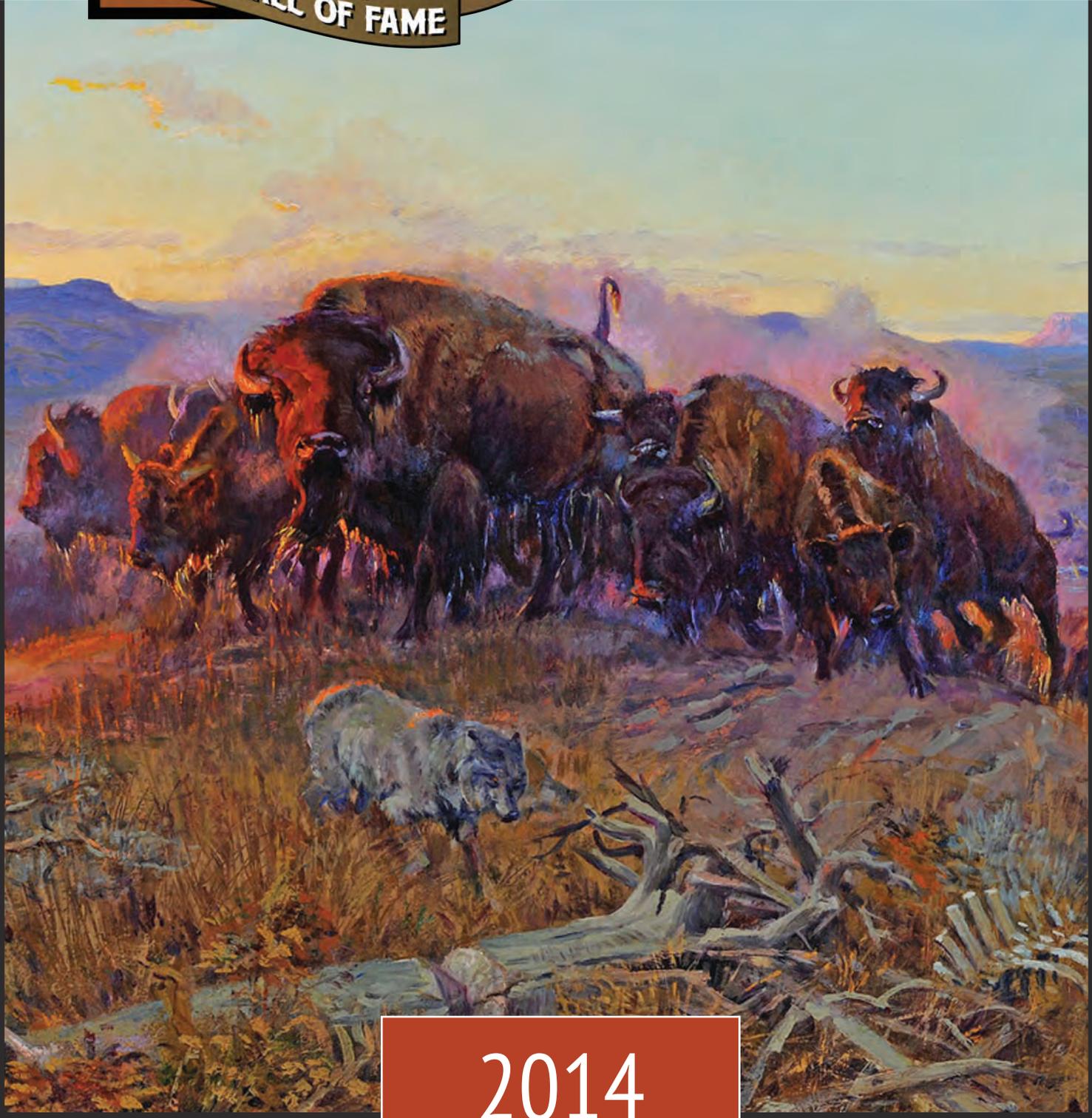




INAUGURAL INDUCTION



2014

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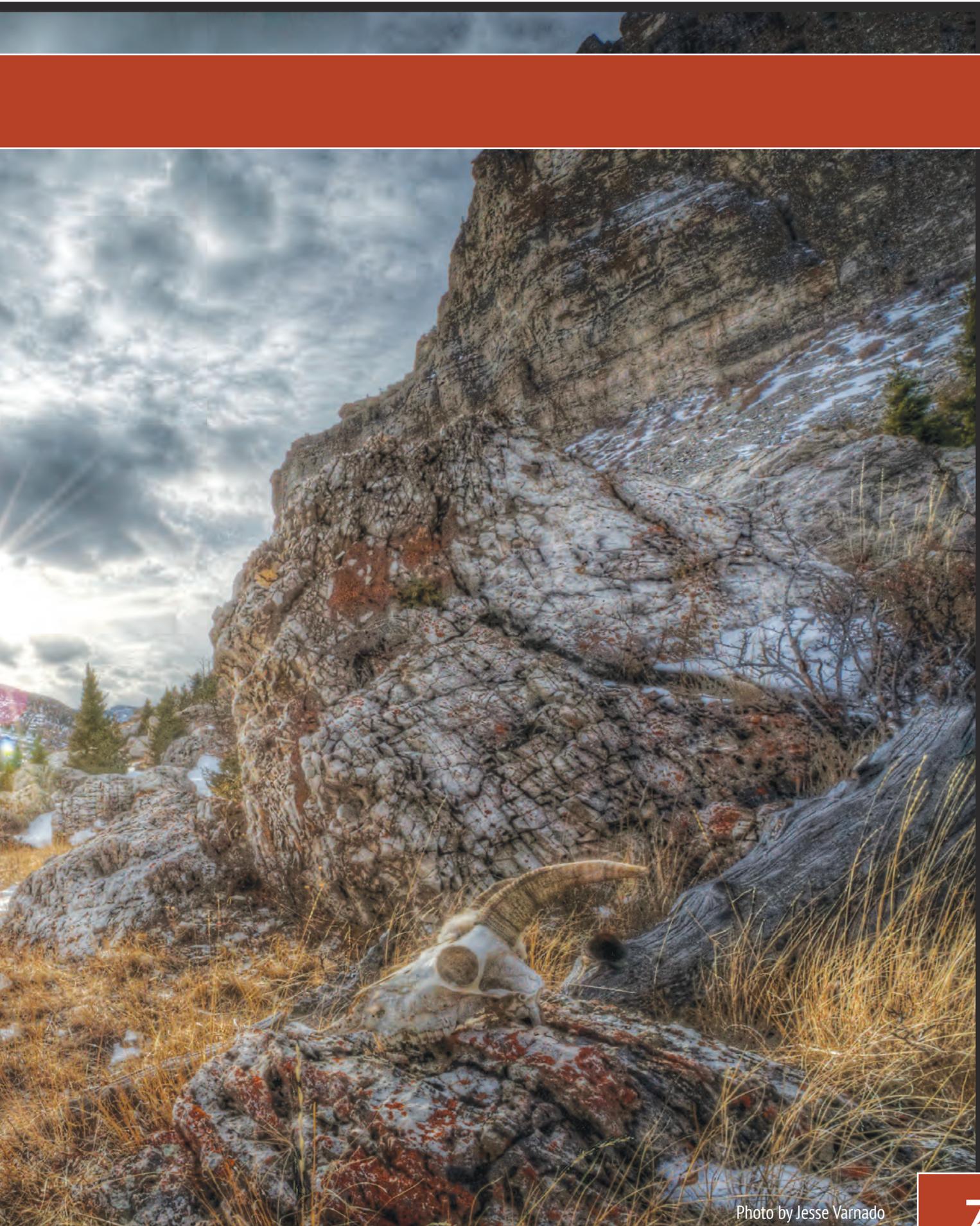


Photo by Jesse Varnado

Introduction



“We crossed the Rocky Mountain divide on the tenth day of October, 1857 ... Instead of the gray sagebrush covered plains of Snake River, we saw smooth rounded grass that waved in the wind like a field of grain. A beautiful little clear stream ran northwest on its way to join the Missouri River. ... Soon as we came to the divide ... bands of antelope ... were in sight all of the time ... We also discovered as we moved ... down the valley to Beaverhead that there was plenty of game, consisting of blacktailed deer, big horn or mountain sheep, and also many bands of elk.”

This description of Montana comes from one of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame’s inaugural inductees, Granville Stuart. It was his first impression when he was just 23 years old.

Theodore Roosevelt, another of our inaugural inductees, was born a year later. Their trails crossed about 30 years after Stuart’s arrival. They met in Miles City at a Montana Stockgrowers meeting and their primary topic was conservation, specifically “the Texas fever and the overstocking of the range.”

One biographer noted Roosevelt “was a great admirer of Granville Stuart, and was always on his side of every question.”

These two events show us that a conservation ethic rode into Montana seven years before our birth as a territory; and also arrived on a steam engine-drawn rail car a few years before we became a state. In the three decades that separate those events we had taken a wildlife resource that once “exceeded anything the eye of man had ever looked upon” and turned it into the wildlife “bone-yard” of a continent.

