbon pricing that accurately reflects the damages caused by carbon; and
- 4) A U.S. and global energy system for all purposes promoting greater efficiency and run on wind, water, and solar power, with appropriate governmental support to establish this power infrastructure with wartime speed.

While we realize this is a highly ambitious goal, it is supported by the best scientific information, and equally importantly, we believe this is the only remaining avenue to address a climate crisis that has reached the level of emergency. And it would fulfill our moral imperative to protect life on planet earth – for those living now and for generations to come.

After the Paris climate talks, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune embraced an "under-1.5 C" target. While that sounds better than the 2 C target previously endorsed by governments and national environmental organizations, an under-1.5 C target would still allow a temperature rise of up to 1.49 C, or 50% more warming than the current level of 1-degree C global warming. On an already dangerously fevered planet, aiming for 50% *more* warming is unacceptable. Moreover, because we have been given the prescription for limiting warming to 1 C (in the Hansen, et al. paper and in the Mark Z. Jacobson and Mark A. Delucchi paper) we have no excuse to aim for more warming than this.

*The first three months of 2016 were the warmest on record in 136 years — by large margins. The massive Greenland ice sheet has melted this spring to an extent that scientists say they've never seen this early. New research suggested that if high levels of emissions continue unabated,*

*sea levels could rise by nearly twice as much as expected by the end of this century. A global coral bleaching event fueled by warm seas is turning some once-majestic reefs into ghostly underwater graveyards. ("How Earth itself has dramatically upped the stakes for the Paris climate accord." By Chris Mooney and Brady Dennis, The Washington Post, April 20, 2016.)*

Consider the current reality: at "just" 1 C warmer than pre-industrial temperatures, we are already seeing disastrous effects, causing great loss of life, from record-breaking floods, rising sea levels, droughts, and tropical storms, as well as local Montana effects: forests devastated by beetle-kill and thousands of dead fish in the Yellowstone River this summer, both rooted in global warming. Our policy demand should reflect the climate emergency we are in. Instead, national environmental groups, including our own Sierra Club, are standing behind targets that would allow for far higher levels of warming than we are currently experiencing. **It's time to sound the alarm and start emissions reductions with an economy-wide transformation as dramatically all-encompassing as what the U.S. did in its all-in industrial commitment to WWII.**

Despite its highly ambitious nature, according to Hansen and the co-authors of "Assessing 'Dangerous Climate Change'" a long-term global warming limit of 1-degree C can still be secured. As the paper states, if global fossil fuel emissions are reduced by 6% per year, starting immediately, and reductions continue until fossil fuels are phased out entirely, combined with 100 gigatons of carbon storage from improved forestry and agricultural practices, global warming would peak at about 1.1 C and drop to slightly *below* 1 C by 2050.

We need a wartime-speed energy transition, and the fossil fuel emissions cuts must begin immediately; **we cannot delay these reductions** by following the inadequately slow pace of current international agreements. If we follow the prescription provided by Hansen and his co-authors, and by Jacobson and Delucchi, a 1-degree C global warming limit can still be secured.

Clearly this ambitious goal will require unparalleled political will and leadership. The Club is rightly proud that it is a grass-roots, rather than top-down, organization. Right now, the "top" needs to know what is animating the "roots." Our resolution does this, imploring the national Sierra Club to exercise the moral leadership so urgently needed to effectively respond to the threat of global warming, by advocating for the scientifically- and morally-based temperature target of 1-degree C, achieved through 6% annual global emissions cuts and 100 gigatons of carbon storage.

The Sierra Club Board of Directors has not yet responded to our resolution. But we are not just waiting to hear. We are talking with the 28 Sierra Club chapters around the country who voted for our resolution, to plan our next steps to see that our resolution is adopted by the Sierra Club Board of Directors, and then becomes actively promoted by the Club as the necessary, urgent plan that our national economy must adopt to combat global warming.



