



BILL TABLE – 2021 MONTANA LEGISLATURE

This table contains the bills we are working on during the 2021 Montana Legislature. For more information, contact Amy Seaman at 406-210-9449 or aseaman@mtaudubon.org, or Carmen Borchelt at 630-577-7799 or carmen@mtaudubon.org

Acronyms: FWP - MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; DNRC - MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation

Legislation we are tracking falls in these categories:

- [Wildlife & Habitat Protection](#)
- [Wildlife Program Funding](#)
- [Climate Change & Energy](#)
- [General Environmental Protection](#)
- [Public Lands, Recreation & Parks](#)
- [Subdivisions & Land Use Planning](#)

Legislation at the 2019 Montana Legislature			
Bill Number / Sponsor	Description	Status	Audubon Position
Wildlife & Habitat Protection			
HB 5 Rep. Llew Jones (R- Conrad)	This bill contains funding authorization for FWP’s capital projects, including Habitat Montana, Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program, Migratory Bird Program, Big Horn Sheep Auction Funds and Fishing Access Site Acquisition. Funding for these programs comes from sportsmen and women’s license dollars	Passed house: 100-0 (H) Transmitted to Senate 3/29	Support

	and is earmarked specifically for these programs. Not authorizing them simply means the funds stay in the bank. The funds support conservation and enhancement of critical wildlife habitat, and provide great hunting and fishing access opportunities.		
SB 98 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R-Choteau)	This bill would redefine 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 to maintain grizzly bears post delisting from the endangered species list, and ensure that grizzlies are never delisted in Montana.	Passed Senate-32-18 Passed House-65-33 (S) Returned from Enrolling 3/30	-Oppose
HB 163 Rep. Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)	This bill would add two seats to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and make them align with the seven existing Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks regions. It would give better representation for hunters, anglers and all outdoor enthusiasts throughout the state by corresponding with the well-established regions.	Passed House-94-4 Passed Senate-31-19 (H) 2nd Reading Senate Amendments Concurred 3/29	Support with Amendments
HB 225 Rep. Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)	This bill seeks to set the wolf trapping season to open the Monday following Thanksgiving and close on March 15th. It allows the Fish and Wildlife Commission to set dates unique to some management units. Setting seasons in statute by practice is not advantageous as the Fish and Wildlife Commission already manages this effort.	Passed House-68-32 Passed Senate-31-19 (H) Signed by Speaker 3/26	Oppose
HB 224 Rep. Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)	This bill allows licensed trappers to use snares, in addition to traps, for killing wildlife classified as “furbearers”. It forces the Fish and Wildlife commission to set a season for snaring. Snares create a much greater risk to non-target wildlife and pets, and runs counter to the “know your target” aspects of fair chase hunting. This	Passed House-67-33 Passed Senate-27-23 (H) Signed by Speaker 3/26	Oppose

	bill is an accident waiting to happen that will hurt trapping and create a lot of conflict with the non-trapping recreational community.		
SB 40 Sen. Janet Ellis (D - Helena)	This bill adds two voting members to the Montana Invasive Species Committee, the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission and the Department of Livestock. This brings the committee, managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, to 24 voting members.	Passed Senate- 44-6 Hearing: 03/19/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172	Support
SB 62 Sen. Bob Brown (R - Thompson Falls)	This bill defines the possession of an animal to include the act of “killing, capturing, or taking a game fish, bird, game animal, or fur bearing animal regardless of whether the person takes or retains physical possession of the fish, bird, animal”. It therefore would allow game wardens to charge those caught poaching with possession, increasing the penalty for the wasteful action.	Passed Senate- 50-0 Passed house- 99-0 (S) Signed by Governor 3/23	Support
HB 242 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R - Belgrade)	This bill would require the Fish and Wildlife Commission to set a “Muzzleloader Heritage hunting season” in addition to the provisions in law already allowing for hunting with a muzzleloader. Like other bills, HB 242 attempts to change wildlife take via the legislative process, a system we do not support.	Passed House- 66-34 Passed Senate- 32-18 (H) Sent to Enrolling 3/29	Oppose
SB 143 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R - Hamilton)	This bill would change regulations that apply to Class B-10 and Class B-11, non-resident, elk and deer licenses, by requiring 60% to be allocated to hunters using private outfitting companies. In addition, it would create a \$100 fee for applying to hunt with an outfitter. It also removes the provision allowing for an annual fee adjustment for the licences based on the consumer price index.	Passed Senate- 27-23 Hearing: 03/25/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 317	Oppose

