

PLWA'S TOP FIVE



MAINTAINING, RESTORING, AND PERPETUATING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF ALL MONTANA'S PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS.



OUR MISSION:

The Public Land Water Access Association is dedicated to maintaining, restoring, and perpetuating public access to the boundaries of all Montana's public lands and waters.

The rights of Montanans to recreate on public lands and waterways is enshrined in the State Constitution. PLWA works to educate about this right, maintain and enhance access, and ensure that our state's wild places remain in public hands for years to come.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Protecting access to public lands and waters.
- Educating public land owners about their access rights.
- Monitoring public access routes and identifying access problems, such as illegal gates and fences.
- Attempting to reopen lands where access has been blocked illegally, and initiating legal action if necessary.
- Monitoring public land sales, exchanges, and purchases to ensure conservation and recreational access issues are fully considered.
- Initiating programs and policies to ensure public land and water access into the future.
- Creating partnerships to monitor proposed legislation, rule makings, and other legislative and administrative actions that impact access.



1. In 1985, PLWA and the MT Coalition for Stream Access successfully led the fight to establish the **Stream Access Law**, enshrining the public's right to access MT waters into the State Constitution.



3. In 2009, PLWA won the Ruby River case, leading to the **Bridge Access Law**. Montanans can legally access public waters from public bridges due to this historic victory built upon the Stream Access Law.



2. In 1988 PLWA members sued to open State Trust Lands to the public. Our successful suit opened **over 5 million** acres of School Trust and adjoining Federal Lands to recreation.



4. In 2016, PLWA used the Ruby River decision to persuade Fish Wildlife and Parks' to provide public access at **Lewis Lane**, thereby putting the law into practice.



5. In 2019 PLWA won an important battle in the **Hughes Creek** case when the Montana Supreme Court ruled the gate is illegal and must be removed.

CURRENT PROJECTS

MABEE ROAD APPEAL

A **locked gate** has blocked a critical route to a huge chunk of the Missouri Breaks National Monument since 2007. We continue to fight in court to restore this access.

CRAZY MOUNTAINS

PLWA has funded increased research on access issues in the **East Crazy Mountains**. This project represents an enormous amount of essential wildlife habitat, access to pristine Montana lands and waters, and an important opportunity for Montanans to access recreational activities.

HUGHES CREEK

After the Montana Supreme Court ruled that the gate blocking access at Hughes Creek in Ravalli County was illegal, it was ordered to be removed. Currently local authorities are refusing to pursue such action. PLWA and partners continue to fight to see the court order enforced and the legal access reopened.

INDIVIDUALS: HOW TO HELP



MEMBERSHIP

If you love Montana and you care about public lands & waters, become a member!



DONATE

Head to www.plwa.org to learn ways to support PLWA and to donate.



VOLUNTEER

Researching access complaints and advocating for access helps us thrive. We'd love your help!



HOST

Throw a dinner or drinks event to educate about our mission and fundraise.



CONTRIBUTE

Like to write? Have video, computer, or photography skills? Tell us where you fit in at PLWA.



CONTRIBUTE

Head to www.plwa.org to learn ways to support PLWA and contribute to our organization.

ORGANIZATIONS: HOW TO HELP



SPONSOR

If you love Montana and you care about **public lands & waters**, become a major Sponsor!



DONATE

We are always looking for great **auction items** to support our cause and let folks know about the companies that care about public access!



HOST

Throw a pub night or a **social event** to educate about our mission and fundraise.



PARTNER

Does your organization have the same goals as we do? Become a PLWA **Partner** and work with us.

PUBLIC LAND WATER ACCESS ASSOCIATION INC.

PLWA is a registered 501c3 charity under the State of Montana



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