

Q11 – If you could offer one critical piece of advice to those doing long-term strategic thinking and planning for Montana’s wetlands, what would that be?

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	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Look at what has happened in other state's outside Montana and look at how un-regulated development has forced many of those state's to adopt strict environmental laws and regulations after the fact to protect the environment. MT is now facing development and economic pressures similar to California, New Jersey and North Carolina. Unless we are pro-active to develop protective measures now, it may be too late in the future.	x		x	x														
The opportunities to save many types of wetland habitats are vanishing....either because of increased development pressure, relaxed regulations, or climate change. In the face of reduced Federal protections and short-sightedness, Montana should step up and protect these sensitive habitats with progressive State laws before these habitats are gone or reduced to fragmented and unconnected remnants. We should learn from other States' mistakes before Montana ends up like so many other areas that have been diminished by too many people and too little forethought/protection of the natural resources we cherish and with which we identify ourselves.	x		x	x					x									
We need to move from quarterly meetings, among ourselves, to being a true on the ground resource for the people of Montana. We have an amazing group of people possessing a huge collective knowledge. We need to get this knowledge to the folks on the ground. Sometimes our meetings feel like 'preaching to the choir'. While this is great for coordination, and we should continue these meetings, we need to improve our effectiveness at getting our knowledge to the ground.		x									x							
Make wetland conservation an identifiable objective good for more people--the average person should be able to say what wetlands do that's beneficial.		x																
The public must be engaged through out the process. This should include supporters and those who just as soon see wetlands filled.		x																

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Montanan's need to recognize that federal agencies are not capable of preserving or protecting the natural wetlands in the state of Montana, their presence in our state is far more symbolic than effective. Further, the ACOE appears to simply be an agency that provides permits allowing development in wetlands. Also, public education is needed that goes beyond people who are already concerned about wetlands. The general public should be made aware of the connection between wetlands and water quality, as the 'fill the swamp' mentality is still very prevalent.		x	x	x														
beware the human horde! - they are coming to Montana and we must protect our wetlands thru education, info sharing and regulation.	x		x	x								x						
While I agree that long term monitoring is a crucial aspect of wetland management, the most pressing issue is minimizing wetland losses through strict implementation of existing wetland laws and developing new wetland protection laws that can feasibly be implemented and monitored.			x	x	x	x												
Do more outreach and PR		x																
How to monitor existing wetlands and identify threats to existing wetlands.						x						x						
Plan for the worst case scenario with increasing development pressures in Montana and decrease in the ACOE's ability to manage wetlands.	x		x	x	x													
Focus on the most important stuff. Winnow down the feedback to the areas with the highest likelihood of success in the next few years that will produce also some of the highest value outcomes.							x											
Wetland protection will be a difficult sell to private landowners unless there are real economic benefits. A program needs to be developed that pays landowners to keep wetlands intact (e.g. a wetlands easement program).								x										
Think long term! Consider the entire ground water/surface water interrelationship.							x									x		
science and regs incorporating: a) changing water management impacts on wetlands and loss of wetlands; b) changing climate impacts on wetlands and loss of wetlands			x	x	x	x			x							x		
Try to regulate development in riparian areas as quickly as possible.	x			x														
Education and incentives are critical to preserving (restoring) wetlands on private lands.		x						x										
Policy and laws can be enacted, but unless there are enough regulators (people on the ground doing the police-work) these will slip through the regulatory fingers.					x													
See #10																		

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Increase the use of conservation easements to protect wetlands and establish a strong, positive working relationship with large private landholders.										x							x	
Must be able to convince the public and decision makers that wetlands are valuable and important (i.e., need good information on wetlands functions and values), and that there will be serious consequences from continued loss of wetlands resources (i.e., consequences in terms of lost fish & wildlife habitat, water recharge, water quality, recreation, quality of life, etc.).		x				x										x		
Need to get the ball rolling faster with more action on the ground; monitoring wetland quality collecting data. Need to get more data to be more defensible in the future. Less effort spent discussing approach and coordination.						x					x							
See number 10 answer too, but also continue to establish a strong information resource. The amphibian inventory program with photos and associated data is a great example. Site specific photos, data, and assessment really bring the message home in a public way to managers. Wetland condition is often poor, improving that is very important.						x					x	x	x					
Follow-up with planning objectives and help inter-agency communication							x					x						
Get all agencies and non-profits to come to consensus about how to work together effectively, and move forward on conserving wetlands.											x	x						
Identify locations in the state where the wetlands are most threatened and recommend protective measures for the legislative branch.				x		x	x						x					
Protect the wetlands that remain, and restore the wetlands that can be restored.							x			x	x							
If we don't pass stronger regulations to guide new development away from rivers, streams and wetlands over the next 5-10 years, we will forever lose many of our most valuable wetlands.	x			x			x											
The pressure on wetland/riparian areas is only going to increase, as human population growth in western Montana continues, and as climate change (drought)affects surface water availability. Demand and detrimental effects don't decline as water availability declines.	x								x							x		
Keep strengthening the linkage in the public mind to the positive benefits about water quality and quantity and habitat that most everyone values.		x																
Think about a multi-pronged approach to wetland conservation, that includes both short and long term goals, education, research, support for regulatory or legal actions, and that includes multiple partners. I believe the council is already doing this.		x				x	x					x						
Clear definition of a wetland, and define the benefits				x									x					

