



**TREASURE STATE**  
**RESOURCES ASSOCIATION**  
OF MONTANA

P.O Box 1700, Helena, Montana 59624  
Phone: (406) 443-5541

TREASURE STATE RESOURCES ASSOCIATION NEWS  
November 2024





# MONTANA SAGE GROUSE

## Habitat Conservation Program

### Public Notice

## Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team

### Listening Session

**October 31, 2024**

The Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) will meet on Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Big Sky Room (3rd floor) in the DNRC Headquarters building and via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend. Stakeholders and the public are invited to share their thoughts and perspectives regarding the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program.

This will be MSGOT's second listening session providing stakeholders and the public an opportunity to provide input and feedback about the Program.

**Stakeholders and the public are invited to attend in person or participate virtually via Zoom.**

[Register Here](#)

Registration is also available by contacting the Program at [Sagegrouse@mt.gov](mailto:Sagegrouse@mt.gov). Requests should be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024. Requests received after that time will be accommodated to the best of our ability.

MSGOT oversees implementation of Montana's Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy by the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program.

Meeting Agenda appears below:

## AGENDA

Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team

October 31, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

DNRC Headquarters, Big Sky Conference Room, 3rd floor and Zoom

**10:00 - 10:05 Call to Order and Administrative Matters, Michael Freeman, MSGOT Chair**

- Introductions and Video Conference Logistics

**10:05 - 11:30: MSGOT Listening session stakeholder public comments**

**NOTE:** Agenda item times are approximate. Actual times may vary by up to one hour. Attendees who may need services or special accommodations should contact Therese Hartman (406-594-2671) or [thartman@mt.gov](mailto:thartman@mt.gov) at least five working days before the meeting.

**Contact:** Therese Hartman

**Position:** Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program

**Email:** [THartman@mt.gov](mailto:THartman@mt.gov)

**Phone:** (406) 444-1467

**Website:** <https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/>

*The Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program works to sustain viable populations of sage grouse and conserve habitat, enabling Montanans*

*to maintain control of their lands, wildlife, and economy by avoiding a listing of the greater sage grouse under the federal Endangered Species Act.*

The Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program is hosted by the  
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Stay Connected with Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program  
1539 Eleventh Avenue  
Helena MT 59601

[Program Information](#) | [Oversight Team](#)

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## Federal Election Insights Webinar by Holland & Hart

Three of Holland and Hart's federal government affairs team, [Troy M. Lyons](#), [Andrew R. Wheeler](#), and [Doug H. Benevento](#), will be offering election insights, including some thoughts about how different election outcomes could affect appointments, policy, and legislation of interest to TSRA members.

Date and time:

Thursday, October 31, 2024, 12:00 PM | (UTC-06:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

Join link:

<https://hollandhart.webex.com/hollandhart/j.php?MTID=ma97061b41f025013f58811df2eb09f20>

Webinar number:

2862 984 6363

Webinar password:

**2024Election** (20243532 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by phone

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Access code: 286 298 46363

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## **Gov. Gianforte Recognizes Weyerhaeuser Raw Materials During Montana Forest Products Week**

### *Presents annual Forest Products Award*

COLUMBIA FALLS, Mont. — Governor Gianforte this week presented his annual Forest Products Award to the Weyerhaeuser Raw Materials Team at their Flathead Valley facility during Montana Forest Products Week in recognition of their steadfast commitment to active forest management and the production of Montana wood products.

“While the forest products marketplace continues to evolve in the face of significant challenges, companies like Weyerhaeuser Raw Materials are helping support our economy and responsibly manage our forests,” Gov. Gianforte said. “The Weyerhaeuser Team has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication.”

The honorees of the Governor’s Forest Products Award included Weyerhaeuser team members Shaney Neuharth, Zack Miller, Milo Funk, and Jacob Parent. Miller and Parent focus on sustainable forest management and raw material procurement to ensure non-sawlog materials are used productively. Funk manages by-product procurement, handling over 400,000 tons annually, and Neuharth leads initiatives to utilize slash material for heating systems, reducing reliance on natural gas and lowering emissions.

“When you dedicate your career to this industry, it’s nice to be recognized and being able to share our story and the impact we have on our communities and the forests,” Neuharth said of receiving the award. When you dedicate your career to this industry, it’s nice to be recognized and being able to share our story and the impact we have on our communities and the forests,” Neuharth said of receiving the award.

Beyond their operational roles, the team is involved in community education, from teaching University of Montana students about manufacturing processes to engaging fifth graders at the Annual Forestry Expo.

“Congratulations to the dedicated raw materials team at Weyerhaeuser whose valuable contributions to the forest products industry help create necessary products for building and manufacturing while also serving as an important partner in managing our forest’s health,” said Montana’s Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director Amanda Kaster.

Gov. Gianforte’s Forest Products Award recognizes an outstanding person or entity for their work to actively manage Montana forests, responsibly develop forested resources, and/or promote the use of Montana wood products.

On Tuesday, the governor signed a proclamation recognizing Oct. 20-26 as Montana Forest Products week to promote the forest products industry and recognize its many contributions to Montana.

The proclamation may be viewed [here](#).

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# Legislature aims to require waiver for public access to behind-the-scene bill drafting discussions

Changes made after July court decision that sought records of PSC redistricting bill

BY: **BLAIR MILLER** - OCTOBER 2, 2024 5:25 PM [HTTPS://DAILYMONTANAIN.COM/2024/10/02/LEGISLATURE-AIMS-TO-REQUIRE-WAIVER-FOR-PUBLIC-ACCESS-TO-BEHIND-THE-SCENE-BILL-DRAFTING-DISCUSSIONS/](https://dailymontanain.com/2024/10/02/legislature-aims-to-require-waiver-for-public-access-to-behind-the-scene-bill-drafting-discussions/)

Montana lawmakers might have to sign a waiver to allow the public to see written communications between them, legislative staff, lobbyists and others that detail how bills are crafted and written, and who is involved in behind-the-scenes discussions that influence the laws legislators create every two years.

Last week, the Legislative Services Division, which [writes bills for lawmakers](#), sent emails to senators who are not up for re-election this year and who have requested bill drafts for next year. They said that legal staff interpreted a Lewis and Clark County District Court judge's decision from July to mean that those communications, compiled in what is called a "junque file," are privileged and off limits to the public.

"The takeaway from our analysis of the opinion is that you are entitled to claim legislative privilege for certain correspondence and information that is gathered while drafting legislation," the letter said. [\(click here for the full article\)](#)

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### **TSRA Contact Information:**

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1700, Helena, Montana. 59624

TSRA Phone: 406-443-5541

Website: <http://treasurestateresources.org/>

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### **Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

#### **Legislator Orientation**

November 12-14

State Capital

#### **Upcoming Events/Dates:**

November 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

[42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Suppliers Meeting – Montana Coal Council](#)

Billings Depot, Billings MT

December 4-6, 2024

Montana Stockgrowers Annual Convention and Trade Show

Billings, MT

January 7, 2025

TSRA Legislative Showcase and Reception

Delta Colonial Hotel

May 28-30, 2025

Montana Stockgrowers Midyear Meeting

Butte, MT

*If you don't want to receive the TSRA Newsletter, please let me know. If you want to share with others in your company or organization, please do so. The mission of the Treasure State Resources Association is to promote and enhance the Montana Way of Life through responsible resource development.*