<p>SB 115 Sen. Keith Regier (R - Kalispell)</p>	<p>If passed, this bill would require MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks to have land acquisitions and conservation easements approved by the Land Board if they are larger than 100 acres or cost more than \$100,000. This politicizes the opportunity landowners have to put conservation easements on their land.</p>	<p>Passed Senate-31-19 Passed House-34-36 (S) Transmitted to Governor 3/29</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 241 Rep. Joe Read (R - Ronan)</p>	<p>HB 241 will revise laws related to Tribal hunting boundaries, by opening fee title lands within Montana Indian Reservations to the public for hunting. Posed as an effort to increase public access to hunting opportunities, this idea will actually reignite previously litigated issues about who has access to hunt on fee title lands. Tribal members have this express right, and have worked with state agencies already to allow access. This bill will damage previous collaborations between Montana's sovereign Tribal Nations and our state agencies.</p>	<p>Tabled in Committee -- (H) Fish, Wildlife and Parks</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 305 Rep. Seth Berglee (R -)</p>	<p>This bill makes a simple change to menagerie laws to allow animals that cannot be returned to the wild to live their lives out in MT sanctuaries. Additionally it makes sure that sanctuaries operating in the state carry American sanctuary accreditations.</p>	<p>Passed house-38-2 Passed Senate-37-13 (H) Returned from enrolling 3/29</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB 318 Rep. Kenneth Holmlund (R -Miles City)</p>	<p>This bill tries to clarify the definition of "wild bison" or "wild buffalo" to include "never has been subject to a per capita fee under 15-24-921." The changes are not necessary, and target herds on private lands. The bill was amended by the house, and while amendments make the bill better in some ways, they may make it so that Yellowstone bison that have experienced captivity at some point, to be considered livestock.</p>	<p>Passed House-35-33 Passed Senate-31-19 (S) Returned to House with amendments 3/29</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

<p>HB 302 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R - Fort Benton)</p>	<p>This bill would require approval by a board of county commissioners prior to wild bison or wild buffalo being released into a county. This erodes FWP authority over wildlife, and the bill is written so that prohibiting bison in a county could be enforced by a county growth policy. This would be the only instance when a growth policy has regulatory power. The bill also requires transferred bison to be certified as brucellosis free.</p>	<p>Passed House- 65-33 Hearing: 03/23/2021; 3:00 PM, rm 335</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 311 Rep. Martin Weatherwax (D - Browning)</p>	<p>This bill clarifies that if wild bison are being transported between federal and Tribal entities, and they are certified brucellosis free, that they do not require an additional health certificate from the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>Tabled in Committee * -- (H) Agriculture 2/23</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>SB 153 Sen. Jeffrey W Welborn (R-Dillion)</p>	<p>A bill that would shift river recreation, some fish and wildlife and other management to include the state Parks Board. SB 153, would expand the powers of the Parks Board to include management of numerous streams, as well as wildlife functions.</p>	<p>Passed House- 39-11 (S) Transmitted to House 3/23</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 267 Sen. Bob Brown (R - Thompson Falls)</p>	<p>This bill allows wolf hunters and trappers to be reimbursed for costs incurred while hunting and trapping wolves. It allows the reimbursement of receipts for the costs and amounts to a bounty on wolves. No other wildlife harvest community expects or requests such fringe benefits.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 30-19 Passed House- 60-37 (S) Sent to Enrolling 3/29</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 468 Rep. Paul Fielder (R- Thompson Falls)</p>	<p>HB 468 would allow hound hunting and a chase season for black bears. This bill would result in about a month when black bears are out of hibernation when they're not hunted or harassed. We have a successful black bear hunting season and it's a bill for one small group of people who want a special season.</p>	<p>Passed House- 60-30 Hearing: 03/23/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 303</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