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Try to use incentives wherever possible instead of just legislation/enforcement to minimize resentation of wetland programs. Incentives are often more effective and cost less anyway.								x										
Continue to get the word out about where wetlands are in Montana, what type of wetlands they are and why it is critical to protect them. If there isn't a incentive program out there for wetland protection develop one that may give land owners a tax break or other incentives to participate in wetland conservation and protection.		x						x					x					
Make sure your waders don't have any leaks.																		
We destroy wetlands one acre at a time - work locally.				x							x							
Education of adults and children is important and should be done for long-term purposes, but impacts of growth and development (which I expect will be tremendous in the next 10 to 50 years if these are not addressed) need to address and strengthen both state and local government regulations and incentive programs. New comers generally think about the aesthetics of their new home and place without necessarily being aware about the impacts of development. Development standards and regulations should be in place for them to follow. Regulations should also include protection of smaller creeks and streams that drain a watershed and their associated wetlands (incl. riparian areas, floodplains and shallow aquifers). Unfortunately, these, as well as isolated wetlands, are neglected as local governments defer judgement to DEQ and the state hopes to defer decision making and regulatory enforcement to local governments.	x	x		x														
Keep plugging away.																		
In agricultural circles, incentives and personal contact work better than legislation. As for industry, such as coal and coal-bed methane development, strong regulation is the better pursuit.				x				x									x	
educate the public and involve them in the decision making process		x																
'No net loss' is not a good system regarding wetlands in Montana and the United States. Mitigation measures that substitute a natural wetland system with an artificial wetland are unacceptable.			x	x														
?																		
Make regular informational visits with local elected officials.		x																
My ideas are too radical to write now that you have my name													x					
Document wetland conditions and trend. Help provide incentives for the conservation of wetlands.						x		x					x					
Conserve the wetlands that exist and if it is necessary to destroy a wetland (due to development), then replace it somewhere else nearby so the net effect is 0.					x	x												
Develop relationships with all stakeholders, on all sides of the issue, as far as possible.												x						

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Local governments need to be empowered with regulations and guidance to reduce wetland impacts. These regulations must be required by state or federal law and provide the teeth and support necessary to enforce the statutes, otherwise local jurisdictions will likely never adopt such regulations.				x	x													
Reasonable people reach reasonable solutions - all or nothing are not reasonable positions for developers and landowners nor preservationists and regulators.					x							x						
Continue the good work and look to new ways of communicating important messages (i.e. social marketing).		x										x						
Restrict subdivision growth by the use of conservation easements and maintain the wild areas as natural				x						x								
Designate where they are now.													x					
Although wetlands are dynamic and many temporary, they are priceless in terms of their plant and animal species. Losing them is losing a major habitat type in Montana.		x																
Incentives are better than regulations because regulations tend to be written in a 'one size fits all' way and that's just not how the world works; eastern Montana is not the same as western Montana; rural, low growth areas are not the same as urban, high growth areas.								x										
Thoroughly engage yourselves with other land use planning groups. You have the appearance of being elitist.							x					x						
Solution-based strategies for wetland protection/restoration and creation versus regulation-based strategies. Give the people the tools to easily integrate this in their work.							x	x										
From my view point as a Floodplain/Subdivision Administrator I would think it critical to have maps that identify significant, existing wetlands. Some of the wetland information is available from County Soil Survey Maps and from Federal and State Agency maps, but some land developers/engineers may 'contest' any attempt to regulate any 'identified wetlands' on the property particularly if it significantly increases development costs. Maybe, helping the engineers with wetland mitigation designs that reduce the mitigation costs would be beneficial					x								x					
identify and preserve existing wetlands.					x								x					
Replacement is always harder than preservation. What may seem like a good or profitable idea now may be an irreversible decision affecting our environment's and wildlife's vitality and diversity.		x			x													
Keep information sharing concise and effective.		x										x						
Make sure there is an accurate, comprehensive delineation of all of Montana's wetland areas. Without knowing where they are, it's harder to protect them and enforce existing laws													x					
Plans result in very 'on the ground' changes. The incentive is usually lacking.								x			x							