# Push Continues to Retain ESA Protection For Yellowstone Grizzly Bears



## WILDLIFE

By Bonnie Rice

**IN OCTOBER**, Sierra Club sent more than 70,000 comments from our members and supporters across the country to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), calling for continued Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. In the latest step of its flawed and convoluted delisting process, FWS opened a second comment period in September on the agency's proposed delisting rule, this time on whether the public thinks state regulations are strong enough to protect bears if ESA protections are removed. State plans and regulations were not in place during the first round of public comment; hence the public was not provided a complete picture of management post-delisting. Even now, federal and state agencies on the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee) are making significant changes to the Conservation Strategy, which guides management of grizzly bears if ESA protections are removed and thus is critically important – but refusing to give the public the opportunity to review and comment on those changes.

Sierra Club is even more opposed now to delisting than previously, due to statements at Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee

meetings over the past several months by Montana, Wyoming and Idaho officials. In addition to our serious concerns about the flawed process, it has become exceedingly clear that the states do not want to be held to any concrete measures to promote connectivity between Yellowstone grizzly bears and other populations such as in the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem. They will not commit to maintaining a stable grizzly bear population, and do not want to be held accountable to any long-term Conservation Strategy.

On top of this, new modeling by independent scientists shows that the mortality levels in FWS' proposed delisting rule and the associated "Tri-State Memorandum of Agreement" will result in a dramatic decline in the number of independent male grizzly bears outside of the national parks, which will be subject to trophy hunting. Even a significant decline in the non-park male bear population will not be detected or trigger lower mortality thresholds, because the current method of estimating the population is determined by counting unduplicated females with cubs of the year and the methodology assumes that independent males are added to the population at a 1:1 ratio. These factors will mask what is really going on with male bears and result in significantly inflated estimates of total population size.



*Sgt-at-Arms Lee Juan Tyler & Vice Chairman Darrel Shay of the Shoshone-Bannock sign the Grizzly Treaty - Copyright R Bear Stands Last*

Unfortunately, if the delisting rule and state plans and regulations go forward as currently proposed, the result will undoubtedly be a smaller, still-isolated grizzly population in a more restricted landscape that we have today in Greater Yellowstone. It's a far cry from true recovery.

We will continue to fight removal of ESA protections from Greater Yellowstone's majestic grizzly bears and to advocate for full recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48. Additionally, Sierra Club supports the efforts of tribal nations opposing delisting and their calls for meaningful government-to-government consultation. More than fifty tribal nations have passed formal resolutions against delisting, and a new effort is underway to rally around a cross-border grizzly protection treaty. In early October, a major treaty signing ceremony was held in Jackson, WY and additional signings are happening in Montana and British Columbia. Tribal nations have a deep cultural connection to the great bear, and their perspectives and voices are uniquely important in the delisting debate.

## National Bison Range Legislation in the **Spirit of Tribal Self-Governance**

By **Claudia Narcisco**

**THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE** (NBR) on the Flathead Reservation in western Montana has been owned and managed by the Department of the Interior as a wildlife refuge since 1908, when it was appropriated from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. However, this may change with proposed legislation to restore the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).

In 1994 Congress passed the Tribal Self-Governance act as a way to address some of the injustices done to Tribal peoples by the government of the United States. The Self-Governance Act (1994), is designed to provide an "(5) orderly transition from Federal domination of programs and services to provide Indian tribes with meaningful authority to plan, conduct, redesign, and administer programs, services, functions, and activities that meet the needs of the individual tribal communities; and (6) to provide for a parallel reduction in the Federal bureaucracy."

Legislation to transfer the NBR to the CSKT is rooted in the Tribal Self-Governance Act, which allows tribes to seek agreements with Department of the Interior for programs and other functions of special significance to the tribe. The Montana Chapter has recognized the CSKT's interest in the NBR for some time. In 2004, we were among the first environmental organizations to openly support a Tribal Self-Governance partnership through an annual funding agreement between the CSKT and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the NBR. We have continued to support

annual funding agreements between the CSKT and the FWS in subsequent years.

The significance of the NBR to the CSKT is without question. It has been over 140 years since the first bison were brought to the Flathead Indian Reservation for sustenance and conservation measures. The Reservation was home to that free-ranging herd for decades before the NBR was created in 1908; around the time Congress opened the Reservation to settlement. That original herd served not only as the source for the National Bison Range, but for Tribal identity and sustenance throughout a dark period in our history.

