



MONTANA

Montana Headwaters Legacy Act

The [Montana Headwaters Legacy Act](#), which was re-introduced in June of 2021, will protect 377 miles of river in Southwest Montana by designating stretches of the Gallatin, Madison, and Smith Rivers as “wild and scenic,” the highest level of federal protection. Adding these important Montana rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System will ensure that they remain clean and free-flowing in perpetuity.

City of Bozeman, Montana Mayor Cyndy Andrus said, “I am very pleased to see that the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act includes the public lands portions of the Gallatin River, Taylor Fork and Hyalite Creek, which is the primary source of Bozeman’s drinking water. Protecting these important headwaters streams will also protect every downstream water user, including farmers and ranchers, municipalities, industrial users, and river-based recreationists that contribute to Montana’s \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy.”

Badger-Two Medicine Protection Act

[Blackfeet leaders](#), non-Tribal neighbors, hunters, anglers, conservationists, ranchers, local landowners, and many others have drafted the [Badger-Two Medicine Protection Act](#), which would designate 127,000 acres in the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest as the Badger-Two Medicine Cultural Area.

Building on existing protections, the legislation would prohibit commercial timber harvest, exclude vegetation management; make permanent the existing road construction ban; ban the use of motorized vehicles and mountain bikes; and prohibit new structures including water facilities, pipelines, or buildings of any kind. Maintenance of existing structures, grazing allotments, and current activities would still be permitted. The bill also requires the Forest Service to consider new management proposals put forward by the Tribe, to consult with the Tribe on management twice a year, and gives the Tribe two 30-day veto windows on proposed new uses at the beginning and end of the environmental review process.

City of Missoula

Missoula Conservation & Climate Action Plan

To achieve carbon neutrality by 2025, Missoula’s Conservation & Climate Action Plan (CCAP) identifies strategies and practices that enable City operations to optimize efficiency, work wisely and responsibly, and utilize technology and innovation to consume less, reduce costs, and build resiliency for the future. The city does this through updates to fleet and facilities; internal policies and practices; and renewable energy and offsets. The city works with community partners like Climate Smart Missoula to achieve these goals.

100% Clean Electricity

On June 22, 2020, the City of Missoula, Missoula County, and NorthWestern Energy entered into a Memorandum of Understanding jointly stating their intention to cooperate in support of the City and County’s goal of 100% clean electricity by 2030. The MOU committed the three parties to develop an Implementation Plan that identifies specific projects and programs to be pursued along with timelines for each.



Community Wildlife Habitat

In 2018 the City of Missoula became the first certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the state of Montana. The city did this by certifying homes, schools, and common areas as spaces that provide food, water, cover, and places to raise young wildlife while using sustainable gardening practices. As of January 2019, Missoula is home to 145 certified homes, 14 schools, and 33 common areas. This process took three years of hard work and dedication from non-profit partners, community partners, volunteers, and the City of Missoula.

Zero Waste

In 2016 the Missoula City Council adopted the 2016 Missoula Zero Waste Resolution to develop a community-wide Zero Waste plan to reduce waste by 90 percent by 2050 and become Montana's first Zero Waste community. The city, led by a ZERO by FIFTY Leadership Team, is collaborating with partners, advising and supporting residents and businesses with their own Zero Waste initiatives, and gathering resources for widespread plan implementation. The Leadership Team is advised by the Zero Waste Advisory Committee (ZWAC) made up of volunteer stakeholders from a variety of sectors, organizations, and the community. Our Missoula Growth Policy

Our Missoula Growth Policy

The 'Our Missoula' City Growth Policy is the fundamental policy document that guides growth and development in Missoula. The vision for Missoula in 2035, with supporting land use concepts, goals, objectives, and actions is one of managed growth while meeting the needs of the community's residents. Conservation of the qualities and characteristics that Missoulians value are fundamental to reaching a shared vision of a sustainable, livable community with a diversified economy, improved infrastructure and environmental quality, and affordable housing options for all. Citizen input and engagement in the policy and next steps has been critical to empower community members with prioritized strategies and actions to reach a shared vision for the future.

Going forward, the City will continue to expand these and other programs through an updated inventory of city and community systems while working to better highlight the efforts of internal departments from parks and recreation to the wastewater treatment facilities.