<p>SB 306 Sen. Mike Lang (R - Malta)</p>	<p>This bill would restructure the Fish and Game Commission to require 4 of 7 Fish members to be land owners currently engaged in agricultural operations. It also shifts the commission to have one member from each Fish, Wildlife & Parks region. While we support that provision of the bill, we do not support the landowner provision.</p>	<p>Passed Senate-27-22 (H) Tabled in Committee 3/18</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 360 Sen. Mike Lang (R - Malta)</p>	<p>This bill requires MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks to re-evaluate programs to enhance sport fisheries in Montana, including warm water fisheries like those that support walleye and other non-native species. While we support recreational fishing in Montana, our state wildlife agency needs to prioritize native species management.</p>	<p>Passed Senate-49-0 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 353 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R - Libby)</p>	<p>Hunters would be able to get a replacement license when a big game animal is unfit for consumption due to chronic wasting disease under this bill.</p>	<p>Passed House-86-12 Passed Senate-47-3 (H) Signed by Speaker 3/26</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>SB 337 Sen. Mike Lang (R-Malta)</p>	<p>This bill states that bears found outside the established recovery zones cannot be translocated by the state, and therefore would be killed. It would raise major concerns with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and preclude every delisting grizzly bears because of issues with adequate management protocols to ensure grizzly mortality isn't too high.</p>	<p>Passed Senate-30-19 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HJ 18 Rep. Rob Farris-Olsen (D - Helena)</p>	<p>This resolution urges Wyoming to discontinue artificial feeding of elk on public lands.</p>	<p>Tabled in House Fish, Wildlife & Parks 2/25/2021</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 314 Sen. Bob Brown (R - Thompson Falls)</p>	<p>SB 314 would take extreme measures including baiting, night hunting and no bag limits in an extreme attempt to drive wolf numbers down to a bare minimum number. It's unneeded when we have a</p>	<p>Passed Senate-29-20 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

	sound wolf season and already have the tools with the Fish and Wildlife Commission to manage the population.		
SB 382 Theresa Manzella (R-)	This bill repeals the need for hydro power developers to contribute to the aquatic invasive species fees for preventative actions, despite the fact that hydropower could be one of the most affected industries if mussels take hold in Montana.	Hearing: 03/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 422	Oppose
SB 384 John Esp (R-Busby)	This bill sets a standard, quarterly, fee of \$397.88 per megawatt for hydro power to pay into the Aquatic Invasive species prevention account and it moves \$1 million annually from MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks accounts into the prevention account.	Hearing: 03/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 422	Oppose
HB 367 Rep. Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)	This referendum would put it to the votes of Montana to adopt a constitutional right to “hunt, fish, trap, and harvest wild fish and wildlife, including the right to use current means and methods, which does not create or imply any right of public trespass on private property or diminish in any way vested private property rights. The state shall give preference to hunting, fishing, and trapping by citizens as the primary but not exclusive means of the state’s management of wild fish and wildlife populations”	Passed House-68-32 (H) Transmitted to Senate 3/29	Oppose
Wildlife Program Funding			
SB 58 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R-Eureka)	This bill would create a new account called the “Livestock Loss Reduction Restricted Special Revenue Account” within the “adoption services account” The bill would transfer \$100,000 per biennium from the general fund to this restricted account. Unfortunately 50% of this transfer can be used to fund wildlife services activities, primarily lethal control.	Passed Senate-50-0 Passed house-98-1 (S) Returned from Enrolling 3/23	Oppose as written

<p><u>HB 147</u> Rep. Tom France (D-Bozeman)</p>	<p>This bill would establish a voluntary fund that hunters and anglers could donate to as a grant program for rural Montana communities. It would help with community projects and build relationships between hunters, anglers and landowners/rural communities.</p>	<p>(H)Missed general deadline for transmittal* 3/2</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><u>SB 249</u> Sen. Mike Lang (R - Malta)</p>	<p>This bill proposes a new funding structure for the Sage Grouse Stewardship Act that includes sharing administrative expenses between Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and putting a \$25,000 cap on MSGOT meeting costs while keeping the makeup of MSGOT the same.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 48-2 Hearing: 03/19/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>Climate Change and Energy</p>			
<p><u>SB 63</u> Sen. Duane Ankney (R - Colstrip)</p>	<p>This bill clarifies that the Board of Land Commissioners has the authority to lease land for solar, wind, and geothermal development. This bill allows for exploratory leasing, and requires bonding for the disturbance of a surface lease.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 50-0 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><u>SB 85</u> Sen. Duane Ankney (R - Colstrip)</p>	<p>This bill would raise taxes on wind energy generation, making it less economic for renewable energy developers to build projects in Montana.</p>	<p>Tabled in Committee on 1/29/2021</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><u>HB 17</u> Rep. Jim Hamilton (D - Bozeman)</p>	<p>HB 17 amends the Alternative Energy System Tax Credit to make the tax credits refundable rather than carry forward year-to-year. This change, to a credit that has been permanent since 2002, ensures that taxpayers who invest in alternative energy receive a more immediate monetary benefit following their investment. This change will especially benefit low income individuals looking to invest in alternative energy.</p>	<p>Tabled in Committee on 1/15/2021</p>	<p>Support</p>

