

Q10 –In your opinion, what is the most important work that the Montana Wetland Council should engage in over the next 10 to 15 years?

Answers to this question were reviewed and categorized for fitting into or mentioning one of 18 categories. This matrix lists each response and shows which categories that response was included in.

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Planning/Prioritizing	Incentives	Climate Change	On the Ground Action, Protection, Restoration	Information Resource	Interagency/organization/stakeholder communication/coordination	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species & Noxious Weed Management	Funding	Tracking Changes from Energy development	Water Availability	Better mitigation
mapping wetlands and floodplains state wetland laws protecting ecological wetlands information and education to local govt planning offices, local decision makers and development community												x	x					
Working with other State agencies and the legislature to develop laws and regulations to protect Montana's wetlands and riparian areas from development and further degradation.				x														
Promoting wetland education to ensure the public understands wetland functions. Hopefully this would be the basis from which more aggressive wetland protection would occur. I would like to see wetland setbacks for all wetlands, not just jurisdictional.		x		x														
Reduce impacts from development	x																	
Education and monitoring		x				x												
Educating decision-makers, developers and local governments on the need to preserve existing wetlands and to keep development away from wetlands.		x																
Helping local governments deal with urban sprawl by identifying wetland areas and assisting them in development Growth Policy goals that protect the natural environment, including wetlands. Assisting local governments in updating subdivision ordinances to better protect wetlands. Education of local government and developers to the importance of wetlands.	x	x		x			x						x					
Education		x																
Education about healthy habitats		x																
Educating the public about wetland values in an attempt to limit development in or near wetlands and stream corridors.	x	x																
Educate the public about the functions of wetlands -- filtering for better water quality, habitat for organisms		x																
Complete wetland delineation and identification for Montana.													x					
Advocating for wetlands and educating the public/agencies about the importance of wetlands.		x																
outreach to the general public		x																
Help develop, support, and codify laws and regulations protecting wetland and riverine habitat.			x	x														
Promote State and Local regulation development to protect	x			x														

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existing wetlands.																		
coordinate with counties on zoneing and restricting growth near wetlands	x						x					x						
Getting an accurate baseline of mapped wetlands. It is already 2007 and we are mapping on 2005 photos, 2010 and 2015 are going to roll around before we have anything like statewide coverage of developing areas.													x					
Education about wetlands values, threats and solutions		x																
Develop and promote stronger state level wetland protections that will protect our state wetlands from changes at the federal level.				x														
Facilitate the development and implementation of State laws that regulate the degradation or loss of geographically isolated wetlands, and other related issues that are not adequately covered by the federal Clean Water Act.				x														
Education, conservation		x								x								
Initiate work required to protect isolated wetlands through state laws.				x														
I believe that developing management plans for wetlands and/or riparian areas as well as the conservation of existing wetlands need to heavily focus on destruction of native habitat and incorporate noxious weed control and mosquito control to curb future problems.							x							x				
Work that incorporates wetland protection into city and county planning				x			x											
Become more involved in addressing the increasing invasion of invasive species in our wetlands. Work with local groups on wetland issues.				x										x				
Identify and protect wetlands in areas that are currently experiencing rapid and widespread growth. These will not be reclaimable once they are gone. We need to protect resources that have set Montana apart.	x												x					
Coordinate efforts to map, inventory, and explain wetland value, locations, types, and continuing losses due to lack of regulation, water availability, and continuing development. Coordinating the efforts of those professionals and citizen groups that are interested in this issue and encourage efforts to provided regulatory protection and control the wetland loss.	x			x								x	x				x	
Information exchange between state, federal, and local governments, wetland incentive development to the private sector, and the development of new wetlands banking in exchange for the loss of existing wetlands to development.	x							x				x						
Develop a Noxious weed/invasive species inventory on							x							x				

