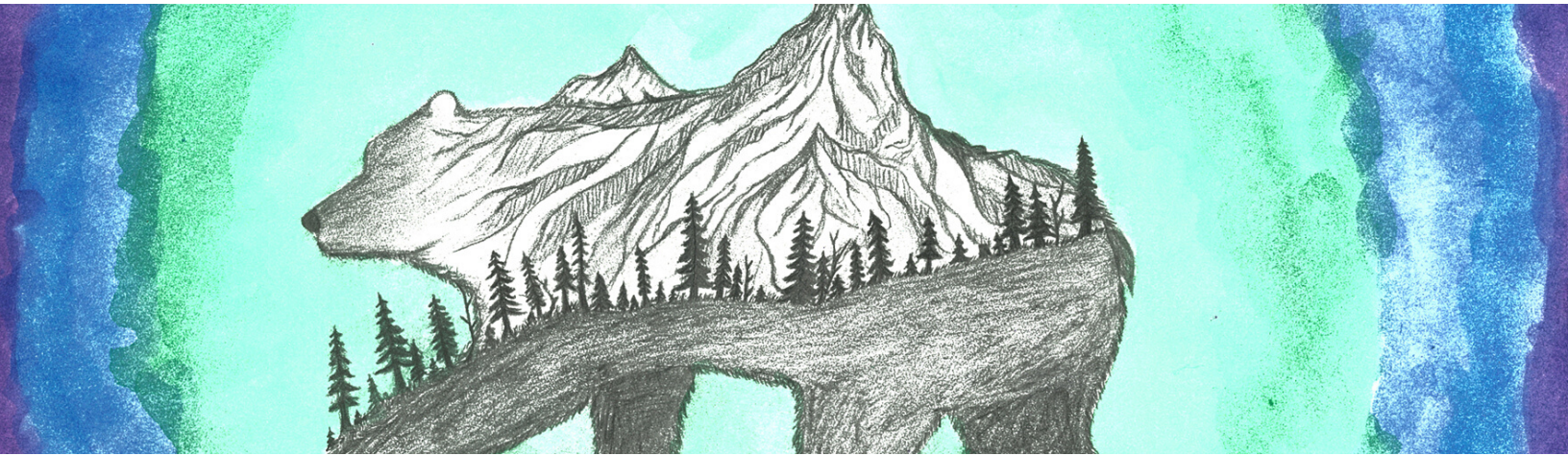


Keep Montana Green

JULY 2020 | NEWSLETTER | ISSUE I



WELCOME

Greetings and thank you for reading the first of our bi-monthly newsletters! Every couple of months we will keep our supporters up to date on all of Keep Montana Green's news and programs so that YOU can help protect Montana from human-caused wildfires.

We are only halfway through 2020, and so far the year has been chaotic to say the least. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to cancel or delay many of our planned activities for the year. Nonetheless, KMG has cause for celebration, for 2020 marks our 75th year of service! Since 1945 we have worked to educate Montanans on wildfire prevention, and we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Looking forward, we are excited for the 60th Annual Wildfire Prevention Art Contest! In celebration of both our 75th Anniversary and our 60th Annual Art Contest, we will be making some changes to the contest format. Stay tuned!

This year we are exploring new ways to serve and educate Montanans on wildfire prevention. As you will see in the following sections, much of our upcoming activity will focus on expanding our operational capacity through member recruitment and fundraising.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to all our supporters, art contest participants, educators, and firefighters across Montana. Wildfire prevention starts with you.

MISSION

To promote public awareness of the danger of human caused wildfires on Montana's ecosystems, communities, and natural resources; and to enlist the active support of the public in fire prevention and protection efforts.



NEW LOGO

Introducing our updated and reimagined logo! To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we gave the old brand a new look! Expect to see this on all publications and merchandise for the next few years.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keep Montana Green prioritizes, above all else, the health and safety of its members, partners, and art contest participants. Due to challenges surrounding COVID-19, we were unable to recognize and celebrate in-person with the art contest's regional and statewide winners. We are watching the situation closely and are hopeful a future celebration may become possible. At this time, we are also refraining from returning student artwork until it becomes safe to do so. Hang in there and mask up, Montana!



NEW STORE!

We are excited to announce the first ever Keep Montana Green online store! Visit KeepMontanaGreen.logosoftwear.com, or a link from our website, to see the merchandise available to you. Most items are customizable allowing you to change the color and reposition the logo. And the best part? A portion of the proceeds directly supports Keep Montana Green! We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs, and tote bags available. Get yours today and wear KMG proudly!

[SHOP](#)

2020 IN REVIEW

The 59th Annual Art Contest was a success! Thank you so much to all the participants who created beautiful and inspiring works of art to educate Montanans on wildfire prevention. And a special thank you to all the teachers who encouraged their students and helped them submit artwork. The passion you display for your students, for art, and for learning is the driving force behind the art contest. And finally, congratulations to all the winners, both regional and statewide! Almost 2,200 students across Montana submitted artwork this year! The 2020 overall statewide winner was Kolton Johnson from Plains, MT (left). Visit our website to see the statewide winners' artwork and for a complete list of regional winners.