However, the seed of Montana’s conservation ethic was planted, took firm root, and as the generations passed that ethic produced an outdoor masterpiece.

Two of America’s great national parks sit as bookends, with the Northern Rockies sprawling out between them and the Missouri River Breaks

National Monument stretching eastward. Where the Rockies “front” the plains, precious tracts of wild country are destined to remain forever wild, home to the great bear and a pyramid of companion species.

Water gathers in these places. It seeps, meanders, rushes and at times thunders to three oceans. These streams, creeks and rivers are clean, cold and laden with wild fish.

Today, a century and a half after the Montana Territory was born, we gather to recognize that these precious outdoor amenities came to our time carried by individuals who cared, showed up, and stood up on their behalf. They are amenities that, in the words of Roosevelt, “add to the beauty of living and therefore to the joy of life.”

The dozen people we recognize tonight are but a small sample of the legions of worthy and deserving Montanans. But the diversity of this inaugural class is also worth acknowledging. From artists to agency personnel, from politicians to grassroots activists, from pioneers to present-day leaders, the stories of these twelve inductees speak to an ever-evolving conservation ethic that is uniquely Montanan.

Enjoy their stories and join us as we gather to celebrate the achievements of those who contributed through time and those now holding the line while expanding the outdoor horizons of America’s Last Best Place.