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designated wetland areas and develop a resource management plan addressing this serious threaat to the wetland environment.																		
The sharing of learned information to federal, state, and local governments along with all landowners. Educating the same groups on what the information means and how to use and apply it.		x										x						
regulating drilling that is tapping into the groundwater and discharging the water above ground instead of reinjecting it to keep the groundwater available for wetlands, springs, wells etc																x	x	
Anything that supports restoration of degraded wetlands; creation of new wetlands on reclaimed areas (e.g. mined lands); preservation and maintenance of healthy ones.										x								
Relizing that most of your wet lands will be in Western Montana, I believe that they need to work with developers to help incorporate or protect those areas. I don't know of to many wet land areas in Eastern Montana. I think to also give incentives to have landowners develope wetland areas for habitat use. Also they need to be actively aware of the noxious weeds that can affect these areas.	x							x						x				
Making sure that designs of new wetlands are design in a way that you can control invasive species.														x				
Make it more clear to local governments what is wetland is what is not.		x											x					
Wetland Mapping, Education, Subdivision/Zoning Laws		x		x									x					
Keep wetland acreage stable or increase.							x			x								
adult and youth education		x																
coal bed methane impacts to Tongue and Powder River drainages.																x		
coordinate programs that provide incentives to protect wetlands								x				x				x		
Contine to educate and strengthen coordination between the general public and agencies, also contine to monitor (long term) wetland habitats.		x				x						x						
Monitor water quality in streams to help identify future water quality degradation.						x											x	
Education to landowners of wetland importance.		x																
Providing outreach and education to the general public		x																
Wetland Education		x																
Make the public aware of the ecosystem services that wetlands provide.		x																
My impression is that the MWC's key role is promoting				x						x								

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policies that support wetland conservation and restoration.																		
Raise awareness, facilitate creation of long term (permanent) incentives for responsible stewardship, establish appropriate means of enforcement for recovery of abused wetlands (the emphasis being on correcting the situation foremost and punishment secondarily)		x			x			x										
Public education to highlight the importance of wetlands and riparian, and targeting the primary threats to wetland and riparian health (agriculture, livestock, dewatering, urban development).	x	x																
Networking w/ DNRC re: surface/ground water use. Working to integrate land use, wetlands, water policies at state and county levels.												x					x	
1) Work to increase funding and awareness of Wetland conservation and coordination across various government programs to include wetland conservation as a key goal or constraint. Bringing federal funding to Montana would help immensely. 2) Work with private sector to provide resources (education, engineering, planning, monitoring and funding) to incentivize private sector actions. I would model these efforts on programs like the USDA 'Great Plains' program of 20+ years ago. 3)		x				x		x							x			
Education followed by regulation		x	x	x														
Educate the public on the importance of wetland protection.		x																
Riparian wetlands. Wetlands that mitigate water quality and provide wetland habitats.					x		x											
Education		x																
Work with the agricultural businesses to make it feasible to both live together without taking private property from the real people who make a living in this State. We work hard and make environmentally safe overview of our lands. No interference such as global warming which is a big lie to begin with.												x						
Am not really sure what their current/past accomplishments are.																		
Ways to improve cooperation and consistency between agencies to protect and improve wetlands												x						
Education - The values of the next generation will be the driving force in wetland issue resolution.		x																
Education Mapping Technical assistance to local governments and landowners		x											x					
Local Govt regulations for wetland protection backed up by min standards at state level;				x														

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Efforts to increase wetland protection laws at state and county levels, particularly as related to urban growth and sprawl.	x			x														
The use of GIS to assist with the mapping and delineation of wetlands. As a group you need to understand where your resoruces are located and then what actions are warranted or needed to increase or maintain the resource.													x					
Pursue and develop new funding for state, feds, NGO's to pursue long-term wetland conservation, esp. conservation easements.															x			
Work should focus on the long-term effects and strategies to sustain current wetlands and then to restore wetland areas.										x								
spreading the word (education) and networking (sharing info)		x										x						
Develop a state program for wetlands conservation and restoration. Several issues should be considered in this program. 1. Base the definition of a wetland on the COE three criteria: hydrology, vegetation, and soils but do not include the political designations of 'isolated', 'adjacent', etc. These are political distinctions rather than scientific distinctions. 2. Develop a definition of 'high-quality' wetlands specific to the different eco-regions of the state and the different Cowardin types (or other classification system, e.g. forested, scrub-shrub, emergent, etc.). 3. Emphasize protection of high-quality wetlands through incentive rather than punitive measures. Punitive measures should only be imposed if the affected party does not pro-actively work with the incentive program (i.e. carrot first, then stick). Minor, temporary disturbances to fringe wetlands (e.g. minor road, railroad, pipeline, etc.) should receive little scrutiny and be blanket permitted under a state-wide permit provided standard BMPs are followed. Developing a state-run, consistent, scientifically defensible wetland program prioritized around incentives rather than punitive action, and high-quality wetlands rather than minor fringe habitat, would fulfill two goals. First, federal regulations are currently confusing, inconsistent between COE districts, and frequently not specific to Montana habitats. A state-specific program would help alleviate this confusion and resulting frustration. Second, focusing our attention on defining high-quality wetlands and implementing proactive, incentive based protection would go a long way to making the program relevant and insuring buy-in by potential project developers and the agricultural community.				x			x	x		x								
finding soluations to managing invasive species in existing														x				

