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# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT: YEAR 2012

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*Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana*



Prepared for:

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December 2012

# **MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

## **WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT:**

**YEAR 2012**

*Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana*

MDT Project Number STPX-0034(14)  
Control Number 4866

MFWP: SPA MDT R3-56-2008  
USACE: NWO-2006-90370-MTB

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CCI Project No: MDT.004

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Cover: View of an inundated depression near the south boundary early in the growing season with American mannagrass beginning to emerge.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation 2012 Monitoring Report presents the results of the third year of post-construction monitoring at the Easton Ranch mitigation area. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) wetland mitigation project at the Easton Ranch is located in the northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 4 North, Range 9 East, Park County, Montana. The property is located approximately three miles east of US Highway 89 and four miles northeast of Wilsall (Figure 1). The wetland mitigation conservation easement area encompasses approximately 34 fenced acres and is located east of the Shields River within the boundaries of the larger Easton Family Ranch, the previous landowner. Figures 2 and 3 in Appendix A show the site Monitoring Activity Locations and Mapped Site Features, respectively. The 2008 MDT Mitigation Site Monitoring Form, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Determination Data Forms Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (USACE 2010), and the 2008 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Forms are included in Appendix B. Project area photographs are included in Appendix C and the Project Plan Sheet is included in Appendix D.

The wetland restoration site is located within Watershed 13 – Upper Yellowstone River Basin. Wetlands were developed at this location to provide compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts associated with transportation projects in the Butte District. The Easton Ranch site was selected after an extensive search of potential wetland and stream restoration sites by MDT within the Shields River Valley in cooperation with personnel from the Park Conservation District and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service Center (NRCS) in Livingston.

Construction entailed the excavation of a series of wetland cells and a flood channel that bisects the 34 acre mitigation area. The primary source of wetland hydrology is groundwater supplemented by surface water from high flows associated with the Shields River. An existing irrigation diversion and delivery system was maintained to provide water to the northeast corner of the site. Revegetation tasks included planting cuttings and containerized shrubs, seeding wetland herbaceous species within the excavated wetland areas, and transplanting wetland plants and soils from existing wetlands to excavated areas. The wetland project was designed to increase flood storage, improve wildlife habitat, and restore riparian and wetland habitat impacted by past agricultural practices within the Shields River watershed. The project objectives include:

- Re-establish a previously existing, relic floodplain channel and associated riparian and floodplain wetland areas.
- Create approximately 25 acres of emergent, scrub/shrub and riparian wetlands by replacing existing hay fields with a variety of wetland communities that mimic habitats found in bio-reference wetland areas located north and south of the project.

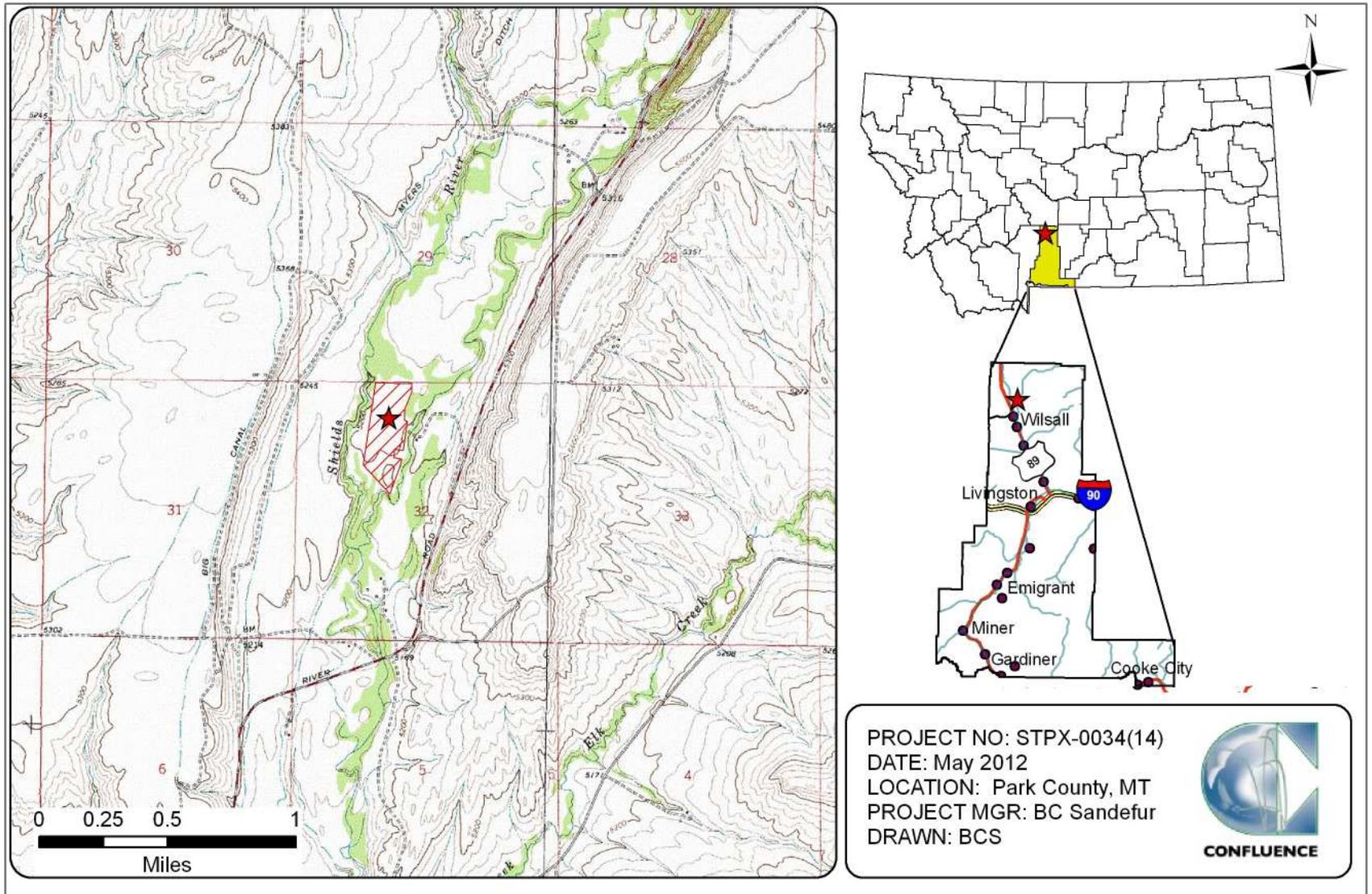


Figure 1. Project location of Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

- Re-establish hydrology to approximately 1.56 acres of drained wetlands in the north portion of the site.
- Preserve 1.1 acres of existing scrub/shrub, forested, and palustine emergent communities at several locations within the project area.
- Mimic old meander scars and relic flood channels within the wetland mitigation site.
- Improve water storage capacity and increase the amount of floodplain area across the site.
- Increase the amount of wildlife habitat in this reach of the Shields River.

The project credit ratios approved by the USACE are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Wetland Credit Determination for the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Proposed Mitigation Features	Compensatory Mitigation Type	USACE Mitigation Ratios	Acres	Final Credit Estimate (Acres)
Creation of palustrine emergent wetland via shallow excavation.	Creation	1:1	24.95	24.95
Re-establishment of relic flood channel.	Restoration (Re-establishment)	1:1	1.56	1.56
Preservation of existing shrub/scrub and palustrine emergent wetland.	Preservation	4:1	1.10	0.275
Establish a 50-foot wide upland buffer.	Upland Buffer	5:1	6.43	1.29
Project Impacts	Debit	--	--	(0.67)
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>			27.41

The USACE approved performance standards are listed below.

1. **Wetland Characteristics:** All restored, created, enhanced, and preserved wetlands within the project limits will meet the three parameter criteria for hydrology, vegetation, and soils established for determining wetland areas as outlined in the *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *2010 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region* (USACE 2010).

a) **Wetland Hydrology Success** will be achieved where wetland hydrology is present as per the technical guidelines in the 1987 Manual and the 2010 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual.

- (i) Soil saturation will be present for at least 12.5 percent of the growing season.
- (ii) Groundwater wells will be left undisturbed within the site for the purpose of monitoring groundwater elevations during the growing season.

- (iii) Depressional wetlands excavated into the upland areas will be monitored to determine if groundwater hydrology is filling sites and establishing vegetation communities.
- (iv) Hydrologic success will also require that the constructed stream channel be stable in the wetlands.
- b) **Hydric Soil Success** will be achieved where hydric soil conditions are present (per the most recent Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) definitions for hydric soil) or appear to be forming, the soil is sufficiently stable to prevent erosion, and the soil is able to support plant cover. Soil sampling will be conducted during the course of the monitoring period to determine if wetland areas are exhibiting characteristics of hydric soils per the 1987 Wetland Manual. Since typical hydric soil indicators may require long periods to form, a lack of distinctive hydric soil features will not be considered a failure if hydrologic and vegetation success is achieved.
- c) **Hydrophytic Vegetation Success** will be achieved through the delineation of developing wetlands utilizing the technical guidelines established in the 1987 Wetland Manual and the 2010 Regional Supplement. The following concept of “dominance”, as defined in the 1987 Manual, will be applied during future routine wetland determinations in created/restored wetlands: *“Subjectively determine the dominant species by estimating those having the largest relative basal area (woody overstory), greatest height (woody understory), greatest percentage of aerial cover (herbaceous understory), and/or greatest number of stems (woody vines).”*
  - i. **Woody Plants** – Trees and shrubs are to be installed at various locations to provide structural diversity within the site at the direction of the MDT Reclamation Specialist. Survival of woody plant species planted within the site will be evaluated to determine survival rates and success of the planting each year of the monitoring period. Success of these planted species will be determined by stem counts each year to determine survival rates of the various planted woody species and will also include the evaluation of naturally recruited woody plant species within the site. *“Scrub/shrub wetland habitat will be achieved where 30 percent absolute cover by cuttings, planted and volunteer woody plants is reached within the defined monitoring period or the site is showing signs of progression (e.g. by approximating stem densities and estimating future canopy coverage, or using other appropriate methods) towards that goal at the end of the defined monitoring period.”*
  - ii. **Herbaceous Plants** – At the conclusion of the monitoring period, ocular coverage of desirable hydrophytic vegetation (wetland plants listed as OBL, FACW and FAC) will be at least

80 percent. A wetland seed mix was prepared for this site that included tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Northwest Territory sedge (*Carex utriculata*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), American sloughgrass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*), American mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*).

2. **Wetland Acreage Development** will provide 34.04 acres of emergent and scrub/shrub wetlands within the project site (Table 1 and Project Plan Sheet, Appendix D).
  - a) Emergent wetlands will comprise approximately 70 to 75 percent of the site.
  - b) Scrub/shrub wetland and riparian areas will comprise 15 to 20 percent of the site primarily along the proposed stream corridor and between created wetlands.
  - c) Open water will comprise approximately less than 5 percent of the total wetland area within the site after final monitoring.
  
3. **Floodplain Channel Restoration Success** will be evaluated in terms of revegetation and bank stability success.
  - a) The floodplain channel corridor will be considered stable when banks are vegetated with a majority of deep-rooting riparian and wetland plant species.
  - b) Bank pins will be established at appropriate locations along the new relic floodplain channel to monitor channel stability and to measure channel movement.
  - c) Bank stability success will be evaluated by utilizing the bio-reference reaches to the north and south of the project area as comparisons due to their relatively undisturbed and vegetated mixture of woody and herbaceous riparian and wetland plant species.
  - d) Vegetation transects will be monitored along the relic floodplain channel corridor to determine root stability indices of the riparian and wetland plant species as it develops.
  
4. **Bank Stabilization Success** along the Shields River in the northwestern corner of the site will be evaluated in terms of revegetation and bank stability success.
  - a) Bank stability will be achieved when the banks are vegetated with a majority of deep-rooting riparian and wetland plant species.
  - b) This area will be visually inspected and photo documented for incorporation into the annual monitoring reports to outline the success of the bank stabilization.
  - c) If annual monitoring determines that the banks are eroding, the USACE and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) will be contacted to

coordinate a field meeting for joint evaluation and consultation on remediation.

5. **Upland Buffer Success** will be achieved when the noxious weeds do not exceed 10 percent of cover within the buffer areas on site. Any area within the creditable buffer zone disturbed by project construction must have at least 50 percent aerial cover of non-weed species by the end of the monitoring period.
6. **Weed Control** will be based upon annual monitoring of the site to determine weed species and degree of infestation within the site, and control measures based upon the monitoring results will be implemented by MDT to minimize and/or eliminate the intrusion of State Listed Noxious weed species within the site. The MDT will manage the wetland conservation easement area to meet a goal of having less than 5 percent absolute cover of state listed noxious weed species across the site.
7. **Fencing** of the proposed mitigation site has been installed along the easement boundaries to protect the integrity of the wetland from disturbance that may be detrimental to the site. Fencing installed along the perimeter of the site has been designed to be “wildlife friendly” to allow for wildlife movement into and out of the wetland complex.
8. **Monitoring** of this MDT mitigation site will be based upon the MDT standard monitoring protocols utilized for all MDT wetland mitigation sites for a minimum period of five years or longer as determined by the US Army Corps, Montana Regulatory Office’s review of annual monitoring reports for the site and whether or not the site has met the wetland success criteria.

## 2. METHODS

The third year of monitoring was completed on June 26, 2012. Information for the Mitigation Monitoring Form and Wetland Determination Data Form was entered electronically in the field on a palmtop computer during the field investigation (Appendix B). Monitoring activity sites were located with a global positioning system (GPS) as shown on Figure 2 (Appendix A). Information collected included a wetland delineation, vegetation community mapping, vegetation transect monitoring, soil and hydrology data collection, bird and wildlife use documentation, photographic documentation, and a non-engineering examination of the infrastructure established within the mitigation project area.

### 2.1. Hydrology

The presence of hydrological indicators as outlined on the Wetland Determination Data Form was assessed at four data points established within the project area. The hydrologic indicators were evaluated according to features observed during the site visit. The data were recorded on the electronic Wetland Determination Data Form (Appendix B). Hydrologic assessments allow evaluation of mitigation criteria addressing inundation/saturation requirements.

Technical criteria for wetland hydrology guidelines have been established as “permanent or periodic inundation, or soil saturation within 12 inches of the ground surface for a significant period (12.5 percent of the growing season) during the growing season” (USACE 2010). Systems with continuous inundation or saturation for greater than 12.5 percent of the growing season are considered jurisdictional wetlands. The growing season is defined for purposes of this report as the number of days when there is a 50 percent probability that the minimum daily temperature is greater than or equal to 28 degrees Fahrenheit (Environmental Laboratory 1987). Temperature data recorded for the meteorological station as Wilsall 8 ENE, Montana (249023) has a median (5 years in 10) growing season length of 120 days. Areas defined as wetlands would require 15 days of inundation or saturation within 12 inches of the ground surface to meet the hydrology criteria. Soil pits excavated during the wetland delineation were used to evaluate groundwater levels within 18 inches of the ground surface. The data were recorded on the Wetland Determination Data Form (Appendix B).

## **2.2. Vegetation**

The boundaries of the dominant vegetation communities were determined in the field during the active growing season and subsequently delineated on the 2012 aerial photograph. Percent cover of dominant species within a community type was visually estimated and recorded using the following classes: 0 (less than 1 percent), 1 (1 to 5 percent), 2 (6 to 10 percent), 3 (11 to 20 percent), 4 (21 to 50 percent), and 5 (greater than 50 percent) (Appendix B). Community types were named based on the dominant vegetation species that characterized each mapped polygon (Figure 3, Appendix A).

Temporal changes in vegetation were evaluated through annual assessments of static belt transects established in June, 2010 (Figure 2, Appendix A). Vegetation composition was assessed and recorded along three vegetation belt transects (T-1, T-2, T-3) approximately 10 feet wide and 1376, 1333, and 733 feet long, respectively (Figure 2, Appendix A). The length of transect T-1 was misreported in 2010 as 1072 feet. Transects T-2 and T-3 traverse the floodplain channel corridor and banks to provide an assessment of root stability indices of the developing riparian and wetland plant species (Figure 2, Appendix A).

The transect locations were recorded with a resource-grade GPS unit. Spatial changes in the dominant vegetation communities were recorded along the stationed transect. The percent aerial cover of each vegetation species within the belt transect was estimated using the same values and cover ranges used for the polygon data on the 2012 aerial photograph (Figure 3, Appendix B). Photographs were taken at the endpoints of each transect during the monitoring event (Appendix C).

The survival of woody species planted onsite was recorded during monitoring. Survival rates will be evaluated annually. The location of noxious weeds was

noted in the field and mapped on the aerial photo (Figure 3, Appendix A). The noxious weed species identified are color-coded. The locations are denoted with the symbol “x”, “▲”, or “■” representing 0 to 0.1 acre, .1 to 1 acre, or greater than 1 acre in extent, respectively. Cover classes are represented by T, L, M, or H, for less than 1 percent, 1 to 5 percent, 2 to 25 percent, and 25 to 100 percent, respectively.

### **2.3. Soil**

Soil information was obtained from the *Soil Survey for Park County Area* (USDA 2010) and *in situ* soil descriptions. Soil cores were excavated using a hand auger and evaluated according to procedures outlined in the 1987 Manual and the 2010 Regional Supplement. A description of the soil profile, including hydric soil indicators when present, was recorded on the Wetland Determination Data Form for each profile (Appendix B).

### **2.4. Wetland Delineation**

Waters of the U.S. including special aquatic sites and jurisdictional wetlands were delineated throughout the project area in accordance with criteria established in the 1987 Manual and the 2010 Regional Supplement. The technical criteria for hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology described in the 2010 Regional Supplement must be satisfied to delineate a representative area as jurisdictional. The name and indicator status of plant species was derived from the Draft 2012 National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) (Lichvar and Kartesz. 2009). Previous years' reports used the 1988 National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Northwest Region 9 (Reed 1988). The 2012 NWPL scientific plant names were used in this report. Many common names used in the 2012 NWPL appear incomplete or erroneous. When used in this report, 2012 NWPL common names that appear to be incomplete or erroneous are provided with parenthetical clarification. For example, the common given name for the plant *Agrostis exarata* in the 2012 NWPL is “spiked bent”. As this is likely an error, this species' common name would be reported here as “spiked bent (grass)”. A Routine Level-2 on-site Determination Method (Environmental Laboratory 1987) was used to delineate jurisdictional areas within the project boundaries. The information was recorded electronically on the Wetland Determination Data Form (Appendix B).

The wetland boundary was determined in the field based on changes in plant communities and/or hydrology, and changes in soil characteristics. Topographic relief boundaries within the project area were also examined and cross referenced with soil and vegetation communities as supportive information for this delineation. Vegetation composition, soil characteristics, and hydrology were assessed at likely wetland and adjacent upland locations. If all three parameters met the criteria, the area was designated as wetland and mapped by vegetation community type. If any one of the parameters did not exhibit positive wetland indicators, the area was determined to be upland unless the site was classified as an atypical situation, potential problem area, or special aquatic site, i.e., mudflat. The wetland boundary was identified on the 2012 aerial photograph.

Wetland areas were estimated using geographic information system (GIS) methods.

## **2.5. Wildlife**

Observations of use by mammal, reptile, amphibian, and bird use were recorded on the Mitigation Monitoring form during the site visit. Indirect use indicators including tracks, scat, burrow, eggshells, skins, and bones were also recorded. These signs were recorded while traversing the site for other required activities. Direct sampling methods such as snap traps, live traps, and pitfall traps, were not used. A comprehensive species list of wildlife observed during the annual monitoring periods has been compiled.

## **2.6. Functional Assessment**

The 2008 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method (Berglund and McEldowney 2008) was used to evaluate functions and values on the site from 2010 to 2012. This method provides an objective means of assigning wetlands an overall rating and provides regulators a means of assessing mitigation success based on wetland functions. Functions are self-sustaining properties of a wetland ecosystem that exist in the absence of society and relate to ecological significance without regard to subjective human values (Berglund and McEldowney 2008). Field data for this assessment were collected during the site visit. Wetland Assessment Forms were completed for three separate assessment areas (AA) within mitigation site (Appendix B).

## **2.7. Photo Documentation**

Monitoring at photo points provided supplemental information documenting wetland, upland, and vegetation transect conditions; site trends; and current land uses surrounding the site. Photographs were taken at established photo points throughout the mitigation area during the site visit (Appendix C). Photo point locations were recorded with a resource grade GPS unit (Figure 2, Appendix A).