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Think and act local yet partner with everyone.											x	x						
find ways to increase and enforce state regulations to restrict wetland development and the use of groundwater that affects wetlands				x	x											x		
keep educating local & state government planners & elected reps about the critical values provided by wetlands & how much we have lost & what continue to be greatest threats.		x																
A thought anyway...if you have not already done so, find a way to actively engage the development community as an ally for effective protection of wetlands.	x	x										x						
Work closely with local watershed groups and local government. Integrate wetland protection and restoration with other strategic plans to protect aquatic resources and watershed health.			x				x				x	x						
Expand efforts to understand historical changes in wetland and riparian condition and type; emphasize the need to determine wetland role in ecosystem health and function (including humans). Integrate these efforts with others that support habitat conservation and sustainable local farming and ranching practices.							x					x	x					
Continue with open communication. Make the process accessible to the interested public and involve all stake holders. It seems that cooperation from people with different backgrounds (social, economic, political, etc.) is how things get done here. Focus on communities working together in conjunction with other communities to thread together the larger picture.												x						
If broadbase support for programs is to be accomplished, the question must be addressed, 'what have wetlands done for ME lately'?		x																
Follow Teddy Roosevelt's advice and 'Walk softly but carry a big stick.' Voluntary programs and plans evolved through seeking consensus from all stakeholders often are adeptly used as cover by those who benefit financially by stalemate.											x							
That wetland protection is very important in conserving clean water for lakes, rivers and our aquifers. Wetlands seem to take a back seat when discussing protecting lakes, rivers, and groundwater. It should be an important component when discussing rivers, lakes and drinking water.		x														x		
Eastern and Western Montana have distinct differences with regards to some environmental issues. Increased urban sprawl on one side, decreasing growth on the other. To have regulations, enforcement, thinking, that will work for both sides of the State.				x	x							x						
Establish priorities - the pressures are only going to increase.							x											
Education for the general public to build support for wetland conservation can't be over-emphasized.		x																

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Focus on developing partnerships with production agriculture, the conservation community and county government to promote big picture strategies for our water resources which are being impacted unconscionably by growth. Those who are benefiting financially from growth in the short run are turning a deaf ear for self serving purposes.	x											x						
Proactively seek out conservation opportunities rather than wait/hope they come to you.										x	x							
Our natural environment is our greatest resource in Montana and it should be protected at all cost.											x							
Listen to those who oppose what you are promoting, and identify the reasons why												x						
Collect baseline data on wetlands at hand. Then prioritize them to begin to assess, monitor and develop wetland standards to protect wetlands.				x		x							x					
Begin education regarding their importance at the earliest possible level so we might end up w/ citizens with a modicum of appreciation of wetland function.		x																
Have rules and regulations that can be enforced.					x													
Think local! I think local government setback ordinances will be key in long-term wetland protection. A one-stop shopping website containing excellent resources that scientifically and legally support setbacks in Montana would be extremely helpful for local citizens interested in developing ordinances for their hometowns. One area that is difficult to find key information on is the legal justification for setbacks (i.e. case law examples showing that setback ordinances do not place local governments at risk of being sued). Another help addition to the website is access to a collection of historical aerials showing the benefits of wetlands (i.e. as flood protection buffers - or photos of homes being wiped out by floods because they were built within the wetland/riparian area). Contact information for people or organizations willing to serve as technical advisors would be a big help too.				x							x		x					
Education and planning guidelines are critical.		x					x											
Be able to get people involved working 'with' to protect, rather than the mind set of fighting government enforcement - then see the results, sustainability of these measures and the value of healthy wetlands.												x						
Don't underestimate the importance of ephemeral wetlands to Nature's health, including the 'forgotten' creatures, such as amphibians and reptiles. Most people, including professional land managers, don't have the vaguest notion of what an ephemeral wetland is to begin with.		x				x							x					