This past February, the FWS took a big step beyond the annual funding agreement process, and reached out to the CSKT with a bold proposal for legislation to transfer the 18,766-acre National Bison Range to the CSKT. Together FWS and CSKT drafted legislation, 'To restore the land of the National Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation for continued bison and wildlife conservation, for continued public access and for other purposes.'

Sierra Club reviewed the legislation and met with Tribal representatives regarding the Club's support. In late October, Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director wrote to Vernon Finley, Chairman of the CSKT and expressed support for the restoration of the NBR to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes with continued public access and educational opportunities and a publicly available management plan for such land, bison and natural resources. He also acknowledged the Club's respect for the rights and accomplishments of the CSKT in managing bison, grizzly bears and other wildlife and lands within the reservation and the NBR. We look forward to passage of this Legislation and transfer of the NBR to the CSKT.



# Where The Power Lies

By Claudia Narcisco

**PEOPLE FROM AUSTRIA** to New Zealand joined tribal leaders from around North America in praying for the 'Great Bear', and against removing grizzly bear from protections of the Endangered Species Act. The ceremony, assembled by Guardians of Our Ancestral Legacy (GOAL), was held in August on the shore of St. Mary Lake. Jimmy St. Goddard, Blackfeet spiritual leader and Vice Chair of GOAL opened the ceremony saying of the Blackfeet Reservation and Glacier National Park, "This is where the spirit is strongest, this is where grizzly lives, this is where the power lies."

David Bearshield, Chairman of GOAL, stood with New Zealand motorcyclists and Glacier National Park employees. He sent a blessing to leadership in Washington D.C. to release regulation and policy and to protect the religious freedoms of native peoples. Tribal Nations, for whom the grizzly bear is a sacred ancestor, oppose delisting on the basis of violations of sovereignty, treaty rights, and religious and spiritual freedoms. Removing federal protections for the grizzly bear, would also open trophy hunting and remove

protections on millions of acres of sacred land on which the grizzly bear roams. Sierra Club members attended the ceremony and stand in support of GOAL. For more information go to <http://www.goaltribal.org/>



*In this photo, Bryon Yellow Horn, elder from the Piikani Nation, is speaking on the importance of grizzly bear to the Native culture. Grizzly bear are trying to return to their homeland on the plains and it is up to us to learn to live in harmony.*

# Children Speak For Wolves and Hope For The Future

By Teresa Brock

**THE MONTANA CHAPTER** once again provided an education booth at the 3rd Annual Speak for Wolves conference in the Union Pacific Dining Lodge in West Yellowstone last summer. The 3-day gathering is an opportunity to connect and build relationships with a diverse group of people that care about wolf recovery and reforming wildlife management in America. The event featured films, music, poetry and dance, and was chock-full of presentations by experts in wildlife issues. A high point was hearing from children who stood up and spoke from the heart about their concern for wildlife and hope for the future. One child described the wolf as "...the animal that has been the most misunderstood and discriminated against, and if the wolf can survive, it gives hope to all humans that we can overcome our prejudices against each other."

One evening focused on the potential delisting of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear with presentations by grizzly bear experts Louisa Wilcox and Dr. David Mattson, and a powerful message against trophy hunting of grizzly bears delivered by David Bearshield, of Guardians of Our Ancestors Legacy (GOAL). On the final day, Buffalo Field Campaign staff led a half-day field trip with spirited discussions of the habitat needs and management of buffalo in and around Yellowstone National Park, and amazing stories of what it's like to live along-side this magnificent being.

Folksinger Matt Stone added a nice touch by serenading participants with his song "I'm a Buffalo and I Do What I Want", while overlooking the Madison River and the buffalo's new expanded habitat outside the Park. Check out this family-friendly event next summer from July 27-29. (Go to [www.speakforwolves.org](http://www.speakforwolves.org) for more info).