Granville Stuart

1834 – 1918



Granville Stuart entered Montana in 1857 over what would be known later as Monida Pass.

He immediately took note of the condition of the land and the abundance of wildlife, writing, “Instead of the gray sagebrush covered plains of Snake River, we saw smooth rounded hills ... covered with yellow bunch grass that waved in the wind like a field of grain.”

Stuart further noted “there was plenty of game, consisting of black tailed deer, big horn or mountain sheep, and also many bands of elk.”

Settling first on the Clark Fork River, he celebrated the 4th of July in 1863 “by having a fine dinner with trout as the principal dish.”

Later, he said, “The Deer Lodge Valley is famous for two things, one is that mountain trout are more plenty in it than any other place of the same extent in the world.”

In 1880, Granville rode into the Judith Basin looking for a ranching opportunity.

As he later wrote, “Thousands of buffalo darkened the rolling plains. There were deer, antelope, elk, wolves, and coyotes on every hill and in every ravine and thicket.”

However, that sense of bounty didn’t last long. In just three years, Granville saw wildlife populations plummet. “In the fall of 1883,” he later noted, “there was not one buffalo remaining on the range and the antelope elk, and deer were indeed scarce.”

In the course of these experiences, Granville wrote, “If the legislature does not enact some laws in regard to game and fish there will not be in a few years so much as a minnow or deer left alive in all the territory.”

Along with his brother, James, Granville took action seeking legislation to protect fish in the First Territorial Legislature in 1864.

More comprehensive game protection was won in 1872, providing some closed season protection for a number of species including “mountain buffalo, moose, elk, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer, mountain sheep, white Rocky Mountain goat, antelope or hare.”

All through Montana’s territorial years, the Stuarts led legislative efforts to curb the commercial carnage of fish and wildlife.

Thus legislative efforts to conserve fish and wildlife in Montana began in territorial years, as early as 12 years before Custer died on the hills above the Little Big Horn River.

One year after that famous battle, in 1877, Granville formed the Helena Rifle Club, Montana’s first rod and gun club to promote the sporting code—thus, citizen conservation advocacy was born in Montana.

One historian noted, “Granville Stuart persistently strove to improve wildlife protective measures and his bills formed the platform for the evolution of wildlife laws in the territory ... Granville was ... a dreamer and philosopher, a lover of all creation.”

“If the legislature does not enact some laws in regard to game and fish there will not be in a few years so much as a minnow or deer left alive in all the territory.”

– Granville Stuart

Theodore Roosevelt

1858 – 1919



On September 7, 1883, Theodore Roosevelt set foot on the Northern Plains for the first time. He was in his mid-twenties, a New York State legislator who had come west to hunt buffalo. The recent commercial slaughter of the buffalo left those plains littered with the rotting carcasses of the greatest wildlife resource ever known. Thirteen days later, Theodore crossed into Montana Territory, found a lone bull buffalo on Little Cannonball Creek and shot it.

Theodore returned to the Great Plains in 1884, invested in cattle and hunted throughout the west, including frequent trips into Montana ranging from tributaries of the Little Missouri River in Southeastern Montana to the Cabinet Mountains of the Northwest. During that time, he wrote, “A ranchman who ... had made a journey of a thousand miles across Northern Montana, along the Milk River, told me ... he was never out of sight of a dead buffalo, and never in sight of a live one.”

Theodore’s experiences and observations during this period led to a conservation epiphany. The winter of 1886 put an end to his livestock ambition, but the conservation ethic born of his time in the West, much of it in Montana, led to the founding of a citizen conservation organization in 1887 dedicated to the introduction of the sporting code and restoration of big game. High on their list of things to do was a reform agenda that included giving presidents authority to set aside land that could be held in the public trust.

When he became president, Theodore set aside 230 million acres for conservation that included wildlife refuges, national monuments,

national parks, federal bird preserves, national game preserves and over 150 million acres of forest reserves. In Montana, it included what would become national forests from the Custer in the Southeast to the Kootenai in the Northwest plus the Bison Range at Moiese. While in the White House, he also called seven conferences to address conservation in America. He was quite clear about his commitment, saying, “Our aim is to preserve our natural resources for the public as a whole, for the average man and the average woman who make up the body of the American people.”

When Theodore sought to regain the presidency in 1912 to protect his reforms, his campaign manager was Montana’s U.S. Senator Joe Dixon, who later served as Montana’s governor. When that lone buffalo fell in 1883, its sacrifice led to a conservation renaissance that changed the face of a young nation. How that impact is felt was best described by Theodore himself: “The things accomplished that have been enumerated above were of immediate consequence to the economic well-being of our people. In addition certain things were done of which the economic bearing was remote, but which bore directly upon our welfare, because they add to the beauty of living and therefore to the joy of life.”

“Our aim is to preserve our natural resources for the public as a whole, for the average man and the average woman who make up the body of the American people.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

Charles M. Russell

1864 – 1926



Charlie Russell was born on March 19, 1864 in St. Louis, Missouri. Seventy days later, the Montana Territory was created. Sixteen years later, Charlie met the land in its last stages of wildness.

Montana's fledgling conservation movement was struggling when, in March 1880, the 16-year-old artistic genius stepped off the stage in Helena. Charlie soon found his way to the Judith Basin where he was taken in by hunter, trapper and life-long friend Jake Hoover.