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Response																		
wetlands in Montana.																		
Inventory, and education about the importance of wetlands, to all levels of the public, and local government		x											x					
Balancing the needs of the ecosystems with increasing demands on water during the drought and global warming.									x				x				x	
Promote wetland regulation and public information.		x		x														
Montana Wetland Council should engage in awareness training for what we can and should do to reduce the effects of climate change on our wetlands.		x							x									
Increase coordination, communication with non-tribal farmers, ranchers, and agencies with tribes etc.												x						
Educating the public of the importance of wetlands.		x																
Protect present wetlands							x			x								
Encourage local, state, and federal rules and regulations protecting, preserving, and restoring wetlands and riparian areas with enforcement of same. Carry out reasonable and efficient mapping work statewide that simply identifies the location of wetland and riparian habitat with priority for mapping being the state's high growth areas.			x	x			x						x					
Working with state to develop means to replace protection recently taken away by Supreme Court. Develop laws and incentive programs to protect riparian wetlands.				x				x										
Lobby to strengthen wetland regulations, educate the public, encourage enforcement of current wetland regulations, and identify isolated wetlands.		x	x	x	x								x					
Educational workshops through the university system for teachers with materials to take back to classrooms in the public schools.		x																
Public education and coordination among agencies charged with wetlands maintenance and protection.		x										x						
Education and identification.		x											x					
Education programs for students and adults.		x																
Working with state government and developers to find incentives to keep developers and 'progress' of new construction out of wetlands.	x							x										
Education is always the key. In the case of wetlands, it's not just k-12 but k-politicians-governor. So any sort of educational opportunity is vital. Secondly, legislation to protect wetlands and legislation that is enforced must happen!!		x		x	x													
Encouraging local governments to protect wetlands through regulation, education, and incentive programs offered to the public. Protecting wetlands should be included in planning		x		x	x		xx											

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processes for projects as small as one house to large developments. Regulations should be created and enforced but augmented with educational and incentive programs directed at the public.																		
1. Set aggressive goals to work with landowners, state and federal agencies to conserve, protect and restore additional functional wetland acres in the state. We must stop the trend of wetland losses in MT. 2. Push for stronger federal and state wetland protections. ex. in farm bill, CRP etc. 3. Enforce existing laws. 4. Push for strong stream setback regulations statewide.			X	X	X					X		X						
Wetland protection and restoration							X			X								
Coordinate wetland protection efforts												X						
Protecting existing wetlands and restoring degraded wetlands.							X			X								
education, starting with youth. education programs should be designed to fit into existing curricula as replacement units (units on Montana wetlands to replace units on generic wetlands).		X																
Identify MT's wetlands, while at the same time implementing monitoring and lobbying for more regulations. Giving SOLUTIONS and ALTERNATIVES to depleting water/wetland resources/habitats.				X		X							X					X
Education Outreach to community leaders, developers, teachers, ranchers etc...to convey the importance of maintaining wetlands.		X																
First you need to become more visible to the public. More frequent public education regarding the importance of wetland conservation. People have to be educated and then reeducated frequently.		X																
Educate private landowners on the importance of wetlands. Continue to coordinate with other agencies. Work on better enforcement of the protection of wetlands. No need for more laws, help enforce the current laws.		X			X							X						
I believe education and coalition building would be the most important work that the Montana Wetland Council could engage in.		X										X						
Stop the spread of invasive species														X				
educating the public on the importance of wetlands, not only for sustaining biodiversity but also water quality and our connection to the environment		X																
Increase public information regarding wetland values Survey for, identify, type and monitor existing wetlands Maintain legal protections Engage in citizen science / stewardship		X				X							X					