## **2.8. GPS Data**

Site features and survey points were collected with a resource grade Thales Pro Mark III GPS unit during the 2012 monitoring season. Points were collected using WAAS-enabled differential correction satellites, typically improving resolution to sub-meter accuracy. The collected data were then transferred to a personal computer, imported into GIS, and presented in Montana State Plane Single Zone NAD 83 meters. Site features and survey points that were located with GPS included fence boundaries, photograph points, transect endpoints, and wetland data points.

## **2.9. Maintenance Needs**

Channels, engineered structures, fencing, and other features were examined during the site visit for obvious signs of breaching, damage, or other problems. This was a cursory examination and did not constitute an engineering-level structural inspection.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1. Hydrology

Climate data from the meteorological station at Wilsall 8 ENE, Montana (249023), recorded an average annual precipitation rate of 20.28 inches from April 1957 to December 2011 (Western Region Climate Center [WRCC} 2010). The annual precipitation rate recorded in 2010 and 2011 was 24.15 inches and 18.03 inches, respectively. The historic precipitation average from January to August was 15.06 inches. The precipitation totals for this same period was 17.56 inches (2010), 13.36 inches (2011), and 10.32 inches (2012). This data indicates 2012 received 4.74 (31%) fewer inches of precipitation than the long-term average.

The irrigation diversion system located upgradient of the wetland cells was closed during the 2011 and 2012 investigations. Approximately five percent of the site was inundated with surface water from spring runoff in 2012 at depths ranging from 0 to 1.5 feet. The average depth was 0.2 feet and the depth at the emergent vegetation/open water boundary was 0.5 feet. Inundated areas were located within the lowest contour of the excavated depressions. Unlike the 2011 monitoring event at this site, which revealed scour holes, sediment deposits, wrack lines, water marks, and other signs of recent inundation, there were no signs of overbank flooding from the Shields River observed within the site in 2012.

Four data points were sampled to determine the wetland/upland boundaries. Data points E-1 and E-2 were located in areas that met the wetland criteria. There were no hydrological indicators observed at E-3 and E-4. Wetland hydrology indicators at E-1, located within a created wetland cell, included sediment deposits, algal mat or crust, surface soil cracks, drainage patterns, geomorphic position, and the FAC-neutral test. The soil profile was moist at 12 inches below the ground surface. Excavation of the soil pit was restricted below 12 inches as a result of a rock layer. Data point E-2 was excavated in a depression located in the southwest portion of the site. Hydrological indicators at E-2 were saturation at 10 inches bgs, sediment deposits, drift deposits, algal mat, water-stained leaves, drainage patterns, geomorphic position, and FAC-Neutral test. Additional hydrological indicators observed in various wetlands at the Easton Ranch site included sparsely vegetated concave surfaces and dry season water table. Site wide saturation and inundation levels were lower in 2012 versus 2011, likely a result of lower regional precipitation rates and the absence of overbank flow from the Shields River.

The 2011 spring runoff levels and duration were high as a result of an above-average snowpack in the mountains and above average spring precipitation. The constructed flood channel through the mitigation site was activated for the first time since construction during the early part of the 2011 growing season. Fluvial geomorphic processes resulted in the initial development of scour holes, riffles, and point bars. Surface water was not flowing in the channel during the

June 2012 site visit. A few isolated pools were observed in the base of the constructed channel. No areas of bank erosion were noted.

### 3.2. Vegetation

Monitoring year 2012 marked the third year of monitoring on the Easton Ranch wetland mitigation site. One hundred and sixteen plant species have been observed site-wide since 2010 (Table 2). Vegetation plant communities were identified by plant composition and dominance, topography, and hydrology. The community composition is shown on the Monitoring Form in Appendix B and the community boundaries are defined on Figure 3 in Appendix A.

Vegetation community types were named for the dominant species based on percent cover. The only difference in community names from 2011 to 2012 was the elimination of Type 9 – *Beckmannia syzigachne*/Bare Ground, which developed into Type 6. The following community types were observed on the site in 2012 and lists species within each community in descending order of abundance.

Upland community Type 1 – *Phleum pratense*/*Poa pratensis* was identified on 8.75 acres of higher elevation upland areas that surround the constructed wetland cells and channel (Figure 3, Appendix A). The community was dominated by herbaceous species including common timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), smooth brome, (*Bromus inermis*), caraway (*Carum carvi*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus*), and common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

Wetland community Type 3 – *Carex* species (spp.) encompassed 0.46 acre in the pre-existing emergent wetlands located at the north and south boundaries of the site. The community included a diverse mix of wetland species including Northwest Territory sedge (beaked sedge, *Carex utriculata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), leafy tussock sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), field meadow-foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), red-tinged bulrush (small-fruited bulrush, *Scirpus microcarpus*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and lamp rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Wetland community Type 4 – *Salix drummondiana* was identified in a 0.1-acre area in the northwest corner of the site near the bank of the Shields River. The area encompassed a pre-existing scrub-shrub wetland. Dominant species included Drummond willow (*Salix drummondiana*), western-wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*, called *Agropyron* on 1988 list), and Nebraska sedge. Other wetland species identified in this community include American sloughgrass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*), bristly black gooseberry (prickly currant, *Ribes lacustre*), red-tinge bulrush, American mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), clustered field sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), common mint (*Mentha arvensis*), gray willow (*Salix bebbiana*), and Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*).

Community Type 5 – *Populus balsamifera* was a pre-existing forested, scrub/shrub wetland located on 0.76 acre south of the construction area. The vegetation community was dominated by balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), smooth brome, fowl mannagrass, gray willow, red tinge bulrush, Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and blue skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*).

Wetland community Type 6 – *Beckmannia syzigachne* characterized 9.25 acres of the constructed depressions and floodplain channel, an increase of 0.61 acres from 2011. The base elevation of a majority of the depressions in this community contained surface water or signs of recent inundation in 2012. This diverse community type was dominated by American sloughgrass, fowl mannagrass, field meadow foxtail, field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), and lamp rush. Thirty-four other species were identified at five percent or less cover in this community.

Wetland community Type 7 – Aquatic Macrophytes was found in the largest excavated depression and appeared to support semi-permanent open water. Five depressions were identified as Aquatic Macrophytes community across the site and were generally located within the lower half of the site (southern half) where the site appeared to support a higher groundwater table. The community characterized approximately 1.07 acres of the site, an increase of 0.39 acres from 2011. The wetland was classified as an aquatic bed community in 2011, generally defined as a wetland vegetation class dominated by plants “that grow principally on or below the surface of the water for most of the growing season in almost all years (Cowardin et al. 1979).” The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) website further defines the Palustrine Aquatic Bed Class as having aquatic plants at greater than 30 percent cover and water depths of greater than 0.5 m (and less than 2 meters) (MTNHP 2011). The dominant species were green algae (protist), water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum* sp.), narrow-leaf water plantain (*Alisma gramineum*), and beaked ditch-grass (*Ruppia maritima*), with lower covers of waterweed (*Elodea* sp.), American sloughgrass, curly dock, and lamp rush.

Upland community Type 8 – *Bromus* spp./*Trifolium* spp. was identified on 13.12 acres of upland located within the excavated footprint disturbed during initial construction of the site. This community replaced Community Type 2 – *Chenopodium* spp./*Phleum pretense* in 2011 as primary colonizing species decreased dominance and more persistent, perennial plants increased in cover. The vegetation cover increased notably within this community in 2012. There were several hydrophytic species identified at less than 10 percent cover within the plant community. However, the duration of surface water and groundwater in these areas to date does not appear to be sufficient to support further development of wetland plants without additional hydrology, potentially augmented by the existing irrigation network preserved during the development of the mitigation site. The community was dominated by smooth brome,

California brome, common timothy, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common caraway, Kentucky bluegrass, common dandelion, and American sloughgrass. Note that the indicator status of smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass was changed from FACU to FAC on the 2012 NWPL.

In general, the site has continued to develop desirable hydrophytic vegetation since initial monitoring in 2010. Community Type 7 – Aquatic Macrophytes, first identified in 2011 on 0.67-acres, continued to develop and increased to 1.07-acres in 2012. The overall percent cover of hydrophytic vegetation in the constructed floodplain continued to increase in 2012, improving soil stability and protection from erosion when the channel is activated during high flows in the Shields River.

**Table 2. Vegetation species observed from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Scientific Names	Common Names	WMVC Indicator Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	FACU
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Spreading Bent	FAC
<i>Algae, green</i>	Algae, green	NL
<i>Alisma gramineum</i>	Narrow-Leaf Water-Plantain	OBL
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Speckled Alder	FACW
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Meadow-Foxtail	OBL
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Field Meadow-Foxtail	FAC
<b><i>Alyssum alyssoides</i></b>	<b>Pale Madwort</b>	<b>UPL</b>
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Red-Root	FACU
<b><i>Avena fatua</i></b>	<b>Wild Oat</b>	<b>UPL</b>
<b><i>Bassia scoparia</i></b>	<b>Mexican-Fireweed</b>	<b>FAC</b>
<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>	American Slough Grass	OBL
<i>Bromus arvensis</i>	Japanese Brome	UPL
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California Brome	UPL
<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed Brome	FAC
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth Brome	FAC
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	UPL
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint	FACW
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding Plumeless Thistle	UPL
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Leafy Tussock Sedge	OBL
<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>	Nebraska Sedge	OBL
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	Clustered Field Sedge	FACW
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	Swollen Beaked Sedge	OBL
<i>Carex utriculata</i>	Northwest Territory Sedge	OBL
<b><i>Carex vesicaria</i></b>	<b>Lesser Bladder Sedge</b>	<b>OBL</b>
<i>Carum carvi</i>	Caraway	FACU

<sup>1</sup>Draft 2012 NWPL.  
New species identified in 2012 are bolded.



**Table 2. (Continued). Vegetation species observed from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Scientific Names	Common Names	WMVC Indicator Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Cassiope mertensiana</i>	Western Moss-Heather	FACU
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's-Quarters	FACU
<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>	Narrow-Leaf Goosefoot	FACU
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canadian Thistle	FAC
<i>Cirsium douglasii</i>	Douglas' Thistle	OBL
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	FACU
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	UPL
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Red Osier	FACW
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Gypsy-Flower	FACU
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard Grass	FACU
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	Golden-Hardhack	FAC
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hairgrass	FACW
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Herb Sophia	UPL
<i>Dracocephalum sp.</i>	Dragonhead	NL
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common Spike-Rush	OBL
<i>Elodea sp.</i>	Waterweed	NL
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Creeping Wild Rye	FAC
<b><i>Elymus sp.</i></b>	<b>Wild Rye</b>	<b>NL</b>
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Fringed Willowherb	FACW
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	FAC
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Tall Scouring-Rush	FACW
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	FACU
<b><i>Galium palustre</i></b>	<b>Common Marsh Bedstraw</b>	<b>OBL</b>
<i>Glyceria elata</i>	Tall Manna Grass	FACW
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	American Manna Grass	OBL
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl Manna Grass	OBL
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common Sunflower	FACU
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Fox-Tail Barley	FAC
<i>Juncus arcticus</i>	Arctic Rush	FACW
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush	FACW
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Lamp Rush	FACW
<i>Juncus ensifolius</i>	Dagger-Leaf Rush	FACW
<i>Juncus nevadensis</i>	Sierran Rush	FACW
<i>Juncus sp.</i>	Rush	NL
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Lesser Poverty Rush	FAC
<b><i>Juncus torreyi</i></b>	<b>Torrey's Rush</b>	<b>FACW</b>
<i>Lappula occidentalis</i>	Flatspine stickseed	NL
<i>Larix occidentalis</i>	Western Larch	FACU
<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Great Basin Lyme Grass	FAC
<i>Lycopus asper</i>	Rough Water-Horehound	OBL
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	FACU
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	UPL
<b><i>Medicago sp.</i></b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>NL</b>
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow Sweet-Clover	FACU
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	American Wild Mint	FACW
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Seep Monkey-Flower	OBL

<sup>1</sup>Draft 2012 NWPL.  
New species identified in 2012 are bolded.



**Table 2. (Continued). Vegetation species observed from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Scientific Names	Common Names	WMVC Indicator Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Myriophyllum sp.</i>	Water-Milfoil	NL
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Western-Wheat Grass	FACU
<b><i>Persicaria maculosa</i></b>	<b>Lady's-Thumb</b>	<b>FACW</b>
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	FACW
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Common Timothy	FAC
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain	FAC
<b><i>Poa palustris</i></b>	<b>Fowl Blue Grass</b>	<b>FAC</b>
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Blue Grass	FAC
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Rabbit's-Foot Grass	FACW
<i>Populus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-Leaf Cottonwood	FACW
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balsam Poplar	FAC
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen	FACU
<i>Potentilla gracilis</i>	Graceful Cinquefoil	FAC
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry	FACU
<b><i>Ranunculus sp.</i></b>	<b>Buttercup</b>	<b>NL</b>
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	Alder-Leaf Buckthorn	FACW
<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	Bristly Black Gooseberry	FAC
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Woods' Rose	FACU
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock	FAC
<i>Ruppia maritima</i>	Beaked Ditch-Grass	OBL
<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	Gray Willow	FACW
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	Drummond's Willow	FACW
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Narrow-Leaf Willow	FACW
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Pacific Willow	FACW
<b><i>Salix lutea</i></b>	<b>Yellow Willow</b>	<b>OBL</b>
<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Red-Tinge Bulrush	OBL
<i>Scirpus pallidus</i>	Pale Bulrush	OBL
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Hooded Skullcap	OBL
<i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i>	Mad Dog Skullcap	FACW
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock Mustard	UPL
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tall Hedge-Mustard	FACU
<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i>	Idaho Blue-Eyed-Grass	FACW
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Grass-Leaf Starwort	FACU
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion	FACU
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Field Penny-Cress	UPL
<b><i>Tragopogon dubius</i></b>	<b>Yellow Salsify</b>	<b>UPL</b>
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover	FAC
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	FACU
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	FAC
<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	Clover	NL
<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Seaside Arrow-Grass	OBL
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broad-Leaf Cat-Tail	OBL
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	FAC
<b><i>Verbascum thapsus</i></b>	<b>Great Mullein</b>	<b>FACU</b>
<b><i>Vicia americana</i></b>	<b>American Purple Vetch</b>	<b>FAC</b>

<sup>1</sup> Draft 2012 NWPL.  
New species identified in 2012 are bolded.



Vegetation cover was measured along three transects at the Easton Ranch Mitigation Site in 2012 (Figure 2, Appendix A). The data recorded on Transect 1 (Monitoring Forms, Appendix B) are summarized in tabular and graphical formats in Table 3 and Chart 1 and Chart 2, respectively. The transect ends were photographed (Page C-6 in Appendix C). Transect T-1 extends 1,376 feet (1,072 feet in 2010 due to field error during survey) from south to north across several constructed cells east of the constructed channel. The transect intervals alternated between upland community Types 1 – *Phleum pratense/Poa pratensis* and 8 – *Bromus* spp./*Trifolium* spp. and wetland community Types 6 – *Beckmannia syzigachne* and 7 – Aquatic macrophytes. Hydrophytic vegetation communities comprised 14.7 percent of T-1 in 2012, a slight decrease of 2.3 percent since 2011. There was a transition from Type 9 to Type 6 in 2012 reflecting the development of the wetland vegetation cover on the areas characterized as bare ground in 2011. The field measurement error that occurred during the 2010 survey resulted in the underestimation of approximately 300 feet, likely in the upland Type 2 – *Chenopodium/Phleum* community. This precludes direct comparison of trends in habitat due to the adjusted transect length after 2010.

**Table 3. Data summary for Transect 1 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Monitoring Year	2010	2011	2012
<b>Transect Length (feet)</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1376</b>
Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	11	11	12
Vegetation Communities along Transect	3	4	4
Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	1	2	2
Total Vegetative Species	33	18	34
Total Hydrophytic Species	15	19	20
Total Upland Species	18	19	14
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	65	70	80
% Transect Length Comprising Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	28	17	14.7
% Transect Length Comprising Upland Vegetation Communities	70	83	82.5
% Transect Length Comprising Unvegetated Open Water	2.5	0.0	2.8
% Transect Length Comprising Bare Substrate	0.0	0.0	0.0

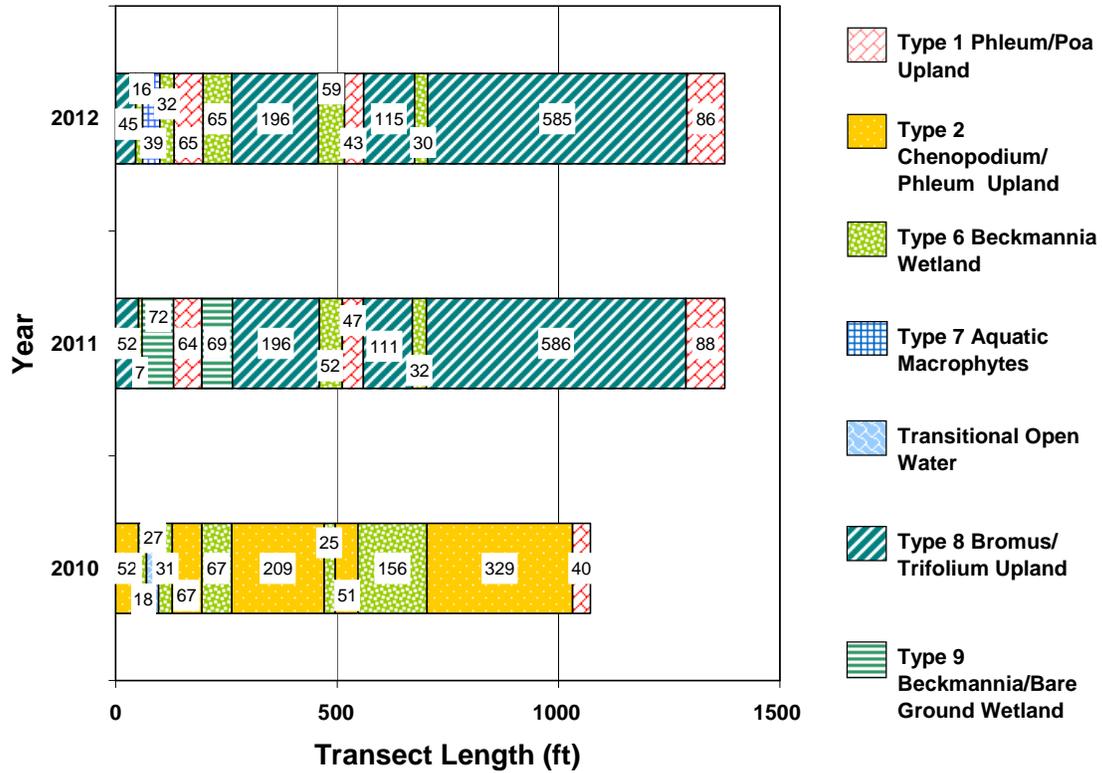


Chart 1. Transect maps showing community types on Transect T-1 from start (0 feet) to finish (1376 feet in 2011 and 2012 and 1072 feet in 2010) at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

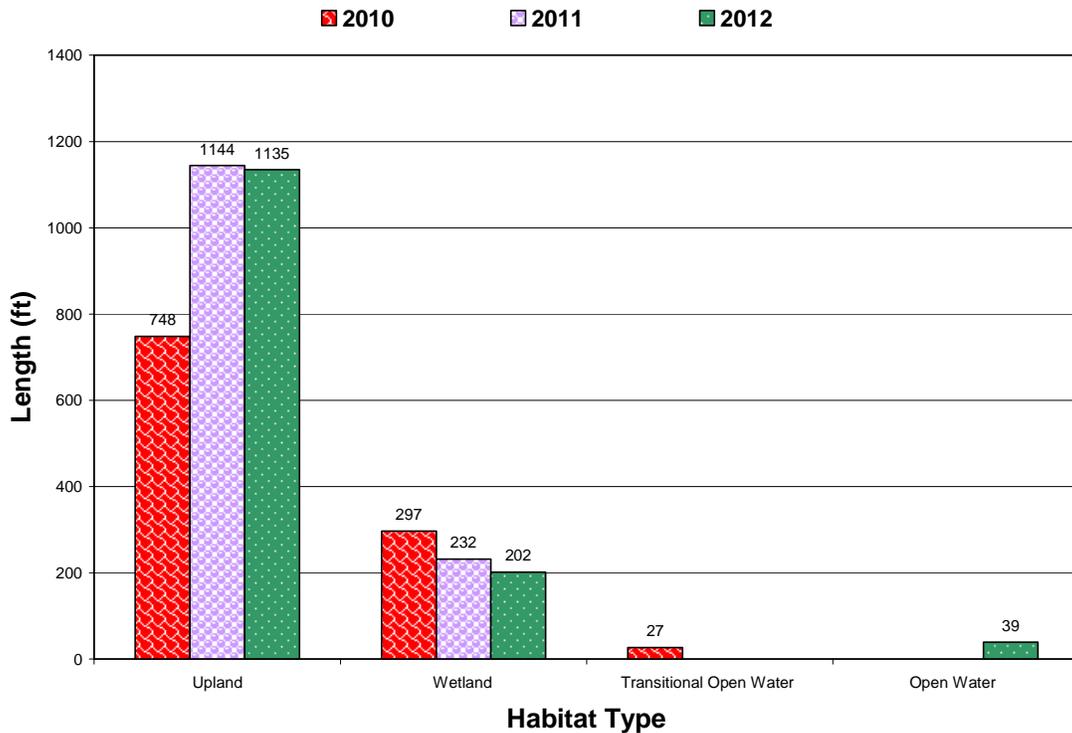


Chart 2. Length of habitat types within Transect T-1 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

Data collected on Transect T-2 (Monitoring Form, Appendix B) are summarized in tabular and graphic formats (Table 4, Charts 3 and 4, respectively). The endpoints of Transect T-2 were photographed (Page C-7 in Appendix C). Wetland types 3 and 6 and upland types 1 and 8 were identified on the transect. Hydrophytic vegetation communities comprised 39.5 percent of T-2 in 2012, a slight decrease from 41 percent in 2011. The largest change occurred on the interval from approximately 200 feet to 400 feet. The plant communities shifted from Type 8 – *Bromus/Trifolium* upland and Type 6 – *Beckmannia* wetland to Type 1 – *Phleum* upland in 2012. An increase of seven hydrophytic species, for a total of 29 species, was documented along T-2 in 2012.

