

2021 Montana Legislature REPORT & VOTING RECORD



The following report summarizes Montana Audubon's legislative priorities and outcomes during the 67th Montana Legislature. This was our first during a global pandemic, and we had to duly focus our energy on staying safe while working on the many changes proposed to wildlife and habitat protection, wildlife program funding, subdivisions and land-use, clean-energy and general environmental protection regulations. Major changes to Montana's fish and wildlife laws were enacted this session and the impact could be long lasting. Please review these votes, and if your representatives were champions for our issues thank them! Otherwise, please voice your concerns. Share this record with others and remember just how many regulations affect wildlife and habitat when you vote.

Report on the 2021 Montana Legislature



During the 2021 Legislature, Montana Audubon's team lobbied on 59 bills, supporting 13 and opposing 46. These efforts helped defeat 11 bad bills and pass seven good bills affecting Montana's wildlife and environmental protection laws. One bad bill was vetoed and 6 proactive bills failed.

As expected many wildlife issues concentrated on predators like wolves, omnivores like black and grizzly bears, and grazers like the bison. Efforts we have halted in the past, like allowing night hunting of wolves, bounties for wolf trappers, and the use of dogs to hunt black bears, were unapologetically signed into law. Along with many nuanced changes to Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (MTFWP) laws, the deregulation of Montana's wolf harvest laws may act to undermine years of maintaining a balance between conservation and other interests. New laws also pose threats to Montana's grizzly bears, directly and indirectly, through broadened trapping and legal take regulation, and similarly, the vexing classification of bison as livestock and long avoided delegation of authority over the transport of wild bison to County Commissioners were both signed into law by Governor Gianforte in mid-May.

The silver lining for wildlife and habitat was the Habitat Montana budget increase connected to the legalization of recreational marijuana through I-190, the defeat of a proposal to reimburse landowners for crop damage from ungulates, and support for continuing our state's much

needed aquatic invasive species and Greater Sage-Grouse conservation efforts. Moving forward, the sage-grouse program will now be managed by both the Department of Natural Resources and MTFWP, a change we supported.

Energy and climate issues saw sweeping changes as well. After years of urging the state not to include hydro power as renewable energy under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard the effort finally moved in the 67th. This would have been significant, but later the RPS was repealed altogether. Laws passed prohibiting local governments from enacting carbon taxes but also allowing leasing for wind and solar on state land. Topping the list, while restrictions on nuclear facility development were removed despite the citizens strong stance on the issue, an effort to boost coal generation at the Colstrip facility failed on slim margins.

Finally, three less publicized, very important issues took up time; an effort to properly regulate e-bikes (that's right electronic bikes) a major deregulation of gravel pit development and operation, and a major regulatory takings bill. Fortunately the takings bill and e-bike bill were defeated, allowing proper regulation and planning to move forward. Proactive efforts to support soil and pollinator health and reduce litter all failed along with our efforts to keep gravel pits well managed.

We hope you find the issues covered in this report as a useful summary to a busy session!

Since 1981, Montana Audubon has lobbied at the Capitol during our state's Legislative session. This year's efforts were led by Director of Policy & Science, Amy Seaman (top right), and Conservation & Legislative Assistant, Carmen Borchelt (top right). They spent four months remotely tracking bills, attending hearings, testifying on bills, producing legislative alerts and updates, and working one-on-one with legislators advocating for our positions.

