

ISSUE 13 | FALL/WINTER 2023

THE CHANGING TIMES

NATURE CONNECTION – CLIMATE ACTIVISM
CREATIVITY – EDUCATION – CULTURAL CHANGE
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE – LOCAL FOOD



WHO WE ARE

The Changing Times is a biannual publication of Families For A Livable Climate that invites community-wide response to these turbulent and revolutionary times, seeking submissions from people of all ages and backgrounds. In this space, we share stories, express love for the world around us, and offer ways for everyone to get involved in answering the call to change - in ourselves, our families, our communities, and our country. We know this work happens by challenging our systems and leaders; conversing on racial justice, resiliency, grief work, activism, youth empowerment, education, intergenerational support, local living, and traditional knowledge; and connecting with one another through our relationship with nature and the creative arts. While the magazine is based in Missoula, MT we consider “conversations with the peripheries,” throughout Montana and beyond to be vital, so anyone is welcome to subscribe and/ or submit.

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Meg Smith
Editor

Sarah Capdeville
Editor

Megan Thornton
Editor

Sydney Bollinger
Layout Designer

Winona Bateman
FLC Director

Sarah Lundquist
FLC Communications Director

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FROM THE EDITOR

I attended the Robin Wall Kimmerer lecture at the University of Montana this October and during her discussion of using the word "it" to talk about non-human nature, I was reminded of the power of language in framing the way we think.

What does it mean to be "from"?

Am I from Montana? From Great Falls? From this square inch of land with this exact rock?

Or is it more appropriate to say "of"?

I am of the Rocky Mountain Front, drastic mountain faces and stiff, chilly winds.

I am of endless prairies, cut deep with bush-thick draws.

I am of wind-crusts, harsh snow fields.

"Of" is used to express a relationship between a part and a whole. "From" means the point in which a journey starts.

To think we are "from" something means to assume that we simply start there - leaving it behind us as we live, grow, and die.

To be "of" somewhere acknowledges that we are part of a larger whole, a place that existed before us and after us. A place which that we never leave, because we are "of" it. How lucky that we get to carry it in us.

I marvel at how each issue of *The Changing Times* organically forms its own theme. I wait each issue until every submission has come in, letting them guide the direction of this letter.

This issue our contributors engage with place - sharing their stories of what they are "of". Be it the many places a family can be of, the landscapes we are of, or the stories of the people where we are of. Even the stories of how we fight to protect what we are of.

So we present to you a collection of "ofs" - and encourage you to think about what you are "of".

– Meg Smith, Editor

EMILY MCMEEKIN

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOVE

My husband and I met fifteen years ago outside of Jackson, WY. He was a bearded bluegrass musician from Vermont working the lifts at Grand Targhee. I was a wild-haired, unemployed former-forester from Washington State just passing through. Everything I owned was inside of and strapped onto my old Corolla, including a bright green sea kayak looking beyond out of place in early December. Neither of us were looking for a mate. My heart had been newly wounded and he declared open arms only for powder days and late nights picking tunes.

We promptly fell in love and I moved in soon thereafter. After several ski seasons

and graduate school back East, we settled in the Rockies as it felt like our region... not rural Vermont and not seaside Washington. Our family now lives just outside Missoula on 10 acres bordering the Lolo National Forest.

Travel for us is mostly local. Our kids are learning how to fly fish, row the raft, and how to out-ski their parents. We're doing our best to instill a love for the outdoors (easy) and also to be resilient (less easy). The outdoors as we know it is fast changing. While we do not want them to be fearful, we want them to take note. We want them to feel a deep connection AND a deep responsibility so that at least a layer of their life's work can be spent as

advocates for their rivers, forests, mountains, and climate.

Once a year we try to schlep the kids to the east and west coasts. Upon arriving in New England the humidity transforms our bodies into sticky, frizzy filth. We find swimming holes that my husband can remember flipping into as a kid. On the backroads of Vermont our children were noticeably uncomfortable taking in every washed out bridge, flooded field, and muddy sign of angry water from the summer's frequent storms. In Portland, ME, our friend's backyard forest was covered in a new, gooey moss. We take note. Mainers had experienced a rainy June, a rainy July, and our early August weekend camping at a music festival was defined by 9 hours seeking shelter during relentless rains and a flash flood. August is usually Maine's driest month.