Consistent with the themes of his later artistic works, the young man's attention was not captivated by what Montana was becoming, but what it had been.

One day, working as an open-range cowboy for 40 dollars a month, Charlie ran into fellow cowboy Teddy Blue Abbott. As they conversed, Teddy Blue remarked, "God, I wish I'd been a Sioux Indian a hundred years ago." Charlie replied, "Ted, there's a pair of us. They've been living in heaven for a thousand years, and we took it away from 'em for forty dollars a month."

At one point Charlie commented that "civilization is nature's worst enemy. All wild things vanish when she comes ..."

Charlie's art is a treasure and we are endowed with images of what he loved about this land we proclaim the "Last Best Place." When his widow Nancy dedicated the book *Good Medicine*, she began with a quote of Charlie's: "The West is dead! You may lose a sweetheart, but you won't forget her."

We didn't forget because Charlie's genius was expressed in sketch and on canvas and there is no doubt

about what he wanted us to remember. In the introduction to *Good Medicine*, Will Rogers wrote, "He loved nature—everything he painted God had made. He didn't monkey away much time with the things that Man had made. He would rather paint a naked Indian than a fully clothed white man."

Even the poets recognized Charlie's genius lay in his ability to capture fleeting moments that were capable of inspiring others to continue the struggle to restore the natural world. In "The Gift," musician/poet Ian Tyson wrote:

God made Montana for the wild man,
for the Piegan and Sioux and Crow
But He saved His greatest gift for
Charlie,
Said, "Get her all down before she goes –
You've gotta get her all down,
'cause she's bound to go.

We are all familiar with the old cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words and what Charlie M. Russell's genius captured for us speaks clearly across the ages.

It has now been a century since Charlie painted his masterpiece, the iconic buffalo crossing the Missouri River titled "When the Land Belonged to God."

Today, the Montana wildlife conservation ethic has brought us to the cusp of restoring wild bison to the Montana landscape. We are on the brink of getting that done in part because Charlie's artistic genius will not let us forget—not ever.

"Civilization is nature's worst enemy. All wild things vanish when she comes."

– Charles M. Russell

Lee Metcalf

1911 – 1978



Senator Lee W. Metcalf was one of the most instrumental U.S. congressmen for the creation and passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Born in 1911 in Stevensville, Montana to a well-known Ravalli County family, he attended the University of Montana in 1928 before transferring to Stanford where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and economics. In 1936, he returned to the University of Montana and obtained a law degree.

He was a lawyer, state representative from Ravalli County (1937), Montana assistant attorney general (1937-1941), World War II veteran (1942-1946), Montana Supreme Court associate justice (1947-1952), U.S. Representative (1953-1960) and U.S. Senator (1961-1978).

Lee worked from 1953 to 1964 for the passage of a national wilderness preservation system act. On June 13, 1956, he introduced one of the first national wilderness bills in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 11751. His political legacy is clear today.

In 1964, Montana had 1.5 million acres of Wilderness and wild areas included in the Wilderness Act, with about 400,000 more acres pending various studies. Following the act's passage, he declared the 1960s the "Decade of Conservation."

But Lee's work didn't stop there. At the time of his death in 1978, Montana had a total of 3,155,796 acres of Wilderness areas. In 2014, Montana has 3,443,407 acres of Wilderness areas.

He sponsored, co-sponsored, or wrote the following conservation legislation: the Clean Air Act of 1963; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964; the Water Resources

Recreation Act; the Water Quality Act of 1965; the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968; the Clean Water Act of 1972; the Missouri River Breaks study bill; and the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

Over the years, Lee would be called the "Patron Saint of Wilderness," a champion of conservation and one of the first modern environmentalists.

In a November 20, 1965, during a Walsh lecture series at Carroll College in Helena, Lee noted the vital need for conserving Montana's natural resources: "We cannot any longer enjoy the luxury of controversy between the hunters and the fishermen over the use of our land; we cannot permit fragile lands to be overgrazed; we cannot have our last remaining power sites underdeveloped; we cannot let our air and water continue to be polluted, or else we need not fear the atomic bomb as in T. S. Eliot's *The Hollow Men*—'Not with a bang, but a whimper.'"

The Lee Metcalf Wilderness in Madison and Gallatin Counties, Montana, was created and named in the senator's honor by the U.S. Congress following his death.

Lee Metcalf's legacy is clear today. Among many other pieces of key conservation legislation, he introduced one of the first national Wilderness bills in 1956. As of 2014, Montana has almost 3.5 million acres of Wilderness areas.

Don Aldrich

1912 – 1990



Born in Deer Lodge in 1912, Don spent nearly his entire life within two miles of the Clark Fork River. His high school years were spent in Superior, where he was a standout athlete and soon became an avid hunter, angler and lover of the wilds.

In 1935, he earned a degree in journalism from the University of Montana. Times were tough during the Great Depression and Don embarked on a 33-year career with the Montana Power Company. However, a 1984 *Missoulian* article noted that Don really had two careers, the second after-hours working on wildlife management, resource conservation and forest management issues.

