



# NEWSLETTER *of the* HABITAT COUNCIL

## HABITAT COUNCIL TIDINGS *A message from your co-chairs*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NATIONAL EVENTS

**RMEF Mountain Festival and Total Archery Challenge**

July 22 - 25, 2021  
Park City, UT

**RMEF PBR World Finals**

November 3 - 7, 2021  
Las Vegas, NV

**RMEF Hunter & Outdoor Christmas Expo**

December 2 - 11, 2021  
Las Vegas, NV

**Habitat Council Meeting and Retreat**

May 2022  
Asheville, NC

For more information, please call 1-800-CALL-ELK.



Kent & Cyndie Johnson,  
RMEF Habitat Council Co-chairs

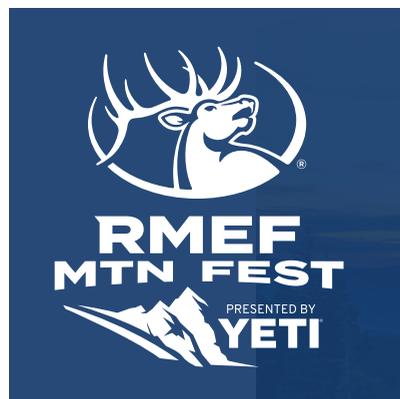
“There has been a change in plans.” How often have we heard this expression? It isn’t a new phrase by any means, but has become much more of an expectation in the last year. If our plans weren’t canceled, they may have been dramatically altered.

RMEF has continued to stay the course though. The objective has been and always will be to ensure the future of wildlife and wild places for all. RMEF remains strong and true to our mission. The adaptability and the resilience of our members, staff and leadership made us even stronger when other organizations were struggling. Thank you to each of our Habitat Council members for believing in our mission and stepping up to guarantee that elk and elk country will be around for everyone to enjoy. When hit by adversity, we became unassailable. That speaks to each one of our HC members and your commitment to RMEF and what it stands for.

Moving forward, there will be time to come together in person and celebrate our successes. We are excited to announce that the 2022 Habitat Council Meeting and Retreat is being mapped out. Information about the event will be shared as soon as details are finalized. The function allows our HC members to interact and network with the RMEF Board of Directors as well as key staff members. To assist with recognition and creating familiarity, we have two articles included in this issue to help keep faces and names paired together for your future reference.

Please make sure you are checking Bugle as well as [rmef.org](http://rmef.org) for upcoming banquets and activities. Your local RMEF staff members are doing a wonderful job working with state and local requirements for banquets and events. Banquets are a wonderful chance to celebrate once again as an RMEF family.

Thank you for ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. Together we are making a difference.



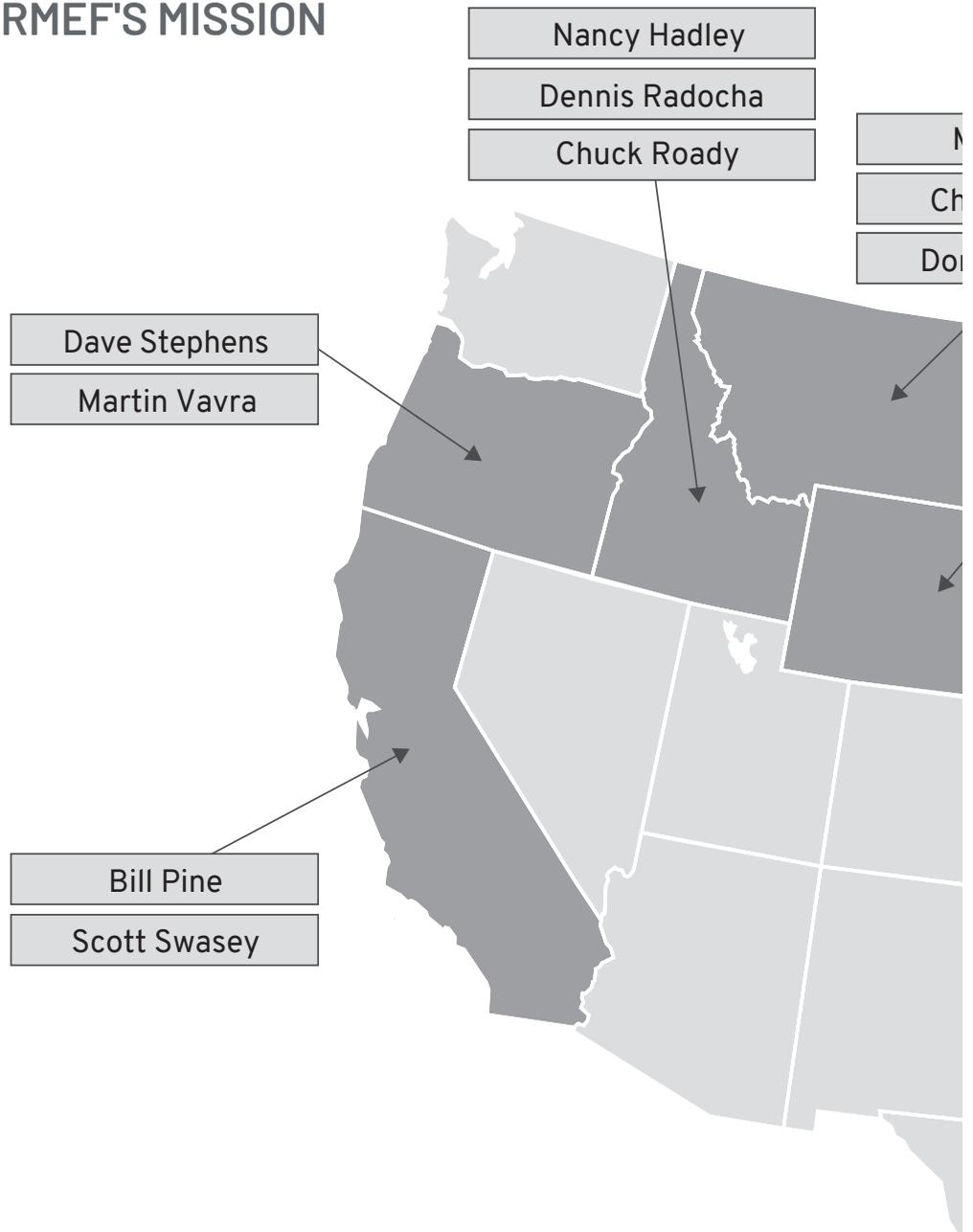
**JOIN US IN PARK CITY, UTAH**  
**JULY 22-25, 2021**  
**FOR THE RMEF MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL**  
PRESENTED BY YETI  
& TOTAL ARCHERY CHALLENGE!  
**(800) CALL-ELK | [legacy@rmef.org](mailto:legacy@rmef.org) | [RMEF.ORG](http://RMEF.ORG)**