Our time in Washington was defined by unreasonable heat and pink-tinged light from Canadian wildfires. Lake Crescent, the second-deepest lake in the state, felt oddly warm. My parents could talk of climate change and nothing else. I began to cringe when they repetitively brought up the dying Western Red Cedar trees dotting their property, the thirsty rhododendrons, and the browning ferns. I ran through the backyard to the national park trails I grew up on. The Olympic Rainforest was not soggy or dripping with the usual cool moisture I feel in my roots; it felt parched and steamy with heat. McDonald Creek was all but dry.



PHOTO | EMILY MCMEEKIN

Back in Montana, friends congratulated us that we “missed a lot of smoke” and “chose such a good time of the year to leave”. Yet everywhere we traveled we had to be resilient and focus on the more pleasant parts of our trip: connecting with our dear far-away family. Children, please do not be afraid of our changing planet. YES my dears, stay connected to us and your home; YES listen to your bodies and open your arms to falling in love; and YES fight like hell alongside your parents to make sense of this world and this weather and this smoke and this life. Relish in the love for our planet and our family, and stay calm as we work to save it all.

SARAH LUNDQUIST

HELD VS. MONTANA

WHAT'S NEXT?



In June 2023, Montana youth made history: A group of 16 young people from across the state successfully sued the State of Montana in the first youth-led and the first constitutional climate lawsuit to go to trial in the United States - *Held v. State of Montana*.

The plaintiffs argued that, by supporting a fossil fuel-driven energy system, the State of Montana is violating their rights to a clean and healthful environment; to seek safety, health, and happiness; and to individual dignity and equal protection of the law.

The trial took place June 12-20, 2023 in Helena, Montana, with the Honorable Judge Kathy Seeley presiding. In their case, the plaintiffs and their legal team thoughtfully and thoroughly detailed the history of the State's efforts to erode environmental protections - efforts which, they claimed, were in direct violation of the state's constitutional provision granting all Montanans the right to a clean and healthful environment. This history was woven in with expert testimony describing the science of climate change and Montana's disproportionate contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the plaintiff's personal stories and experiences with climate impacts.

The State responded with a short and feeble defense, withdrawing two of their planned witnesses and ending several days early.



Judge Seeley released her [103-page decision](#) on August 14, 2023, ruling **WHOLLY IN FAVOR** of the youth plaintiffs. In the first-of-its-kind ruling, Judge Seeley issued declaratory relief, agreeing that by promoting and supporting fossil fuel extraction and burning, the State of Montana is violating the youth plaintiffs' rights to a clean and healthful environment. The decision also struck down parts of two 2023 state laws which restricted the Montana Department of Environmental Quality from considering climate impacts when issuing permits for energy and mining projects.

This decision is particularly significant for two reasons:

- It included the explicit declaration that Montana's constitutional provision granting the right to a clean and healthful environment **INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO A STABLE CLIMATE**. It acknowledges that every ton of greenhouse gas matters and contributes to the violation of all

Montanans' constitutional rights.

- The decision included thorough responses to each plaintiff's story, codifying them into the record, affirming their experiences and validating their connection to the State's actions to perpetuate the climate crisis.

In regard to legislative impacts, the decision declared that any attempts to prohibit state agencies from performing climate impact analyses (including HB 971 and SB 557) are unconstitutional. The decision will impact policy-making and permitting in Montana moving forward.

[Read the full decision here.](#)



On September 29, 2023, the State [appealed](#) the decision. The plaintiffs and their team expected this move and are looking forward to the appeals process. The

case will be heard by the Montana Supreme Court and the final decision is expected sometime next spring or summer.

"As an attorney on the case, I welcome the opportunity to have what we believe

is a very strong order by Judge Seeley affirmed by the Supreme Court," said Melissa Hornbein, attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, which served as co-counsel for the plaintiffs.

STAY ENGAGED

- Follow Our Children's Trust & WELC for updates and opportunities to take supportive action
- Montanans age 25 and under: Join an amicus brief (a "friend of the court" brief) in support of the lawsuit and the youth plaintiffs. Details and sign up: ourchildrenstrust.org/youth-amicus-brief.
- Take our Climate Action Pledge at livableclimate.org/pledge and commit to protecting the future of our youth.