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opportunities (training, monitoring for students and interested volunteers; stewardship programs with private landowners)																		
education/outreach, incentive based program development and implementation, legislative support		x		x				x										
Education and information transfer		x																
Working to pass legislation to protect wetlands and riparian areas. Educating the public regarding the importance of wetlands/riparian corridors. Developing a social marketing strategy to protect wetlands.		x		x														
See responses. Combination of regulatory (new development and bad actors), education, and enforcement, along with incentives for agriculture and existing subdivisions.		x		x	x			x										
Educate regulators to recognize man-caused wetland development as an un-intended consequence of water use and to determine policies regarding whether or not man-caused wetlands should receive a different level of protection than natural wetlands.		x		x													x	
Help facilitate the State wetland mitigation and replacement program when wetlands are destroyed by Highway construction and development.					x													x
Coordinate efforts of the various groups working to protect wetlands and act as a single organization to increase the awareness and importance of wetland conservation in the state.		x									x							
legal protection			x	x	x													
Much of the current good work should be continued. The legacy program, education, mapping are all important peices. I would encourage more land use / development (residential and energy) work in the next 10 years.	x	x						x					x			x		
The most important work that should be undertaken in the next decade is providing information on which wetlands are the most important to protect, where they are and then have a comprehensive program to encourage protection - education, work with stakeholders and local government, enforcement of regulations and money to support conservation.		x			x		x			x		x			x			
Education, including informing developers of the review and permit process for protecting wetlands.		x																
Mapping, inventory, and assessment of wetlands! (We need to know what we've got in order to conseve it!)						x							x					
Identify threatened areas.							x											
start purchasing critical wetland areas now and an putting into public trust							x											

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Save the Best, make the hard decision that all wetlands are not created equal, at least when it comes to wetland restoration and protection dollars. And remember this quote 'Regulations are born from where relationships have failed' One on one contact with landowners cannot be replaced by public meetings or any modern technology.							x					x						
Keep monitoring wetlands, keep educating about their importance, keep pressuring for state and federal protection and keep pressuring for consistent enforcement of what wetlands protection there is..Keep educating local governments, especially those in rapid growth areas.		x	x	x	x	x												
Coordinate statewide wetland information and 'how to' information on strategies for wetland protection		x										x						
Work to be able to quantify that in Montanta there is no net loss of wetlands areage.													x					
Probably working with local governments on riparian set-backs for new development, but pressures from energy development might trump that work. Stay flexible.	x			x														
Collaboration												x						
Increase development of technical information regarding wetland characteristics, critical functions, extent and distribution throughout the state and the outreach of this information to all segments of our society.		x				x							x					
Drought planning, weed management, water conservation. If you can make it rain -- great!							x							x			x	
Lobbying for stronger enforcement of existing regulations. Working for more stringent regulations on altering or destroying wetlands.			x	x	x													
Become a force in state policy for wetland protection, it doesn't matter how much monitoring and assessment you do, if legal buffer areas and development laws are not in place and enforced---wetlands (all classes) will get the short end of the stick whether they are functional or not!!! Identify reference condition and large functional wetlands for all wetland types and get those permanently protected IMMEDIATELY. Assessment of others in those classes to find more high quality wetlands. Link 'cool' or 'pet' biological communities (birds and dragonflies) to the wetland types, so folks (i.e., the lay-public can associate a wetland to animals.				x	x	x							x					
Help in developing tougher laws and regulations to protect wetlands.			x	x														
Education and assistance in development of wetland protection around and near development both energy and housing/urban	x	x														x		