Don helped legalize hunting of either sex of deer in areas where winter ranges were overused and winter mortality levels were very high. In 1956, along with professional wildlife managers and a number of hunters, he embarked on a field trip to winter range near Salmon Lake. On a 1,200-acre plot, they found 131 carcasses of deer, all showing acute signs of malnutrition. Conservationist and writer Robin Tawney proclaimed, "That was Aldrich's epiphany; it also marked the beginning of citizen advocacy for conservation."

Don became a leader in the Missoula-based hunter and angler organization, the Western Montana Fish and Game Association. As president, he shifted the group's "good old boy" focus toward conservation-based management of wildlife and other natural resources. In 1963, he began a long career with the Montana Wildlife Federation, serving two terms as treasurer, one as vice president, two as president and six as executive secretary.

As executive secretary, he spearheaded the first-ever publication of legislators' voting records on conservation issues and single-handedly represented all Montana conservationists at the state legislature. He also helped build a state-wide telephone network and provided the foundation for the Montana Environmental Information Center. As a member and officer in local, state, regional and national conservation groups, he also lobbied Congress on natural resource matters and became a much-respected contact for many lawmakers and land and resource managers.

According to Tawney, "Don's breadth of knowledge and his ability to get things done were legendary among conservationists and policy makers alike. His awards made him conservation's 'Man of the Year' for any given year."

Those awards included the American Motors Conservation Award (1966), Sears Conservationist of the Year (1967), Ray T. Rocene Sportsman of the Year (1967), KGVO TV and Radio Citizen of the Year (1967), Shikar Safari International Award (1970), the Mellow-Ohrman Conservationist of the Year (1980), Montana Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year (1983).

Don's American Motors Award came with a check for \$500 which he promptly turned over to the Save the Upper Selway Committee.

From the early 1950s until his death in 1990, Don was involved in virtually every major conservation battle fought in Montana: wildlife habitat, stream and lake shore protection, wild and recreational rivers, wilderness, strip and hard-rock mining, Colstrip plants 3 and 4, water reservations, energy, water quality, pesticides and more.

These were all important issues to him and to the growing conservation constituency he inspired.

Bud Moore

1917 – 2010



Bud Moore was a tireless conservationist and a wilderness champion for Idaho and Montana. He blazed a trail his whole life for all who revere wilderness and wild land—linking the mountain men, who taught him backcountry skills in his youth, to the modern foresters who came to understand ecosystem management with his vision. Throughout his life, he worked as a trapper, logger, horse packer, cabin builder, hunter, firefighter, fire manager and wilderness preserver. He was an ecologist, a naturalist and above all an advocate for the wilderness.

Bud's career with the United States Forest Service began in 1934. He worked various seasonal positions including lookout, trail crew foreman, fire dispatcher and alternate ranger on the Powell Ranger District. He joined the Marine Corps during World War II, but returned to his work with the Forest Service in 1949 as a ranger on the Powell Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest.

One of his first actions was to stop a bulldozer cutting a “fire” road from Elk Summit to Moose Creek in what later became the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The road would have bisected the wilderness but was considered necessary for fire control. Bud turned the bulldozer back. Years later he said, “I just told them, ‘Not while I’m ranger on the Powell district are you going to take any dozers down to Moose Creek.’”

Bud went on to become the chief of fire management and air operations for the northern region of the Forest Service out of Missoula and led the effort to let fire once again play its ecological role in the national

forests. The first fire on the National Forests to be purposefully monitored and managed—instead of controlled—was the White Cap fire in the Selway-Bitterroot in 1972, carried out under Bud's guidance.

After he retired from the Forest Service in 1974, Bud continued to lead by example, overseeing a sustainable timber harvest and wildlife protection at his 80-acre homestead in the Swan Valley. In recent years, he applied his ecosystem management ideas to an old 200-acre mining claim, blazing a new trail for ecological restoration.

He was one of the founders of the current wilderness fire management policy and was a leader, during the 1960s and 1970s, in the push to use wilderness fire in ecosystem management.

In June 1974, the University of Montana awarded him an honorary doctorate for his contributions to natural-resource conservation and in 1996 he published a book titled *The Lochsa Story: Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains*.

Bud used to give this advice to the new wilderness rangers: “You ought to be like the moose and show up here and there as often as you can. Be unobtrusive. Be present enough so that people in the wilderness know there is a wilderness ranger around and he's a great guy and he loves the country.”

“As everything in an ecosystem is ‘hitched’ to everything else, we are ... linked to each other and to the land with similar invisible bonds.”

—Bud Moore

Thurman Trosper

1918 – 2007



Thurman Trosper of Ronan, Montana was a well-respected conservation leader in three realms that rarely intersected: Federal government, non-governmental advocacy and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, of which he was an enrolled member.

He earned his bachelor's degree in forestry and range management from the University of Montana in 1941, then joined the Marine Corps. After surviving the terrible Battle of Guadalcanal as a commissioned officer, he returned to Montana to join the United States Forest Service and quickly became one of the first Native Americans to serve in a management position with the Forest Service.

After working on the Kootenai and Clearwater National Forests, he was supervisor on the Bitterroot National Forest from 1955 to 1959. His leadership there was marked by advocacy for wilderness and a strong resolve to ensure watersheds not be damaged as a result of political pressure to aggressively increase logging on national forests. Later, he was assistant regional forester for the Eastern Region in Wisconsin, moved to the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and eventually retired in 1973 from the National Park Service.