**Table 4. Data summary for Transect T-2 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Monitoring Year	2010	2011	2012
Transect Length (feet)	1333	1333	1333
Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	11	8	7
Vegetation Communities along Transect	4	4	4
Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	2	2	2
Total Vegetative Species	35	38	42
Total Hydrophytic Species	17	22	29
Total Upland Species	18	16	13
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	65	75	80
% Transect Length Comprising Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	38.7	41.0	39.5
% Transect Length Comprising Upland Vegetation Communities	61.3	59.0	60.5
% Transect Length Comprising Unvegetated Open Water	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Transect Length Comprising Bare Substrate	0.0	0.0	0.0

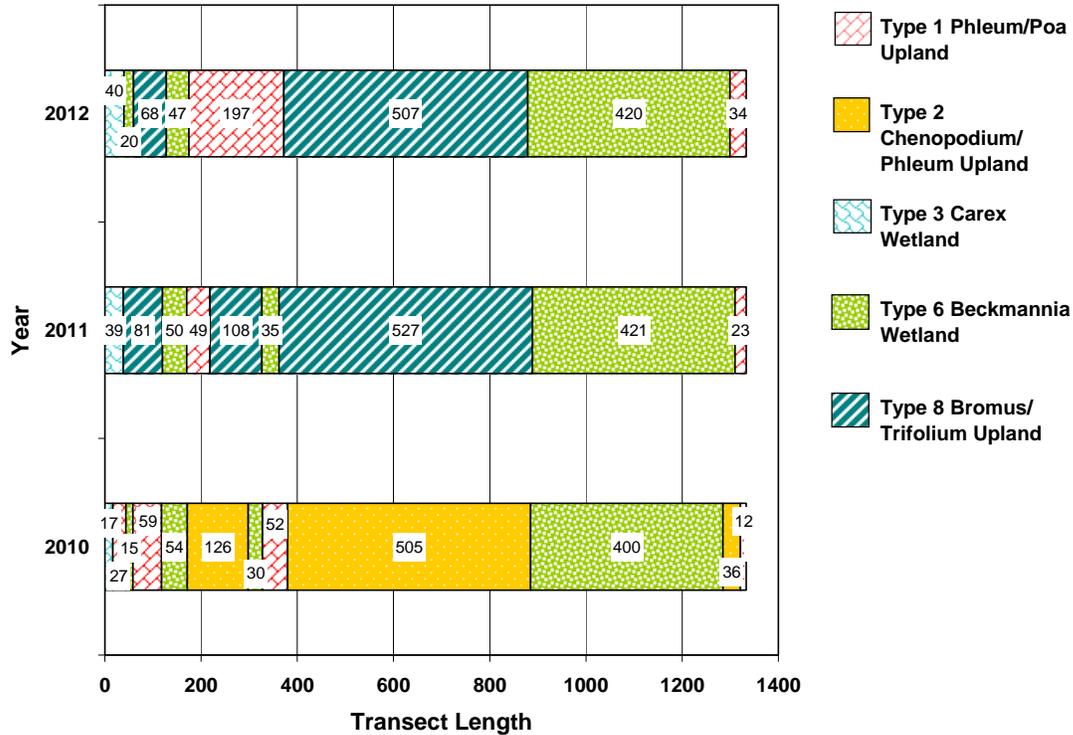


Chart 3. Transect maps showing community types on Transect T-2 from 2010 to 2012 from start (0 feet) to finish (1,333 feet) at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

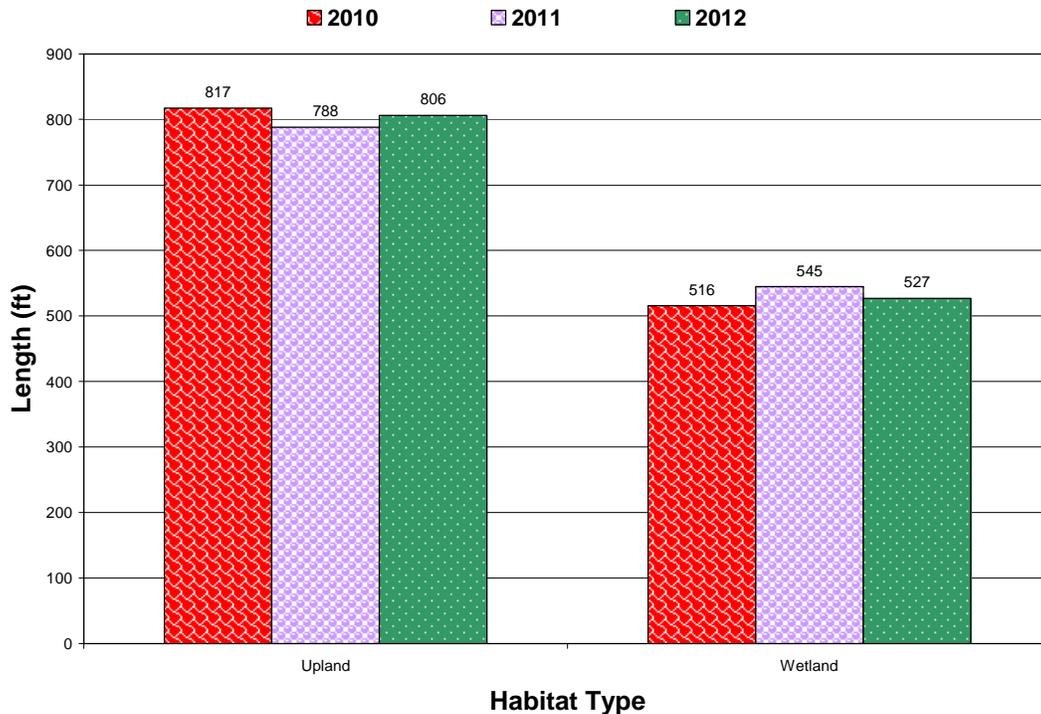


Chart 4. Length of habitat types within Transect T-2 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

Transect T-3 was established west to east across the constructed cells and channel in the south half of the site (Figure 2, Appendix A). Transect T-3 data (Monitoring Form, Appendix B) are summarized in tabular and graphic formats (Table 5 and Charts 5 and 6, respectively). Photographs of the endpoints of Transect T-3 are located on Page C-8 in Appendix C. The transect intervals intercepted wetland community Type 6 and upland community Types 1 and 8. Hydrophytic vegetation comprised 49.1 percent of Transect T-3 in 2012. There were few changes between the transect data collected in 2012 versus 2011 and 2010. The ground elevation is slightly lower in the south half of the site relative to overall groundwater levels and may contribute to the comparatively steady vegetation communities documented along T-3.

**Table 5. Data summary for Transect T-3 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Monitoring Year	2010	2011	2012
<b>Transect Length (feet)</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>751</b>
Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	11	9	9
Vegetation Communities along Transect	3	3	3
Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	1	1	1
Total Vegetative Species	24	35	33
Total Hydrophytic Species	11	17	20
Total Upland Species	13	18	13
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	65	70	80
% Transect Length Comprising Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	45	50	49.1
% Transect Length Comprising Upland Vegetation Communities	55	50	50.9
% Transect Length Comprising Unvegetated Open Water	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Transect Length Comprising Bare Substrate	0.0	0.0	0.0

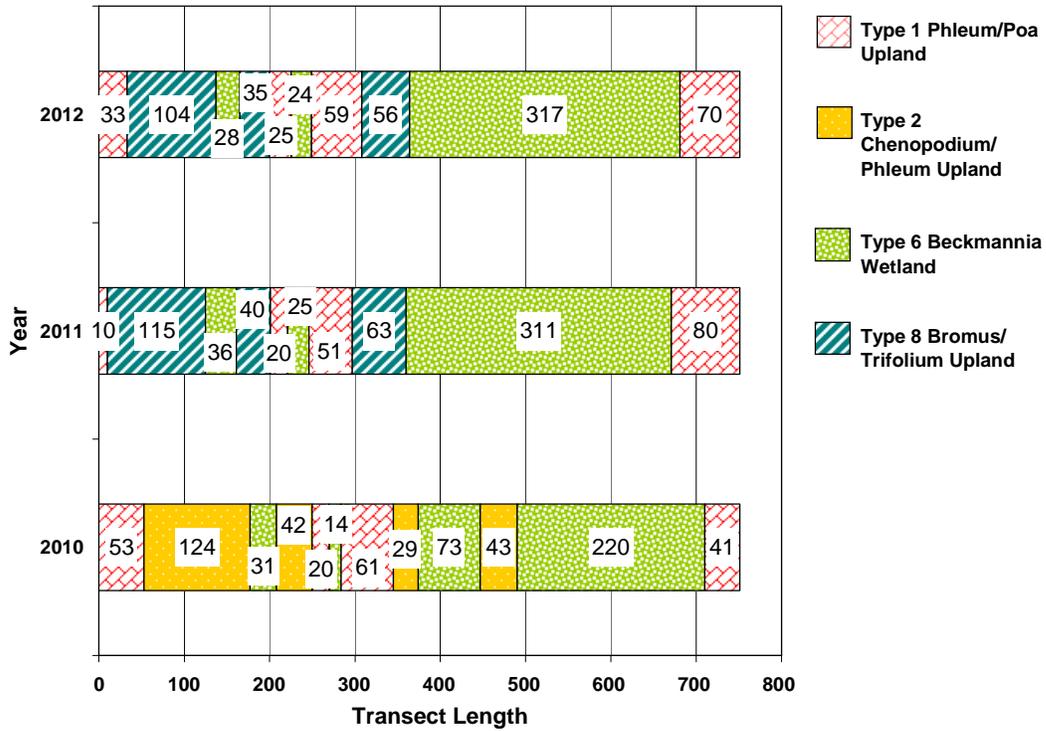


Chart 5. Transect maps showing community types on Transect T-3 from 2010 to 2012 from start (0 feet) to finish (751 feet) at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

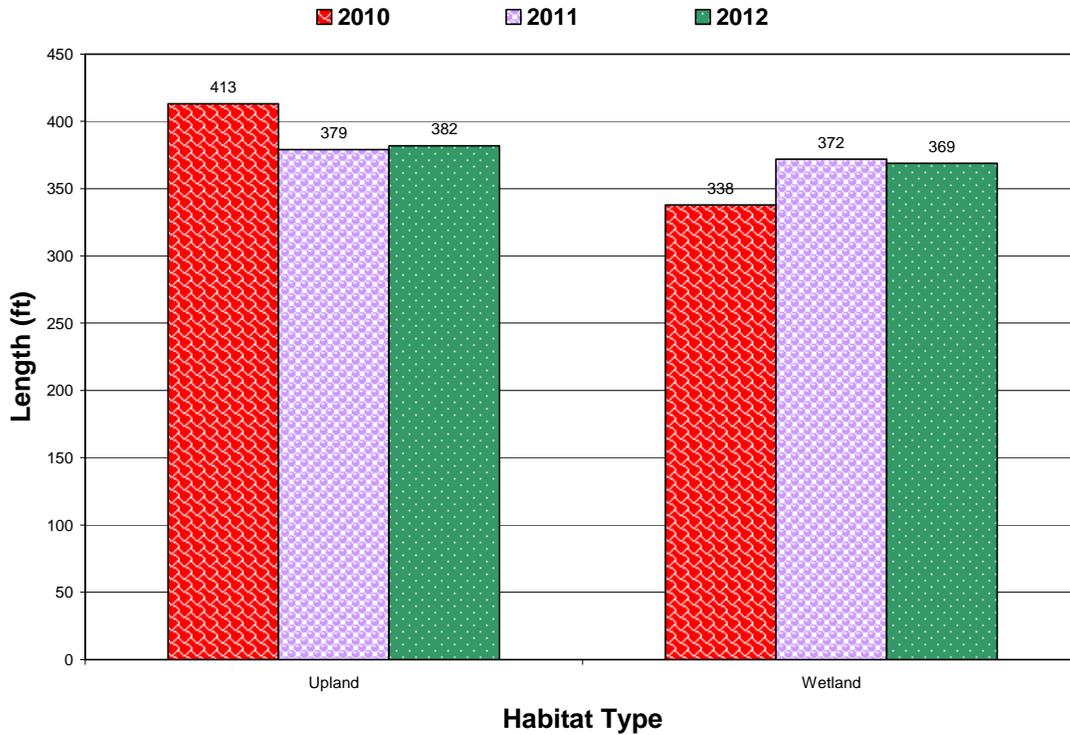


Chart 6. Length of habitat types within Transect T-3 from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.

Nine infestations of Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), a Priority 2B noxious weed, were identified primarily around the site perimeter (Figure 3). The Canadian thistle is spreading to the constructed wetland areas. The infestations ranged in area from less than 0.1 acre to between 0.1 and 1.0 acre. The cover classes ranged from trace (less than 1 percent) to low (1 to 5 percent cover). Canadian thistle was observed in communities 1, 3, 5, and 8. Five infestations of houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) were observed primarily in the north half of the site. The size of the infestations was less than 0.1 acres with less than 1.0 percent cover.

Several hundred cuttings and containerized materials were planted along the constructed flood channel to increase root stability. The plants that were thriving in 2012 exhibited moderate to good vigor. Approximately 10 red-osier dogwood (*Cornus alba* var. *occidentalis*, called *Cornus stolonifera* on 1988 list), 31 sandbar willow, 26 thin-leaf alder, and 40 willow cuttings were identified as surviving.

### **3.3. Soil**

The project site was mapped in the *Park County Soil Survey* (USDA 2010) within the Meadowcreek and rarely-flooded Nesda complexes, found on 0 to 2 percent slopes (155A). The Meadowcreek series is a somewhat poorly drained clay loam soil located on floodplains within valleys. The map unit is listed on the Montana Hydric soil list and is classified as a frigid Fluvaquentic Haplustoll. The Nesda loam (600B) is mapped in a small area at the south end of the project. The loam is a well-drained, frigid Fluventic Haplustoll that is listed on the Montana hydric soil list.

Soil test pits were excavated at four locations, all within what was originally mapped as the Meadowcreek series (E-1 through E-4, Figure 2, Appendix A). Data points E-1 and E-2 were located in shallow constructed wetland depressions in Community 6. Data points E-3 and E-4 were located within Community 8 in upland areas excavated in the north half of the site. The soil profile at E-1 revealed a silty clay (10YR 3/2) with redoximorphic concentrations (10YR 3/6) in 10 percent of the matrix. The redox dark surface provided a positive indication of hydric soil. The test pit could not be excavated below 12 inches as a result of a cobble rock layer. The profile at E-2 revealed a clay loam (10YR 2/2) with redoximorphic concentrations (10YR 4/6) within the matrix. The redox dark surface was a hydric soil indicator. The soil color and texture indicated mixing during construction. A rock layer precluded digging below a depth of 10 inches. Data point E-3 exhibited a clay loam (10YR 6/3) with redox concentrations (10YR 4/6) in the matrix. The soil did not meet the hydric criteria. The soil profile at E-4 was a sandy loam (10YR 3/4) with redox concentrations (10YR 4/6) and depletions (10YR 2/2). The soil met the criteria for a depleted matrix. The soil profiles in the test pits did not generally correlate with the map unit as a result of mixing that occurred during construction.

### 3.4. Wetland Delineation

Four data points were used to refine the wetland boundary (E-1 to E-4, Figure 2, Appendix A and Wetland Determination Data Forms, Appendix B). Data points E-1 and E-2 were located in areas that qualified as wetlands. Data point E-1 was located in community Type 6 in the southern portion of the site near an excavated depression. Data point E-2 was located near the southern boundary of the site in an excavated swale. Data points E-3 and E-4 were located in the northern part of the site and characterized the upland conditions where the ground surface was lowered during the construction of the mitigation site. The total wetland acreage, including pre-existing wetland, was 11.64 acres in 2011 and 2012 (Table 6). The delineation mapped 1.10 acres of pre-existing emergent and shrub/scrub wetland within the mitigation boundaries in 2012 (Figure 3, Appendix A). The pre-existing wetlands were originally defined during the baseline investigation completed in August 2001 (MDT 2008). The delineated wetland acres include 1.45 acres of the re-established flood channel (Community 6, Figure 3, Appendix A). Uplands account for 21.87 acres of the mitigation site. Water from the irrigation system at the northeast boundary had not been diverted to the site by the June 2012 visit. The frequency and duration of surface water and groundwater does not appear to be sufficient to support a dominance of hydrophytic plants in a majority of the excavated area. However, the density of the vegetation cover in the deeper depressions characterized by Community 6 (wetland) increased in 2012.

**Table 6. Total wetland acres delineated from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

Habitat	2001 (acres)	2010 (acres)	2011 (acres)	2012 (acres)
Pre-existing Wetland Area	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Created Wetland Area	---	10.43	10.54	10.54
<b>Total Wetland Habitat</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>11.53</b>	<b>11.64</b>	<b>11.64</b>

### 3.5. Wildlife

A comprehensive list of bird and other wildlife species observed directly or indirectly from 2010 to 2012 is presented in Table 7 (Appendix B). Twelve bird species identified in 2012, including three new species: American coot (*Fulicia americana*), band-tailed pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*), and black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). The behaviors and habitats of all birds observed in 2012 are listed on the Mitigation Monitoring Form (Appendix B). A deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), long-tailed vole (*Microtus longicaudus*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were observed for the first time during the 2012 site visit. The tracks, scat, and/or burrows of moose (*Alces americanus*), porcupine (*Hystricomorph hystricidae*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and Richardson's ground squirrel (*Spermophilus richardsonii*) were also noted.

**Table 7. Wildlife species observed from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>AMPHIBIAN</b>	
Columbia Spotted Frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>
Woodhouse's Toad	<i>Bufo woodhousii</i>
<b>BIRD</b>	
<b>American Coot</b>	<b><i>Fulica americana</i></b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	<b><i>Spinus tristis</i></b>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
<b>American Robin</b>	<b><i>Turdus migratorius</i></b>
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	<b><i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></b>
<b>Band-tailed Pigeon</b>	<b><i>Patagioenas fasciata</i></b>
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
<b>Black-billed Magpie</b>	<b><i>Pica hudsonia</i></b>
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	<b><i>Poecile atricapillus</i></b>
<b>Canada Goose</b>	<b><i>Branta canadensis</i></b>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
<b>Mallard</b>	<b><i>Anas platyrhynchos</i></b>
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	<b><i>Buteo jamaicensis</i></b>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	<b><i>Melospiza melodia</i></b>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
<b>Tree Swallow</b>	<b><i>Tachycineta bicolor</i></b>
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>

Species identified in 2012 are listed in **bold** type.