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Response																		
Raise understanding of value of wetlands so that persons will voluntarily act to preserve and respect wetlands and will support action to protect them.		x																
Working with all applicable agencies such as the Conservation District, Planning & Zoning Offices, Army Corp. of Engineers and Fish, Wildlife and Parks.												x						
Continue the role of facilitating interagency, NGO, county (and others) cooperation, help identify funding sources, and continue supporting educational efforts. Continue efforts to get appropriate building restrictions established, including ground water use restrictions.	x	x		x								x			x		x	
Education of Montana's citizens, both young and old; and engagement with local and State government to promote an enlightened atmosphere in which folks want to conserve and properly manage wetlands.		x		x								x						
Network with local/county planners on unrestricted growth and it's impacts on wetlands and stream impacts.	x			x								x						
Education about wetland importance.		x																
Strengthening laws/regulations that prevent impacts within and adjacent to wetlands. In my experience, most developers and private landowners will only avoid, protect or minimize wetlands to the extent of the current law. Very few people go above and beyond the minimum standards to protect wetland resources, even if they have received educational information regarding the benefits of wetlands.			x	x														
Rules and regulations regarding the restriction of growth in wetland areas, find and identify those areas.			x	x									x					
Identify wetlands most at risk including identification of isolated wetlands that escape protection under current interpretations of law							x						x					
Helping other agencies, with respect to protection, restoration and preservation of unique wetlands in the state.										x		x						
Increase awareness of wetland issues, and promote stronger regulations protecting wetlands		x	x	x														
Continue to help educate landowners, agencies, local, state and national leaders and government officials, more publicity, continue to plan and help direct us as practitioners.		x					x											
Work with local planners and developers to limit or restrict the fragmentation of wetlands, discourage the development entities use of wetlands as their own pollutant treatment systems, and limit the amount of 'engineered/re-created' wetlands as a viable replacement for disturbed or developed natural wetlands.	x	x			x							x						
Identify important wetlands for conservation, and then work							x			x			x					

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to conserve them. Be proactive rather than opportunistic or reactive																		
Keeping the group informed of all wetland issues in the state, and continue working with all parties as a resource to ensure wetland issues are addressed.											x	x						
Collaborative outreach addressing the patterns of growth which are impacting our water and wetland resources.	x											x					x	
Education		x																
stream setbacks and keeping development out of wetlands.				x														
1)Using wetland professionals to get the message out about the importance of wetland conservation and threats to: public officials, agencies, and public 2) leveraging funding from relevant agencies for inventory and monitoring of wetlands		x				x							x		x			
I am not sure what work they have done. To identify, Inform, educate, cooperate.		x										x	x					
Inventory Montana's wetlands, develop and propose sufficient and stringent local and state regulations to preserve these wetlands in their natural state, monitor the enforcement of those regulations, and publicize failures of governmental agencies to meet their statutory obligations.		x		x	x	x							x					
Legislation that raises awareness and increases penalties to those that break the law regarding wetland destruction.			x	x	x													
Educate county planning and zoning boards about wetlands. Help them incorporate wetlands into their decision making process. Possibly come up with a set of criteria for them to use in their decision making.		x		x		x												
Education, funding, inventory, and assessment		x				x							x		x			
Working with local government and watershed groups by providing resources to identify, protect and restore wetlands and educate the public.		x		x						x		x	x					
I suspect lobbying & education to get effective legislation passed to protect wetlands from development...but I have not been actively involved enough with the issues to have a strong sense. My sense is that we don't have an adequate inventory of the wetlands in Montana.		x		x									x					
Identify wetlands at greatest risk from development and work with local & state government to protect them.							x					x	x					
encourage, including funding, wetland restoration										x					x			
Encouraging and nurturing local stewardship of wetlands; explaining the economic importance of wetlands for sustainable agriculture, wildlife habitat; and ensuring a healthy water cycle that optimizes the capture and slow release of a scarce and essential life resource.		x								x							x	

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spend your money in the field										x								
Education of wetland benefits to healthy watersheds and ecosystems Education of commercial/residential developers in the importance of avoiding development near wetlands Assistance to local governments/conservation districts/planning entities in teaching them how to enforce wetland laws and the vast importance in doing so	x	x			x													
Communicating with developers	x											x						
Education. Problems often stem from not being aware.		x																
conserving wetlands thru proper mitigation.																		x
see #9																		
Working with the State Legislature and Local Governments. The local governments seem to have the most control and in many cases, the most ignorance.				x														
Define where the wet lands are so that they do not need to be identified on a case by case basis													x					
Educate lawmakers on need for more wetland conservation		x		x						x								
To build wet lands back in obvious places that have been disturbed or removed, and removing houses from close areas around streams and wetland areas.										x								
Incorporating wetland protection and preservation in land use planning efforts (requires an effective monitoring and inventory systems to track locations, status, and trends), as well as continued outreach and education on the importance of naturally functioning wetlands and riparian areas to quality of life (water quality and aesthetics)and ecosystem needs.		x		x		x							x					
Coordination of education, preservation advocacy, and promotion of reasonable regulations integrating preservation and controlled development in compatible manner.	x	x		x						x		x						
Strengthen local, state and federal regulations limiting development of wetlands before they are gone!	x		x	x														
Education, informing public and landowners, and involving developers, landowners, industry in educational and decision-making efforts.		x										x						
Education and Information on the necessity of preserving the wetlands.		x																
Help educate and increase awareness of importance of wetlands to the public. Importance to habitats, water supplies, and regulating run-off and flood events. Answer the question why should the general public and land owners, developers etc. be concerned conserving wetlands.	x	x															x	
Strident steps to protect wetlands and perennial streams and rivers from residential encroachment and agricultural	x									x								

