

JON TESTER

Fighting to Protect Public Lands

“Montana’s public lands aren’t just a hobby; they are our way of life and the backbone of our economy. You don’t need to be a millionaire to hunt, fish, or hike in these treasured landscapes, because they belong to all of us. I will always fight to keep public lands in public hands and defend our outdoor way of life for our kids and grandkids.”

Jon Tester

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Jon has been Montana’s greatest champion in Congress for the *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* – the landmark program that funds conservation and recreation priorities for Montana’s public lands for generations to come. Jon first introduced legislation to fully and permanently fund the LWCF in 2009.

After fighting tooth and nail for years, Jon successfully passed his *Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)* to fully fund the LWCF at \$900 million annually, which was signed into law by President Trump in 2020.

In just one year, Jon secured more than \$46.6 million in LWCF resources through the GAOA for Montana National Forests, public land acquisition, long-overdue maintenance, and conservation projects. Jon successfully pressured the Interior Department to cut burdensome regulations that put red tape on private landowners and made it difficult to sell their land through LWCF.

Yellowstone Gateway Protection

Some places are more precious than gold. Jon’s *Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act* permanently banned toxic gold mining in 30,000 acres of Gallatin National Forest in the Paradise Valley north of Yellowstone National Park and was signed into law by President Trump in 2019.



Protecting Montana Rivers

Jon has been the leading advocate for the conservation of our state’s wildest streams and rivers, fighting relentlessly to protect them for Montana’s future generations. Jon passed his legislation designating 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek as “Wild and Scenic,” the first Montana river to receive the classification since 1976.

Jon worked with local landowners, ranchers, advocates, and recreationists to write and introduce the *Montana Headwaters Legacy Act*, which would protect 384 miles of Montana’s most iconic rivers, including the Gallatin, the Madison, and the Smith.

JON TESTER FOR U.S. SENATE

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Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act

Jon has been relentlessly fighting to pass the *Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act* to create good-paying jobs and protect our outdoors for years to come. The BCSA is a made-in-Montana bill and the result of a decade of collaboration between the timber industry, sportsmen organizations, ranchers, and business owners. Jon's bill would:

- Expand the Bob Marshall, Mission Mountain, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas by 79,000 acres, including 39,000 acres in the Monture Creek area and 7,784 in the Grizzly Basin.
- Designate two recreation management areas in the Lolo National Forest: a 2,200-acre winter area open to snowmobiling known as the Otatsy Recreation Management Area; and a 3,800-acre open to mountain biking in the Spread Mountain Recreation Area.
- Ban oil and gas exploration and most timber harvest in the Otatsy Recreation Area.
- Enhance timber harvests and prompt active forest management in the Seeley Lake area.

Defending Montana's Public Lands

Jon is a fierce advocate for Montana's public lands, and he has always stood up to those who want to transfer, sell, or eliminate our state's greatest natural treasures. Jon will never stop fighting to protect our public lands and the \$7.1 billion dollar outdoor economy they create.

Jon repeatedly stood up to extreme, anti-public lands activist William Perry Pendley, who was installed as the head of the Bureau of Land Management, holding his feet to the fire to protect Montana's most treasured areas, like the Badger-Two Medicine. And Jon's *Inflation Reduction Act* provided \$26 million in Bureau of Land Management funding for landscape restoration and resilience projects across Montana.

Wildfire Mitigation

Fire seasons in Montana have grown longer and more destructive. Jon is fighting to make sure our public lands are managed properly and that our firefighters receive the tools, resources, and fair compensation for the brave work they do to protect our Montana communities.

Jon's *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* includes \$3.37 billion for reducing wildfire risk, including through prescribed burns, mechanical thinning, and restoring and rehabilitating burned areas.

When the Forest Service spent half of its budget fighting wildfires, Jon passed a fix that allows the Forest Service and Interior Department to access the same funding used to respond to other natural disasters, freeing up the Forest Service budget to manage forests, maintain roads and trails, and mitigate future fires.

Jon's *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* included \$600 million in pay increases for more than 10,000 wildland firefighters, and he is fighting to pass the *Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act* to make those increases permanent.

Yellowstone National Park Disaster Funding

Following the devastating flooding in Yellowstone National Park, Jon used his position as a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee to lead the fight to secure critical resources to support impacted small businesses and communities and rebuild the infrastructure in the Park.

Jon secured \$916 million for Yellowstone National Park for flood recovery, including rebuilding campgrounds, cabins, and roads to fully reopen entrances to the park that were forced to close. Jon also worked across the aisle to secure assurance from the Forest Service that impacted guides, outfitters, and small businesses would receive support and flexibility in finding alternative options to operate on public lands following the disaster.



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