



# Migratory Bird Habitat Program

*To protect, conserve, and  
create wetlands in  
Montana*



### Wetland Protection Advisory Council

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Tammy Crone, Bozeman  
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Gary Moses, Kalispell

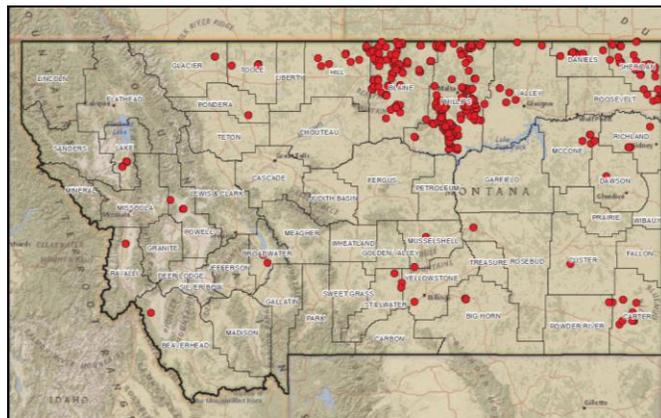


**For more information or to  
obtain a MBHP User's Manual:**  
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The Migratory Bird Stamp Act, enacted by the Montana Legislature in 1985, authorizes the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to use funds from migratory bird hunting licenses "...for the protection, conservation, and development of wetlands in Montana." A citizen-based Wetland Protection Advisory Council provides program oversight.

### Program Accomplishments 1985 - 2012

- Restoration, enhancement, or creation of 632 wetlands (5,130 acres)
- Management actions to enhance wetland-associated grasslands on 9,807 acres
- Permanent protection of 3,700 acres of previously unprotected wetland and associated grassland habitat



Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks recently supported a status assessment of wetland projects (red dots) completed through this program.

Wetlands are a declining resource in Montana; approximately one third of our original wetlands have been lost, primarily to draining and filling. Wetlands provide critical ecosystem functions important for our communities and our wildlife, including water purification, flood control, and groundwater recharge. They also provide critical foraging, brood-rearing, and migration habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-associated wildlife. Associated uplands provide important nesting habitat for waterfowl and contribute to the water quality and function of wetlands. The Migratory Bird Habitat Program is dedicated to conserving wetlands and associated uplands to benefit Montana's wildlife, especially migratory birds, and enhance consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities.

To facilitate delivery of the Migratory Bird Habitat Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has created a User's Manual to help project sponsors identify good quality wetland projects and successfully navigate the program's project approval process.