Families for a Livable Climate is proud to support the brave young plaintiffs represented in this case. We also hope these historic events will motivate parents, caregivers, and adults everywhere to join the fight for climate security and a livable future for all.

RAIN BUSBY

buffalo stew



A figure wearing an inky hood paces through the prairies with a bow. Their pace quickens as they canter through the ground. Eventually they come across a large looking mammal that stands tall and proud on its feet, grazing on the grass. Its horns shimmer in the moonlight, its hooves look powerful and commanding, and its shaggy brown coat, slightly balding towards the end shows muscle rippling along its back.

The figure crouches down in a nearby bush and lowers their hood slowly and silently. It reveals a sleek, black, feathered head with black beaded eyes looking somewhat humanoid. They grab their bow and pull back an arrow. The arrow hits the buffalo right where the brain would be located and the buffalo lets out a horrific moan. The crow jumps out of the bushes and lets another arrow fly and it hits the buffalo's back right leg. The buffalo now springs into motion, running with a limp as blood pours out of gashes. The crow starts to run too, shooting another arrow in the buffalo's back neck skillfully. More blood pours out and the buffalo lets out another horrific moan, slowing its pace. The crow takes this to its advantage and hurls yet another arrow at the buffalo's back head again. The buffalo staggers, then stopping entirely, howls in agony before it stops and falls over, dead.

The crow humanoid figure power walks in a crouch over to the buffalo then kneeling before it. "Thank you, we will use your resources wisely," the crow being murmurs. Then the crow person looks at the buffalo with respect and begins to transport it to its desired location.

A village looking area with tents made of leather and wood bustles with small humanoid crows giggling and prancing around whilst the older looking crows

look as if to be tending to chores as they carry baskets of seeds and water. Near the center of the tents a stone pot bubbles and boils as a crow elder tends to it with a stone spoon. "How did you ever manage to kill off a buffalo yourself, Kananta?" the crow woman mutters. The crow figure from earlier sits on a stump nearby and looks at the ground sorrowfully.

"I don't know but it scares me deeply that the buffalo was standing in that field all alone. That's not normal, what if something is wrong?" he says with an apprehensive tone.

"Now, now Kananta," the elder crow coos. "I wouldn't worry too much tonight. Enjoy the little moments while you can, after all today is Buffalo Stew night." Kananta heaves a great sigh and stands up. "I suppose it is a night I should embrace wholeheartedly. These kinds of days are always long awaited by all of the Crow Tribe, from young to old."

The evening comes, with the sun lowering slowly leaving a warm blaze shielding the vast plains of the village. About fifty crow appearing humanoids emerge, heading to the center of the town. The crow tribe forms a ring and within the circle in the ring a large fire stews a dish in a sizable stone pot hanging from two sturdy sticks. An elder crow steps from the crowd and says proudly "Let the feasting begin!" The crow people step forward hungrily to reveal they all had been carrying their own bowls. They feast on the meals from the hot tureen gratefully. "And make sure to pay special thanks to Kananta!" The elder exclaims over the vast crowd. They all cheer for Kananta and merrily continue to devour their buffalo stew.

SARAH CAPDEVILLE

HEIRLOOM

BY ASHIA AJANI



Ashia Ajani begins *Heirloom* with a creation story, one that emerges from a bubbling stock pot. In this way, they set a foundation not just of memory and lineage, “the soft fat of ancestry clinging to granny’s good broth,” but of a lyric craft that blends culture, landscape, and self into a collection of poetry that is as rich as that proverbial pot.

Environmental destruction is at the heart of *Heirloom*, never in a vacuum of fault and never without haunting imagery. “natural disaster,” Ajani writes, “Lord please, break the line at the [radical]. / what is natural about prolonged neglect? what is natural about / disaster cycling?” In another poem, Ajani weaves the realities of

environmental racism and anti-Blackness into the voice of a wasp, the markings of its face altered by heavy metal pollution. Again and again, *Heirloom* refuses to separate the individual from the systemic, the present and future from the past.

It’s as if Ajani pulls us into the earth itself—whether the dark soil of the South or the high dirt of Colorado—and shows us everything wriggling and alive and interconnected there. In these poems, they don’t turn us away from what is rotting or malicious, just as they cup the beauty there too: rosemary eggs on a slow morning, a grandmother’s garden song, odes to blackness and Blackness.