<p>HB 170 Rep. Tom Welch (R - Dillon)</p>	<p>HB 170 would arbitrarily lower the tax rate for any facility that uses “green hydrogen.” Green hydrogen means that the hydrogen was formed using renewable energy technology. However, HB 170 gives the extremely low property tax rate of 1.5% of market value to any gas-fired power plant that uses as little as 8% hydrogen. This means a plant burning 92% gas would qualify for the 1.5% tax rate despite the incremental reduction in the use of fossil fuels.</p>	<p>Passed House-84-14 Hearing: 03/23/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 317</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 147 Sen. Mary McNally (D-Billings)</p>	<p>This bill would provide business owners and agricultural producers access to 100% upfront financing to make energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their properties. Called “CPACE”, this type of financing is similar to the system we use to finance streetlights, sidewalks, and parks - an assessment on the annual property tax bill. The program is voluntary, and allows financing up to 20 years.</p>	<p>Passed Senate-28-22 03/12/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB 273 Rep. Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)</p>	<p>HB 273 will repeal laws pertaining to the Major Facility Siting Act. Under the Act, voters have to approve or reject a proposed nuclear facility and HB 273 will repeal that language. Repealing this language severely weakens the public’s say in whether or not Montana pursues nuclear energy, and, instead, forces Montanans to deal with the repercussions whether they want the nuclear facility or not.</p>	<p>Passed House-68-32 Hearing: 03/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 317</p>	<p>oppose</p>
<p>SB 197 Sen. Janet Ellis (D - Helena)</p>	<p>SB 197 would make it easier for developers to build small-scale community renewable energy projects and sell the electricity to NorthWestern Energy. The bill eliminates the requirement that developers of these small projects must live in Montana,</p>	<p>Tabled Senate Energy 2/24/2021</p>	<p>Support</p>

	something NorthWestern has used to avoid purchasing electricity from these community-based projects.		
HB 387 Rep. Ed Stafman (D-Bozeman)	This bill would save consumers money and reduce carbon pollution. Specifically, the bill would prevent utilities in Montana from contracting with power production facilities that emit more than 1.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide for each megawatt hour. These facilities are incredibly expensive for NorthWestern to purchase power from, and emit a disproportionate amount of carbon pollution relative to other sources. The bill also provides planning regarding transition for these facilities.	Tabled House Energy 2/19/2021	Support
HB 475 Rep. Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)	This bill allows Montana utilities to incorporate hydropower into their Renewable Portfolio Standard. Adding hydropower to the RPS would defeat the law's intent and disrupt positive market influences on Montana's energy sector.	Passed House-68-31 Hearing: 03/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 317	Oppose
HB 414 Rep. Andrea Olsen (D - Missoula)	This bill requires utilities to draft a plan to transition to 100% renewable energy.	Tabled in House Energy 2/24/2021	Support

<p>SB 257 Jason D Small (R-)</p>	<p>eliminates local governments (i.e. cities, towns, and counties) from enacting or adopting any ordinance or regulation that includes any fees, taxation, or penalties for the use of fossil fuel based energy consumption (carbon). Several cities and towns in Montana have adopted 100% clean energy goals on behalf of their citizens, and are considering “green tariffs” as a way to advance the clean energy goals in their communities. This bill would prohibit them from addressing climate change at a local level, and in a way that is responsive to their constituents.</p>	<p>Passed Senate 33-16 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 237 Douglas Kary (R-Billings)</p>	<p>Sb 237 would eliminate the obligation of NorthWestern Energy’s shareholders to pay a \$2.5 million penalty to state and tribal low-income energy assistance programs. A court found that NorthWestern had failed to make a reasonable effort to comply with the community renewable energy provision in the state’s renewable energy standard in both 2015 and 2016. This bill retroactively eliminates this obligation of NorthWestern’s shareholders to support low-income programs for its failure. NorthWestern claims that the law is unworkable, yet Montana Dakota Utility has complied with the law.</p>	<p>Hearing: 03/17/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472</p>	
<p>SB 358 John Esp (R- Big Timber)</p>	<p>SB 358 would eliminate numeric nutrient standards that are currently established and enforced by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality through administrative rules. This bill would result in more nutrients in our rivers and streams. Nutrient pollution has major impacts to human health and aquatic ecosystems.</p>	<p>Hearing: 03/29/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