House of Representatives

Name	Party	District	Town	Wildlife & Habitat						Climate & Energy				Land Use			Rating
				HB 224	HB 302	HB 318	SB 98	SB 267	SB 314	HB 273	HB 475	HB 576	SB 237	HB 599	SB 260	SB 284	
Abbott, Kim	D	83	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Anderson, Fred	R	20	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Bartel, Dan	R	29	Lewistown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Beard, Becky	R	80	Elliston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Bedey, David	R	86	Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Berglee, Seth	R	58	Joliet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Bertoglio, Marta	R	75	Montana City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Binkley, Michele	R	85	Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Bishop, Laurie	D	60	Livingston	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Brewster, Larry	R	44	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	8%
Buckley, Alice	D	63	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Buttrey, Ed	R	21	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Caferro, Mary	D	81	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Carlson, Jennifer	R	69	Manhattan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Curdy, Willis	D	98	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Custer, Geraldine	R	39	Forsyth	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	15%
Dooling, Julie	R	70	Helena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Dunwell, Mary Ann	D	84	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Duram, Neil	R	2	Eureka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	15%
Farris-Olson, Robert	D	79	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A 92%
Fern, Dave	D	5	Whitefish	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	85%
Fielder, Paul	R	13	Thompson Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Fitzgerald, Ross	R	17	Fairfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Fleming, Frank	R	51	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
France, Tom	D	94	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Frazer, Gregory	R	78	Deer Lodge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	0%
Fuller, John	R	8	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	8%
Funk, Moffie	D	82	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Galloway, Steven	R	24	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Galt, Wylie	R	30	Martinsdale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Garner, Frank	R	7	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Gillette, Jane	R	64	Bozeman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Gist, Steve	R	25	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Greef, Sharon	R	88	Florence	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
Gundersen, Steve	R	1	Libby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Hamilton, Jim	D	61	Livingston	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	92%
Harvey, Derek	D	74	Butte	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	69%
Hawk, Donavon	D	76	Butte	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	77%
Hayman, Denise	D	66	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Hill, Ed	R	28	Havre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	8%
Hinkle, Jedediah	R	67	Belgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	8%
Hinkle, Caleb	R	68	Belgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	8%
Holmlund, Kenneth	R	38	Miles City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Hopkins, Mike	R	92	Missoula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Jones, Llew	R	18	Conrad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Karjala, Jessica	D	48	Billings	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Kassmier, Joshua	R	27	Fort Benton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Keane, Jim	D	73	Butte	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	85%
Kelker, Kathy	D	47	Billings	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	92%
Keogh, Connie	D	91	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%

House of Representatives

Name	Party	District	Town	Wildlife & Habitat						Climate & Energy				Land Use			Rating
				HB 224	HB 302	HB 318	SB 98	SB 267	SB 314	HB 273	HB 475	HB 576	SB 237	HB 599	SB 260	SB 284	
Kerns, Scot	R	23	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma	D	49	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	92%
Knudson, Casey	R	33	Malta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Knudson, Rhonda	R	34	Culbertson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Kortum, Kelly	D	65	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Lenz, Dennis	R	53	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Ler, Brandon	R	35	Savage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Loge, Denley	R	14	Saint Regis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Malone, Marty	R	59	Pray	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Marler, Marilyn	D	90	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Marshall, Ron	R	87	Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
McKamey, Wendy	R	19	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Mercer, Bill	R	46	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Mitchell, Braxton	R	3	Columbia Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Moore, Terry	R	54	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	23%
Nave, Fiona	R	57	Columbus	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
Noland, Mark	R	10	Big Fork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Novak, Sara	D	77	Anaconda	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	69%
Olson, Andrea	D	100	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Patelis, Jimmy	R	52	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Phalen, Bob	R	36	Lindsay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Putnam, Brian	R	9	Kalispell	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
Read, Joe	R	93	Ronan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	8%
Regier, Amy	R	6	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	23%
Regier, Matt	R	4	Columbia Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	A	8%
Reksten, Linda	R	12	Polson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Ricci, Vince	R	55	Laurel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	0%
Running Wolf, Tyson	D	16	Browning	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Schillinger, Jerry	R	37	Circle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri	R	43	Billings	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola	R	22	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Skees, Derek	R	11	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	15%
Smith, Frank	D	31	Popular	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	92%
Stafman, Ed	D	62	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	R	42	Crow Agency	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Stromswold, Mallerie	R	50	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Sullivan, Katie	D	89	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Tenenbaum, Danny	D	95	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Thane, Mark	D	99	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Trebas, Jeremy	R	26	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Tschida, Brad	R	97	Missoula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Usher, Barry	R	40	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	15%
Vinton, Sue	R	56	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
Walsh, Kenneth	R	71	Twin Bridges	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Weathermax, Marvin	D	15	Browning	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92%
Welch, Tom	R	72	Dillon	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Whiteman Pena, Rynalea	D	41	Lame Deer	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	92%
Whitman, Kathy	R	96	Missoula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Windy Boy, Johnathon	D	32	Box Elder	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Zolnikov, Katie	R	45	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	15%