May was Wildfire Awareness Month, and while in-person events and projects had to be cancelled, we did our best to educate Montanans on social media and by providing a Do-It-Yourself home wildfire risk reduction toolkit, which is still available on our website. We encourage all Montanans, not only to prevent wildfires, but to prepare for them by lowering your home's risk. Take the time this summer to perform simple yard maintenance projects, such as cleaning your gutters, raking the lawn of leaves, needles, and pinecones, and removing any large woody bushes next to the house.



NEW INSTAGRAM

Keep Montana Green finally has an Instagram! Help us spread wildfire prevention messages across Montana by following us at [Instagram.com/keepmtgreenassociation](https://www.instagram.com/keepmtgreenassociation). We regularly post tips, tricks, and stories, and will occasionally even host merchandise giveaways! If you do not already follow us on Facebook and Twitter, please do so! Every follower is one more Montanan dedicated to preventing human-caused wildfires.



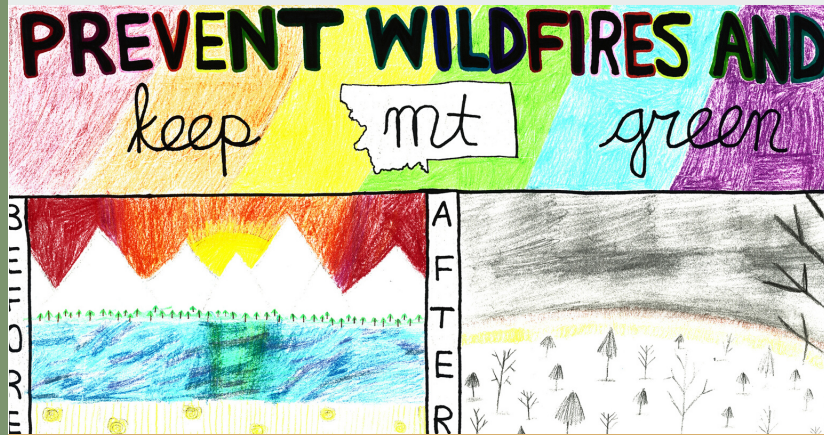
PLANNED GIVING

Do you or someone you know want to make a large or long-term contribution to wildfire prevention in Montana? Consider planned giving! This form of donation can benefit Keep Montana Green in major ways by allowing us to expand our programs and reach more communities. Planned gifts enable small organizations like KMG to take transformative steps that would otherwise be impossible, and there are numerous benefits to the donor! Talk with your financial planner to see if planned giving is right for you. For more information, visit [KeepMontanaGreen.com/planned-giving](https://www.KeepMontanaGreen.com/planned-giving).



AMAZON SMILE

We are now enrolled in AmazonSmile! AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Keep Montana Green every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Make sure it's Keep Montana Green!



UPDATED WEBSITE

We have updated our website by making a few additions and moving things around. We want to specifically point you in the direction of the NEWS tab, which includes a [blog](#) and a [calendar of events](#). We also added to the SUPPORT tab a new donation page, the link to our store, and information on planned giving. Subscribe your email at the bottom of the page to get these bi-monthly newsletters directly to your inbox!

SUPPORT KMG AND BECOME A BOARD MEMBER!

Keep Montana Green is a member driven organization that relies on the active participation of its supporters to educate Montanans on wildfire prevention. To become a member, simply donate at KeepMontanaGreen.com/donate. Even \$5 can help protect Montana from wildfire, fund our annual art contest, and distribute educational materials across the state. There are three tiers of membership, but all members receive voting privileges at our annual meetings, event invitations, and different forms of merchandise. Visit our website to learn more about how your membership can make an impact and the different ways you can donate.

We also have vacancies in our Board of Directors! Whether you are a long-standing supporter of KMG, or a first-time donor, we want your voice in our leadership. We are looking for passionate individuals who are dedicated to wildfire prevention and public education, particularly those who can add a diverse perspective to our organization. Now more than ever, we need your support to help Keep Montana Green grow and make a greater impact in our communities and wild places.

[DONATE](#)

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Ryan - President, Red Lodge Fire & Rescue
Mike Kopitzke - VP, Land Fire & Water, LLC
Mike DeGrosky - Secretary/Treasurer, MT DNRC
Chad Bauer - Republic Services

TEAM

Kristin Sleeper - Executive Director, MT DNRC
Ian Harris - Program Director, MT DNRC

CONTACT

Questions or ideas? Contact Executive Director, Kristin Sleeper at Kristin.Sleeper@mt.gov, or Program Director, Ian Harris at Ian.Harris@mt.gov.