*Jen Nitz, author of "Rubix Ruckus Reubenstein Takes Himself on a Hike", with Brianna Edwards and Rubix.*



# Custer Gallatin National Forest Planning: Time to Dive In

*The Montana Chapter needs your help to submit comments as the forest planning process unfolds. Stay tuned! Get involved by visiting <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning/> You can see the tentative schedule for planning, and sign up for updates on the Public Involvement page.*

*photo credit: Louise Johns/Louise Johns Photography*

## WILDLANDS

By Phil Knight

**In 1986** I helped to craft an appeal of the Gallatin National Forest Plan. How time flies. The Custer Gallatin (CG) National Forest is currently working on a long-overdue update to their Forest Plan. The National Forest Management Act requires the Forest Service to prepare long term goals and objectives for national forests to govern the management of each forest. Travel planning for the CG has been completed and is not currently up for revision. Travel restrictions are laid out in detailed Motor Vehicle Use Maps.

The CG is a sprawling national forest, stretching from the eastern slopes of the Madison Range to western South Dakota. Its western reaches cover much of the northern end of the iconic Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem including the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wilderness areas and the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range. The forest adjoins Yellowstone National Park, extends to West Yellowstone and the

Pryor Mountains on the borders of Idaho and Wyoming, and runs north to the Crazy Mountains and Bridger Range.

This sprawling, spectacular landscape of evergreen forest, sparkling lakes, rushing creeks, deep canyons, green meadows and wild, rugged mountains is home to a vast array of wildlife, hosting some of the greatest herds of native mammals in North America. Herds of thousands of elk roam the landscape, grizzly bears prowl the meadows, wolverines bound over ridges, mountain goats and bighorn sheep dance on the mountaintops, and bison are starting to return.

Preservation and enhancement of wildlife migration corridors is a key part of this planning process and will help tie in with other ongoing planning efforts on regional forests. The Sierra Club seeks to reestablish migration routes north to the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem and west to the Greater Salmon Selway, allowing free interchange within metapopulations of wildlife. Much attention has been given to the Gallatin Range and the fate



of the Wilderness Study area there, but a major collaborative effort failed to produce any recommendations. In the Pryor Range, the Pryors Coalition is promoting a holistic vision for this spectacular landscape.

**We have several opportunities for public involvement in the forest planning process, and we should all plan to pitch in. On November 30 the Custer-Gallatin Forest released the draft Assessment of Existing Conditions and draft Preliminary Need for Change with a public comment period open until January 6, 2017. You can find the summary of all the documents at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd520802> and the Supervisor's letter at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd526184.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd526184.pdf)**

**[www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd520802](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd520802) and the Supervisor's letter at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd526184.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd526184.pdf)**

The Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness Character inventory processes will start in early 2017. Throughout the rest of 2017 the Forest Service will be hosting public meetings and developing alternatives and management options. The Forest Service's goal is to finish the final Forest Plan by 2019.

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# Public Involvement in Forest Planning is Key to Protecting Montana's Wildlands and Wildlife

By **Claudia Narcisco & Bonnie Rice**

Six national forests, comprising nearly thirteen million acres of public lands across Montana, have begun or are gearing up to revise or amend their land management plans. These planning processes present a huge opportunity for all Americans to help determine how a vast amount of Montana's public lands will be managed for decades to come.

In early June, the Flathead National Forest released its Draft Revised Plan and 3 Volume Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), including Forest Plan Amendments to incorporate relevant direction from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy for Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo, national forests. That's a mouthful, but what it means is in addition to the 2.4 million acre Flathead, adjoining national forests are amending their forest plans in preparation for potential future removal of Endangered Species Act protections for the Northern Continental Divide grizzly bear population.

Sierra Club Montana Chapter and Our Wild America Campaign, and grizzly bear consultant Brian Peck once again joined forces to submit comments on the Flathead Draft Revised Plan and DEIS (<https://montana.sierraclub.org/>). More than 21,000 Sierra Club members and supporters took action, calling on the Forest Service to select the environmentally preferred Alternative C with modifications, and to recommend wilderness designation for more than 500,000 acres of roadless areas, and maintain science-based road density standards in grizzly bear core habitat and surrounding areas, among other things.

Other national forests are following close behind with their plan revisions. The Proposed Action for the Helena-Lewis and Clark

National Forests (HLC) plan revision is expected soon, with associated open houses and public comment period expected over the winter. The HLC plan area covers 30,973 acres of Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest that is administered by the Helena National Forest, primarily in the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit. The Custer Gallatin is finalizing its Assessment of Existing Conditions, which could be available for review by the end of the year. (Please see the related article on the Custer Gallatin).