“when i was a child,” the speaker of one poem shares, “i would pull open dead logs and rocks / searching for those miniature archivists, doctors stitching together / stories of soil between what greed poisoned its dark body.” In the same way that *Heirloom* bears witness to the wounding of colonialism and white supremacy against land and people, this collection is imbued with a steadfast credence in the people and practices that heal those hurts. It is a book of rich Black wisdom, poetry intertwined with a politic that has been nourished for generations. Akin to the messy medley of “granny’s good broth” and the richness of soil beneath our feet, the poem “In the Thicket” concludes:

we are, after all, connected by our bitter rooted histories,
the same strange flower emerging, year after year from bulbs of
empire, poisonous with their long memories. some things are just
Black folks’ business. the rest, a fable.

ALYSHA GOHEEN

CLEAN ENERGY
WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Families for a Livable Climate continues to organically expand our impact with the launch of a Clean Energy Working Group. This group of volunteers is building awareness, engagement, and action around the much-needed transition to clean and affordable energy solutions in our state. In Montana, electricity generation emits more greenhouse gases than all industry and transportation combined -- making a rapid switch to 100% renewable energy will have a huge impact. Renewable energy is affordable, reliable, and creates good jobs.

RECENTLY WE SPOKE UP IN RESPONSE TO THE 2023 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP) that Northwestern Energy submitted for approval to the elected Public Service Commission (PSC). The Clean Energy Working Group helped engage hundreds of Montana families in demanding that Northwestern Energy and the PSC make a better plan for our shared energy future. We:

- Organized a letter to the editor campaign;
- Created a phone bank to encourage people to comment on the IRP;
- Turned out folks to testify at local IRP listening sessions that the PSC held in multiple Montana cities, in response to strong and growing citizen disapproval of the plan.

WHAT'S THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN? The IRP provides a blueprint for how the state’s largest energy monopoly will meet customers’ energy needs over the next 20 years, including what kind of new power plants and infrastructure Northwestern Energy plans to build and operate. Unfortunately, expert analysis of the IRP by our partners, including Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC), determined that the proposed plan would lead to “an electricity system that ignores the climate crisis” and also “seems to be more focused on securing increased revenue for NorthWestern’s shareholders than providing affordable and reliable power for Montanans.”

The working group is currently developing new strategies, in conjunction with our partners around the state, for continuing to inform and engage Montana ratepayers in holding Northwestern Energy, the PSC, and the legislature accountable in moving towards a clean energy future for Montana.

WANT TO JOIN US? WE’D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR HELP AND WELCOME A RANGE OF IDEAS, SKILLS, AND PASSIONS! Get more information about the working group actions and meeting times by connecting with Co-Chairs Michael Hudson (mthudson7@gmail.com) and/or Alysha Goheen (alyshagoheen1@gmail.com).

ART

CHANGING SEASONS - HANNAH MATTHEWS



KATIE HOLLARAN

LOCAL FOOD IN WINTER SLACKER EDITION

Happy Winter! I agreed to write this column against the principals of the one club that I belong to, which is called Slacker's Anonymous. In a society of successful movers and shakers and parents who have their act together (do they actually exist?), I often find myself discombobulated, regularly missing such things as swimming lessons and sign-ups. Apparently they are in December,



AT THE FARM HARVESTING PUMPKINS FOR SOUP, PIE, OR JACK (OR JILL) O' LANTERNS.

which is not the time of year that I think about what to do with my three wild boys come summertime. Thus, I have embraced a mediocre approach to parenting, cooking, exercising, cleaning, and all other things associated with my home and brood. I do place a high value on local food, but I will admit that my approach to procuring and presenting it is as mediocre as my approach to most things. My sons have also consistently turned up their noses when I tried to

sneak squash puree into their box mac and cheese, and recently used the leeks I brought home as arrows in their toy bow (see photo!). So here is my Slacker's Anonymous Winter Local Food column, begrudgingly submitted while my children throw leaves in each other's faces and scream with (mostly) joy. Fellow grown-up, I hope you can relate and perhaps even glean a tidbit or two.

