

Involving the public and encouraging the participation of stakeholders in decisions that may affect them and their environment is imperative for the democratic process. Encouraging knowledge and understanding of the environment through getting people outside is one the most important ways to build long-term conservation in Montana. Grassroots advocacy is an important resource to tap for change. The mobilization of groups of people to protest, hold rallies, or call their elected officials is an effective way of involving people in the public process, with the opportunity to make a significant difference. More than ever, it is important for us to have ample opportunity for public involvement in adequate comment periods and unabated freedom of information requests. Montana Audubon opposes barriers to public participation, working to keep all Montanans educated, involved, and prepared to mobilize on behalf of issues important to the mission of Montana Audubon.



The policy of Montana Audubon regarding Grassroots Advocacy & Public Participation is to:

- Educate the public and decision makers about our Mission and how it is connected to opportunities for public participation
- Support advocacy related to the mission of Montana Audubon, keep Montana Audubon involved at a grassroots level, create future advocates, and take advantage of social communication methods and of our status as a state-wide organization
- Understand and support partnerships with aligned missions as policy issues arise, recognizing that some issues require uncommon allies (e.g. sage-grouse conservation requiring work with oil and gas)
- Advocate against issues that impact our ability to function and execute our mission as a non-profit - including limits to organizing or submitting public input
- Educate and encourage individuals to participate in comment periods concerning issues important to the mission of Montana Audubon
- Advocate for transparent elections and sharing of information