The forest service is preparing to begin the Lolo and Bitterroot national forests plan revisions, but depending on funding and other priorities scheduling is not yet finalized. The assessment phase of forest plan revisions for the Lolo and Bitterroot national forests are a year or two out, the end of 2017 to 2018. The Montana Chapter is working with other groups on this effort.

All these national forests are important to connecting Northern Continental Divide and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. We are viewing these for opportunities to protect and connect ecologically intact areas. Safe passage across the valleys that bridge national forest lands is essential to connecting critical habitat for grizzly, lynx and other wide roaming species. Low-elevation valleys are mostly private land and will present a real challenge for connectivity.

Forest plans determine how national forests owned by all Americans will be managed for many years. If you love Montana's wild lands, waters and wildlife, we need you to speak up. Those of us who live near and love these areas can be the best voices. Keep an eye out for future updates, and please see national forest revision websites for opportunities to be heard. Tell the Forest Service that wild lands and the rare and imperiled species that call these lands home must be granted the highest protection possible!

# The Pryor Mountains

By Dick Walton

**RIISING TO NEARLY 9,000 FEET** elevation from the south-central Montana prairie, the Pryor Mountains are an ecological island with landscapes ranging from red desert badlands to sub-alpine meadows. (See cover photo.) The Pryors are unlike any other landscape in the Custer Gallatin National Forest; this spectacular area is geologically, ecologically and culturally distinctive.

The archeologically rich Pryors remain sacred to the Apsáalooke (Crow) people. They are the home of the Little People, and the location of vision quest sites, burial sites and important Apsáalooke stories. The Pryors are considered a botanical “hot spot” with several globally rare endemic species and a large number of Montana species of concern. Bear Canyon has breeding populations of a dozen species on the Montana Priority Bird Species List. The Pryors are an open geologic textbook for hundreds of millions of years of earth history.

The outdated, 30 year old Forest Management Plan does little to protect this vulnerable and irreplaceable ecological, geological and cultural landscape. Custer Gallatin National Forest is now revising its Management Plan. We need the new Plan to do better - including designating several Wilderness Study Areas to provide secure wildlife habitat, protection of native flora, quiet recreation and solitude.

## Help, Quiet! Glacier Coalition Silence Overflight Noise in Glacier Park

By Claudia Narcisco & Mary McClelland

**THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY** of our National Park Service was celebrated on August 25th with a visit by Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to Glacier National Park. Secretary Jewell came to see and learn about the impacts of climate change on Glacier’s namesake and to share her vision for the NPS. Mary McClelland, Club member and coordinator of the Quiet! Glacier Coalition visited with Secretary Jewell on a hike to Hidden Lake. They discussed the ‘natural soundscape’ and impacts helicopter air tours have on Park visitor experience and wildlife, as well as on climate change.

The Quiet! Glacier Coalition has kept the issue of commercial air tours in front of Secretary Jewell, the National Park Service, and Glacier. The Coalition is encouraging Glacier to reaffirm and make its position on commercial air tours more transparent. It is urging GNP to obtain all reports required of air tour operators by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division (NSNSD), and make these available. The Coalition is asking Glacier to request the required Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) process started in 2004 be completed, and air tours halted.

There has been some movement on this issue: A report, Glacier National Park: Baseline Ambient Sound Levels 2004, was retrieved from the FAA and released by the NPS in September 2016, after a 12 year delay. This baseline study is an early step in the ATMP

As a unique geographic entity, the Pryors deserve a distinct Vision with desired conditions and management direction to achieve that Vision. Native American religious concerns must be taken into account in the new plan. We look forward to a new Plan for the Pryors that emphasizes restoration and preservation of natural and cultural resources, and the long-term sustainability of this landscape.

Fortunately, this special area has dedicated and hard working advocates in The Pryors Coalition, “a group of local folks working to pass on the natural beauty and quiet of the Pryor Mountains for people to enjoy today and tomorrow.” To learn more or to become involved, please visit [www.PryorMountains.org](http://www.PryorMountains.org)



Upper King Canyon, photo credit: Dick Walton.