Even while employed by the federal government, Thurman followed the path of his long-time friend and predecessor on the Bitterroot National Forest, Guy "Brandy" Brandborg, into a leadership position at The Wilderness Society. He served on the Governing Council of the non-governmental advocacy group from 1965 to 1980, including three years as president following his retirement from federal service.

Returning to Ronan upon his retirement, Thurman quickly assumed a leadership role in tribal and state-level environmental issues. He chaired a broad-based coalition to fight a proposed open-pit coal mine in British Columbia that threatened the quality of Flathead Lake. He was also appointed by Governor Ted Schwinden to the newly formed Flathead Basin Commission and immediately elected chairman of this unique commission of citizens and local, state, tribal and federal agencies. His continued advocacy for wilderness on national forests was rewarded in 1978 when Congress established the Great Bear Wilderness.

But perhaps Thurman's greatest legacy is found on the Flathead Reservation where he was born. He returned to the reservation in the midst of great controversy over proposed clearcutting in the Mission Mountains behind his home. Three "yayas," or grandma elders, lobbied tribal members to oppose the logging plans and Thurman proposed a tribal wilderness area as a solution.

For eight years, he organized allies and politely engaged opponents. He led field trips and educated fellow tribal members about the value of wilderness. Finally, in 1982 the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council voted to establish the nation's first tribal wilderness area, the Mission Mountain Wilderness, unlogged and unroaded forever.

Perhaps Thurman Trosper's greatest legacy was his fight to establish the Mission Mountain Wilderness on the Flathead Reservation where he was born.

Doris Milner

1920 – 2007



Doris Milner was a volunteer wilderness advocate from western Montana with an impressive list of conservation accomplishments.

Doris spent her life advocating for the preservation of wilderness, including the Scapegoat, Great Bear and Frank Church Wilderness Areas.

She was successful in her efforts at preserving the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness with the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 and she helped add the Magruder Corridor to the Selway-Bitterroot in 1980.

She was a life-long member of the Montana Wilderness Association and also served as its president. In 1978, Doris was named one of 10 citizen conservationists of the year by the American Motors Corporation.

“Milner represented conservation efforts at the citizen level, paralleling the work of Sen. Church at the national level,” said former Darby District Ranger Dave Campbell.

Doris was born in Maryland but moved with her husband, Kelsey Milner, to Hamilton, Montana in 1951. Doris loved her new home, the valley and its people, and especially the natural beauty of the surrounding areas.

Then in the early 1960s, she spotted a bulldozer near a favorite camping spot in the Magruder Corridor and learned the United States Forest Service had planned a timber sale along the Selway River.

The threat spurred Doris into the role of citizen conservationist—a role she would play for more than 40 years. “All I knew was I was mad,” she told National Public Radio in 2004. “That’s all I knew—and I was going to do something about it.”

Doris joined with ex-Forest Service Supervisor G.M. “Brandy” Brandborg to form the Save the Upper Selway Committee. They organized opposition to permanent development of the then-recently declassified Magruder Corridor on the Selway River in Idaho, a pristine and unique 100-mile stretch of wild river country.

Joining Idaho Sen. Frank Church and Montana Sen. Lee Metcalf, among others, Doris helped expand the wilderness to include the Magruder Corridor and secure designation of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

Doris served as Montana Wilderness Association council president from 1973 to 1975 and was an inspiration for then up-and-coming conservationists like Montana Wilderness Association’s longtime conservation director, John Gatchell.

“I still remember her voice, impressing on me to have credibility in all my dealings,” Gatchell said. “She’s really the reason I’m involved and still working for Montana wilderness.”

Writer and friend Dale Burk said it should be remembered that Milner had all her accomplishments at a time when women weren’t usually accepted in leadership roles.

“Her perseverance was epic, an essential quality in a situation where timing is at play,” Burk said. “But she also based her stand upon a very scientific analysis of the law of nature and the law of the land. That set her aside from other activists.”

But it wasn’t her informed view of the environment and the need for wilderness that helped win over potential adversaries, according to Trout Unlimited spokesman Marshall Bloom.

“I can sum up her philosophy of environmental protection in three words: integrity, respect and modesty,” Bloom said.

Cecil Garland

1925 – 2014



Cecil Garland initiated the “boots on the ground” approach to wilderness campaigns we’re all familiar with today. A resident of Lincoln, Montana, he worked for decades to protect the Scapegoat Wilderness, a 240,000-acre addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. He succeeded and continues to be the inspiration behind citizen-created wilderness areas today.

Cecil grew up in North Carolina and, as he told Montana Wilderness Association Staffer Gabe Furshong, by the time he was 10, logging had removed the vast majority of the virgin forest in the Great Smoky Mountains. “Everything that I had romanticized in my mind had disappeared,” he said, “and I knew that if I’d find it anywhere again, it’d be in the West.”

Cecil said he found what he’d been missing in the Big Blackfoot Watershed after moving to Lincoln around 1955: “That night in Ringeye Creek, we had an elk bugling up above us on one of them benches and down the Webb Lake Hill was another elk bugling back and forth, and of course as someone who had never heard that or seen that before I was spellbound ... and I told myself, ‘They’ll destroy this, too.’”

