

Montana Wildlife Federation

In 2025, MWF continues to lead the charge on critical conservation priorities across the state. Their work spans from safeguarding migration corridors and winter ranges to defending public lands and the erosion of hunting, fishing, and public access.

Key areas of impact in 2025 included:

- **Wildlife Policy Leadership:** MWF provides collaborative leadership on state and federal conservation funding, strongly advocates for ethical, science-based management of wolves, elk, and grizzly bears, and actively supports the biodiversity goals of all wildlife across the state.
- **Habitat Protection:** MWF supports landowner partnerships and perpetual conservation easements that protect working lands, wildlife habitat, and connectivity. MWF strongly supports tribal sovereignty and new sources of conservation funding for tribal agencies.
- **Public Lands Advocacy:** MWF supports grassroots Montanans and collaborates with state and national partners to defeat threats to Montana stream access and federal land transfers. MWF vigorously defends vital federal conservation agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and their people, as well as key policies, including the 2001 Roadless Rule, oil and gas leasing reforms, and the Public Lands Rule.

MWF not only helps preserve the wildlife and wild places in Montana, but it also protects a way of life deeply rooted in access, stewardship, and the democratic values of the public trust and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

As Frank Szollosi, Executive Director, explains, "Our public lands and public trust wildlife belong to everyone, and acknowledging and defending their intrinsic values have driven the Montana Wildlife Federation for 90 years. The focus of our work is bringing Montanans together to find equitable and durable solutions to complex issues - from the distribution of game species across checkerboarded land ownership to maintaining wildlife habitat security and migration as Montana's population grows and human development increases. As we plan our advocacy for the next 90 years, we must act to address the causes and impacts of a changing climate on our native trout and aquatic habitats, on our ranching communities, and the habitats and wildlife they support, as well as the snowpack they depend upon, and the shifting habitability zones for Montana's wildlife and forests. We are deeply grateful for the long-term support, partnership, and leadership of the Cinnabar Foundation."

In 2025, Cinnabar supported the Montana Wildlife Federation's efforts to promote science-based and ethical wildlife management practices across Montana. The funding helped expand

MWF's advocacy and policy organizing work—particularly in defense of carnivore species like grizzly bears and wolves—and to oppose attempts to transfer federal public lands out of public hands.

With Cinnabar's support, MWF is actively engaging with legislative, administrative, and legal policy processes at both the state, tribal nation, and federal levels. Their work focuses on influencing decision-makers—including Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the state legislature, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission—to ensure that carnivore management policies are grounded in science and values, not politics.

The grant also helped launch a series of "Science Town Hall" events across Montana and online, designed to hold federal representatives accountable and to give the public a voice in wildlife and land management decisions.

Cinnabar is proud to support MWF's steadfast advocacy on behalf of Montana's fish and wildlife, public lands, clean waters, and fair chase hunting and fishing heritage.