Mary McClelland and Secretary Sally Jewell.

process and is used to measure change in the natural soundscape as a result of air tours.

Natural sounds are vital to wilderness character, wildlife, and the quality of visitor experience to our national parks. The NPS established the NSNSD to study and protect these valued resources. Quiet! Glacier aims to help the NPS Natural Sounds Division

live up to its excellent research, and standards in protection of the natural soundscape for present and future generations.

To learn more about this program go <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/index.htm>. For information on the Quiet Glacier Coalition’s work or to sign the petition, go to: <http://quietglacier.wixsite.com/coalitioninformation>. Public opinion matters in public land matters! If you would like to work on this project, please contact Quiet! Glacier through [marytreemcclelland@gmail.com](mailto:marytreemcclelland@gmail.com).



## Making Good Things Happen

By Janet Fiero

**FOR MANY COMMUNITIES** the only recourse when bad things happen is to protest or litigate. This time we wanted to make good things happen early on, so the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club joined the Missoula Community Benefits Coalition (MCBC) comprised of environmental, community and labor groups who wanted to ensure responsible development at the old Fox Theater site.

Several years ago MCBC gathered input from community organizations about the proposed development of the Riverfront

*Provided by CTA Architects*



Triangle project west of Orange St. on the Clark Fork River. (See [www.riverfronttriangle.com](http://www.riverfronttriangle.com) for details.) The Steering Committee of MCBC codified the benefits that the community desired into a list of proposals including water protection and conservation, employing local construction labor, housing, pedestrian friendly intersections, riverfront access, extension of the river trail, and much more.

In September, 2016 MCBC began meeting with the developers of this huge project to determine if the community's desires were included in the plans. Many of the proposals are already or will be included in the plans. Some items are challenging but the developers are working with MCBC to figure out possible options. MCBC is working to make good things happen by including the community's voice in development process early.

## Help Save Limestone West

Montana DNRC plans to build over 12 miles of new road and log over 700 acres in roadless, old-growth forest in the Gallatin Range in an area visible from Bozeman (on the side of Mountain Ellis). This is part of the wildlife corridor connecting Yellowstone with the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem.

It's also in Bozeman's watershed, and directly adjacent to the popular Triple Tree Trail. Citizens in the Gallatin Valley have been doing a great job organizing to change or oppose this project. Check out <http://www.savelimstonewest.org/> to see how you can help!

Save Limestone West Forest



### 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.

For more information about Montana Chapter activities and Meetings, contact Jon Matthews at 406.447.4351 or visit [montana.sierraclub.org](http://montana.sierraclub.org).

Find us on Facebook.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Outdoor enthusiasts to step forward and guide youth and young adults through forests and over mountains.

Sierra Club has partnered with Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) in Bozeman to take young people on hikes and experience nature.

We want to expand the program, Fresh Air Fridays, to other cities in Montana.

Will you step forward and lead hikes of young people?

Contact Janet Fiero, [janetfiero77@gmail.com](mailto:janetfiero77@gmail.com)

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 David Merrill (staff)

### Finance:

Mark Hufstetler (Treasurer)

**Fundraising:** Stacey Hellekson  
 (Chair), Rod Jude, Lori  
 Rustvold, Mike Scott (staff)

### Nominating/Elections:

Jonathan Matthews (Chair)  
 Janet Fiero, Rod Jude,  
 John Rhodes

### Outings:

Janet Fiero  
 (Chair), Bob Clark, Jeff  
 Copeland, Mark Hufstetler,  
 Machael Jarnevic, Jonathan  
 Matthews, Lori Rustvold,  
 Diana Vanek

### Political:

Jonathan  
 Matthews (Chair), Claudia  
 Narcisco (Secretary),  
 Bruce Hunner, Rod Jude,  
 Mark Hufstetler, David  
 Merrill, Mike Scott (Staff)

### Website/Facebook:

Jeff van de Noort (Chair),  
 Diana Vanek, Rod Jude

### Newsletter

Teresa Brock(Chair),  
 Jonathan Matthews,  
 Diana Vanek

### For More Information

about Montana Chap-  
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 montana.sierraclub.org

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