SQUASH SECRETS

I almost gave up on Winter Squash as entirely too much work to prepare. Our dull kitchen knives were no match for the skin and meat of the mighty Butternut. Forty-five minutes and a pile of squash guts later and my desire to eat the darn thing was gone. SLACKER SECRET:

put the whole squash in the cold oven while it preheats and leave it in there for about 10 minutes and then take it out to cool a bit while the oven finishes preheating. Once it is cool enough to handle, you can peel and chop it



ROAST ALL YOUR VEGGIES ON MONDAY FOR EASY EATING ALL WEEK!

with ease! There are still warm pumpkin guts to contend with, but the process is so much easier when you have softened the squash a bit. Delicata squash skin is delicious, but you can use the same technique to make slicing it easier. Spaghetti squash can be warmed and then halved and scooped out and put back in the oven with olive oil and salt and pepper. Another Slacker Move is to also throw whole potatoes into the oven at the same time or a pan of chopped root veggie (see photo), and you can be done cooking vegetables for the whole week!

WINTER CSA

Confession: My first attempt at subscribing to a Winter CSA was when I was pregnant with my first child. Great idea! Then it arrived, and the sight of the vegetables, especially an entire box of the root variety, sent me running to the toilet. I am ashamed to admit the number of parsnips, carrots, beets, and turnips that went to the compost (literally, every single one). I have since learned it is better to be realistic than wasteful. I took the following six years off of a Winter CSA while raising tiny humans and surviving on frozen chicken nuggets, and have only recently jumped back on the wagon.

Winter Kissed has incredible vegetables, and they have moved to a winter-only model, which is such a cool way to keep local food available year-round for Missoulians.

STORAGE

If you are of the ambitious sort, perhaps you checked out the amazing Veggie Sale that Garden City Harvest puts on at the end of the growing season or received a box of storage vegetables at the end of a summer CSA. And if so, you may already have your storage game dialed in, and if not, please don't ask me for advice. I can tell you that squash in the house too long, rots, too long in the garage, freezes, and potatoes in my basement happily sprout (still edible!). I can also say from experience that garage-frozen onions work just fine for soups and are quite easy to chop. Please don't repeat my mistakes, and go check out the Winter Storage Vegetables 101 blog on the Garden City Harvest website for a most excellent resource on properly storing winter vegetables. Garden City Harvest also offers so many incredible workshops on storing, cooking with, and preserving local veggies. You will never wonder again what to do with a celeriac or an excess of cabbage. Answer, cook it like mashed potatoes and turn it into sauerkraut, respectively. If I can do it at a workshop, so can you. Here's to happy winter eating friends.

Until Spring ya'all, your Slacker Farmer Mom Enthusiast, Katie Halloran

MEGAN THORNTON

THE STOLEN WATERS SUMMIT

The Stolen Waters Summit took place at the University of Montana in early November. Organized in large part by students in the Native American Studies Department, this event brought together an incredible array of Indigenous teachers who shared their perspectives, powerful experiences, and wisdom, all circling back to the protection of water (and the land and food that depends upon it) that is the life blood of Planet Earth. Panelists and presenters included a mix of students, community members, academics, chefs,

farmers, and more: a Grandmother who protested at Standing Rock, an Indigenous chef who showed her method of making pemmican, experts who spoke on the impact of dams on rivers, as well as Indigenous leader Nick Estes who shared difficult truths and a call to be in the struggle in his Presidential Lecture “Ancestors of the Future: Indigenous Resistance and the Climate Change.” Rosalyn LaPier spoke on “Kipitáakii’s Garden,” and participants took a field trip to “Place of the Bull Trout” (Clark Fork) river to learn about restoration. The Summit concluded with a lovely “feast” of squash soup and bison stew with corn muffins. Everyone was invited to participate in a Round-House Dance. I was struck by the smiles on everyone’s face as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people held hands and danced in a circle together to drumming and singing. Young kids ran amok and a few little babies rocked out to the music. One organizer shared how happy and proud he felt on behalf of the student organizers. Another participant said she felt “At home.” I couldn’t agree more that healthy and clean water, nourishing food and full bellies,



PHOTO | MEGAN THORNTON

thriving land and rivers, and humans of diverse ages and identities coming together with music, dance and feelings of well-being, is indeed, the home we all want.

