



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL **Q**UALITY

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Toney Ott
Ecosystems Protection Program
US EPA, 8EPR-EP
1595 Wynkoop Street
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January 18, 2008

RE: Montana Wetland Demonstration Program Grant Pilot Report Year's 1 and 2.

Dear Toney,

Attached in hard copy and on a CD are documents describing Montana's progress for the first two years of the three-year Wetland Demonstration Program Grant Pilot (WDP), grant award number WL97831401-0 to Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The three reports describe the accomplishments toward meeting our grant goal for each of the partners in this collaborative project. The Montana Natural Heritage Program was awarded a contract for a landscape scale change detection analysis. The Montana Wetlands Legacy was awarded a contract to focus on wetland restoration and conservation for vulnerable wetlands. And the MDEQ retained the program assessment component of the grant award to attempt to track wetland gains and losses.

As you know, in October 2007, EPA Headquarters along with the Regions and WDP grantees developed a reporting matrix as part of the national reporting effort for the demonstration pilot grants. Each of the partners in the grant award was tasked with completing their respective category and activities of the measures for WDP projects. The matrix information is reported below.

Please contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss results from our reports.

Sincerely

Lynda A. Saul
Wetland Program Manager

Measures for WDP Projects - Montana

Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership Reporting Matrix Results

Restoration & Protection	1. Direct Restoration and Protection	Increased ability to implement effective restoration projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of restoration sites • # of sites protected • Acres of restoration sites • Acres protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acres restored • Water quality changes after restoration • Biotic community improvements in restored wetlands • Net change in wetlands acres
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	Number of Protection Projects	Number of Acres in Permanent Protection	Number of Restoration Projects	Number of Acres of Wetlands Restored
Bitterroot Valley Pilot Grant Area	3*	503	3	113
Flathead Valley Pilot Grant Area	6	177	5	63
TOTALS	9	680	8	178

*Includes lands already under protection within the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Teller Wildlife Refuge, and one perpetual conservation easement on Bass Creek held by the Bitterroot Land Trust

For a written description of the results, please see the final report titled “Accomplishment Report” Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership, T. Hinz. 1/18/08.

Montana Natural Heritage Program Reporting Matrix Results

3. Wetland Maps/ Inventory Generated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # (protected, restored, restorable) wetlands, watersheds inventoried/mapped • Acres of (protected, restored, restorable) wetlands , watersheds inventoried/mapped • % state lands (with protected, restored, restorable wetlands) inventoried/ mapped • # acres not in NWI • % state not in NWI • Whether state lands can report NNL/NG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net change in wetlands acres • Net change in wetlands function
4. Mapping Tools and Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better approaches to locate and categorize wetlands • # site visits to verify techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net change in wetlands acres • Net change in wetlands function

For additional information, please see the final report “Wetland of the Bitterroot Valley: Change and Ecological Functions.” MT NHP, G.M. Kudray and T. Schemm, 1/18/08.

3. Wetland Maps/Inventory Generated

- # and acres of (protected, restored, restorable) wetlands, watersheds inventoried/mapped

We have begun to identify restorable wetlands during new wetland mapping by the MT Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center but this work is only recent. To date we've identified 244 potentially restorable wetland totaling 541 acres that have been drained, partially drained, excavated or otherwise modified. We have completed a watershed assessment totaling 970,000 acres of portions of the Lower Musselshell and Fort Peck Reservoir Subbasins.

- % state lands (with protected, restored, restorable wetlands) inventoried/ mapped.

The % of state lands that we have mapped as restorable wetlands is minimal, 5 restorable wetlands totaling 23 acres or <.001% of total state land.

- # acres not in NWI = 67, 157,192
- % state not in NWI = 71.4%
- Whether state lands can report NNL/NG – not at this time
- Net change in wetlands acres

We have completed a wetland change study in a 1.4 million acre area in the Bitterroot watershed that indicated no net change in wetlands acres within 95% confidence limits. However, there was an increase of 74.7% in the numbers of created Palustrine pond types and a 45.6% increase in the acreage. There was a 78.1% decrease in the numbers of beaver ponds and an 80.1% decrease in area.

- Net change in wetlands function – can't report at this time

4. Mapping Tools and Techniques

- Better approaches to locate and categorize wetlands

We have established the Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center and have about 25% of the state funded for new NWI mapping. We also attributed wetland polygons with hydrogeomorphic (HGM) modifiers and have developed a system to associate the combined NWI – HGM code mapping with 10 ecological functions. After mapping is completed we can display functional levels on a map and do further analysis.

- # site visits to verify techniques

We have visited approximately 200 wetland sites during the last year to verify wetland mapping and identify wetlands of particularly high ecological significance

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Wetland Program Reporting Matrix Results

5. Tracking Database	<p>Compiled wetland data will increase ability to inventory and report on wetland gains and losses, function, restoration, mitigation, permits, and/or compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether current, comprehensive, and accessible tracking database exists - NO • # sites in database – see below • Acres of wetlands in database – see below • Whether state lands can report NNL/NG – NO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net change in wetlands acres • Acres wetlands loss • Acres wetlands gain <p>Not possible to determine</p>
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For a written description of the results, please see the final report “Tracking Wetland Gains and Losses; Bitterroot and Flathead Pilot areas; Summary of Progress 2005-2007.” MT DEQ. L. Saul, J. Horton, and C. Frost 1/18/08.

Comparison of # of Sites and Acres of Wetlands in Wetlands Legacy Database and Montana Corps 404 Permit Database

	Wetlands Legacy Program Projects	Montana Corps 404 Permits
Data Years	2000-2007	1990-2003
Project Count	235	6,620
Location Count	555	10,289
Locations Not Reporting Size		5,068
Location Size Summary		
Total Acres	24,368*	893**
Miles	108*	254**
Cubic Yards		79,788**
Units Not Specified		100**

Wetlands Legacy Database Details

EcoType	Action	Unit	Sum of Amount
Wetland	Created	Acres	737.00
	Enhanced	Acres	5,527.00
	Restored	Acres	18,030.40
Riparian	Created	Miles	1.15
	Enhanced	Acres	46.00
		Miles	43.52
	Restored	Acres	28.00
		Miles	60.94

Montana Corps 404 Permit Database Details

Wetland Type	Unit	Sum of Amount
Lacustrine	Acres	37
	Cubic Yards	25,318
	Miles	10
Not Specified	Acres	9
	Miles	1
Other Waters	Acres	3

Wetland Type	Unit	Sum of Amount
	Cubic Yards	8
	Miles	.02
Palustrine	Acres	597
	Cubic Yards	5,872
	Miles	20
Riverine	Not Specified	100
	Acres	247
	Cubic Yards	48,590
	Miles	223