

MONTANA COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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BACKGROUND:

Conservation and outdoor activities have been part of scouting since the beginning of the Scouting movement. The first Boy Scout leaders including Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Ernest Thompson Seton https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Thompson_Seton, and U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt recognized the inherent value of conservation to the core of the Scouting experience.

The Boy Scouts of America require that each council form a conservation committee to provide professional guidance and support to those tasked with the management of properties in accordance with sound resource management principles and in compliance with the laws and statutes Federal, State, and local applicable to those properties.

The conservation committee is also tasked with promoting advancement activities and awards that have been created to encourage Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers to be well grounded in the principles of conservation.

The Montana Council is located in an outstanding environment to teach and promote conservation for all Scouts and Scout Leaders. The need for integrating conservation education and conservation principles into all aspects of Scouting is increasing every day. We will work with and provide professional support to you as you integrate conservation in all aspects of the Scouting experience in Montana including unit activities, summer camps, outdoor adventures, and award programs.

MISSION STATEMENT: MONTANA COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Council Conservation Committee provides the Montana Council with professional expertise in multiple resource fields to include ecology, conservation, and management to support:

- Policy making and operational decisions regarding the management of the Council's natural resources.
- The promotion of conservation-related training.
- The advancement of conservation programs.

The duties of the Chair of the Committee and opportunities and responsibilities for Committee members:

Conservation Committee Chair:

- Reports to the Vice President Administration, Montana Council BSA
- Attends Council Executive Board meetings as the Chair of a Committee of the Board.

- Reviews and approves all Hornaday Award applications for the Council.
- Nominates Conservation Committee members.
- Organizes regular and special and leads Conservation Committee meetings.
- Facilitates communication with Council Scouts and Scouters about conservation education and contribution opportunities by using appropriate outreach and messaging. Participates in Wood Badge, Powder Horn, and NYLT courses as requested promoting Conservation Committee projects and conservation opportunities available in the Council.
- Reports to the Montana Council Board on the work of the Conservation Committee and conservation award progress. Examples include Eagle Scout projects involving conservation efforts such as bat box construction, cooperative projects with agencies on conservation, and energy saving or recycling projects.
- Organizes and updates reports on conservation issues and conservation considerations for each Scout Camp in Montana with the input and participation of the Conservation Committee members. These reports are submitted to the Council and the leadership for each camp (property).
- Supports the various Council and Camp Committees in their development of and updating of the conservation plans for each Scout property in Montana addressing issues to include weed management, wildlife management, vegetation management, and water quality.

COMMITTEE MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES:

Communications – Work with the Conservation Committee Chair and Committee members in accessing or developing educational materials and reporting monthly news items to district and council newsletters and social media in support of the Council Vice President - Public Affairs.

Special Projects – As assigned, Committee members may be responsible for handling any special conservation oriented projects or activities sponsored or supported by the Conservation Committee or the various Committees of the Montana Council.

Scholarship Advocate – Seeks funding and support for educational scholarships for conservation projects and Hornaday projects as approved by the Montana Council.

Scouter Awareness – Promotes the conservation programs at roundtables and district committees. Examples include training Scouters in Leave-No-Trace techniques, explanation of Hornaday awards, special conservation projects, and special opportunities to assist agencies.

Conservation Summer Camps Representative(s)- Responsible for supporting conservation projects and education at Council and District summer and day camp programs relating to nature and environmental activities and the promotion of outdoor ethic programs.

Forestry & Fire Management Contact – Support the inventory of and recommend appropriate management practices and actions that guide the use of the forest resources present on council properties. Support the development of site specific fire management plan for those properties by the designated property (camp) committee.

Hazard Tree Contact – Periodically identify and recommend measures to mitigate or eliminate hazard trees and other potential natural hazards to human use on council properties.

Non Timber Forest Products Contact – Identify potential non timber forest products present or possible on council properties and support the designated property (camp) committee in the management of their development.

Soils & Geology Contact – Monitor and guide the management of the soil resources and the geological resources present on council properties.

Wildlife & Fisheries – Identify and guide the management of the wildlife and fisheries present on council properties.

Please contact Chris Servheen, at grizz@umontana.edu if you are interested in learning more about or assisting the Montana Council Conservation Committee. If you have expertise or background in natural resource conservation, we would like to hear from you about what you can contribute.