GET INVOLVED

If you missed the Summit but are interested in doing more to grow your awareness of indigenous historical truth and present-day realities, resources and opportunities for all abound, and is particularly essential work for people of settler ancestry and identity. Whether this is learning about the work of water protectors and the Land Back Movement, understanding why Thanksgiving is more myth than reality (and a bitter day for centuries of betrayal and oppression), or looking to indigenous leadership for direction in climate activism, especially locally and regionally, there is so much to do and learn. For anyone who likes to read books, listen to

podcasts (check out “Land Grab” a podcast about the place we call Montana), and watch videos ([500 Nations: America’s Indian Heritage](#)), resources are abundant online, at the library or bookstore.



500 NATIONS VIDEO

A great selection of mostly Native authored books can be found at [Birch Bark Books](#).

For Missoula Folks, Common Good offers the “Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization Courses.” I highly recommend this course. I came away with so much gratitude for being able to have uncomfortable, yet moving, clarifying, conversations in a warm and supported

environment, rather than processing (or getting stuck with) difficult and complex feelings on my own. I feel better equipped to step into allyship and continue the work of decolonization that is integral to climate work.





FROM THE FIELD

ACTION IS OUR HOPE

Thank you for all that you do to make Montana a better place, and for your generous engagement this year with our growing community. With your support, this year, we traveled around the state from Helena to Hamilton, and Butte to Billings, supporting community climate engagement. Here are some of the highlights:

CLIMATE ADVOCACY DAY

We started the year in Helena, gathering with 17 other organizations and over 300 Montanans for the first-ever Climate Advocacy Day at the state capitol. It was an incredible day filled with song, speakers, and advocacy opportunities. We heard from youth, parents, tribal leaders, legislative experts, and more, demanding freedom from fossil fuels,

and a thriving future for all families. We can't wait for 2025!

MONTANA CLIMATE STORIES: LIVE STORYTELLING EVENTS

Our Montana Climate Stories project came to life this year, with hundreds of people gathering together for live climate-storytelling events in Missoula, Hamilton, Pablo, and Butte.

After a statewide call for submissions, our team expanded our digital library to include nearly 125 contributors sharing stories from across the state. View an interactive map and all the stories online at MTClimateStories.org.

DECARBONIZE YOUR MONEY

Our Decarbonize Your Money workshop

brought households together across the state to talk about how to divest successfully from fossil fuels. Participating Montana families have divested \$7.1 Million from fossil fuels since 2021!

VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUPS

Our family-led working groups are a key way volunteers can engage as leaders in our organization. This year, they spearheaded statewide educational events on Federal Dollars for Montana Schools, joined legislative actions to tackle plastics pollution, and volunteered many hours to help plan and run the first-ever Climate Advocacy Day at the Montana State Legislature. They helped advance local climate action through our partnership with Common Good Missoula, and our magazine team published two stunning issues of *The Changing Times*. We're so grateful for this great community of parent and caregiver climate leaders!

HELD V. MONTANA

In June, in one of the highlights of our summer, our team showed up for the nation's first youth-led climate trial, *Held v. State of Montana*, to support its plaintiffs (and the stellar team at Our Children's Trust) in Helena as they headed to court to protect their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment! The proceedings were captivating. When the victory for our Montana youth was handed down in July, we were thrilled with the precedent-setting outcome.

THE CHANGING TIMES: YOUTH VOICES

In the lead up to *Held v. State of Montana*, we launched our first ever youth writing contest, inviting Montana youth to envision what our communities will look like and how they've responded to climate change in the year 2070. The winning submissions were published in our Spring/Summer 2023 issue. We were truly blown away by the responses and wanted to share all of them with our community. View the full collection of submissions online at livableclimate.org/past-issues.

THIRD ANNUAL CLIMATE PROTECTOR RIDE

This year, we teamed up with Climate Ride to offer the option for families to fundraise together for climate action, and broaden its impact. It was an amazing day, with more than 100 riders! We had several kids complete their first group ride!

We are so very grateful to all of the foundations, businesses, and individual contributors who support our work financially. We simply could not do it without you.

From championing climate conversations and clean energy, to supporting healthy schools and the end of plastic pollution in Montana, we anticipate that 2024 will be another big year in climate action. We know there is more work to do and we will be there to inspire, train, advocate for, and engage Montana families.