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degradation.																		
Identification of wetlands and violations of existing wetland protection regulations.					x								x					
Identifying wetlands													x					
educate local government officials.	x	x																
Design and assist lawmakers to create laws that protect wetlands through development restrictions and setbacks and outreach and education for private landowners.		x		x														
Co-equal with other work, it needs to take a strong stand on regulations and incentives to reduce global warming or we won't have many wetlands to worry about in Montana.									x									
Educating local governments and developers.	x	x																
Strengthen state regulations and actively assist local governments in developing and adopting local regulations and incentive programs to protect wetlands and riparian areas.				x				x										
Work to coordinate state and local protection of wetlands through strengthened planning and zoning requirements. Wetlands destruction really does begin locally. Provide general public education about the economic benefits wetlands provide. Coordinate with DNRC and DEQ, Montana's 'water' agencies.		x		x								x						
Work on a state wetland inventory; identify unique, significant, and endangered wetlands; and get that information into the hands of planners, decision-makers, and folks with the energy and motivation to advocate for wetland protection.							x						x					
Identifying wetlands statewide and having a data base that is know about by local planing offices statewide so as wetlands are not developed or impacted.													x					
Increasing awareness of the importance of wetlands and wetland functions, educating landowners, government agencies and the public about where wetlands are located, and which face the most threats.		x					x						x					
Education at all levels and to a broad audience across the state.		x																
1. Continuing to develop a solid base of sound, practical information to assist willing landowners/managers, and (where wetlands are, health assessment tools, and best management practices for different types), and 2. Continuing to work with the those in whose hands the stewardship of wetlands lies: local govts, landowners, ag producers, and industry (I think the latter should be the only group that might need statutory justification in some cases).		x									x	x						
Develop a cooperative strategy to enhance public awareness		x		x														

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of wetland losses, and promote the need for protection through zoning or other legislative measures that would limit develop or degradation of wetland/riparian areas.																		
Work with local governments to pass regulations and come up with incentives aimed at curbing streamside development.				x				x										
Development of State laws regarding protection of wetlands that are isolated or otherwise beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Clean Water Act. It would be wise to develop and enact a simple and straightforward state law that requires wetland impacts be avoided where possible, and minimized if avoidance is not possible. Compensatory mitigation should be part of the process, too.				x														
Strategize ways to protect wetland areas that are most at risk							x			x								
Continuing dialogue, education, networking		x										x						
Continued emphasis on the basic identification of the wetland resource through mapping and inventory. Proactive state and local policy work to strengthen wetland regulations,conservation incentives, and education to biologist, students and the general public. The basic coordinating work of the council cannot be underemphasized.		x		x				x				x	x					
Establish setback laws/ zoning for the entire state.				x														
Education regarding wetlands functions and values and magnitude of wetland losses due to inadequate wetland protection/conservation, and lobbying to promote stronger wetland protection programs.		x	x	x														
Encourage mapping and monitoring of existing wetlands. Strive to support legislation aimed at protecting, enhancing, and restoring wetlands.				x		x							x					
Coordinate efforts that bring together partners across the state to prioritize protection, management & restoration efforts to maximize conservation efforts in the best of the best places.							x			x		x	x					
Providing funding for wetland mapping and long-term monitoring. Providing more 'on the ground' protection for wetland resources from destruction.						x				x			x		x			
Education		x																
Coordinate efforts to adopt stronger state and local wetland protection measures.				x								x						
working toward broadening the safety margin of regs and enforcement so that the protected resource reflect a good buffer for potential changing water and climatic conditions				x	x				x									
With respect to wetlands and development - encourage sustainable growth. This could be done through education and regulation.	x	x		x														