Cecil pledged to protect Montana’s backcountry even if it meant risking his business and friendships in the small town of Lincoln. In 1960, he learned the United States Forest Service planned to log what is now the southern end of the Scapegoat Wilderness. So he and William Meyger formed the Lincoln Back Country Protective Association. Meyger died in 1962, but Cecil continued as association president. By 1969, despite community protests

and boycotts of his hardware store, Cecil gained enough support to delay the logging project. But he didn’t stop there. Instead, he convinced Montana Republican Rep. Jim Battin, who had helped stop the road plan, to introduce legislation to permanently protect the area.

Cecil, Battin and Montana’s two Democratic senators—Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield—succeeded in their monumental campaign despite tremendous pressure from logging interests. The Scapegoat Wilderness was designated in 1972, the first area to enter the system by citizen initiative rather than agency nomination. “The fact that I could do it and get it done is all the reward that I ever needed or ever will need,” Cecil later said.

“There was a burnout-letdown afterward,” he said more recently of the experience. “But I don’t have a lot of sympathy for that kind of stuff. I told myself I was tougher than that and kept going.”

Cecil served as vice president and president of Montana Wilderness Association from 1969 to 1973. He was living in Utah’s backcountry when he learned he would be an inaugural member of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. He died on May 11, 2014, but it’s easy to imagine Cecil spent the autumn listening to those elk welcome him home and salute him up on Ringeye and Webb Lake.

“[The elk were] bugling back and forth, and of course as someone who had never heard that or seen that before I was spellbound ... and I told myself, ‘They’ll destroy this, too.’”

– Cecil Garland

Gerry Jennings

1940 –



Gerry Jennings has the kind of energy that is unstoppable. She is an avid hiker, biker, and skier, as well as the recent vice president for the Montana Wilderness Association. She has been involved in conservation for most of her life and has been an active volunteer with Montana Wilderness Association since the early 1990s. Gerry is an irreplaceable member of the wilderness advocacy community and has proven her dedication by volunteering on campaigns and holding leadership positions for 12 years.

Gerry's interest in conservation piqued while living for a short time in Germany. She noted how cleaned and "combed" the European forests were of any vegetation or wildness. They seemed tame and manicured. At first, she saw it as anyone would: somewhat pretty. But she quickly realized how strange and unnatural it was to have a "clean" forest. She recognized the importance of keeping public lands thriving and sustainable and the necessity of wilderness to maintain the natural ecosystems and landscape.

Gerry said, "The outdoors will not be what we know them as unless they are preserved." She hopes to teach this to the younger generation because, as she said in a recent interview, "We want them to know the importance of preserving these lands."

Gerry joined the Montana Wilderness Association in 1992 and served as the president of the Island Range chapter shortly thereafter. She joined the state council in 1997 and was association president for four years. When she joined, there hadn't been any new wilderness

designations since 1983. She noted the importance of the association in campaigning for wilderness, but also encouraged additional work to improve relationships with congress and enhance the "boots on the ground" technique for wilderness designation.

Gerry worked with Montana Wilderness Association as changes were made to create a new culture of wilderness and public-land management. She said, "I have enjoyed my relationship with Montana Wilderness Association as much or more than anything else I've done. We are an organization that is not just singularly focused; we are everything that is outdoors and public lands."

Montana's wildlands and fellow conservationists clearly have a place in Gerry's heart. She spoke highly of the administration and the progression of the organization to stay current and become a leader in statewide conservation associations.

"We do have some real heroes in our organization, there's no doubt about it," Gerry said. And while she may have been speaking about others, it is apparent that Gerry herself is a true champion for wilderness.

"[My husband and I] will have the recreation, the wildlands, the skiing and biking for the rest of our lifetime. It will all be there for us. But I want the same activities, solitude, and protected lands to be available for our kids and grandkids, and the rest of their generation, as they get older." –Gerry Jennings

Ron Marcoux

1942 –



Ron Marcoux was born and grew up in Maine. After high school and military service, he enrolled at the University of Montana where he earned a bachelor's of science in wildlife technology in 1967. He then went on to Montana State University and received a master's of science in fish and wildlife management.

Upon graduation, Ron signed on with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for an exciting 22-year career.

Starting as a fisheries biologist, he rose quickly to become the fisheries manager for an area that encompassed many of Montana's blue ribbon fisheries.

During his tenure as fisheries manager, his vision and leadership blossomed. In the mid-1970s, Ron and associated biologists embarked on a bold and controversial experiment to manage quality waters as wild trout fisheries.

The longstanding practice of planting hatchery-produced, catchable-size fish was to be abandoned. When proposed, Ron and associates were roundly criticized and, at times, threatened.

However, following a thoroughly professional scientific protocol, they forged ahead and within a few years demonstrated that wild trout management produced a robust and resilient fishery.

The innovative idea quickly became statewide policy, setting a new standard for fisheries management.

Ron also found himself in the crosshairs of controversy on the always contentious issue of stream access. In an attempt to intimidate department personnel, who were competently doing their job, a private

landowner on the Beaverhead River filed a complaint against Ron and associates under the state's code of ethics law. It could have cost Ron and a couple of colleagues their jobs. Ron and his associates were forced to hire an attorney to defend them against the attack. The district court summarily ruled in their favor.