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
I believe there is increased public awareness of environmental concerns, this is a time to increase conservation efforts. Global climate change may make these efforts critical.									x		x							
Look at isolated wetlands that might fall between the lines in the 404 Permit process.													x					
Coal bed methane development needs some real oversight.	x			x		x												
Wetlands are the most important areas in the environment that need to be preserved.		x																
1) Spend money buying up (or ensure proper management if on public lands) land containing high quality wetlands (eg. Land trusts, The Nature Conservancy, etc.) we know where some are already!!! 2) Find the other high quality wetlands of all classes next and proceed with step one.						x	x			x			x					
Collaborate												x						
Subdivision of land should be kept in mind. This will be one the biggest challenges wetlands face in the near future.	x																	
Don't see the 'good' as enemy of the 'perfect'.							x											
Encourage enforcement of Federal laws and increase state laws to provide wetland conservation and protection.				x	x													
Get involved with urbanization issues and wetlands.	x																	
Step up the tempo of your efforts--especially in rapid growth efforts!	x						x											
Just as Montana has 3 economies (see Montana Challenge information on line if you haven't looked at this), MT wetlands face different threats in each of these areas.	x						x											
Try to be proactive.							x				x							
Besides education, be sure that existing laws are followed during development.		x			x													
Involve students!		x										x						
Think big picture when you are trying to spread the word about the importance of this work. Large scale advertising campaigns like MT Meth could go a long way in wetland protection.		x																
Meld incentives, voluntary, enforcement and regulations together for protection.			x	x	x		x	x										
identify, classify, and protect all remaining wetlands						x							x					
Remember the regulations state 'replacement in kind' not build a duck pond in place of wetlands destroyed			x	x	x													
See question 10																		
Strongly regulate irreversible impacts, increase incentives and education for reversible impact type improvements (agricultural impacts and similar), educate the young so they hopefully do better than us.		x		x	x			x									x	
Continue public and private work to identify, catalog, and establish appropriate protections for wetlands.				x		x							x					

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Develop a social marketing strategy to 'sell' the importance of wetlands/riparian areas.		x																
Think holistically, don't rely on rapid assessments to help solve long-term problems, and focus on processes in wetlands rather than condition.						x	x						x					
Think truly long term and short term (how will you get there) & bring in local decision makers (commissioners, planners, developers, etc)				x			x					x						
Engage the public.		x																
Help schools develop quality units for teaching about wetland ecology and importance. Hammer the general public with opportunities to learn about and see the value of wetlands.		x																
We need to protect the wetlands from invasive species and development before it is gone.	x													x				
For those involved in long-term planning I believe that the emphasis or connection should be made between the specific issues of wetland conservation and the greater picture of us all sharing the same resources. It is important to build coalitions between opposing forces. Too often in Mt I have seen great divides develop between opposing factions. Everything is presented with a 'crisis mentality' and soon the general populace is overwhelmed and becomes disinterested because there is just too much info presented. Which issue do you focus on? I understand and applaud those who do take their particular issues to heart and passionately pursue them. However, sometimes what is lost is just the average person trying to make a connection to the land...how do we make that happen? I think if people have a personal investment in their environments then perhaps they will take more and better care of it.		x										x						
Educate Enhance and Enforce!!!!		x			x						x							
Enforce laws regarding residential development in wetland areas. Montana is going to continue to grow. Wetland conservation has to become a priority in any development.	x				x													
Stop / slow the development of (both commercial and residential) in prime wetland habitat. Work on restoration of already developed wetlands.	x										x							
EDUCATE. Don't be too 'extreme environmental' - listen to developers and landowners and ranchers and be flexible and understanding so that y'all can work together rather than against one another.		x										x						
It is important to have the science to back what you are saying. Also, if items such as residential or energy development are limited in or near wetlands area, alternatives need to be proposed. If no solutions are offered it just makes the other side dig in and fight harder.													x					
Global Warming is real...we need to plan accordingly for our wildlife, clean water, and Montana traditions, i.e. fishing.									x									
Focus on growth and urban/suburban development	x																	