**Table 7 (continued). Wildlife species observed from 2010 to 2012 at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>MAMMAL</b>	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
<b>Deer Mouse</b>	<b><i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i></b>
<b>Long-tailed Vole</b>	<b><i>Microtus longicaudus</i></b>
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
<b>Moose</b>	<b><i>Alces americanus</i></b>
<b>Porcupine</b>	<b><i>Erethizon dorsatum</i></b>
<b>Pronghorn Antelope</b>	<b><i>Antilocapra americana</i></b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b><i>Procyon lotor</i></b>
<b>Richardson's Ground Squirrel</b>	<b><i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i></b>
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	<b><i>Odocoileus virginianus</i></b>
<b>REPTILE</b>	
Plains Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>

Species identified in 2012 are listed in **bold** type.

### 3.6. Functional Assessment

The 2008 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method (MWAM) (Berglund and McElDowney 2008) was used to evaluate three assessment areas (AA) (Table 8 and Appendix B). The AAs were separated by Creation, Restoration, and Preservation areas of the mitigation site, and are described in more detail below.

The Creation AA encompassed 9.09 acres of constructed palustrine, emergent wetland cells and has 52.27 functional units. The overall rating for the Creation AA remained at a Category III wetland in 2012. The general condition of the AA in 2012 went from moderate to low disturbance. The ratings increased for the sediment/shoreline stabilization and sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal functions as a result of the increase in the density of the hydrophytic vegetation cover. The ratings were high for short and long term surface water storage, sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal, and production export/food chain support. The number of units and acreage are expected to increase as some areas of upland in the excavated areas (Community 8) transition to wetland habitat provided sufficient wetland hydrology exists within the site.

The Restoration AA consisted of 1.45-acres of re-established flood channel. The Restoration AA (flood channel) received a Category III rating with 56.5 percent of the total possible points, a slight decrease from 59.5 percent in 2010. This decrease is attributed to the downgrading of the bald eagle from an MTNHP S3 to an S4 species due to a steady increase in populations numbers across the state. The increase from moderate disturbance to low disturbance raised the uniqueness rating. Ratings were high for sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal and moderate for MTNHP species habitat, general wildlife habitat, flood attenuation,

short and long term surface water storage, sediment/shoreline stabilization, production export/food chain support, and groundwater discharge/recharge. The Restoration AA achieved a total of 8.19 functional units in 2012.

The 1.1-acre Preservation AA encompassed the existing forested, shrub/scrub and palustrine emergent wetlands. The existing wetland within the Preservation AA was rated as Category II with 69.4 percent of the possible points, a decrease from 2011 resulting from the downgrading of the bald eagle by the MTNHP in April 2012 and a decrease of the flood attenuation rating that had been previously overestimated. The presence of emergent, scrub/shrub, and forested wetlands types increased the structural diversity ratings. Ratings were high for general wildlife habitat, flood attenuation, short and long term surface water storage, sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal, and groundwater discharge/recharge and excellent for production export/food chain support. The Preservation AA scored a total of 7.32 functional units in 2012.

### **3.7. Photo Documentation**

Photographs taken at photo points one through seven (PP1 through PP7; Figure 2, Appendix A) from 2010 to 2012 are shown on pages C-1 to C-5 of Appendix C. Transect end points are shown on pages C-6 to C-8 of Appendix C. Panoramas of photo points PP-2 to PP-5 are included on pages C-9 to C-11 of Appendix C. Photos of the data points are included on page C-12. Photo points 4A and 4B on pages C-4 and C-5 show the Shields River just outside the northwest corner of the project area from 2010 to 2012.

### **3.8. Maintenance Needs**

The diversion structure was closed during the July 2011 and June 2012 investigations. Six bird-boxes were installed at the site between 2010 and 2011. Several of the bird boxes were occupied by swallows. The fences were intact. No maintenance was required for the structures.

Nine infestations of Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), a Priority 2B noxious weed, were identified primarily around the site perimeter (Figure 3). The Canadian thistle is spreading to the constructed wetland areas. The infestations ranged in area from less than 0.1 acre to between 0.1 and 1.0 acre. The cover classes ranged from trace (<1 percent) to low (1 to 5 percent cover). Canadian thistle was observed in communities 1, 3, 5, and 8. Five infestations of houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) were observed primarily in the north half of the site. The size of the infestations was less than 0.1 acres with less than 1.0 percent cover.

**Table 8. Functions and Values of the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site from 2010 to 2012.**

Function and Value Parameters from the 2008 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method	2010 Creation	2011 Creation	2012 Creation	2010 Restoration	2011 Restoration	2012 Restoration	2010 Preservation	2011 Preservation	2012 Preservation
Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	Low (0.0)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.0)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.0)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)
MTNHP Species Habitat	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Low (0.2)
General Wildlife Habitat	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Low (0.3)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	High (0.9)	High (0.9)	High (0.9)
General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	NA	NA	NA						
Flood Attenuation	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Exc (1.0)	High (0.9)	Mod (0.6)
Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	High ( 0.9)	High ( 0.8)	High ( 0.8)	Mod ( 0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	High ( 0.8)	High ( 0.8)	High ( 0.8)
Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	High (0.9)	Mod (0.6)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	Low (0.2)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	NA	NA	NA
Production Export/ Food Chain Support	Mod (0.5)	High (0.8)	High (0.8)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Exc (1.0)	Exc (1.0)
Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	Mod (0.7)	High (1.0)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)
Uniqueness	Low (0.2)	Low (0.3)	Mod (0.4)	Low (0.2)	Low (0.3)	Mod (0.4)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)
Recreation/Education Potential (bonus points)	Low (0.05)	Low (0.05)	Low (0.05)						
<b>Actual Points / Possible Points</b>	<b>5.25 / 10</b>	<b>5.75 / 10</b>	<b>5.75 / 10</b>	<b>4.95 / 10</b>	<b>5.95 / 10</b>	<b>5.65 / 10</b>	<b>6.65 / 9</b>	<b>6.95 / 9</b>	<b>6.25 / 9</b>
<b>% of Possible Score Achieved</b>	<b>52.5%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>49.5%</b>	<b>59.5%</b>	<b>56.5%</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>69.4%</b>
<b>Overall Category</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Acreage of Assessed Aquatic Habitats within Easement</b>	<b>8.98</b>	<b>9.09</b>	<b>9.09</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Functional Units (acreage x actual points)</b>	<b>47.15</b>	<b>52.27</b>	<b>52.27</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>8.63</b>	<b>8.19</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>6.88</b>



The east bank of the Shields River along the northwest corner of the Easton mitigation site remained stable through the 2011 runoff event. The structural integrity of the coir-wrapped soil lifts was intact following high flows. Fine-grain deposits accumulated on the lifts as flood waters receded. The 2011 flood flows resulted in the formation of a wider base-flow channel and a slight westward shift of the west bank, away from the site. A debris jam was removed from the channel and several downed trees were removed from the riparian cottonwood forest during the early part of 2012. Photo points 4A and 4B on pages C-2 and C-3 show the Shields River in the northwest corner of the site from 2010 to 2012.

### **3.9. Current Credit Summary**

Table 9 summarizes the current wetland credits based on the USACE approved credit ratios (MDT 2008) and the wetland delineation completed in June 2012. Proposed mitigation included the creation of 24.95 acres of palustrine, emergent and shrub/scrub wetlands, the re-establishment of a 1.56-acre flood channel, the preservation of 1.10 acres of pre-existing wetland, and the maintenance of 6.43 acres of upland buffer. Proposed wetland credits for the project site totaled 27.40 credit acres, which accounted for 0.67 acres of impacts associated with the construction of the mitigation wetland.

The 2012 delineation identified a total of 11.64 acres of wetland within the project boundary. Approximately 9.09 acres of emergent wetland has developed to date within the constructed cells. The restored channel encompassed 1.45 acres of riverine emergent wetland. The pre-existing wetland, which included portions of Communities 3, 4, and 7, encompassed 1.1 acres. Uplands accounted for 21.87 acres of the 33.51 acre site. The current 50 foot upland buffer calculated for this site totals 11.97 acres. Since this value is expected to decrease with continued wetland development, the expected 50 foot upland buffer at full wetland development (6.43 acres) was used to calculate credit totals. Applying the approved USACE Mitigation ratios to each mitigation feature, a total of 11.44 acres of credit was accrued in 2012 (Table 9).

While a majority of the site was inundated or saturated within 12 inches of the ground surface in July 2011, a decrease in surface water and groundwater levels at the site was observed in 2012. Several of the excavated depressions that contained surface water in 2011 were dry in 2012, limiting the potential of the site to expand in wetland acreage (see photo sheets).

The Easton Ranch wetland mitigation site has shown continued progress towards achieving the USACE-approved performance standards established for this project. The scrub/shrub wetland habitat established by cuttings, containerized plants, and volunteer species is still developing. Approximately 197 live woody stems were observed in 2012. The stems have not yet achieved enough growth to allow quantification of the absolute cover site wide. The herbaceous cover of hydrophytic vegetation in a majority of Community 6 is approximately 80 to 90 percent. The percent cover of bare ground decreased

notably from 2010 to 2011. However, the vegetation cover in Community 8, which encompasses 13.12 acres of the excavated areas targeted for wetland development, was still dominated by upland plants. The vegetation cover in the channel increased in 2012, although the channel was not active during the 2012 runoff. The cross-section was stable and included dominant plants species (rush and willow) with high root stability indices. Weed management is ongoing. Canadian thistle infestations were sprayed in 2011. The weeds do not currently exceed 10 percent of cover in the upland buffer. The development of wetland habitat appears limited by the lack of wetland hydrology at the higher ground surface elevations in the excavated areas. As a result of these conditions, the wetland acreage development goals have not yet been achieved at this site. The fencing around the site was intact and in good condition and grazing has been excluded from the mitigation area.

**Table 9. Summary of wetland credits at the Easton Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site from 2010 to 2012.**

Proposed Mitigation Features	Compensatory Mitigation Type	USACE Mitigation Ratios	Final Credit Acreages	Proposed Final Wetland Credits (Acres)	2010 Wetland Acreages	2010 Credit Acres	2011 Wetland Acreages	2011 Credit Acres	2012 Wetland Acreages	2012 Credit Acres
Creation of palustrine emergent wetland via shallow excavation.	Creation	1:1	24.95	24.95	7.78	7.78	9.09	9.09	9.09	9.09
Re-establishment of relic flood channel.	Restoration (Re-establishment)	1:1	1.56	1.56	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
Preservation of existing shrub/scrub and palustrine emergent wetland.	Preservation	4:1	1.10	0.28	1.10	0.28	1.10	0.28	1.10	0.28
Establish a 50-foot wide upland buffer.	Upland Buffer	5:1	6.43	1.29	6.43*	1.29	6.43*	1.29	6.43*	1.29
Project Impacts			-0.67	-0.67	-0.67	-0.67	-0.67	-0.67	-0.67	-0.67
<b>Total</b>				<b>27.41</b>		<b>10.12</b>		<b>11.44</b>		<b>11.44</b>

\*The current upland buffer calculated to be 11.97ac and is expected to decrease as wetland areas expand within mitigation boundary. Value presented in this table (6.43ac) represents the expected extent of upland buffer once maximum wetland acreage is achieved.



#### 4. REFERENCES

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- Lichvar, Robert W. and Kartesz, John T. 2009. North American Digital Flora: National Wetland Plant List, version 2.4.0 ([https://wetland\\_plants.usace.army.mil](https://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil)). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, and BONAP, Chapel Hill, *Downloaded from National Wetland Plant List website 5/9/12. Effective June 1, 2012.*
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- Reed, P.B. 1988. *National list of plant species that occur in wetlands: North West (Region 9)*. Biological Report 88(26.9), May 1988. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC.
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#### Websites:

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- WRCC United States Historical Climatology Network. 2010. Accessed June 2011 at: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/CLIMATEDATA.html>.

## **Appendix A**

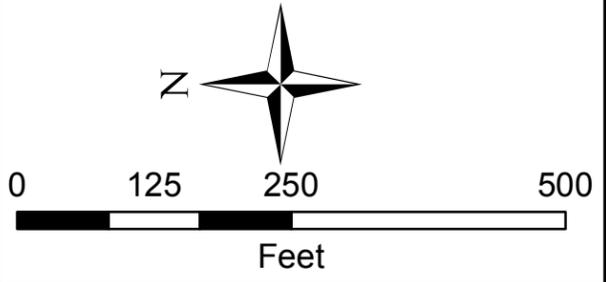
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Project Area Maps – Figures 2 and 3

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MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring  
Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana

# Figure 2: 2012 Monitoring Activity Locations

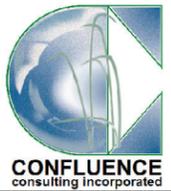


**Legend**

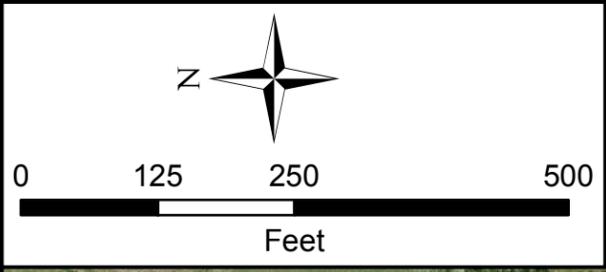
- Vegetation Transect
- Monitoring Limits
- ⊕ Data Points
- Photo Points
- ▲ Bird Box

*Base Photography Date:  
June 26, 2012*

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION MAY OR MAY NOT DEPICT THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF ANY PARCEL HEREIN. THIS FIGURE IS A VISUAL AID ONLY; BOUNDARY RESTORATION MUST BE MADE BY A LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR. THIS FIGURE IS INTENDED TO DISPLAY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE REFERENCED REPORT. CONFLUENCE MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND REGARDING THIS DRAWING FOR ANY USE OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL. ANY OTHER USE IS AT THE USER'S SOLE RISK.

Project Name		LOCATION: Park Co., MT	
Drawing Title		PROJECT NO: NH-STPP 5(39)	
Project Name		FILE: Easton/Monitor2012.mxd	
Drawing Title		2012 Monitoring Activity Locations	
DRAWN BCS	CHECKED BV	APPROVED JU	SCALE: Noted
Drawn: September 6, 2012		PROJ MGR: B Sandefur	
 CONFLUENCE consulting incorporated		Figure 2	
REV -			

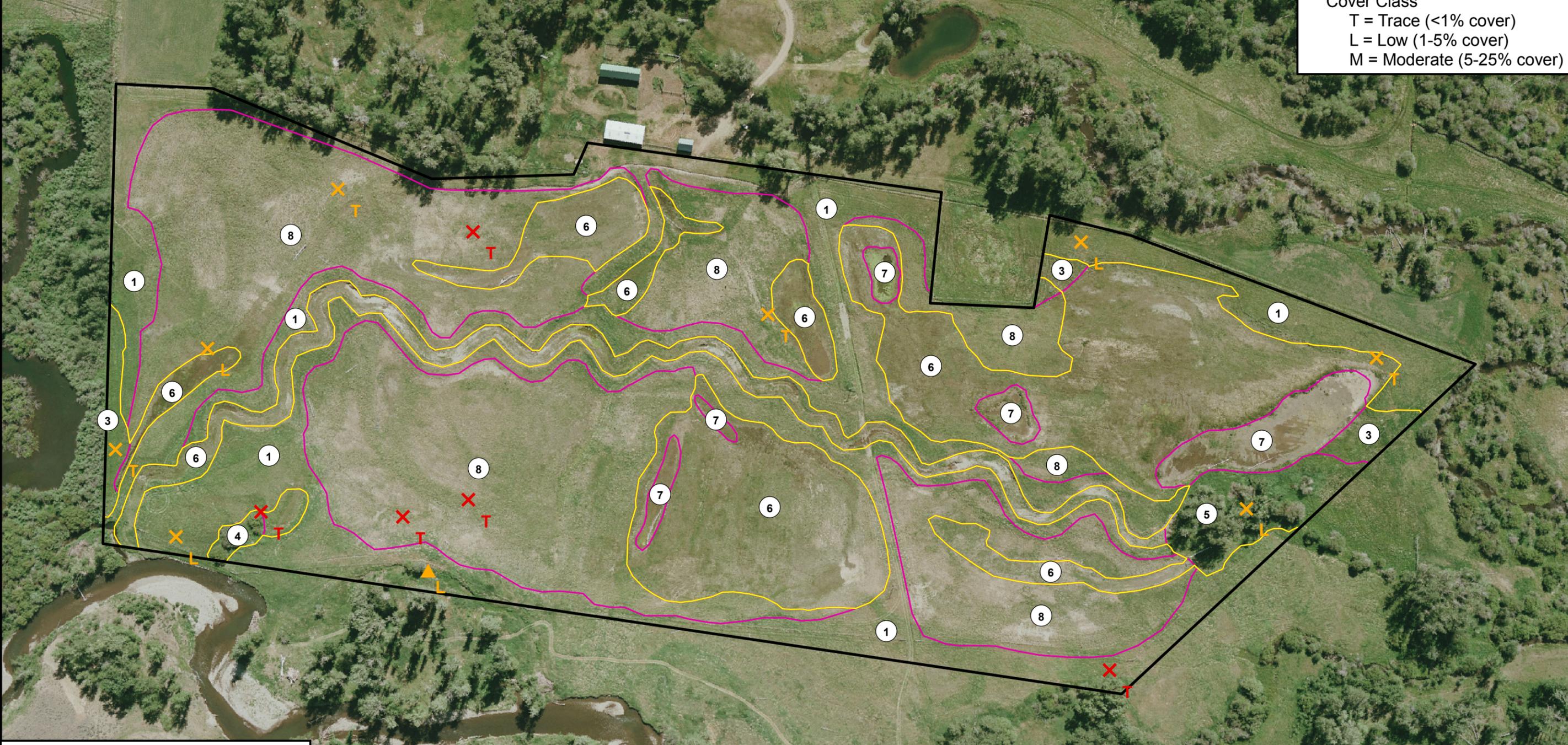
# Figure 3: 2012 Mapped Site Features



**Noxious Weeds**  
*Cynoglossum officinale*  
*Cirsium arvense*

**Infestation Size**  
 X = <0.1 acre  
 ▲ = 0.1 to 1 acre  
 ■ = 1 to 5 acre

**Cover Class**  
 T = Trace (<1% cover)  
 L = Low (1-5% cover)  
 M = Moderate (5-25% cover)



- Vegetation Community Types**
- ① Phleum pratense/Poa pratensis
  - ③ Carex spp.
  - ④ Salix drummondiana
  - ⑤ Populus balsamifera
  - ⑥ Beckmannia syzigachne
  - ⑦ Aquatic Macrophytes
  - ⑧ Bromus spp./Trifolium spp.

**Legend**

- Monitoring Limits ———
- Wetland Limits ———
- Vegetation Communities ———

*Base Photography Date:  
 June 26, 2012*

**Acres**

Project Area	33.51 acres
Gross Wetland	11.64 acres
Pre-existing Wetland	1.10 acres
Net Wetlands	10.54 acres
Uplands	21.87 acres

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION MAY OR MAY NOT DEPICT THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF ANY PARCEL HEREIN. THIS FIGURE IS A VISUAL AID ONLY; BOUNDARY RESTORATION MUST BE MADE BY A LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR. THIS FIGURE IS INTENDED TO DISPLAY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE REFERENCED REPORT. CONFLUENCE MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND REGARDING THIS DRAWING FOR ANY USE OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL. ANY OTHER USE IS AT THE USER'S SOLE RISK.

LOCATION: Park Co., MT  
 PROJECT NO: STPX-0034(14)  
 FILE: Easton/Veg2012.mxd

Project Name  
**EASTON RANCH**  
 Drawing Title  
**WETLAND MITIGATION**  
 Drawing Title  
**2012 MAPPED SITE FEATURES**

DRAWN: BCS  
 CHECKED: BV  
 APPROVED: JU

SCALE: Noted  
 Drawn: September 6, 2012  
 PROJ MGR: B Sandefur

**Figure 3**

REV -

## **Appendix B**

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2012 MDT Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form  
2012 USACE Wetland Determination Data Form  
2012 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Form

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MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring  
Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana

**MDT WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM**

Project Site: Easton Ranch Assessment Date/Time 6/26/2012 7:45:47 AM

Person(s) conducting the assessment: B Sandefur

Weather: Warm, windy, sunny w/ mild temp Location: Easton Ranch Mitigation Site

MDT District: Butte Milepost: NA

Legal Description: T 4N R 9E Section(s) NW 1/4 Sec 32

Initial Evaluation Date: 8/25/2010 Monitoring Year: 3 #Visits in Year: 1

Size of Evaluation Area: 34 (acres)

Land use surrounding wetland:

Agriculture (hay) to the east; undeveloped riparian corridor to west, and herbaceous scrub/shrub wetland to north and south.