Montana Senate

Name	Party	District	Town	Wildlife & Habitat						Climate & Energy				Land Use			Rating
				HB 224	HB 302	HB 318	SB 98	SB 267	SB 314	HB 273	HB 475	HB 576	SB 237	HB 599	SB 260	SB 284	
Ankney, Duane	R	20	Colstrip	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Bennett, Bryce	D	50	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Blasdel, Mark	R	4	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Bogner, Kenneth	R	19	Miles City	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15%
Boland, Cydnie	D	12	Great Falls	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Boldman, Ellie	D	45	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Brown, Bob	R	7	Thompson Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Cohenour, Jill	D	42	East Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Cuffe, Mike	R	1	Eureka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Ellis, Janet	D	41	Helena	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Ellsworth, Jason	R	43	Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Esp, John	R	30	Big Timber	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Fitzpatrick, Steve	R	10	Great Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Flowers, Pat	D	32	Belgrade	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Fox, Mike	D	16	Hayden	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Friedel, Chris	R	26	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Gauthier, Terry	R	40	Helena	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Gillespie, Bruce	R	9	Ethridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Glimm, Carl	R	2	Kila	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Gross, Jen	D	25	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Hertz, Greg	R	6	Polson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Hinebauch, Steve	R	18	Wibaux	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Hoven, Brian	R	13	Great Falls	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Howard, David	R	29	Park City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Jacobson, Tom	D	11	Great Falls	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	85%
Kary, Douglas	R	22	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Keenan, Bob	R	5	Big Fork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	8%
Lang, Mike	R	17	Malta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Lynch, Ryan	D	37	Butte	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	85%
Manzella, Theresa	R	44	Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
McClafferty, Edie	D	38	Butte	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92%
McGilvray, Tom	R	23	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
McNally, Mary	D	24	Billings	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Molnar, Brad	R	28	Laurel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Morigeau, Shane	D	48	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	92%
O'Brien, Shannon	D	46	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Osmundson, Ryan	R	15	Buffalo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Pomnichowski, JP	D	33	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Pope, Christopher	D	31	Bozeman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Regier, Keith	R	3	Kalispell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	8%
Sales, Walt	R	35	Manhattan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Salomon, Daniel	R	47	Ronan	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Sands, Diane	D	49	Missoula	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Small, Jason	R	21	Busby	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	15%
Smith, Cary	R	27	Billings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Sweeny, Mark	D	39	Philipsburg	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	85%
Tempel, Russ	R	14	Chester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Vance, Gordan	R	34	Belgrade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Webber, Susan	D	8	Browning	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Welborn, Jefferey	R	36	Dillon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%

Bill Descriptions

Wildlife & Habitat Protection - House Sponsored Bills

HB 224: Allow snaring of wolves by licensed trappers
Sponsor: Representative Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 3rd Reading 67-33

Senate Action: Passed 3rd Reading 27-23

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill allows licensed trappers to use snares, as well as traps, for killing wildlife classified as “furbearers.” It forces the Fish & Wildlife Commission to set a snaring season. Snares are a great risk to non-target wildlife and pets, run counter to the “know your target” aspects of fair chase hunting, and create conflict with the non-trapping recreation community.

HB 302: Require county approval to relocate bison

Sponsor: Representative Joshua Kassmier (R-Fort Benton)

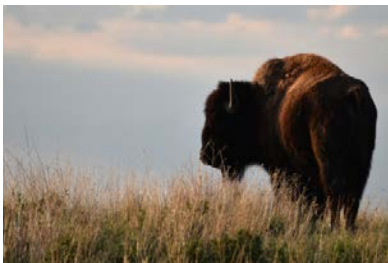
Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 67-33

Senate Action: Passed 3rd Reading 30-20

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill cedes wildlife management authority to county commissioners, running counter to over 100 years of wildlife management success and unfairly authorizing commissions to allow or ban wild bison to cross county lines. This violates the public trust doctrine and negatively impacts bison conservation efforts.



HB 318 : Clarify definition of wild bison

Sponsor: Representative Kenneth Homlund (R-Miles City)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 54-46

Senate Action: Passed 3rd Reading 31-19

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill changes the definition of “wild bison” or “wild buffalo” to include the terms “never has been subject to a per capita fee under 15-24-921” and “never has been owned by a person or held in captivity,” effectively considering all of Montana's bison to be livestock. The changes are not needed. They target herds on private lands and affect Montana's bison hunt and

Wildlife & Habitat Protection - Senate Sponsored Bills

SB 98: Revising laws related to grizzly bear take in defense of persons and livestock

Sponsor: Senator Bruce Gillespie (R - Ethridge)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 32-18

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 68-32

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill redefines when a grizzly bear can be killed to include threatening livestock. The language would replace language approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assure adequate mechanisms are in place to maintain grizzly bear populations post delisting from the Endangered Species list.