IN GRATITUDE, WINONA, CAITLYN, AND SARAH

CONTRIBUTORS

WINONA BATEMAN is the founder and executive director of Families for a Livable Climate. In her work, Ms. Bateman is interested in bridging the yawning gap between the urgent need for bold climate policies and the pervasive silence surrounding climate change. She sees storytelling as a key way to make connections across differences, create meaning in our lives, and envision an equitable and thriving future. From 2021 to 2022, Winona served as the U.S. representative for the International Climate Parent Fellowship through Parents for Future Global and Our Kids' Climate, training with eleven other climate mothers from around the globe. Ms. Bateman has a Bachelors of Arts in Biology from Carleton College, and Masters of Fine Arts in Media Arts from the University of Montana. She lives with her husband and daughter, and enjoys growing and preserving food, observing animals and insects, and otherwise learning from our living world.

SYDNEY BOLLINGER, 28, (she/her) is a writer, editor, and the Words Lead at Peregrine Coast Press. Her work has been published in *Northwest Review*, *The Pettigru Review*, *Grimsy Literary Magazine*, *Hash Journal*, *Dunes Review*, *Hear Us Scream*, *This Present Former Glory*, and other places. Her first zine, *Death Wish*, was published in 2023. She lives in Charleston, SC, with her partner and their two cats. Follow her @sydboll and find her work at sydboll.com.

RAIN BUSBY, 12, is a boy who has loved literature since he first ever learned to write. He has lived in a small town for all of his life and has always been a highly academic student. He hopes to share his stories with the rest of the world and help others with their own stories (AKA be a copy editor).

SARAH CAPDEVILLE, 31, proudly wore the title of wilderness ranger for five seasons, and is currently an editor with The Hopper. She is an alum of the University of Montana and Chatham University. She is the winner of River Teeth's 2022 Literary Nonfiction Book Prize, and her book *Aligning the Glacier's Ghost* is forthcoming from University of New Mexico Press in 2024. She lives in Missoula, Montana, with her partner, retired greyhound, and opinionated tortoiseshell cat, where she navigates chronic illness, goes on many slow hikes, and daydreams about the crosscut saw.

KATIE HALLORAN lives in Missoula with her husband and three young boys. She farms in the summers and mothers year-round. Farming involves fewer Legos and sword fights, so it is a nice change of pace.

SARAH LUNDQUIST, 29, is an outreach professional, mother, and zero waste enthusiast originally from the Seattle area. She worked in the field of solid waste for almost 7 years in Oregon, Vermont, and Montana. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language Studies and Psychology from Western Oregon University, and a master's in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. Her graduate work focused primarily on zero waste policies and included several interesting internships with Home ReSource, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, and the City of Missoula. Before joining FLC, she worked at Home ReSource and served on the board of Missoula Urban Demonstration Project (MUD). Sarah spends her days chasing around a toddler, mediocly cooking, knitting, and practicing yoga; marveling at the natural world; and dreaming about an equitable, climate-stable future.

HANNAH MATTHEWS, 35, is an artist and community member, and loves finding creative ways to highlight the essential beauty found around us in nature. Hannah works at Climate Ride, a nonprofit that organizes charitable biking, running, and hiking events to raise awareness and support sustainability, active transportation, and environmental causes.

EMILY McMEEKIN, 42, is a summer trail-runner, winter skier, sometimes writer, and avid parent volunteer. Most days she can be found tending to or day-dreaming about her high-elevation, Rocky Mountain garden or sewing last minute costumes to support the wild ideas of her three, somewhat feral, children. She and her husband also have dogs, cats, and a rotating cast of visiting wildlife on their end-of-the-road Montana homestead.

MEG SMITH, 28, is local Montanan with a deep wonder for the more-than-human world. She has a BA in English Literature and Teaching from the University of Montana and an MA in Environmental Humanities from Bath Spa University, Bath, England. When she isn't out finding new trails, she loves to write poetry, cook without recipes, and find new ways to use less.

MEGAN THORNTON, 38, is mother to 3 little humans (Samuel, Willa, Ben). Megan grew up in Butte, lived in Bozeman for a spell, and is now settled for the long haul in the Russell district of Missoula, where she and her husband Orion navigate the bumpy terrain of parenting alongside beloved family, friends, and neighbors (including the deer, squirrels, trees, and birds of the block!).

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