**HYDROLOGY**

Surface Water Source: High groundwater; periodic overbank flow from Shields River.

Inundation:  Average Depth: 0.2 (ft) Range of Depths: 0-1.5 (ft)

Percent of assessment area under inundation: 5 %

Depth at emergent vegetation-open water boundary: 0.5 (ft)

If assessment area is not inundated then are the soils saturated within 12 inches of surface: Yes

Other evidence of hydrology on the site (ex. – drift lines, erosion, stained vegetation, etc.):

Drift & sediment deposits from previous year, water-stained leaves, soil cracks, algal crust, sparsely vegetated concave surfaces, drainage patterns, dry-season water table, geomorphic position, FAC-neutral.

**Groundwater Monitoring Wells**

Record depth of water surface below ground surface, in feet.

**Well ID**                      **Water Surface Depth (ft)**

No Wells

Additional Activities Checklist:

- Map emergent vegetation-open water boundary on aerial photograph.
- Observe extent of surface water during each site visit and look for evidence of past surface water elevations (drift lines, erosion, vegetation staining, etc.)
- Use GPS to survey groundwater monitoring well locations, if present.

**Hydrology Notes:**

All areas of inundation within excavated depressions within created wetland AA. No signs of overbank flooding in 2012. No irrigation water had been turned into the site as of field visit.

## VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Site Easton Ranch

(Cover Class Codes 0 = < 1%, 1 = 1-5%, 2 = 6-10%, 3 = 11-20%, 4 = 21-50% , 5 = >50% )

\* Indicates accepted spp name not on '88 list.

**Community #** 1 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis **Acres:** 8.75

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alopecurus pratensis	1	Alyssum alyssoides	1
Bassia scoparia	1	Bromus carinatus	3
Bromus inermis	4	Carum carvi	4
Cirsium arvense	1	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Dactylis glomerata	4	Elymus cinereus	0
Elymus sp.	0	Equisetum arvense	0
Equisetum hyemale	0	Festuca pratensis	1
Medicago sativa	1	Pascopyrum smithii	1
Phleum pratense	4	Plantago major	0
Poa pratensis	4	Populus tremuloides	0
Potentilla gracilis	0	Ranunculus sp.	0
Sisymbrium altissimum	0	Taraxacum officinale	3
Thlaspi arvense	2	Trifolium pratense	1
Trifolium repens	1		

**Comments:**

**Community #** 3 **Community Type:** Carex spp. / **Acres:** 0.46

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alopecurus pratensis	4	Calamagrostis canadensis	1
Carex aquatilis	1	Carex nebrascensis	3
Carex utriculata	4	Cirsium arvense	1
Glyceria striata	2	Juncus effusus	1
Persicaria maculosa	0	Salix exigua	0
Scirpus microcarpus	2		

**Comments:**

**Community #** 4 **Community Type:** Salix drummondiana /

**Acres:** 0.1

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<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Beckmannia syzigachne	2	Carex nebrascensis	3
Carex praegracilis	1	Cirsium douglasii	0
Dactylis glomerata	2	Glyceria grandis	2
Mentha arvensis	1	Pascopyrum smithii	4
Phleum pratense	1	Poa pratensis	1
Ribes lacustre	2	Rosa woodsii	1
Salix bebbiana	1	Salix drummondiana	4
Scirpus microcarpus	2	Urtica dioica	2

**Comments:**

**Community #** 5 **Community Type:** Populus balsamifera /

**Acres:** 0.76

---

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Bromus inermis	3	Cirsium arvense	1
Galium palustre	1	Glyceria striata	3
Populus angustifolia	4	Populus balsamifera	4
Salix bebbiana	2	Salix lasiandra	2
Scirpus microcarpus	2	Scutellaria lateriflora	2
Urtica dioica	0		

**Comments:**

**Community #** 6 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

**Acres:** 9.25

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Algae, green	0	Alisma gramineum	1
Alnus incana	0	Alopecurus pratensis	2
Beckmannia syzigachne	3	Brassica kaber	1
Bromus carinatus	0	Carex aquatilis	0
Carex utriculata	0	Carex vesicaria	1
Carum carvi	1	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Equisetum arvense	2	Festuca pratensis	0
Glyceria grandis	1	Glyceria striata	3
Juncus arcticus	1	Juncus bufonius	0
Juncus effusus	2	Juncus ensifolius	0
Juncus torreyi	0	Medicago sp.	1
Mentha arvensis	0	Mimulus guttatus	0
Phleum pratense	1	Plantago major	1
Poa palustris	1	Ranunculus sp.	0
Rumex crispus	1	Salix bebbiana	0
Salix exigua	0	Salix lutea	0
Scutellaria lateriflora	0	Taraxacum officinale	1
Thlaspi arvense	0	Trifolium pratense	1
Trifolium repens	1	Typha latifolia	0
Vicia americana	0		

**Comments:**

**Community #** 7 **Community Type:** Aquatic macrophytes /

**Acres:** 1.07

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Algae, green	4	Alisma gramineum	2
Beckmannia syzigachne	1	Elodea sp.	1
Juncus effusus	0	Myriophyllum sp.	3
Rumex crispus	1	Ruppia maritima	2

**Comments:**

Community # **8** Community Type: Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

Acres: 13.12

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Achillea millefolium	0	Agrostis stolonifera	1
Alisma gramineum	0	Alopecurus pratensis	0
Alyssum alyssoides	0	Avena fatua	0
Bassia scoparia	0	Beckmannia syzigachne	2
Brassica kaber	0	Bromus carinatus	3
Bromus inermis	3	Carduus nutans	0
Carum carvi	2	Chenopodium album	0
Cirsium arvense	0	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Dactylis glomerata	0	Deschampsia cespitosa	0
Equisetum arvense	0	Equisetum hyemale	0
Festuca pratensis	1	Glyceria elata	1
Glyceria striata	0	Juncus effusus	0
Juncus tenuis	0	Medicago sativa	1
Mentha arvensis	0	Pascopyrum smithii	0
Phleum pratense	3	Plantago major	1
Poa pratensis	2	Potentilla gracilis	0
Ranunculus sp.	0	Rumex crispus	1
Scutellaria lateriflora	0	Sisymbrium altissimum	0
Taraxacum officinale	2	Thlaspi arvense	0
Tragopogon dubius	0	Trifolium pratense	0
Trifolium repens	3	Verbascum thapsus	0
Vicia americana	0		

**Comments:**

**Total Vegetation Community Acreage 33.51**

*(Note: some area within the project bounds may be open water or other non-vegetative ground cover.)*

## VEGETATION TRANSECTS

Site: Easton Ranch Date: 6/26/2012 7:45:47 AM

Transect Number: 1 Compass Direction from Start: 5

### Interval Data:

**Ending Station** 45 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Bromus inermis	4	Cirsium arvense	2
Festuca pratensis	4	Phleum pratense	2
Plantago major	0	Poa pratensis	3
Ranunculus sp.	1	Trifolium pratense	2

**Ending Station** 61 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Beckmannia syzigachne	4	Carex utriculata	1
Juncus arcticus	2	Juncus effusus	3
Juncus ensifolius	1		

**Ending Station** 100 **Community Type:** Aquatic macrophytes /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Algae, green	5	Alisma gramineum	1
Beckmannia syzigachne	3	Juncus effusus	1
Rumex crispus	1		

**Ending Station** 132 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Beckmannia syzigachne	4	Glyceria striata	2
Juncus effusus	4	Trifolium pratense	3

**Ending Station** 197 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Carum carvi	4	Phleum pratense	5
Poa pratensis	2	Taraxacum officinale	3

**Ending Station** 262 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Algae, green	3	Alisma gramineum	2
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Beckmannia syzigachne	5
Glyceria grandis	3	Juncus effusus	2
Ranunculus sp.	1	Typha latifolia	1

**Ending Station** 458 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alopecurus pratensis	1	Avena fatua	0
Bromus carinatus	2	Bromus inermis	2
Carum carvi	2	Cirsium arvense	0
Glyceria striata	1	Medicago sativa	2
Phleum pratense	4	Plantago major	1
Rumex crispus	0	Taraxacum officinale	2
Tragopogon dubius	0	Trifolium pratense	3
Trifolium repens	1		

**Ending Station** 517 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Beckmannia syzigachne	4
Glyceria striata	4	Juncus arcticus	3
Mentha arvensis	1	Trifolium pratense	4

**Ending Station** 560 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alopecurus pratensis	3	Bromus carinatus	2
Carum carvi	2	Cirsium arvense	0
Medicago sativa	2	Phleum pratense	3
Poa pratensis	2	Taraxacum officinale	2
Trifolium pratense	2		

**Ending Station** 675 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Bromus carinatus	3	Bromus inermis	2
Carum carvi	2	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Juncus effusus	1	Medicago sativa	2
Mentha arvensis	1	Phleum pratense	3
Plantago major	1	Poa pratensis	2
Potentilla gracilis	1	Trifolium pratense	2
Trifolium repens	2		

**Ending Station** 705 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Beckmannia syzigachne	3	Glyceria striata	2
Juncus arcticus	2	Juncus effusus	1
Rumex crispus	1	Taraxacum officinale	1

**Ending Station** 1290 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

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<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Bassia scoparia	1	Brassica kaber	1
Bromus carinatus	3	Carum carvi	2
Cirsium arvense	0	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Festuca pratensis	2	Medicago sativa	2
Pascopyrum smithii	0	Phleum pratense	4
Taraxacum officinale	1	Trifolium pratense	2

**Ending Station** 1376 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

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<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Bromus inermis	2	Carum carvi	1
Cirsium arvense	0	Dactylis glomerata	2
Festuca pratensis	1	Medicago sativa	1
Phleum pratense	5	Poa pratensis	3
Populus tremuloides	1	Taraxacum officinale	2
Trifolium pratense	1		

Transect Notes:

Transect Number: 2Compass Direction from Start: 180**Interval Data:****Ending Station** 40 **Community Type:** Carex spp. /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alopecurus pratensis	3	Carex aquatilis	2
Carex nebrascensis	3	Carex utriculata	4
Glyceria striata	2	Juncus effusus	2
Persicaria maculosa	0	Salix exigua	1
Scirpus microcarpus	3		

**Ending Station** 60 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Algae, green	1	Alisma gramineum	1
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Beckmannia syzigachne	4
Carex aquatilis	0	Carex utriculata	1
Glyceria striata	3	Juncus ensifolius	1
Ranunculus sp.	0	Salix lutea	0
Taraxacum officinale	1		

**Ending Station** 128 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Agrostis stolonifera	1	Bromus carinatus	1
Bromus inermis	3	Carum carvi	1
Medicago sativa	1	Phleum pratense	3
Taraxacum officinale	2	Trifolium pratense	3
Trifolium repens	2		

**Ending Station** 175 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alisma gramineum	1	Alnus incana	0
Glyceria striata	3	Juncus effusus	2
Juncus ensifolius	0	Ranunculus sp.	1
Salix lutea	0	Trifolium pratense	2

**Ending Station** 372 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Bromus inermis	2	Carum carvi	2
Cirsium arvense	0	Equisetum arvense	0
Festuca pratensis	1	Medicago sativa	1
Phleum pratense	4	Plantago major	1
Poa pratensis	4	Potentilla gracilis	1
Ranunculus sp.	0	Sisymbrium altissimum	0
Taraxacum officinale	2	Trifolium repens	1

**Ending Station** 879 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alyssum alyssoides	0	Brassica kaber	0
Bromus carinatus	3	Bromus inermis	3
Carum carvi	1	Cirsium arvense	0
Taraxacum officinale	2	Thlaspi arvense	0
Trifolium pratense	3	Trifolium repens	1
Verbascum thapsus	0	Vicia americana	0

**Ending Station** 1299 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alisma gramineum	0	Alopecurus pratensis	2
Beckmannia syzigachne	4	Brassica kaber	1
Carex utriculata	0	Carum carvi	1
Glyceria striata	2	Juncus arcticus	2
Juncus effusus	2	Medicago sp.	1
Plantago major	1	Poa palustris	2
Rumex crispus	1	Salix bebbiana	0
Salix exigua	0	Thlaspi arvense	1
Trifolium pratense	1	Trifolium repens	1
Typha latifolia	0		

**Ending Station** 1333 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alyssum alyssoides	1	Bromus carinatus	1
Bromus inermis	3	Carum carvi	1
Equisetum arvense	0	Festuca pratensis	3
Phleum pratense	3	Plantago major	1
Poa pratensis	2	Thlaspi arvense	2

Transect Notes:

Transect Number: 3Compass Direction from Start: 95**Interval Data:****Ending Station** 33 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alyssum alyssoides	1	Bassia scoparia	1
Bromus carinatus	2	Bromus inermis	3
Carum carvi	1	Cynoglossum officinale	0
Elymus cinereus	0	Equisetum hyemale	
Pascopyrum smithii	1	Phleum pratense	2
Poa pratensis	2		

**Ending Station** 137 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Bassia scoparia	1	Brassica kaber	1
Bromus carinatus	2	Bromus inermis	3
Carum carvi	1	Cirsium arvense	0
Cynoglossum officinale	0	Dactylis glomerata	2
Equisetum arvense	1	Medicago sativa	1
Phleum pratense	2	Sisymbrium altissimum	1
Trifolium pratense	2	Trifolium repens	1

**Ending Station** 165 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Beckmannia syzigachne	2
Carum carvi	2	Festuca pratensis	2
Glyceria striata	2	Juncus arcticus	2
Juncus effusus	2	Medicago sativa	2
Taraxacum officinale	2	Trifolium pratense	2

**Ending Station** 200 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Bromus carinatus	3	Carum carvi	2
Medicago sativa	2	Phleum pratense	2
Sisymbrium altissimum	2	Thlaspi arvense	1
Trifolium pratense	3	Trifolium repens	3

**Ending Station** 225 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

Species	Cover class	Species	Cover class
Alyssum alyssoides	1	Bromus carinatus	2
Carum carvi	2	Cirsium arvense	0
Elymus sp.	2	Phleum pratense	3
Poa pratensis	2	Sisymbrium altissimum	2
Thlaspi arvense	2		

**Ending Station** 249 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Beckmannia syzigachne	3
Bromus carinatus	3	Carum carvi	2
Equisetum arvense	2	Glyceria striata	2
Taraxacum officinale	1	Thlaspi arvense	1

**Ending Station** 308 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alyssum alyssoides	1	Bromus carinatus	2
Bromus inermis	1	Carum carvi	2
Festuca pratensis	1	Phleum pratense	5
Poa pratensis	2	Sisymbrium altissimum	2
Thlaspi arvense	1	Trifolium pratense	2
Trifolium repens	2		

**Ending Station** 364 **Community Type:** Bromus spp. / Trifolium spp.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Brassica kaber	2	Bromus carinatus	2
Bromus inermis	2	Carum carvi	2
Medicago sativa	2	Plantago major	1
Trifolium pratense	3		

**Ending Station** 681 **Community Type:** Beckmannia syzigachne /

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Alopecurus pratensis	2	Brassica kaber	1
Carex utriculata	0	Glyceria striata	2
Juncus arcticus	2	Juncus effusus	2
Juncus ensifolius	0	Juncus torreyi	0
Mentha arvensis	1	Rumex crispus	1
Trifolium pratense	2	Vicia americana	0

**Ending Station** 751 **Community Type:** Phleum pratense / Poa pratensis

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Cover class</b>
Bromus carinatus	2	Bromus inermis	2
Carum carvi	2	Equisetum hyemale	1
Phleum pratense	5	Plantago major	2
Poa pratensis	3	Taraxacum officinale	2

Transect Notes:

## PLANTED WOODY VEGETATION SURVIVAL

Easton Ranch

<b>Planting Type</b>	<b>#Planted</b>	<b>#Alive</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Red-osier dogwood	250	10	Moderate vigor for observed surviving plants
Sandbar willow	250	31	Good vigor on surviving plants
Thinleaf alder	500	26	Establishing plants along reconstructed flood channel
Willow cuttings	200	40	Moderate survival for observed cuttings

### Comments

No systematic sampling method was employed in evaluating planted woody vegetation survival. Survival was tallied as the site was traversed during monitoring activities.

**WILDLIFE**

**Birds**

Were man-made nesting structures installed? Yes

If yes, type of structure: Bird Boxes

How many? 6

Are the nesting structures being used? Yes

Do the nesting structures need repairs? No

Nesting Structure Comments:

<b>Species</b>	<b>#Observed</b>	<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
American Coot	1	FO	AB, OW
American Goldfinch	1	F	UP
American Robin	3	F, N	FO, SS, UP, WM
Bald Eagle	1	F, FO	UP
Band-tailed Pigeon	2	FO	UP
Black-billed Magpie	2	FO	UP, WM
Black-capped Chickadee	2	F, L	SS, UP, WM
Canada Goose	2	FO	OW, UP, WM
Mallard	2	FO, L	AB, OW, UP, WM
Red-tailed Hawk	1	F, FO	UP, WM
Song Sparrow	1	L	UP, WM
Tree Swallow	11	BP, F, N	FO, OW, WM

**Bird Comments**

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**BEHAVIOR CODES**

**BP** = One of a breeding pair **BD** = Breeding display **F** = Foraging **FO** = Flyover **L** = Loafing **N** = Nesting

**HABITAT CODES**

**AB** = Aquatic bed **SS** = Scrub/Shrub **FO** = Forested **UP** = Upland buffer **I** = Island

**WM** = Wet meadow **MA** = Marsh **US** = Unconsolidated shore **MF** = Mud Flat **OW** = Open Water

## Mammals and Herptiles

Species	# Observed	Tracks	Scat	Burrows	Comments
Deer Mouse	1	No	No	No	
Long-tailed Vole	1	No	No	No	
Moose		Yes	Yes	No	
Porcupine		Yes	No	No	
Pronghorn	3	No	No	No	
Raccoon		Yes	No	No	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel		No	No	Yes	
White-tailed Deer	7	Yes	No	No	

**Wildlife Comments:**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Take photographs of the following permanent reference points listed in the check list below. Record the direction of the photograph using a compass. When at the site for the first time, establish a permanent reference point by setting a ½ inch rebar or fencepost extending 2-3 feet above ground. Survey the location with a resource grade GPS and mark the location on the aerial photograph.

**Photograph Checklist:**

- One photograph for each of the four cardinal directions surrounding the wetland.
- At least one photograph showing upland use surrounding the wetland. If more than one upland exists then take additional photographs.
- At least one photograph showing the buffer surrounding the wetland.
- One photograph from each end of the vegetation transect, showing the transect.

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Bearing</b>	<b>Description</b>
9198	46.057407	-110.63842		Veg tran 1, start
9203	46.061272	-110.63797		Veg tran 1, end
9205	46.06102	-110.637299		PP-2
9209	46.061264	-110.639793		PP-3
9210	46.061035	-110.640099		PP-4a
9212	46.060459	-110.640327		PP-4b
9213	46.059715	-110.640213		PP-5
9225	46.061146	-110.639359		Veg tran 2, start
9228	46.057518	-110.64032		Veg tran 2, end
9229	46.057083	-110.640732		Veg tran 3, start
9231	46.056564	-110.637939		Veg tran 3, end
9233	46.056941666667	-110.6389916667		E-1
9236-9241	46.055264	-110.639107		PP-7
9244-49	46.056175	-110.64048		PP-6
9250	46.056395	-110.640305		E-2
9252	46.059985	-110.639175		E-3
9253	46.06077	-110.6374716667		E-4
9258-63	46.059555	-110.637718		PP-1

**Comments:**

Easton Ranch

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS CHECKLIST

### Hydrology

- Map emergent vegetation/open water boundary on aerial photos.
- Observe extent of surface water. Look for evidence of past surface water elevations (e.g. drift lines, vegetation staining, erosion, etc).

### Photos

- One photo from the wetland toward each of the four cardinal directions
- One photo showing upland use surrounding the wetland.
- One photo showing the buffer around the wetland
- One photo from each end of each vegetation transect, toward the transect

### Vegetation

- Map vegetation community boundaries
- Complete Vegetation Transects

### Soils

- Assess soils

### Wetland Delineations

- Delineate wetlands according to applicable USACE protocol (1987 form or Supplement)
- Delineate wetland – upland boundary onto aerial photograph.

Wetland Delineation Comments

### Functional Assessments

- Complete and attach full MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method field forms.