In 1981, Ron became FWP's associate director and later its deputy director. During his 10-year term in those positions, he was actively involved in most of the critical resource issues that the department faced. Ron retired from the department in 1990 and in 1991 began an equally eventful 15-year career with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Ron came on board at the RMEF during its formative years and held a number of positions. He developed its land acquisition, conservation easement and land-donation programs and was involved in major elk-habitat acquisitions in Montana and other western states.

Perhaps his signal achievement in the protection of elk habitat was his role in negotiating the permanent protection of 7,850 acres of elk habitat in the Upper Yellowstone Basin adjacent to the park's north entrance.

It was a transaction once described as "the most significant wildlife conservation achievement in the vicinity of Yellowstone since the creation of the park itself."

In 2011, Ron's career took still another turn when he went to work as conservation director for the Prickly Pear Land Trust, launching its riparian-protection strategy.

Today, Montana's wild trout fishery, robust elk populations and progressive public access to those amenities are among the Treasure State's proudest assets.

The hand of Ron Marcoux has touched them all and made them better.

Chris Marchion

1952 –



Chris became an officer in the Anaconda Sportsmen Club 1985, serving as secretary, vice president and then president. He continues to serve as vice president. He has also been the club's representative to the Montana Wildlife Federation since 1985, holding several leadership positions including vice president of issues, president and executive board member. He was the first MWF president to serve three terms and has tallied 28 years of contributed service to Montana's outdoor heritage.

In 1987, Chris drafted the Bighorn Sheep auction legislation and single-handedly saw the bill to passage. The legislation raised millions of dollars for bighorn sheep conservation, from transplants to protection of critical habitat—including the purchase of 1,200 acres in the Lost Creek area.

During the 1980s, he championed protection of roadless forest lands, appearing at numerous public meetings and testifying before both the House and Senate committees. When the National Forest Plan was addressed, he participated in a historic settlement to reconcile numerous plan appeals.

When ARCO and the State of Montana agreed to a settlement on historic damages for mining and smelting on the upper Clark Fork River, Chris became active in an effort that saw 75,000 acres of critical habitat—known as the Watershed Lands—assembled to form the Mount Haggin Game range along with other public lands in the Lost Creek area.

Because of Chris's reputation on public-land transactions, he became a mentor and advisor for others around the state on a variety of conservation projects. Those include critical

Bighorn Sheep habitat in the Anaconda area as well as public access to Georgetown Lake.

During the 1990s, Chris was a vital member of a team that succeeded in banning the captive shooting of wildlife by virtue of a citizen initiative. He gathered signatures, lobbied the legislature, crafted a presentation about related diseases and spoke to numerous civic groups.

In the course of his public service, he has been appointed to a wide variety of advisory boards at both the state and federal level having to do with conservation, fish and wildlife restoration and the absolute necessity of public participation. His own "boots on the ground" participation included building infrastructure on fishing access sites, planting willows, participating in control burns of winter range, tree planting and trail maintenance.

Chris has been a constant presence for 30 years in the ongoing battle to protect the public's right to enjoy public land and public wildlife against the people who sought to privatize or commercialize those public resources.

Among many other accomplishments, Chris Marchion was active in an effort that saw 75,000 acres of critical habitat—known as the Watershed Lands—assembled to form the Mount Haggin Game range along with other public lands in the Lost Creek area.

Acknowledgments

The idea for a Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame came when longtime Montana conservationist Jim Posewitz was the banquet speaker for a similar entity in Wyoming in October 2012.

Posewitz returned to Montana and tested out his idea with people at the Montana Historical Society and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Their initial enthusiasm for the idea led to the formation of a planning committee, working under a memorandum of understanding signed in December 2013.

Individuals and organizations participating include: Bruce Whittenberg and Molly Kruckenberg of the Montana Historical Society; Thomas Baumeister of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; George Bettas, Samantha Lavin and Jane Ratzlaff of Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation; Dave Chadwick and Stan Frasier of the Montana Wildlife Federation; Laura Parr and Brian Sybert of the Montana Wilderness Association; Stan Bradshaw of Montana Trout Unlimited; Germaine White of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation; and Jim Posewitz of the Cinnabar Foundation.

Cover art: Charlie M. Russell's "When the Land Belonged to God," used here with permission of the Montana Historical Society.

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Want to nominate someone for a spot in the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame? Here are the minimum inclusion criteria:

- Has the nominee made a significant contribution to the restoration and conservation of fish, wildlife, flowing rivers, wild lands, and other outdoor amenities in the public interest that are equitably available to the public?
- Montana residency is not a prerequisite to induction; however, impact to Montana is. There also needs to have been a personal contact with the state.
- Has the nominee's conservation commitment to fish, wildlife, flowing rivers, wild lands, and other outdoor amenities been of such a nature as to have a lasting significance whether applied at the national or local grassroots level?
- Are the nominee's efforts and impact consistent with that of current members of the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame when considered in the historical setting of the time in which he or she lived?
- Have the nominee's contributions positively affected a wide range of natural resources and the public's equitable association with those resources?
- If the nominee is a living person, they shall be at a stage in their career that their conservation contribution is not likely to be impugned by any future endeavors.

The Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame committee is still working out the final details of the nomination process for coming years. When that process is complete, an announcement will be posted online at www.MTOutdoorlegacy.org.

Photo by Jesse Varnado



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