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Develop public/private partnerships to advance wetlands conservation, restoration, and education. Promote enforcement of existing wetlands and water quality laws by state and federal agencies. Encourage establishment of riparian and wetland pasture management among agricultural producers. Develop an accurate geospatial database of Montana wetlands. Include data on wetland form and function. Make this database available to the regulatory community and general public.		x	x	x	x					x		x	x					
Information based on solid science, accessible to general public, but mostly to educated decision makers and legal types.		x											x					
Increase educational efforts to the general public, agricultural interests, landowners and local governments. Lobby for strengthening wetland protection laws at all government levels, and continue to help enhance wetlands monitoring and inventory efforts.		x	x	x		x							x					
Continuing to bring wetland conservation interests together to share information, facilitate learning, share new programs and technologies, and to serve as a common voice in support of the need for wetland conservation in Montana. In regard the latter item, ensure that Governor Schweitzer endorses the new 2007 wetland strategic framework and publicizes its existence and value to Montanans and the state.				x							x	x	x					
Develop state level regulations that protect both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands. These need to go further than the Army Corps of Engineers regulations. A higher level of standard or success criteria needs to be established for mitigation requirements. The ACOE allows too many impacts and has little to no budget to actually follow-up to see that wetlands are being created in-place of permitted impacts.				x														x
Training and outreach and monitoring wetlands inventories.		x				x							x					
Encouraging voluntary participation in wetlands protection efforts								x										
Improving effectiveness of wetland regulations, including implementing more severe penalties on entities that do not comply with wetland legislation.					x													
roundtable discussions so all partners can give input on how best to protect wetlands.												x						
Implimentation of state regulations and a regulatory program, EPA and the ACOE are not getting the job done and nothing is happening that would indicate that will change.				x	x													
Education. I wonder how many people know why wetlands are important.		x																

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Identify/map wetlands and encourage federal agencies to strengthen their rules			x										x					
Establishing incentives and regulatory programs for stream setbacks and wetland buffers - along with a campaign to educate the public about the value of wetlands and riparian areas.		x		x				x										
Communicate the importance of wetlands, inventory existing wetlands and continuously monitor their condition, actively work for meaningful laws to protect wetlands and gain political clout to influence federal and state environmental assessments that gloss over impacts. I'd also like to see the regulations changed so that the same area where a wetland is impacted is the area where the restoration occurs. Right now the Federal Forest Highways group in Washington State doing 5 projects in Montana can do the cumulative remediation where ever they or the DOT choose, thereby depriving landowners of the ammenities, beauty and wild landscapes that are part of their quality of life. My wetland is less than an acre and it is threatened by a federal forest highway. Its		x	x	x		x							x					
Developing State regulations to protect wetlands, and an enforcement program to enforce those regulations. Continue efforts to track wetland gains and losses.				x	x	x							x					
Improved coordination between wetland scientists, managers and regulators to facilitate scientifically based wetland protection strategies				x								x	x					
Should have state laws clearly protecting wetlands. State and feds need to cooperate. Feds need to strengthen laws and enforcement. No more After-The-Fact permits and tighten up Nationwide Permits.			x	x	x													
Be involved with city and county governments. Be involved with land use issues and help to restrict development, so as to preserve our groundwater, wetlands, and riparian corridors. We need more buffers around wetlands and riparian corridors.	x											x						
Being a source of wetland information (a critical resource) to local governments, watershed groups, and private individuals. Every watershed group should be aware of what the council, and its subcommittees, can provide. I know we're well known in the wetland community, but it's time we expand into 'mainstream' Montana! We have an amazing level of experience in all aspects of wetland management. We need to share this knowledge with the folks on the ground. Also encouraging cooperation and the coordination of data and		x									x	x						