Functional Assessment Comments:

**Maintenance**

Were man-made nesting structure installed at this site?    Yes

If yes, do they need to be repaired?    No

If yes, describe the problems below and indicate if any actions were taken to remedy the problems

Were man-made structures built or installed to impound water or control water flow  
into or out of the wetland?    Yes

If yes, are the structures in need of repair?    No

If yes, describe the problems below.

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region**

Project/Site: Easton Ranch City/County: Park Sampling Date: 6/26/2012  
 Applicant/Owner: MDT State: MT Sampling Point: E-1  
 Investigator(s): B Sandefur Section, Township, Range: S 32 T 4N R 9E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Lowland Local relief (concave, convex, none): flat Slope (%): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR E Lat: 46.0569416666667 Long: -110.638991666667 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Meadowcreek rarely-flooded Nesda complex, 0-2% slopes NWI classification: Upland

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No  (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No   
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Remarks:  
 DP in veg com 6.

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5ft</u> )				
1. <u>Glyceria striata</u>	65	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBL	
2. <u>Juncus arcticus</u>	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	FACW	
3. <u>Beckmannia syzigachne</u>	25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBL	
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
105 = Total Cover				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____	0			

**Dominance Test worksheet:**

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A/B)

**Prevalence Index worksheet:**

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species <u>90</u>	x 1 = <u>90</u>
FACW species <u>15</u>	x 2 = <u>30</u>
FAC species <u>0</u>	x 3 = <u>0</u>
FACU species <u>0</u>	x 4 = <u>0</u>
UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>
Column Totals: <u>105</u> (A)	<u>120</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>1.14286</u>	

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:**

1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

2 - Dominance Test is >50%

3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0<sup>1</sup>

4 - Morphological Adaptations<sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants<sup>1</sup>

Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation<sup>1</sup> (Explain)

<sup>1</sup>Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?** Yes  No

Remarks:

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: E-1

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features						Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>				
0-6	10YR	3/2	95	10YR	3/6	5	C	M	Silt Loam	
6-12	10YR	3/2	85	10YR	3/6	10	C	M	Silty Clay	also w/ ~5% 10YR 6/1

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)**

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) (except MLRA 1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)

- 2 cm Muck (A10)
- Red Parent Material (TF2)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if present):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Remarks:  
Very rocky below 12in.

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- Surface Water (A1)
- High Water Table (A2)
- Saturation (A3)
- Water Marks (B1)
- Sediment Deposits (B2)
- Drift Deposits (B3)
- Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- Iron Deposits (B5)
- Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Salt Crust (B11)
- Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (LRR A)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Drainage Patterns (B10)
- Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- Geomorphic Position (D2)
- Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (LRR A)
- Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Table Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Soils moist & 12in, could not excavate deep enough to find saturation level due to rocky soils. Open water ~20ft away, water table appeared to be ~2ft below surface @ pit.

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region**

Project/Site: Easton Ranch City/County: Park Sampling Date: 6/26/2012  
 Applicant/Owner: MDT State: MT Sampling Point: E-2  
 Investigator(s): B Sandefur Section, Township, Range: S 32 T 4N R 9E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Swale Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 0  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR E Lat: 46.056395 Long: -110.640305 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Meadowcreek rarely-flooded Nesda complex, 0-2% slopes NWI classification: Upland

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No  (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No   
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Remarks:  
 DP in swale in veg com 6.

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>2</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>1</u> (A/B)
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)</b>				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species <u>60</u> x 1 = <u>60</u> FACW species <u>0</u> x 2 = <u>0</u> FAC species <u>10</u> x 3 = <u>30</u> FACU species <u>0</u> x 4 = <u>0</u> UPL species <u>0</u> x 5 = <u>0</u> Column Totals: <u>70</u> (A) <u>90</u> (B)  Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>1.28571</u>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5ft</u>)</b>				
1. <u>Beckmannia syzigachne</u>	40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBL	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 - Dominance Test is >50% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
2. <u>Glyceria grandis</u>	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBL	
3. <u>Poa palustris</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAC	
4. <u>Alisma gramineum</u>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	OBL	
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
70 = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)</b>				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>30</u>				

Remarks:

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: E-2

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks		
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>				
0-10	10YR	2/2	95	10YR	4/6	5	C	M	Clay Loam	Very rocky below 10in

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) (except MLRA 1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- 2 cm Muck (A10)
- Red Parent Material (TF2)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if present):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Remarks:

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- Surface Water (A1)
- High Water Table (A2)
- Saturation (A3)
- Water Marks (B1)
- Sediment Deposits (B2)
- Drift Deposits (B3)
- Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- Iron Deposits (B5)
- Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Salt Crust (B11)
- Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (LRR A)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Drainage Patterns (B10)
- Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- Geomorphic Position (D2)
- Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (LRR A)
- Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Table Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturation Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): 10

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region**

Project/Site: Easton Ranch City/County: Park Sampling Date: 6/26/2012  
 Applicant/Owner: MDT State: MT Sampling Point: E-3  
 Investigator(s): B Sandefur Section, Township, Range: S 32 T 4N R 9E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Lowland Local relief (concave, convex, none): flat Slope (%): 0  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR E Lat: 46.059985 Long: -110.639175 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Meadowcreek rarely-flooded Nesda complex, 0-2% slopes NWI classification: Upland

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No  (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No   
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Remarks:  
 DP in veg com 8.

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>1</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0.5</u> (A/B)
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)</b>				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>0</u> x 2 = <u>0</u> FAC species <u>30</u> x 3 = <u>90</u> FACU species <u>30</u> x 4 = <u>120</u> UPL species <u>35</u> x 5 = <u>175</u> Column Totals: <u>95</u> (A) <u>385</u> (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.05263</u>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5ft</u>)</b>				
1. <u>Bromus carinatus</u>	35	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>UPL</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain) <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
2. <u>Phleum pratense</u>	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FAC</u>	
3. <u>Taraxacum officinale</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	
4. <u>Trifolium pratense</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	
5. <u>Carum carvi</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	
6. <u>Poa pratensis</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FAC</u>	
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
95 = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)</b>				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
<b>% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>0</u></b>				

Remarks:

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: E-3

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks		
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>				
0-6	10YR	6/3	100				Clay Loam	very friable		
6-13	10YR	6/3	95	10YR	4/6	3	C	M	Clay Loam	also w/ ~3% mg concentrations

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) (except MLRA 1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- 2 cm Muck (A10)
- Red Parent Material (TF2)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if present):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Remarks:

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- Surface Water (A1)
- High Water Table (A2)
- Saturation (A3)
- Water Marks (B1)
- Sediment Deposits (B2)
- Drift Deposits (B3)
- Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- Iron Deposits (B5)
- Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Salt Crust (B11)
- Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (LRR A)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Drainage Patterns (B10)
- Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- Geomorphic Position (D2)
- Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (LRR A)
- Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Table Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

No signs of recent hydro since over flow across surface during high spring runoff of 2011.

**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region**

Project/Site: Easton Ranch City/County: Park Sampling Date: 6/26/2012  
 Applicant/Owner: MDT State: MT Sampling Point: E-4  
 Investigator(s): B Sandefur Section, Township, Range: S 32 T 4N R 9E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Lowland Local relief (concave, convex, none): flat Slope (%): 0  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR E Lat: 46.06077 Long: -110.637471666667 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Meadowcreek rarely-flooded Nesda complex, 0-2% slopes NWI classification: Upland

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No  (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No   
 Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology  naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Remarks:  
 DP in veg com 8.

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>1</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>3</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0.3333</u> (A/B)
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>0</u> x 2 = <u>0</u> FAC species <u>20</u> x 3 = <u>60</u> FACU species <u>40</u> x 4 = <u>160</u> UPL species <u>40</u> x 5 = <u>200</u> Column Totals: <u>100</u> (A) <u>420</u> (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.2</u>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5ft</u> )				
1. <u>Trifolium pratense</u>	25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - Wetland Non-Vascular Plants <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain) <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
2. <u>Bromus carinatus</u>	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>UPL</u>	
3. <u>Phleum pratense</u>	20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FAC</u>	
4. <u>Carum carvi</u>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	
5. <u>Brassica kaber</u>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>UPL*</u>	
6. <u>Medicago sativa</u>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>UPL</u>	
7. <u>Taraxacum officinale</u>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FACU</u>	
8. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
100 = Total Cover				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
0 = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>0</u>				

Remarks:

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: E-4

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-3	10YR 6/3	100					Clay Loam	
3-16	10YR 4/2	90	10YR 4/6	5	C	M	Sandy Loam	also w/ ~5% redox depletion 10YR 2/2

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) (except MLRA 1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- 2 cm Muck (A10)
- Red Parent Material (TF2)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if present):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes  No

Remarks:

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

- Surface Water (A1)
- High Water Table (A2)
- Saturation (A3)
- Water Marks (B1)
- Sediment Deposits (B2)
- Drift Deposits (B3)
- Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- Iron Deposits (B5)
- Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Salt Crust (B11)
- Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (LRR A)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
- Drainage Patterns (B10)
- Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- Geomorphic Position (D2)
- Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
- Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (LRR A)
- Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Table Present? Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes  No  Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

No signs of wetland hydro in 2012, area flooded during 2011 spring runoff.

# MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Form (revised March 2008)

1. Project name  2. MDT project#  Control#

3. Evaluation Date  4. Evaluators  5. Wetland/Site# (s)

6. Wetland Location(s): T  R  Sec1  T  R  Sec2

Approx Stationing or Mileposts

Watershed  Watershed/County

7. Evaluating Agency

8. Wetland size acres

Purpose of Evaluation

Wetlands potentially affected by MDT project

Mitigation Wetlands: pre-construction

Mitigation Wetlands: post construction

Other

9. Assessment area (AA) size (acres)

How assessed:

How assessed:

**10. Classification of Wetland and Aquatic Habitats in AA**

HGM Class (Brinson)	Class (Cowardin)	Modifier (Cowardin)	Water Regime	% of AA
Riverine	Emergent Wetland	Excavated	Seasonal/Intermittant	90
Depressional	Aquatic Bed	Excavated	Seasonal/Intermittant	10
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Estimated Relative Abundance

**12. General Condition of AA**

i. **Disturbance:** (use matrix below to determine [circle] appropriate response – see instructions for Montana-listed noxious weed and aquatic nuisance vegetation species (ANVS) lists)

Conditions within AA	Predominant conditions adjacent to (within 500 feet of) AA		
	Managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	Land not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to minor clearing; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	Land cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.
AA occurs and is managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or occupied buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	<input type="text" value="low disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="low disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="moderate disturbance"/>
AA not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to relatively minor clearing, fill placement, or hydrological alteration; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	<input type="text" value="moderate"/>	<input type="text" value="moderate disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>
AA cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to relatively substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>

**Comments: (types of disturbance, intensity, season, etc)**

Limited agriculture (hay) and few ranch structures to the east. Undeveloped riparian corridor and herbaceous uplands to north, south, and west. Two species of noxious weeds are present within the AA, but total cover does not exceed 1%. The AA is managed in a natural state, as are most of the lands within 500 feet of the AA.

**ii. Prominent noxious, aquatic nuisance, other exotic species:**

**iii. Provide brief descriptive summary of AA and surrounding land use/habitat**

The AA consists of four constructed wetland cells. The lowest contours of the wetland cells are seasonally inundated and have developed wetland characteristics. The higher elevations lack wetland characteristics and support upland plant communities. The cells are bordered by limited agriculture (hay) and an undeveloped riparian corridor.

13. **Structural Diversity:** (based on number of "Cowardin" **vegetated** classes present [do not include unvegetated classes], see #10 above)

Existing # of "Cowardin" Vegetated Classes in AA	Initial Rating	Is current management preventing (passive) existence of additional vegetated classes?		Modified Rating
>=3 (or 2 if 1 is forested) classes	H	NA	NA	NA
2 (or 1 if forested) classes	M	NA	NA	NA
1 class, but not a monoculture	M	<NO	YES>	L
1 class, monoculture (1 species comprises >=90% of total cover)	L	NA	NA	NA

**Comments:** The AA consists of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM) and aquatic beds in the deeper depressions.

**SECTION PERTAINING to FUNCTIONS VALUES ASSESSMENT**

**14A. Habitat for Federally Listed or Proposed Threatened or Endangered Plants or Animals:**

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Grizzly Bear (LT)

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
Functional Points and Rating	1H	.9H	.8H	.7M	.3L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    USFWS - 2012 county species list; MNHP verified in Park County

**14B. Habitat for plant or animals rated S1, S2, or S3 by the Montana Natural Heritage Program: (not including species listed in 14A above)**

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Golden Eagle (S3)

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
<b>S1 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	1H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.2L	.1L	0L
<b>S2 and S3 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	.9H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.2L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    MTNHP

**14C. General Wildlife Habitat Rating:**

i. Evidence of overall wildlife use in the AA (check substantial, moderate, or low based on supporting evidence):

Moderate

**Substantial** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of abundant wildlife #s or high species diversity (during any period)
- abundant wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- presence of extremely limiting habitat features not available in the surrounding area
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Minimal** (based on any of the following [check]):

- few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods
- little to no wildlife sign
- sparse adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Moderate** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of scattered wildlife groups or individuals or relatively few species during peak periods
- common occurrence of wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- adequate adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

ii. **Wildlife** habitat features (Working from top to bottom, check appropriate AA attributes in matrix to arrive at rating. Structural diversity is from #13. For class cover to be considered evenly distributed, the most and least prevalent **vegetated** classes must be within 20% of each other in terms of their percent composition of the AA (see #10). Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral; and A = absent [see instructions for further definitions of these terms])

Structural diversity (see #13)	High								Moderate								Low			
	Even				Uneven				Even				Uneven				Even			
Class cover distribution (all vegetated classes)																				
Duration of surface water in ≥ 10% of AA	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A
Low disturbance at AA (see #12)	E	E	E	H	E	E	H	H	E	H	H	M	E	H	M	M	E	H	M	M
Moderate disturbance at AA (see #12)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	M	H	M	M	L	H	M	L	L
High disturbance at AA (see #12)	M	M	M	L	M	M	L	L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

iii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i and ii above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Evidence of wildlife use (i)	Wildlife habitat features rating (ii)							
	Exceptional		High		Moderate		Low	
Substantial	1E		.9H		.8H		.7M	
Moderate	.9H		.7M		.5M		.3L	
Minimal	.6M		.4M		.2L		.1L	

**Comments** Numerous shorebirds and waterfowl have been observed using this site from fall 2003 through 2012.

**14D. General Fish Habitat Rating:** (Assess this function if the AA is used by fish or the existing situation is "correctable" such that the AA could be used by fish [i.e., fish use is precluded by perched culvert or other barrier, etc.]. If the AA is not used by fish, fish use is not restorable due to habitat constraints, or is not desired from a management perspective [such as fish entrapped in a canal], then check  **NA** here and proceed to 14E.)

i. **Habitat Quality and Known / Suspected Fish Species in AA** (use matrix to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Duration of surface water in AA	Permanent / Perennial						Seasonal / Intermittent						Temporary / Ephemeral					
	Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor	
Aquatic hiding / resting / escape cover	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
Thermal cover optimal / suboptimal	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
FWP Tier I fish species	1E	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
FWP Tier II or Native Game fish species	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L
FWP Tier III or Introduced Game fish	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L	.1L
FWP Non-Game Tier IV or No fish species	.5M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.4M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.1L	.1L	.1L

Sources used for identifying fish sp. potentially found in AA:

ii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1)

a) Is fish use of the AA significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, or other man-made structure or activity or is the waterbody included on the current final MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development with listed "Probable Impaired Uses" including cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support, or do aquatic nuisance plant or animal species (see **Appendix E**) occur in fish habitat? Y  N  If yes, reduce score in i above by 0.1: **Modified Rating**

b) Does the AA contain a documented spawning area or other critical habitat feature (i.e., sanctuary pool, upwelling area, etc. - specify in comments) for native fish or introduced game fish?  Y  N If yes, add 0.1 to the adjusted score in i or **ii** above:

**Modified Rating**

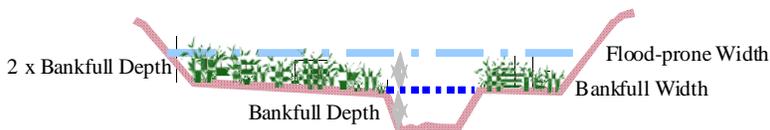
iii. **Final Score and Rating:**  **Comments:**

**14E. Flood Attenuation:** (Applies only to wetlands subject to flooding via in-channel or overbank flow. If wetlands in AA are not flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, click  NA here and proceed to 14F.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Estimated or Calculated Entrenchment (Rosgen 1994, 1996)	Slightly entrenched - C, D, E stream types			Moderately entrenched - B stream type			Entrenched-A, F, G stream types		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
AA contains <b>no outlet or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.9H	.6M	.8H	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.8H	.5M	.7M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

Slightly Entrenched ER = >2.2			Moderately Entrenched ER = 1.41 - 2.2		Entrenched ER = 1.0 - 1.4	
C stream type	D stream type	E stream type	B stream type	A stream type	F stream type	G stream type



Floodprone width  / Bankfull width  = Entrenchment ratio

ii. Are ≥10 acres of wetland in the AA subject to flooding AND are man-made features which may be significantly damaged by floods located within 0.5 mile downstream of the AA (check)? Y  N

**Comments:**

**14F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage:** (Applies to wetlands that flood or pond from overbank or in-channel flow, precipitation, upland surface flow, or groundwater flow. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to flooding or ponding, click  NA here and proceed to 14G.)

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; and T/E = temporary/ephemeral [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

Estimated maximum acre feet of water contained in wetlands within the AA that are subject to periodic flooding or ponding	>5 acre feet			1.1 to 5 acre feet			≤1 acre foot		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:**

**14G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Retention and Removal:** (Applies to wetlands with potential to receive sediments, nutrients, or toxicants through influx of surface or ground water or direct input. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to such input, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14H.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating [H = high, M = moderate, or L = low])

Sediment, nutrient, and toxicant input levels within AA	AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds at levels such that other functions are not substantially impaired. Minor sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.				Waterbody on MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development for "probable causes" related to sediment, nutrients, or toxicants or AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver high levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are substantially impaired. Major sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.			
% cover of wetland vegetation in AA	≥ 70%				< 70%			
Evidence of flooding / ponding in AA	Yes		No		Yes		No	
AA contains <b>no or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.8H	.7M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.7M	.6M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:** Evidence of flooding/ponding in excavated depressions in 2012 and across the AA from 2011 runoff.

**14H Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization:** (Applies only if AA occurs on or within the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage, or on the shoreline of a standing water body which is subject to wave action. If 14H does not apply, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14I.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

% Cover of <b>wetland</b> streambank or shoreline by species with stability ratings of ≥6 (see Appendix F).	Duration of surface water adjacent to rooted vegetation					
	Permanent / Perennial		Seasonal / Intermittent		Temporary / Ephemeral	
≥ 65%	1H		.9H		.7M	
35-64%	.7M		.6M		.5M	
< 35%	.3L		.2L		.1L	

**Comments:** Increased vegetation development throughout AA and along edge of aquatic beds/open water from 2011 field survey.