HB 576 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R - Circle)	This bill repeals Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires renewable energy to make up a portion of Montana utilities. This law was intended to have positive influences on the renewable energy sector.	Passed house-68-31 Hearing: 03/23/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 317	Oppose
General Environmental Protection			
HB 265 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)	HB 265 would require food establishments and other establishments to phase out their use of styrofoam over a two year timeline from 2022 - 2024. January 1, 2024: Food establishments and restaurants may not serve food or beverages using styrofoam. January 1, 2025: Food establishments, restaurants, hotels, and resorts may not serve, package, or provide styrofoam with food or beverages. January 1, 2026: a food packager may not package meat, eggs, bakery products, or other food in styrofoam.	Tabled in Committee house Business and Labor 2/12/2021	Support
SB 53 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R - Dillon)	This bill would exempt the permitting of decorative rock quarries from having to conduct an environmental review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Currently, rock quarries are permitted under the Hardrock Mining Reclamation Act, and are often evaluated under a "checklist" environmental assessment to assure that the environmental consequences of the proposal are fully considered.	Passed Senate- 42-8 Passed House- 39-31 (S) Transmitted to Governor 3/29	Oppose
HB 352 Jedediah Hinkle (R-Belgrade)	HB 352 would revise conservation easements to require public access. This in turn would make a conservation easement less appealing to potential partners.	Tabled in Committee House 2/23/2021	Oppose

<p><u>SB 164</u> Sen. Carl Glimm (R - Kila)</p>	<p>This bill would increase the standards for allowable pollution of nitrates to 10 milligrams per liter. Nitrates are commonly associated with sewage. This is the maximum pollution allowed under the Clean Water Act, and will likely lead to violations of narrative water quality standards for fishable, swimmable, and drinkable rivers and streams.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 29-20 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><u>SB 180</u> Sen. Pat Flowers (D-Bozeman)</p>	<p>SB 180 will establish an interim committee on soil health.</p>	<p>(S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal * 3/2</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><u>SB 260</u> Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R - Great Falls)</p>	<p>SB 260 would require the state to compensate landowners whenever a regulation diminishes the value of private property by 25% regardless of the need for the regulation for public health, welfare or safety reasons.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 31-19 Headed to house floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><u>SB 324</u> Sen. Mike Cuffe (R-Eureka)</p>	<p>This bill would change the definition of a steady state in regards to selenium concentrations in both Lake Kootenai and the Kootenai river, in an attempt to change DEQ administrative rules in place to protect fish health in the region.</p>	<p>(S) Tabled in Committee * -- (S) Natural Resources 2/26</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><u>HB 498</u> Rep. Steve Gunderson (R - Libby)</p>	<p>This bill seeks to clarify that a resolution or rule adopted pursuant to oil and gas regulation may not prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral that is under the jurisdiction of the board of oil and gas, including sand and gravel.</p>	<p>Passed House- 36-33 Headed to senate floor</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><u>HB 599</u> Rep. Steve Gunderson (R - Libby)</p>	<p>HB599 is a radical rewrite of gravel pit laws to cut the public out of the permitting process in most instances. The bill eliminates dozens of requirements for gravel pit operators, prohibits DEQ from: limiting the hours of operation of pits; requiring range or wildlife "fire prevention and control" measures; and consideration of acid mine drainage or</p>	<p>Passed House- 37-32 On senate floor 3/29</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