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information between the wide range of government agencies across the state.																		
focus on state statute allowing financial incentives for protection of wetlands, stream riparian areas and floodplains on private lands; enforce floodplain regulations and require Corps of Engineers to implement stream mitigation program; require MDT to mitigate for adverse impacts to streams				x	x			x										x
Addressing broad spectrum impacts of human development and sprawl on the environment.	x																	
Actively work with legislators, planning boards, and/or other elected officials as advocates for limiting development within riparian zones (some form of set-backs).	x		x									x						
Tracking wetland losses and impacts						x							x					
Education of the public, lawmakers, etc.		x																
Getting the word out of their existance, what they do and how they can help.		x																
Policy, planning and coordination efforts to inform and help local communities with sustainable developement plans	x			x			x					x						
educate about wetlands		x																
controlling noxious weeds														x				
In Richland County the miles and miles of oil, gas and water pipelines travels thru many of the counties wetland with little or no thought to the surrounding area and soli types																x		
Continue public education for children and adults about the impact of losing wetlands, the benefits now and in the future.		x																
education		x																
Strengthening of collaborative efforts between all the agencies involved (fed/state/local)in developing feasible resource mgt. plans that balance conservation and economic/growth needs for the future.												x						
Continued education to realtors, developers,and legilators	x	x																
Developing enforceable regulations for wetlands protection.			x	x	x													
protect isolated wetlands and ensure the quality and functions of jurisdictional wetlands.			x	x	x													
plan for mosquito and noxiou controlreduce weetlands														x				
weed control														x				
Education of those who are involved even though they do not realize they are involved		x																
Promoting all the work that has already been done to protect wetlands. Plenty of laws and regulations already excist to protect this important resource.		x																
Education of all the public about the importance and role of wetlands and all of Montana's waters, how they interact and		x		x	x								x				x	

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depend on each other (surface and groundwater interactions). Continue all efforts to move forward with inventory, remediation, protection, enforcement, new regulation. Any progress IS progress.																		
Strengthen the laws relative to wetland protection, and add land use controls in and around wetland regions, as well as the over use of ground and surface water that feed wetlands.			X	X													X	
Recognize that through restrictiions in Montana and US, destruction of wetlands is occurring at a rapid pace in other countries for food production, housing, etc.							X											
continuing education & promote teamwork among all interested agencies and tribes concerning wetlands and the likely invasive weeds within those areas, as well as the long term impacts of those weeds as well as the added impact of development around these sensitive areas.	X	X										X		X				
Keep educating the public and government agencies about wetland science and management.		X																
Identifying neglected areas. Working with agriculture and energy development to ensure proper, careful management. Not just blanket restrictions- we need cooperasion.							X					X				X		
Insure protection of existing wetlands.										X								
Involve the local soil and water conservation districts in their activities and their partners including the NRCS. These groups can provide some realism to the complex wetlands issues brought about by poor federal laws and seseless regulations.												X						
Protecting wetlands associated with roadway developments and protect riverine systems from residential encroachments and from rip-rap installation	X									X								
Preventing urban sprawl along our wetlands	X																	
Adult and youth education... expose people to wetlands, big and small, near and far. I think a lot of people see 'wetlands' as something in a park, or a major waterway. They don't see our small wetlands as anything worthwhile or even understand them as components to ecosystems.		X																
Encourage protection for 'isolated' wetlands.				X						X								
Work with lawmakers to clearly define what wetlands are, and when they are protected. There are currently many laws, but their jusrisdiction gets defined differently depending on the pre-existing law to which they are attached (i.e. CWA vs Montana WQA). It would be better to just have a stand alone wetlands law.				X														
Assess what we have in the way of natural wetlands, and determine which of the 'wetlands' we have in some areas are						X							X					

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not natural. Attempt to find a way to rectify the creation of unnatural, and usually out of balance wetlands.																		
keep public informed of issues		x																
Preventing wetland degradation by working on laws that would protect them from development,etc	x			x														
Serve as the clearing house for information and opportunities for wetland conservation.											x							
Education and outreach		x																
Protection of wetlands through legal limits on development in and adjacent to wetlands - especially river and stream corridors.				x						x								
Education of all the effects of wetlands. Not only benefits but adverse effects such as mosquito breeding habitat.		x																
Education about the benefits of incentive-based wetland conservation programs.		x						x										
Enforce the already established laws to protect wetlands. The development by humans is destroying them all in the name of safety. Hwy 93 is a great example of natural wetlands being destroyed and the laws not being enforced.	x				x													
education		x																
coordinate state wide plans to address wetlands-how to work with landowners to help with conservation versus selling to developers, stop coal mining that produces mosquito producing ponds, help educate the public as to the importance of quality of life in Montana and the necessity of preserving the wetlands.		x									x		x					
finding and noting where all wetlands are and enforcing them as such.					x								x					
educate people about the Montana Wetland Council and what the organization does for wetlands.		x																
Become involved in invasive species issues.														x				
Education on the importance of maintaining healthy wetlands and riparian area.		x																
leave as is																		