## LEADING THE CHARGE FOR RMEF'S MISSION

As a Habitat Council member, you are an investor and major stakeholder in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. One of the exclusive benefits of being a Habitat Council member is the opportunity to directly interact with RMEF's Board of Directors. The board's role is to maximize its charge for our mission for wildlife and wild places. Board members serve as key policymakers driving the RMEF, directing its strategic planning and laying out the overall vision moving forward.

We understand we have not had the opportunity to visit in person during the past year for these exclusive networking opportunities with the board of directors. Once we are back to this, we will be able to exchange information and ideas and continue cultivating a productive relationship maintaining our role together as ambassadors for RMEF's mission. To keep you up to date with board changes, we had a few board members whose terms expired, a new chair and vice chair promoted from within and four new members adding their expertise and background to the leadership team.

The board map shows the broad spectrum of representation from across the country. We've also included photos to put a face with a name. It is a small world and you never know who may be in your area that you might run into.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mark Baker,  
Chair



Eric Johnson,  
Vice Chair



Tobias "Toby" Buck



Charlie Decker



Tim Delaney



Nancy Hadley



Nancy Holland



Maurice Hull



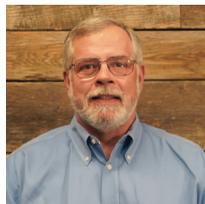
Kent Johnson



Donna McDonald



Bill Pine



Dennis Radocha



Chuck Roady



Tom Robinson



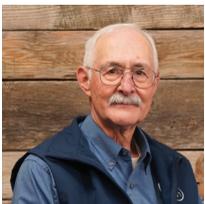
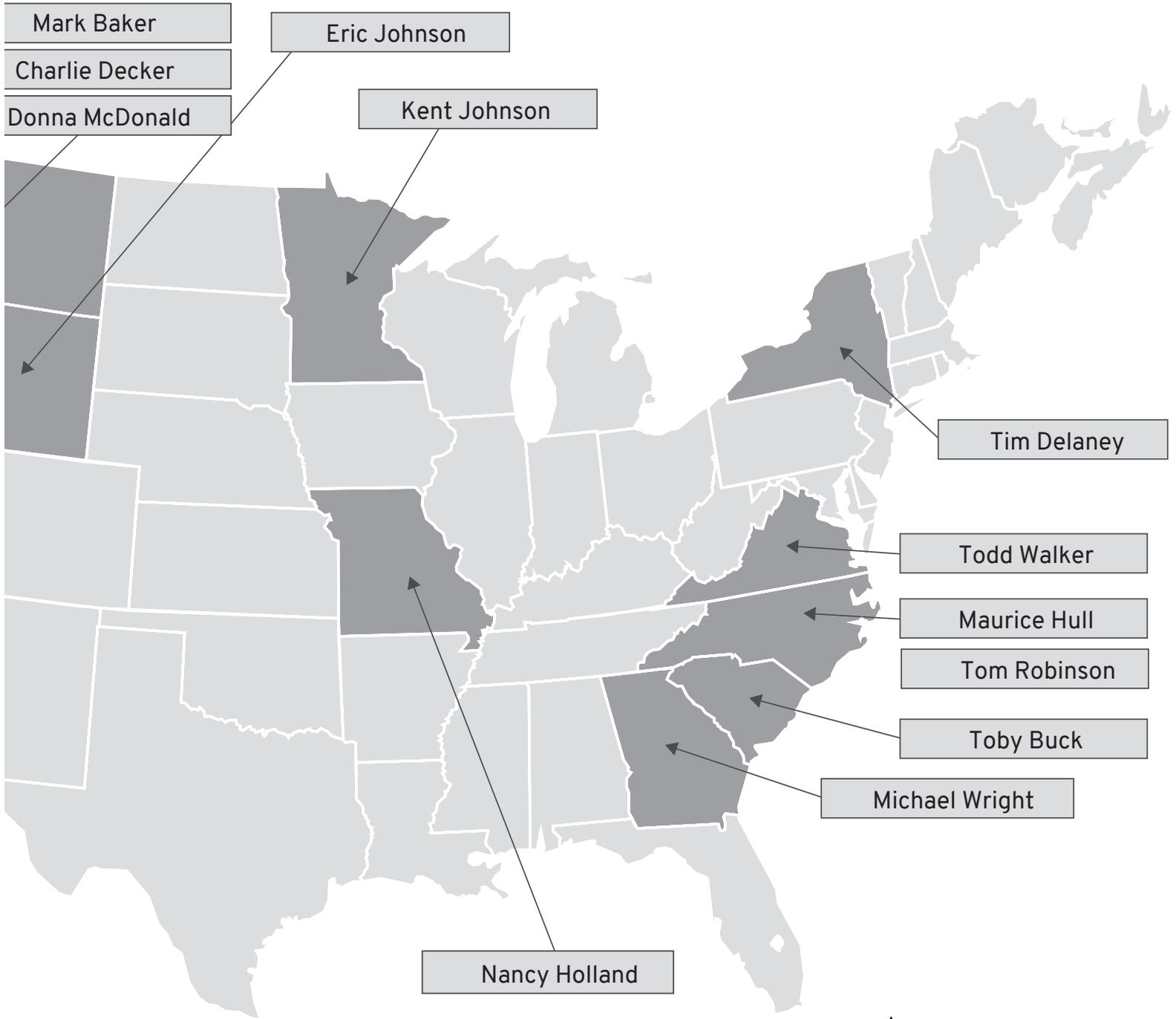
Dave Stephens



Scott Swasey



Dr. M



Dr. Martin Vavra, PH.D.



Michael Wright



Todd Walker





First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Missoula, MT  
Permit No. 536

The Exclusive Newsletter for RMEF Habitat Council Members

# NEWSLETTER *of the* HABITAT COUNCIL



## ADVOCATING ON YOUR BEHALF



Ryan Bronson is RMEF's new director of government affairs. His role and responsibility is to work with policy makers to promote RMEF's conservation priorities. This has RMEF focused on elk and elk country, hunting heritage and the Second Amendment. Ryan is building on our robust federal affairs engagement with a greater emphasis on state wildlife agencies, commissions and