	sedimentation on adjoining lands or waterways. Finally, it completely excludes notification and involvement of neighboring landowners in most gravel pit permitting processes.		
Public Lands, Recreation & Parks			
HB 320 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R -Libby)	This bill would prohibit the state from selling any land transferred to it by the Federal government. While in theory this bill is meant to settle conservationists worry about the loss of public lands, preventing the state from selling acquired lands also hampers them from making strategic land swaps and purchases when necessary.	Passed House-51-49 Transferred to Senate Natural Resources	Oppose
HB 281 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R -Libby)	This bill clarifies that “e-bikes” or electrical bikes cannot be regulated like other off highway vehicles that are powered by more than muscle or wind energy. This makes sense in some cases, however ebikes have many more potential impacts compared to traditional, self-powered bicycles.	Failed Senate 2nd reading 25-25	Oppose
HB 382 Rep. Willis Curdy (D - Missoula)	This bill prohibits the use, but not possession of, exploding targets on state lands during times of extreme fire danger, as defined by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.	Passed house-51-42 Headed to senate floor	Support
HB 647 Rep. Steven Galloway (R-)	SB 647 would revise non resident student hunting and fishing fees.	Hearing: 3/25/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172	Oppose
HB 418 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R -Libby)	This bad access bill would threaten our wilderness, and other public lands with road-building pressure in the name of increasing recreational access only. It is an effort to make historic federal rights-of-way open to the state as public highways.	Failed House 2nd Reading 50-50	Support
Subdivisions & Land Use Planning			

<p>SB 161 Sen. John Esp (R - Big Timber)</p>	<p>This bill would allow for certain subdivisions in zoned areas to be permitted without being subjected to the environmental review process. The exemptions would apply in incorporated cities or towns that are zoned and operating under a growth policy. The problem is that the bill would apply to future land areas annexed by a city, would not restrict the exemption to areas zoned as high density (thus allowing more room for wildlife habitat effects), and this exemption does not allow for adequate planning in response to growing communities.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 50-0 Passed Senate- 93-5 (S) Returned from Enrolling 3/26</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 165 Sen. Carl Glimm (R - Kila)</p>	<p>This bill would eliminate sanitation review for subdivisions of land that are greater than 500 feet from surface waters and exempt minor subdivisions of land from having to conduct a storm drainage review. It also appears to exempt expansions of systems designed for wastewater disposal, storm water, and solid waste disposal from review</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 31-18 (H) Tabled in Committee 3/29</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 211 Steve Fitzpatrick (R- Great Falls)</p>	<p>SB211 without justification, excludes from subdivision review considerations of the effects of loss of agricultural soils.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 31-19 Passed house- 66-33</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>SB 174 Greg Hertz (R- Polson)</p>	<p>SB174 unnecessarily limits the long-established ability of local governments to place conditions on subdivisions to mitigate their impacts. The bill's retroactively to already approved subdivisions and its subjective criteria puts local governments at heightened risk for lawsuits.</p>	<p>Passed Senate- 32-18 Hearing: 03/11/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 472</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>HB 470 Rep. Marty Malone (R -</p>	<p>HB 470 makes zoning more difficult in Montana by limiting the ability of county commissioners to form and regulate planning boards. HB470 mandates a referendum upon petition of 15% of the</p>	<p>(H) Tabled in Committee * -- (H) Local Government</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

	registered voters in the district to eliminate all or part of an adopted zoning plan. This disenfranchises electors outside of a zoning district who have a stake in those decisions, and bypasses the will of counties and local governments.		
<u>SB 284</u> Senator Russ Temple (R - Chester)	This bill would remove the requirement for mitigation through the state sage-grouse conservation program for gravel pits permitted by a county. Though the creation of gravel pits can have a number of long-term habitat impacts, this exemption chips away at a strong state conservation program that requires the participation of all stakeholders.	Passed Senate 31-18 Hearing: 03/31/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172	Oppose
General Government			
<u>SB 323</u> Sen. Chris Friedel (R-Billings)	SB 323 would amend the Montana Administrative Procedures Act to require agencies to prepare economic impact statements for all of their proposed rule changes. Currently, if requested by 15 legislators this is already possible. The bill takes power away from agencies, no longer allowing them to propose or amend rules with economic impacts of \$1million or more a year. These rules would have to be passed through legislation.	Hearing: 03/12/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 317	Oppose
<u>HB 407</u> Rep. Mark Noland (R - Big Fork)	This bill prohibits local governments from establishing local ordinances, resolutions, initiatives, or referendums regarding auxiliary food containers like single-use plastic and styrofoam.	Passed House- 64-34 Headed to senate floor	Oppose