**14I. Production Export/Food Chain Support:**

i. **Level of Biological Activity** (synthesis of wildlife and fish habitat ratings [check])

General Fish Habitat Rating (14D.iii.)	General Wildlife Habitat Rating (14C.iii.)		
	E/H	M	L
E/H	H	H	M
M	H	M	M
L	M	M	L
N/A	H	M	L

ii. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Factor A = acreage of vegetated wetland component in the AA; Factor B = level of biological activity rating from above (14I.i.); Factor C = whether or not the AA contains a surface or subsurface outlet; the final three rows pertain to duration of surface water in the AA, where P/P, S/I, and T/E are as previously defined, and A = "absent" [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

A	Vegetated component >5 acres						Vegetated component 1-5 acres						Vegetated component <1 acre					
	High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low	
B	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
C	1E	.7H	.8H	.5M	.6M	.4M	.9H	.6M	.7H	.4M	.5M	.3L	.8H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L
P/P																		
S/I	.9	.6M	.7H	.4	.5M	.3L	.8H	.5M	.6M	.3L	.4M	.2L	.7H	.5M	.5M	.3L	.3L	.2L
T/E/A	.8	.5M	.6M	.3	.4M	.2L	.7H	.4M	.5M	.2L	.3L	.1L	.6M	.4M	.4M	.2L	.2L	.1L

iii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1.) **Vegetated Upland Buffer (VUB):** Area with ≥ 30% plant cover, ≤ 15% noxious weed or ANVS cover, and that is not subjected to periodic mechanical mowing or clearing (unless for weed control).

a) Is there an average ≥ 50 foot-wide vegetated upland buffer around ≥ 75% of the AA circumference? Y  N  If yes, add 0.1 to the score in ii above and adjust rating accordingly: **Modified Rating** .8H

**Comments:**

**14J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge:** (check the appropriate indicators in i & ii below)

**i. Discharge Indicators**

- The AA is a slope wetland
- Springs or seeps are known or observed
- Vegetation growing during dormant season/drought
- Wetland occurs at the toe of a natural slope
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet
- Shallow water table and the site is saturated to the surface
- Other:

**ii. Recharge Indicators**

- Permeable substrate present without underlying impeding layer
- Wetland contains inlet but no outlet
- Stream is a known 'losing' stream; discharge volume decreases
- Other:

**iii. Rating** (use the information from i and ii above and the table below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Criteria	Duration of saturation at AA Wetlands <i>FROM GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE OR WITH WATER THAT IS RECHARGING THE GROUNDWATER SYSTEM</i>			
	P/P	S/I	T	None
Groundwater Discharge or Recharge	1H	.7M	.4M	.1L
Insufficient Data/Information	NA			

**Comments:**

**14K. Uniqueness:**

**i. Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Replacement potential	AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland or plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types and structural diversity (#13) is high or contains plant association listed as "S2" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types or associations and structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate		
	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant
Low disturbance at AA (#12i)	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L
Moderate disturbance at AA (#12i)	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L
High disturbance at AA (#12i)	.8H	.7H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:**

**14L. Recreation/Education Potential:** (affords "bonus" points if AA provides recreation or education opportunity)

**i. Is the AA a known or potential rec.ed. site:** (check)  Y  N (if 'Yes' continue with the evaluation; if 'No' then click  NA here and proceed to the overall summary and rating page)

**ii. Check categories that apply to the AA:**  Educational/scientific study;  Consumptive rec.;  Non-consumptive rec.;  Other

**iii. Rating** (use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Known or Potential Recreation or Education Area	Known	Potential
Public ownership or public easement with general public access (no permission required)	.2H	.15H
Private ownership with general public access (no permission required)	.15H	.1M
Private or public ownership without general public access, or requiring permission for public access	.1M	.05L

**Comments:**

**General Site Notes**

Function & Value Variables	Rating	Actual Functional Points	Possible Functional Points	Functional Units: (Actual Points x Estimated AA Acreage)	Indicate the four most prominent functions with an asterisk (*)
A. Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	L	.1	1	0.909	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	L	.2	1	1.818	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. General Wildlife Habitat	M	.7	1	6.363	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D. General Fish Habitat	NA	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Flood Attenuation	M	.5	1	4.545	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	H	.8	1	7.272	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	H	.9	1	8.181	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	M	.6	1	5.454	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	H	.8	1	7.272	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	M	.7	1	6.363	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Uniqueness	M	.4	1	3.636	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Recreation/Education Potential (bonus points)	L	.05	NA	0.4545	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:		5.75	10	52.2675	
Percent of Possible Score			<b>57.5</b> %		

**Category I Wetland:** (must satisfy **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category II)

- Score of 1 functional point for Listed/Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Flood Attenuation **and** answer to Question 14E.ii is "yes"; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 80% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category II Wetland:** (Criteria for Category I not satisfied **and** meets any **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category IV)

- Score of 1 functional point for MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish Habitat; **or**
- "High" to "Exceptional" ratings for **both** General Wildlife Habitat **and** General Fish/Aquatic Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 65% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category III Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I, II, or IV not satisfied)

**Category IV Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I or II are not satisfied and all of the following criteria are met; otherwise go to Category III)

- "Low" rating for Uniqueness; **and**
- Vegetated wetland component < 1 acre (do not include upland vegetated buffer); **and**
- Percent of possible score < 35% (round to nearest whole #).

**OVERALL ANALYSIS AREA RATING:**  
(check appropriate category based on the criteria outlined)

<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
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# MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Form (revised March 2008)

1. Project name  2. MDT project#  Control#

3. Evaluation Date  4. Evaluators  5. Wetland/Site# (s)

6. Wetland Location(s): T  R  Sec1  T  R  Sec2

Approx Stationing or Mileposts

Watershed  Watershed/County

7. Evaluating Agency

8. Wetland size acres

Purpose of Evaluation

Wetlands potentially affected by MDT project

Mitigation Wetlands: pre-construction

Mitigation Wetlands: post construction

Other

How assessed:

9. Assessment area (AA) size (acres)

How assessed:

**10. Classification of Wetland and Aquatic Habitats in AA**

HGM Class (Brinson)	Class (Cowardin)	Modifier (Cowardin)	Water Regime	% of AA
Riverine	Scrub-Shrub Wetland		Seasonal/Intermittant	10
Riverine	Forested Wetland		Seasonal/Intermittant	20
Riverine	Emergent Wetland		Permanent/Perennial	70

11. Estimated Relative Abundance

**12. General Condition of AA**

i. **Disturbance:** (use matrix below to determine [circle] appropriate response – see instructions for Montana-listed noxious weed and aquatic nuisance vegetation species (ANVS) lists)

Conditions within AA	Predominant conditions adjacent to (within 500 feet of) AA		
	Managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	Land not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to minor clearing; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	Land cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.
AA occurs and is managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or occupied buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	low disturbance	low disturbance	moderate disturbance
AA not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to relatively minor clearing, fill placement, or hydrological alteration; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	moderate	moderate disturbance	high disturbance
AA cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to relatively substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.	high disturbance	high disturbance	high disturbance

**Comments: (types of disturbance, intensity, season, etc)**

AA consists of existing riverine PFO/PSS/PEM wetlands located adjacent to the created depression wetlands and flood channel. AA and adjacent areas are managed in a natural state, so the disturbance regime is low.

**ii. Prominent noxious, aquatic nuisance, other exotic species:**

**iii. Provide brief descriptive summary of AA and surrounding land use/habitat**

AA consists of small areas of existing Riverine PFO/PSS/PEM wetlands located at the northernwest (near Shields River) and southcentral ends of the mitigation area. The existing PFO/PEM habitat located at the southern end receives direct hydrologic inputs from the created flood channel. Both wetland features are bordered by created wetlands and the Shields River riparian corridor. AA includes communities 3, 4, & 5.

13. **Structural Diversity:** (based on number of "Cowardin" **vegetated** classes present [do not include unvegetated classes], see #10 above)

Existing # of "Cowardin" Vegetated Classes in AA	Initial Rating	Is current management preventing (passive) existence of additional vegetated classes?		Modified Rating
>=3 (or 2 if 1 is forested) classes	H	NA	NA	NA
2 (or 1 if forested) classes	M	NA	NA	NA
1 class, but not a monoculture	M	<NO	YES>	L
1 class, monoculture (1 species comprises >=90% of total cover)	L	NA	NA	NA

Comments: PEM, PFO, and PSS vegetated classes.

**SECTION PERTAINING to FUNCTIONS VALUES ASSESSMENT**

14A. Habitat for Federally Listed or Proposed Threatened or Endangered Plants or Animals:

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Grizzly Bear

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
Functional Points and Rating	1H	.9H	.8H	.7M	.3L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    USFWS - 2012 county species list; MNHP verified in Park County

14B. Habitat for plant or animals rated S1, S2, or S3 by the Montana Natural Heritage Program: (not including species listed in 14A above)

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Golden Eagle(S3)

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
<b>S1 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	1H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.2L	.1L	0L
<b>S2 and S3 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	.9H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.2L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    MTNHP, field observations.

**14C. General Wildlife Habitat Rating:**

i. Evidence of overall wildlife use in the AA (check substantial, moderate, or low based on supporting evidence):

Moderate

**Substantial** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of abundant wildlife #s or high species diversity (during any period)
- abundant wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- presence of extremely limiting habitat features not available in the surrounding area
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Minimal** (based on any of the following [check]):

- few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods
- little to no wildlife sign
- sparse adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Moderate** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of scattered wildlife groups or individuals or relatively few species during peak periods
- common occurrence of wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- adequate adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

ii. **Wildlife** habitat features (Working from top to bottom, check appropriate AA attributes in matrix to arrive at rating. Structural diversity is from #13. For class cover to be considered evenly distributed, the most and least prevalent **vegetated** classes must be within 20% of each other in terms of their percent composition of the AA (see #10). Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral; and A = absent [see instructions for further definitions of these terms])

Structural diversity (see #13)	High								Moderate								Low			
	Even				Uneven				Even				Uneven				Even			
Class cover distribution (all vegetated classes)																				
Duration of surface water in ≥ 10% of AA	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A
Low disturbance at AA (see #12)	E	E	E	H	E	E	H	H	E	H	H	M	E	H	M	M	E	H	M	M
Moderate disturbance at AA (see #12)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	M	H	M	M	L	H	M	L	L
High disturbance at AA (see #12)	M	M	M	L	M	M	L	L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

iii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i and ii above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Evidence of wildlife use (i)	Wildlife habitat features rating (ii)																
	Exceptional		High		Moderate		Low										
Substantial		1E			.9H				.8H					.7M			
Moderate		.9H			.7M				.5M					.3L			
Minimal		.6M			.4M				.2L					.1L			

**Comments** Moderate use of site by moose, deer, and several avian species.

**14D. General Fish Habitat Rating:** (Assess this function if the AA is used by fish or the existing situation is "correctable" such that the AA could be used by fish [i.e., fish use is precluded by perched culvert or other barrier, etc.]. If the AA is not used by fish, fish use is not restorable due to habitat constraints, or is not desired from a management perspective [such as fish entrapped in a canal], then check  **NA** here and proceed to 14E.)

i. **Habitat Quality and Known / Suspected Fish Species in AA** (use matrix to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Duration of surface water in AA	Permanent / Perennial						Seasonal / Intermittent						Temporary / Ephemeral					
	Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor	
Aquatic hiding / resting / escape cover	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
Thermal cover optimal / suboptimal	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
FWP Tier I fish species	1E	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
FWP Tier II or Native Game fish species	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L
FWP Tier III or Introduced Game fish	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L	.1L
FWP Non-Game Tier IV or No fish species	.5M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.4M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.1L	.1L	.1L

Sources used for identifying fish sp. potentially found in AA:

ii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1)

a) Is fish use of the AA significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, or other man-made structure or activity or is the waterbody included on the current final MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development with listed "Probable Impaired Uses" including cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support, or do aquatic nuisance plant or animal species (see **Appendix E**) occur in fish habitat? Y  N  If yes, reduce score in i above by 0.1: **Modified Rating**

b) Does the AA contain a documented spawning area or other critical habitat feature (i.e., sanctuary pool, upwelling area, etc. - specify in comments) for native fish or introduced game fish?  Y  N If yes, add 0.1 to the adjusted score in i or **ii** above:

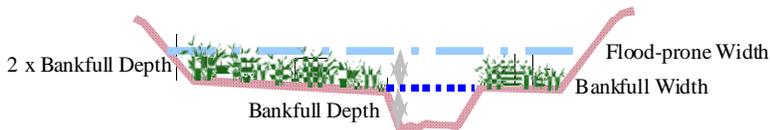
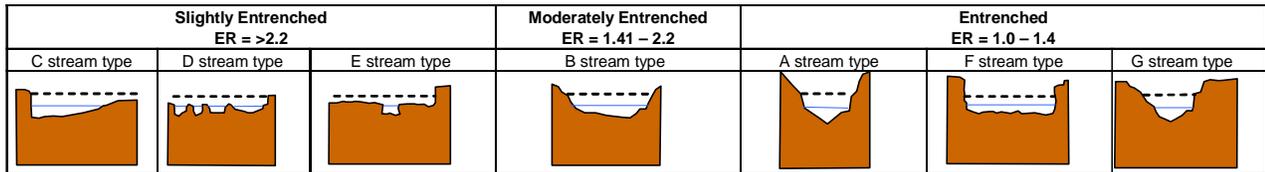
**Modified Rating**

iii. **Final Score and Rating:**  **Comments:**

**14E. Flood Attenuation:** (Applies only to wetlands subject to flooding via in-channel or overbank flow. If wetlands in AA are not flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, click  NA here and proceed to 14F.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Estimated or Calculated Entrenchment (Rosgen 1994, 1996)	Slightly entrenched - C, D, E stream types			Moderately entrenched - B stream type			Entrenched-A, F, G stream types		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
AA contains <b>no outlet or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.9H	.6M	.8H	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.8H	.5M	.7M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L



Floodprone width  / Bankfull width  = Entrenchment ratio

ii. Are ≥10 acres of wetland in the AA subject to flooding AND are man-made features which may be significantly damaged by floods located within 0.5 mile downstream of the AA (check)? Y  N

**Comments:**

**14F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage:** (Applies to wetlands that flood or pond from overbank or in-channel flow, precipitation, upland surface flow, or groundwater flow. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to flooding or ponding, click  NA here and proceed to 14G.)

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; and T/E = temporary/ephemeral [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

Estimated maximum acre feet of water contained in wetlands within the AA that are subject to periodic flooding or ponding	>5 acre feet			1.1 to 5 acre feet			≤1 acre foot		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:**

**14G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Retention and Removal:** (Applies to wetlands with potential to receive sediments, nutrients, or toxicants through influx of surface or ground water or direct input. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to such input, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14H.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating [H = high, M = moderate, or L = low])

Sediment, nutrient, and toxicant input levels within AA	AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds at levels such that other functions are not substantially impaired. Minor sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.				Waterbody on MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development for "probable causes" related to sediment, nutrients, or toxicants or AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver high levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are substantially impaired. Major sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.			
% cover of wetland vegetation in AA	≥ 70%				< 70%			
Evidence of flooding / ponding in AA	Yes		No		Yes		No	
AA contains <b>no or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.8H	.7M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.7M	.6M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:** Wetland vegetation cover exceeds 70%. Com 3 saturated/inundated from wetlands to north of site. AA contains restricted outlet

**14H Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization:** (Applies only if AA occurs on or within the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage, or on the shoreline of a standing water body which is subject to wave action. If 14H does not apply, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14I.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

% Cover of <b>wetland</b> streambank or shoreline by species with stability ratings of ≥6 (see Appendix F).	Duration of surface water adjacent to rooted vegetation					
	Permanent / Perennial		Seasonal / Intermittent		Temporary / Ephemeral	
≥ 65%	1H		.9H		.7M	
35-64%	.7M		.6M		.5M	
< 35%	.3L		.2L		.1L	

**Comments:**

**14I. Production Export/Food Chain Support:**

i. **Level of Biological Activity** (synthesis of wildlife and fish habitat ratings [check])

General Fish Habitat Rating (14D.iii.)	General Wildlife Habitat Rating (14C.iii.)		
	E/H	M	L
E/H	H	H	M
M	H	M	M
L	M	M	L
N/A	H	M	L

ii. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Factor A = acreage of vegetated wetland component in the AA; Factor B = level of biological activity rating from above (14I.i.); Factor C = whether or not the AA contains a surface or subsurface outlet; the final three rows pertain to duration of surface water in the AA, where P/P, S/I, and T/E are as previously defined, and A = "absent" [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

A	Vegetated component >5 acres						Vegetated component 1-5 acres						Vegetated component <1 acre					
	High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low	
B	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
C	1E	.7H	.8H	.5M	.6M	.4M	.9H	.6M	.7H	.4M	.5M	.3L	.8H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L
P/P																		
S/I	.9	.6M	.7H	.4	.5M	.3L	.8H	.5M	.6M	.3L	.4M	.2L	.7H	.5M	.5M	.3L	.3L	.2L
T/E/A	.8	.5M	.6M	.3	.4M	.2L	.7H	.4M	.5M	.2L	.3L	.1L	.6M	.4M	.4M	.2L	.2L	.1L

iii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1.) **Vegetated Upland Buffer (VUB):** Area with ≥ 30% plant cover, ≤ 15% noxious weed or ANVS cover, and that is not subjected to periodic mechanical mowing or clearing (unless for weed control).

a) Is there an average ≥ 50 foot-wide vegetated upland buffer around ≥ 75% of the AA circumference? Y  N  If yes, add 0.1 to the score in ii above and adjust rating accordingly: **Modified Rating** 1 E

**Comments:**

There is a restricted surface water outlet to the south, continuation of relic flood channel.

**14J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge:** (check the appropriate indicators in i & ii below)

**i. Discharge Indicators**

- The AA is a slope wetland
- Springs or seeps are known or observed
- Vegetation growing during dormant season/drought
- Wetland occurs at the toe of a natural slope
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet
- Shallow water table and the site is saturated to the surface
- Other:

**ii. Recharge Indicators**

- Permeable substrate present without underlying impeding layer
- Wetland contains inlet but no outlet
- Stream is a known 'losing' stream; discharge volume decreases
- Other:

**iii. Rating** (use the information from i and ii above and the table below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Criteria	Duration of saturation at AA Wetlands <i>FROM GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE OR WITH WATER THAT IS RECHARGING THE GROUNDWATER SYSTEM</i>			
	P/P	S/I	T	None
Groundwater Discharge or Recharge	1H	.7M	.4M	.1L
Insufficient Data/Information	NA			

**Comments:**  Aside from the northern part of Veg Com 3 which was inundated, the AA was saturated during 2012 investigation.

**14K. Uniqueness:**

**i. Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Replacement potential	AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland or plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types and structural diversity (#13) is high or contains plant association listed as "S2" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types or associations and structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate		
	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant
Low disturbance at AA (#12i)	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L
Moderate disturbance at AA (#12i)	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L
High disturbance at AA (#12i)	.8H	.7H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:**

**14L. Recreation/Education Potential:** (affords "bonus" points if AA provides recreation or education opportunity)

**i. Is the AA a known or potential rec./ed. site:** (check)  Y  N (if 'Yes' continue with the evaluation; if 'No' then click  NA here and proceed to the overall summary and rating page)

**ii. Check categories that apply to the AA:**  Educational/scientific study;  Consumptive rec.;  Non-consumptive rec.;  Other

**iii. Rating** (use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Known or Potential Recreation or Education Area	Known	Potential
Public ownership or public easement with general public access (no permission required)	.2H	.15H
Private ownership with general public access (no permission required)	.15H	.1M
Private or public ownership without general public access, or requiring permission for public access	.1M	.05L

**Comments:**

Permission for access will be required.

**General Site Notes**

Function & Value Variables	Rating	Actual Functional Points	Possible Functional Points	Functional Units: (Actual Points x Estimated AA Acreage)	Indicate the four most prominent functions with an asterisk (*)
A. Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	L	.1	1	0.11	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	L	.2	1	0.22	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. General Wildlife Habitat	H	.9	1	0.99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D. General Fish Habitat	NA	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Flood Attenuation	M	.6	1	0.66	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	H	.8	1	0.88	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	H	1	1	1.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	NA	0	0	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	E	1	1	1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	H	1	1	1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Uniqueness	M	.6	1	0.66	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Recreation/Education Potential (bonus points)	L	.05	NA	0.055	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:		6.25	9	6.875	
Percent of Possible Score			<b>69.44</b> %		

**Category I Wetland:** (must satisfy **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category II)

- Score of 1 functional point for Listed/Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Flood Attenuation **and** answer to Question 14E.ii is "yes"; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 80% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category II Wetland:** (Criteria for Category I not satisfied **and** meets any **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category IV)

- Score of 1 functional point for MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish Habitat; **or**
- "High" to "Exceptional" ratings for **both** General Wildlife Habitat **and** General Fish/Aquatic Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 65% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category III Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I, II, or IV not satisfied)

- 

**Category IV Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I or II are not satisfied and all of the following criteria are met; otherwise go to Category III)

- "Low" rating for Uniqueness; **and**
- Vegetated wetland component < 1 acre (do not include upland vegetated buffer); **and**
- Percent of possible score < 35% (round to nearest whole #).