legislatures. He will be tracking legislation from coast to coast.

RMEF's membership surveys show advocacy is a high priority for our members. Advocating on behalf of our investors and stakeholders is vital to RMEF's mission. Ryan will work a wide spectrum ranging from tax deductibility of donations and volunteer conservation agreements (or conservations easements), charitable gambling issues, as well as wildlife policy for the best advantage of RMEF's mission.

Elk do not have a voice and we must use ours to represent them. RMEF takes positions based on what is best for elk and elk country. We are not partisan and work with both sides of the aisle on issues. We need to put ourselves in a position where our issues are addressed regardless of which party is in control of

any branch of government. We do this by focusing on issues and what is best for elk, elk hunting and hunting heritage. We maintain an intelligence network and utilize grassroots level in engaging initiatives as they come up. We do not base our position on who is on the opposite side of a given issue.

RMEF often stays neutral when an issue pits hunter against hunter, such as the number of tags allocated by seasons. We insist that wildlife populations should be at sustainable levels. We do not feel policy should be set by ballot initiatives or emotions. We leave the science to the biologists and wildlife experts.

A Minnesota native with a degree in biology, Ryan previously worked as a legislative staffer where he specialized in conservation funding, hunting policy and wolf management. He also served with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources where he formed one of the nation's first programs focused on hunter recruitment and retention.

"As a lifelong and avid hunter as well as a RMEF life member, I strongly believe in RMEF's mission of ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage," said Bronson. "I am honored to join the team and look forward to building on the strong base established by RMEF."