SB 267: Allow for wolf-trapper reimbursement

Sponsor: Senator Bob Brown (R - Thompsen Falls)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 30-20

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 61-39

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill allows trappers licensed to trap wolves to be reimbursed with private money for costs incurred during harvest. This bill amounts to a bounty on wolves, commercializes wildlife, and won't solve elk or wolf management challenges. We used the House 2nd reading vote; it passed 61-39. A vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

SB 314: Revise laws relate to wolf harvest

Sponsor: Senator Bob Brown (R - Thompsen Falls)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 30-20

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 61-39

KEY

+ = Vote in favor of Audubon's position

- = Vote against Audubon's position

A = Legislator absent

D/R = Democrat ; Republican

FWP = MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

HB = House Bill

SB = Senate Bill

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill enacts major changes to wolf take regulation by allowing trap baiting, night hunting and no bag limits in an attempt to drive wolf numbers down to a bare minimum. It invalidates tools the Fish & Wildlife Commission already has to manage wolves.

Climate Change & Energy - House Sponsored Bills

HB 273: Eliminate nuclear development restrictions

Sponsor: Representative Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 3rd Reading 68-32

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 30-20

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill repeals laws pertaining to the Major Facility Siting Act. Under the Act, voters must approve or reject a proposed nuclear facility, and HB 273 changes that language. This severely weakens the public's say in whether or not Montana pursues nuclear energy.

HB 475: Revise renewable portfolio standard to include hydropower

Sponsor: : Representative Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading 69-31

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 31-19

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill makes void Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard by allowing hydropower to count towards a utilities renewable portfolio. By including hydropower utilities would not need additional renewable sources to meet production goals. The actions of this bill were enforced with the passage of HB 576.

HB 576: Repeal Renewable Portfolio Standard

Sponsor: Representative Jerry Schillinger (R-Circle)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 3rd Reading as amended 69-31

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading as amended 31-19

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill repeals Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires renewable energy to make up a portion of Montana utilities and was intended to have positive influences on the renewable energy sector.

Climate Change & Energy - Senate Sponsored Bills

SB 237: Revise community renewable energy project requirements

Sponsor: Representative Carl Glimm (R-Kila)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 30-20

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading as amended 69-31

Status: Signed by Governor

Description: This bill eliminates the obligation of NorthWestern's shareholders to support low-income energy assistance programs across the state and is effective retroactively.

Land Use & General Environmental Protection - House Sponsored Bills

HB 599: Generally revise opencut laws

Sponsor: Representative Steve Gunderson (R - Libby)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

House Action: Passed 2nd Reading as amended 63-35

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 31-19

Status: Signed by Governor

Description: This bill rewrites a large portion of our open-cut gravel pit laws. The bill eliminates dozens of requirements for gravel pit operators, prohibits DEC from limiting the hours of operation, requiring range or wildlife "fire prevention and control" measures, or considering acid mine drainage or sedimentation on adjoining lands or waterways. Finally, it completely excludes notification and involvement of neighboring landowners in most gravel pit-permitting processes.



Continued from Page 6.

**Land Use & General Environmental Protection -
Senate Sponsored Bills**

SB 260: Generally revise laws related to property interests and transfer of property

Sponsor: Senator Steve Fitzpatrick (R - Great Falls)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 31-19

House Action: Failed 2nd Reading 41-59

Status: Failed in the House

Description: This bill would have required the State to compensate landowners whenever a regulation diminishes the value of private property, including business licenses, by 25%, regardless of the need for the regulation for public health, welfare, or safety. While “takings” can be complicated, the term was coined to refer to takings of real or physical property by government entities. This can be expanded to include limits on property use due to environmental regulation.

SB 284: Generally Revise County Gravel Pit Permitting

Sponsor: Senator Russ Temple (R - Chester)

Audubon Position: *Oppose*, a vote against this bill is a vote for our position.

Senate Action: Passed 2nd Reading 35-15

House Action: Failed 2nd Reading 65-32

Status: Signed by the Governor

Description: This bill removes the requirement for cities, towns, and counties to pay permit application fees to the DEQ for gravel pits. While the bill originally intended to limit sage-grouse mitigation costs and would have chipped away at sage-grouse habitat, it was, fortunately, amended to reduce the worst effects on the Greater Sage-grouse habitat mitigation program.



Thank You!

Thank you to those making our work possible - generous donors, citizens heeding our calls to action by contacting their legislators, and those attending our rallies and lobby days. There is more work to do and we will be back in 2023!

To learn more about Montana Audubon’s work at the Legislature, including specifics about legislation, visit our website or email aseaman@mtaudubon.org.



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