**OVERALL ANALYSIS AREA RATING:**  
(check appropriate category based on the criteria outlined)

<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
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# MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Form (revised March 2008)

1. Project name  2. MDT project#  Control#

3. Evaluation Date  4. Evaluators  5. Wetland/Site# (s)

6. Wetland Location(s): T  R  Sec1  T  R  Sec2

Approx Stationing or Mileposts

Watershed  Watershed/County

7. Evaluating Agency

8. Wetland size acres

Purpose of Evaluation

Wetlands potentially affected by MDT project

Mitigation Wetlands: pre-construction

Mitigation Wetlands: post construction

Other

9. Assessment area (AA) size (acres)

How assessed:

How assessed:

**10. Classification of Wetland and Aquatic Habitats in AA**

HGM Class (Brinson)	Class (Cowardin)	Modifier (Cowardin)	Water Regime	% of AA
Riverine	Emergent Wetland	Excavated	Seasonal/Intermittant	100
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Estimated Relative Abundance

**12. General Condition of AA**

i. Disturbance: (use matrix below to determine [circle] appropriate response – see instructions for Montana-listed noxious weed and aquatic nuisance vegetation species (ANVS) lists)

Conditions within AA	Predominant conditions adjacent to (within 500 feet of) AA		
	Managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	Land not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to minor clearing; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	Land cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.
AA occurs and is managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or occupied buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=15%.	<input type="text" value="low disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="low disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="moderate disturbance"/>
AA not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to relatively minor clearing, fill placement, or hydrological alteration; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is <=30%.	<input type="text" value="moderate"/>	<input type="text" value="moderate disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>
AA cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to relatively substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >=30%.	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>	<input type="text" value="high disturbance"/>

**Comments: (types of disturbance, intensity, season, etc)**

Limited agriculture (hay) and few ranch structures to the east. Undeveloped riparian corridor and herbaceous uplands to north, south, and west. Two species of noxious weeds are present within the AA, but total cover does not exceed 1%. The AA is managed in a natural state.

**ii. Prominent noxious, aquatic nuisance, other exotic species:**

**iii. Provide brief descriptive summary of AA and surrounding land use/habitat**

The AA consists of one constructed secondary stream channel which bisects the mitigation area. The channel is active during high flow events, is seasonally inundated by shallow groundwater early in the growing season, and has developed wetland characteristics. The channel is bordered by created depressional wetland cells.

13. **Structural Diversity:** (based on number of "Cowardin" **vegetated** classes present [do not include unvegetated classes], see #10 above)

Existing # of "Cowardin" Vegetated Classes in AA	Initial Rating	Is current management preventing (passive) existence of additional vegetated classes?		Modified Rating
>=3 (or 2 if 1 is forested) classes	H	NA	NA	NA
2 (or 1 if forested) classes	M	NA	NA	NA
1 class, but not a monoculture	M	<NO	YES>	L
1 class, monoculture (1 species comprises >=90% of total cover)	L	NA	NA	NA

Comments: The AA consists entirely of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM) although several shrubs appear to be surviving.

### SECTION PERTAINING TO FUNCTIONS VALUES ASSESSMENT

14A. Habitat for Federally Listed or Proposed Threatened or Endangered Plants or Animals:

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Grizzly Bear (LT)

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
Functional Points and Rating	1H	.9H	.8H	.7M	.3L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    USFWS - 2012 county species list; MNHP verified in Park County

14B. Habitat for plant or animals rated S1, S2, or S3 by the Montana Natural Heritage Program: (not including species listed in 14A above)

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check one based on definitions contained in instructions):

Primary or critical habitat (list species)     D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary habitat (list Species)             D    S    \_\_\_\_\_

Incidental habitat (list species)            D    S    Golden Eagle(S3)

No usable habitat                                 S

ii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Highest Habitat Level	doc/primary	sus/primary	doc/secondary	sus/secondary	doc/incidental	sus/incidental	None
<b>S1 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	1H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.2L	.1L	0L
<b>S2 and S3 Species:</b> Functional Points and Rating	.9H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.2L	.1L	0L

Sources for documented use    Current and previous field observations.

**14C. General Wildlife Habitat Rating:**

i. Evidence of overall wildlife use in the AA (check substantial, moderate, or low based on supporting evidence):

Moderate

**Substantial** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of abundant wildlife #s or high species diversity (during any period)
- abundant wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- presence of extremely limiting habitat features not available in the surrounding area
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Minimal** (based on any of the following [check]):

- few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods
- little to no wildlife sign
- sparse adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

**Moderate** (based on any of the following [check]):

- observations of scattered wildlife groups or individuals or relatively few species during peak periods
- common occurrence of wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- adequate adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

ii. **Wildlife** habitat features (Working from top to bottom, check appropriate AA attributes in matrix to arrive at rating. Structural diversity is from #13. For class cover to be considered evenly distributed, the most and least prevalent **vegetated** classes must be within 20% of each other in terms of their percent composition of the AA (see #10). Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral; and A = absent [see instructions for further definitions of these terms])

Structural diversity (see #13)	High								Moderate								Low			
	Even				Uneven				Even				Uneven				Even			
Class cover distribution (all vegetated classes)																				
Duration of surface water in ≥ 10% of AA	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A	P/P	S/I	T/E	A
Low disturbance at AA (see #12)	E	E	E	H	E	E	H	H	E	H	H	M	E	H	M	M	E	H	M	M
Moderate disturbance at AA (see #12)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	M	H	M	M	L	H	M	L	L
High disturbance at AA (see #12)	M	M	M	L	M	M	L	L	M	M	L	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

iii. **Rating** (use the conclusions from i and ii above and the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Evidence of wildlife use (i)	Wildlife habitat features rating (ii)							
	Exceptional		High		Moderate		Low	
<b>Substantial</b>	1E		.9H		.8H		.7M	
<b>Moderate</b>	.9H		.7M		.5M		.3L	
<b>Minimal</b>	.6M		.4M		.2L		.1L	

**Comments** Moose, deer, and several avian species observed throughout site.

**14D. General Fish Habitat Rating:** (Assess this function if the AA is used by fish or the existing situation is "correctable" such that the AA could be used by fish [i.e., fish use is precluded by perched culvert or other barrier, etc.]. If the AA is not used by fish, fish use is not restorable due to habitat constraints, or is not desired from a management perspective [such as fish entrapped in a canal], then check  **NA** here and proceed to 14E.)  

i. **Habitat Quality and Known / Suspected Fish Species in AA** (use matrix to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Duration of surface water in AA	Permanent / Perennial						Seasonal / Intermittent						Temporary / Ephemeral					
	Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor		Optimal		Adequate		Poor	
Aquatic hiding / resting / escape cover	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
Thermal cover optimal / suboptimal	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	S
<b>FWP Tier I fish species</b>	1E	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
<b>FWP Tier II or Native Game fish species</b>	.9H	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L
<b>FWP Tier III or Introduced Game fish</b>	.8H	.7M	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.7M	.6M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.2L	.1L
<b>FWP Non-Game Tier IV or No fish species</b>	.5M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.4M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.2L	.1L	.1L	.1L

Sources used for identifying fish sp. potentially found in AA:

ii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1)

a) Is fish use of the AA significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, or other man-made structure or activity or is the waterbody included on the current final MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development with listed "Probable Impaired Uses" including cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support, or do aquatic nuisance plant or animal species (see Appendix E) occur in fish habitat? Y  N  If yes, reduce score in i above by 0.1: **Modified Rating**

b) Does the AA contain a documented spawning area or other critical habitat feature (i.e., sanctuary pool, upwelling area, etc. - specify in comments) for native fish or introduced game fish?  Y  N If yes, add 0.1 to the adjusted score in i or iia above:

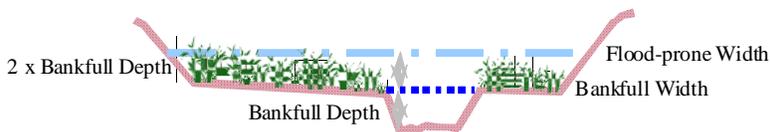
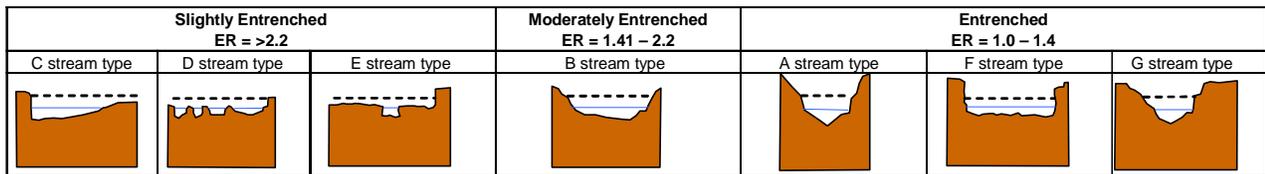
**Modified Rating**

iii. **Final Score and Rating:**  **Comments:**

**14E. Flood Attenuation:** (Applies only to wetlands subject to flooding via in-channel or overbank flow. If wetlands in AA are not flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, click  NA here and proceed to 14F.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Estimated or Calculated Entrenchment (Rosgen 1994, 1996)	Slightly entrenched - C, D, E stream types			Moderately entrenched - B stream type			Entrenched-A, F, G stream types		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
AA contains <b>no outlet or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.9H	.6M	.8H	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.8H	.5M	.7M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L



**Floodprone width**  / **Bankfull width**  = **Entrenchment ratio**

ii. Are ≥10 acres of wetland in the AA subject to flooding AND are man-made features which may be significantly damaged by floods located within 0.5 mile downstream of the AA (check)? Y  N

**Comments:**

**14F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage:** (Applies to wetlands that flood or pond from overbank or in-channel flow, precipitation, upland surface flow, or groundwater flow. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to flooding or ponding, click  NA here and proceed to 14G.)

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; and T/E = temporary/ephemeral [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

Estimated maximum acre feet of water contained in wetlands within the AA that are subject to periodic flooding or ponding	>5 acre feet			1.1 to 5 acre feet			≤1 acre foot		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:**

**14G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Retention and Removal:** (Applies to wetlands with potential to receive sediments, nutrients, or toxicants through influx of surface or ground water or direct input. If no wetlands in the AA are subject to such input, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14H.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating [H = high, M = moderate, or L = low])

Sediment, nutrient, and toxicant input levels within AA	AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds at levels such that other functions are not substantially impaired. Minor sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.				Waterbody on MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development for "probable causes" related to sediment, nutrients, or toxicants or AA receives or surrounding land use with potential to deliver high levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are substantially impaired. Major sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.			
% cover of wetland vegetation in AA	≥ 70%				< 70%			
Evidence of flooding / ponding in AA	Yes		No		Yes		No	
AA contains <b>no or restricted outlet</b>	1H	.8H	.7M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L	.2L
AA contains <b>unrestricted outlet</b>	.9H	.7M	.6M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:** Cover in AA is greater than 70% and outlet is restricted by topography. There was evidence of ponding observed in 2011 and 2012.

**14H Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization:** (Applies only if AA occurs on or within the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage, or on the shoreline of a standing water body which is subject to wave action. If 14H does not apply, click  **NA** here and proceed to 14I.)

i. **Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

% Cover of <b>wetland</b> streambank or shoreline by species with stability ratings of ≥6 (see Appendix F).	Duration of surface water adjacent to rooted vegetation					
	Permanent / Perennial		Seasonal / Intermittent		Temporary / Ephemeral	
≥ 65%	1H		.9H		.7M	
35-64%	.7M		.6M		.5M	
< 35%	.3L		.2L		.1L	

**Comments:** Increased vegetation development between 2011 and 2012 of species with high stability ratings including, rush, managgrass, sedges, and willows.

**14I. Production Export/Food Chain Support:**

i. **Level of Biological Activity** (synthesis of wildlife and fish habitat ratings [check])

General Fish Habitat Rating (14D.iii.)	General Wildlife Habitat Rating (14C.iii.)		
	E/H	M	L
E/H	H	H	M
M	H	M	M
L	M	M	L
N/A	H	M	L

ii. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating. Factor A = acreage of vegetated wetland component in the AA; Factor B = level of biological activity rating from above (14I.i.); Factor C = whether or not the AA contains a surface or subsurface outlet; the final three rows pertain to duration of surface water in the AA, where P/P, S/I, and T/E are as previously defined, and A = "absent" [see instructions for further definitions of these terms].)

A	Vegetated component >5 acres						Vegetated component 1-5 acres						Vegetated component <1 acre					
	High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low		High		Moderate		Low	
B	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
C	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
P/P	1E	.7H	.8H	.5M	.6M	.4M	.9H	.6M	.7H	.4M	.5M	.3L	.8H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.2L
S/I	.9	.6M	.7H	.4	.5M	.3L	.8H	.5M	.6M	.3L	.4M	.2L	.7H	.5M	.5M	.3L	.3L	.2L
T/E/A	.8	.5M	.6M	.3	.4M	.2L	.7H	.4M	.5M	.2L	.3L	.1L	.6M	.4M	.4M	.2L	.2L	.1L

iii. **Modified Rating** (NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1 or be less than 0.1.) **Vegetated Upland Buffer (VUB):** Area with ≥ 30% plant cover, ≤ 15% noxious weed or ANVS cover, and that is not subjected to periodic mechanical mowing or clearing (unless for weed control).

a) Is there an average ≥ 50 foot-wide vegetated upland buffer around ≥ 75% of the AA circumference? Y  N  If yes, add 0.1 to the score in ii above and adjust rating accordingly: **Modified Rating** .7M

**Comments:** Channel is seasonally inundated and has a restricted outlet at the southern end of the mitigation site.

**14J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge:** (check the appropriate indicators in i & ii below)

**i. Discharge Indicators**

- The AA is a slope wetland
- Springs or seeps are known or observed
- Vegetation growing during dormant season/drought
- Wetland occurs at the toe of a natural slope
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet
- Shallow water table and the site is saturated to the surface
- Other:

**ii. Recharge Indicators**

- Permeable substrate present without underlying impeding layer
- Wetland contains inlet but no outlet
- Stream is a known 'losing' stream; discharge volume decreases
- Other:

**iii. Rating** (use the information from i and ii above and the table below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Criteria	Duration of saturation at AA Wetlands <i>FROM GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE OR WITH WATER THAT IS RECHARGING THE GROUNDWATER SYSTEM</i>			
	P/P	S/I	T	None
Groundwater Discharge or Recharge	1H	.7M	.4M	.1L
Insufficient Data/Information	NA			

**Comments:** Channel is intermittently inundated by shallow groundwater and high flows from the Shields River.

**14K. Uniqueness:**

**i. Rating** (working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Replacement potential	AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland or plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types and structural diversity (#13) is high or contains plant association listed as "S2" by the MTNHP			AA does not contain previously cited rare types or associations and structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate		
	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant	rare	common	abundant
Low disturbance at AA (#12i)	1H	.9H	.8H	.8H	.6M	.5M	.5M	.4M	.3L
Moderate disturbance at AA (#12i)	.9H	.8H	.7M	.7M	.5M	.4M	.4M	.3L	.2L
High disturbance at AA (#12i)	.8H	.7H	.6M	.6M	.4M	.3L	.3L	.2L	.1L

**Comments:** Reduction in disturbance in 2012 based on elapsed time from construction disturbance.

**14L. Recreation/Education Potential:** (affords "bonus" points if AA provides recreation or education opportunity)

**i. Is the AA a known or potential rec.ed. site:** (check) Y  N  (if 'Yes' continue with the evaluation; if 'No' then click  NA here and proceed to the overall summary and rating page)

**ii. Check categories that apply to the AA:**  Educational/scientific study;  Consumptive rec.;  Non-consumptive rec.;  Other

**iii. Rating** (use the matrix below to arrive at [check] the functional points and rating)

Known or Potential Recreation or Education Area	Known	Potential
Public ownership or public easement with general public access (no permission required)	.2H	.15H
Private ownership with general public access (no permission required)	.15H	.1M
Private or public ownership without general public access, or requiring permission for public access	.1M	.05L

**Comments:**

Permission for access will be required.

**General Site Notes**

Function & Value Variables	Rating	Actual Functional Points	Possible Functional Points	Functional Units: (Actual Points x Estimated AA Acreage)	Indicate the four most prominent functions with an asterisk (*)
A. Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	L	.1	1	0.145	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	L	.2	1	0.29	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. General Wildlife Habitat	M	.7	1	1.015	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. General Fish Habitat	NA	0	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Flood Attenuation	M	.6	1	0.87	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	M	.6	1	0.87	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	H	1	1	1.45	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	M	.6	1	0.87	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	M	.7	1	1.015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	M	.7	1	1.015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
K. Uniqueness	M	.4	1	0.58	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Recreation/Education Potential (bonus points)	L	.05	NA	0.0725	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:		5.65	10	8.1925	
Percent of Possible Score			<b>56.5</b> %		

**Category I Wetland:** (must satisfy **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category II)

- Score of 1 functional point for Listed/Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Score of 1 functional point for Flood Attenuation **and** answer to Question 14E.ii is "yes"; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 80% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category II Wetland:** (Criteria for Category I not satisfied **and** meets any **one** of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category IV)

- Score of 1 functional point for MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish Habitat; **or**
- "High" to "Exceptional" ratings for **both** General Wildlife Habitat **and** General Fish/Aquatic Habitat; **or**
- Score of .9 functional point for Uniqueness; **or**
- Percent of possible score > 65% (round to nearest whole #).

**Category III Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I, II, or IV not satisfied)

**Category IV Wetland:** (Criteria for Categories I or II are not satisfied and all of the following criteria are met; otherwise go to Category III)

- "Low" rating for Uniqueness; **and**
- Vegetated wetland component < 1 acre (do not include upland vegetated buffer); **and**
- Percent of possible score < 35% (round to nearest whole #).

**OVERALL ANALYSIS AREA RATING:**  
(check appropriate category based on the criteria outlined)

<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
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## **Appendix C**

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### Project Area Photographs

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MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring  
Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 1**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 190 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 2**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 250 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 1**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 190 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 2**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 250 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 1**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 190 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 2**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 250 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 3**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 300 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 2 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 200 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 3**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 300 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 2 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 200 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 1 – Photo 3**      **Location:** East boundary  
**Bearing:** 300 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 2 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 200 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 3 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 140 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 4A – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-DS  
**Bearing:** 170 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 3 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 140 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 4A – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-DS  
**Bearing:** 170 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 3 – Photo 1**      **Location:** NW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 140 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 4A – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-DS  
**Bearing:** 170 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 4B – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-upstream  
**Bearing:** 20 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 5 – Photo 1**      **Location:** West boundary  
**Bearing:** 105 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 4B – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-upstream  
**Bearing:** 20 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 5 – Photo 1**      **Location:** West boundary  
**Bearing:** 105 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 4B – Photo 1**      **Location:** Shields Bank-upstream  
**Bearing:** 20 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 5 – Photo 1**      **Location:** West boundary  
**Bearing:** 105 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 6 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 7 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 340 Degrees      **Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 6 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 7 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 340 Degrees      **Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 6 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SW corner of site  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 7 – Photo 1**      **Location:** SE corner of site  
**Bearing:** 340 Degrees      **Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 1 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 5 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 2 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 1 – End**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 1 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 5 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 2 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 1 – End**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 1 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 5 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 2 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 1 – End**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 2 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 3 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 2 – End**  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 2 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 3 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 2 – End**  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 2 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 180 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 3 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 2 – End**  
**Bearing:** 0 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 3 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 95 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 3 – End**  
**Bearing:** 265 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2010**



**Veg Tran 3 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 95 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 3 – End**  
**Bearing:** 265 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2011**



**Veg Tran 3 – Start**  
**Bearing:** 95 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Veg Tran 3 – End**  
**Bearing:** 265 Degrees

**Location:** Veg Com 1 foreground  
**Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 2 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 270-0 Degrees

**Location:** NE corner of site  
**Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 2 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 270-0 Degrees

**Location:** NE corner of site  
**Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 2 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 270-0 Degrees

**Location:** NE corner of site  
**Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 3 – *Panorama***  
**Compass Bearing:** 90-180 Degrees

**Location:** NW corner of site  
**Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 3 – *Panorama***  
**Compass Bearing:** 90-180 Degrees

**Location:** NW corner of site  
**Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 3 – *Panorama***  
**Compass Bearing:** 90-180 Degrees

**Location:** NW corner of site  
**Taken in 2012**



**Photo Point 5 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 30-180 Degrees

**Location:** Western boundary of site  
**Taken in 2010**



**Photo Point 5 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 30-180 Degrees

**Location:** Western boundary of site  
**Taken in 2011**



**Photo Point 5 – Panorama**  
**Compass Bearing:** 30-180 Degrees

**Location:** Western boundary of site  
**Taken in 2011**



**Data Point: E-1**  
**Bearing:**

**Location:**  
**Taken in 2012**



**Data Point: E-2**  
**Bearing:**

**Location:**  
**Taken in 2012**



**Data Point: E-3**  
**Bearing:**

**Location:**  
**Taken in 2012**



**Data Point: E-4**  
**Bearing:**

**Location:**  
**Taken in 2012**

## **Appendix D**

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### Project Plan Sheets

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MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring  
Easton Ranch  
Park County, Montana