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
if the average citizen doesn't value the resource, it will not be conserved well		x																
Create policy that protects wetlands which makes wetland destruction economically, politically, and socially unthinkable.				x														
Be more audacious in setting your goals. Go for it!							x				x							
Long term planning using the latest technology must be present to track what we have, what we are losing and what threats are out there. Every drop of water in this state must be accounted for.				x		x	x											
Act now!											x							
Focus on zoning to protect wetlands in areas of vast growth... flathead, missoula, bitterroot, bozeman, helena etc...	x			x														
Be aware of impacts of urban sprawl and rural subdivisions on surface and groundwater.	x															x		
Try and find lots of funding, and don't get discouraged when developers and politicians try to thwart your efforts.															x			
Consider that many native and newcomers have no idea the impact of their individual actions on wetland environment as the outcome of their action is not immediately apparent. Education of youth and adults alike through as many different avenues as possible is critical.		x																
Education of the young people in our state about the importance of Montana's wetlands (and all wetlands) would pay off in the long-term. Jason Project had a good wetlands unit some years ago.		x																
Identification of wetlands is crucial; there is no protection unless the wetland has been designated.													x					
Federal regulations are weakening. Protection will need to be increasingly handled by state and local governments. When the CWA is reauthorized, be very active in getting the navigable waters language out of the act, its very outdated.			x	x														
Prioritize those elements that will be a foundation from where you will champion efforts.							x											
complete a database of wetland sites						x							x					
Try to use common sense when determining the impact and effect of wetlands vs the economic benefits for the citizens of Montana.							x											
forget the politics and protect the environment											x							
Continue to discourage the misguided negligent misuse of wetlands by commercial and residential property owners.	x			x														
Preserve remaining wetlands.											x							
Convince people that they are a part of the ecosystem and if wetlands suffer, so do they.		x																
Tying strategies to all water resources, including streams, lakes, and riparian areas, and the ecological connections. This will be necessary to combine all efforts, instead of separating out different 'water' issues							x											

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Find ways to convince state and local politicians that preservation of wetlands is critical, and more important than an individuals rights to develop land.	x			x														
On a national level voluntary protection has proven to have limited value for long-term protection of wetland and riparian habitat and streams on private lands. Regulations will be absolutely necessary as Montana continues to grow and populations in desirable valleys continues to increase. Financial incentives and conservation easements are both tools but will never take the place of protective laws and regulations, nor will restoration ever replace the extensive habitats being lost to development and agriculture. Water rights and stream dewatering as well as wetland drainage are critical associated issues that have to be addressed in order to provide long-term protection of public resources such as fish and wildlife and water quantity and quality.			x	x												x		
Develop a state-wide, eco-region specific wetland conservation and restoration program focused on protecting and enhancing high-quality wetlands through incentive-based programs.				x			x	x			x							
Don't become discouraged!																		
Successful wetland conservation all boils down to getting things done ON THE GROUND. Until an acre of habitat is restored or protected, all the planning is of little consequence. Move fast because the cost of doing business is skyrocketing.											x							
Cost of prevention is way less than cost or restoration. Impact of residential, energy, population growth is the most recent cause for wetland degradation; education has failed. Regulation and incentives are absolutely necessary	x		x	x				x										
Need to define wetlands for the lay person.													x					
Incentives for landowners. In small rural counties the incentive program should be administered by the county.								x										
TEAMWORK!!												x						
Scientifically base any thoroughly thought plan with facts that are provable not made up to fit your agenda.						x							x					
Keep Trying												x						
limit urban and commercial development in wetlands	x																	
Monitor the coal bed methane industry as closely as you possibly can.				x		x							x					
consider the long-term impacts of the decision, not just 5-10 years into the future							x											
State and federal cooperation to incentivize long term, measurable, sustainable cooperative ventures with private sector.								x				x						
planning for future growth.	x						x											
Enhanced regulation and enforcement are critical!			x	x	x													

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Pick your battles. Target the greatest threats and work to eliminate them through public education and encouraging actual enforcement of laws and regulations.		x			x		x											
It is about water cycle, what falls on (or flows into)Montana runs off, infiltrates, evaporates, or is metabolized. Wetlands are often the route the water passes through and have significant implications for and about the ecology and economy of Montana.													x			x		
Influence federal and state programs to be strategic in their approach to wetland conservation. Conserving and restoring intact functioning wetlands and associated watersheds that provide the most gains for dollars spent. Identify key areas where this should occur and focus energies in those areas. Do not neglect deteriorated or impacted areas but consider programs and approaches that do not detract or take away resources from conserving intact systems.						x	x				x	x	x					
Don't cave in to big money.																		
Education		x																
Get legislation passed that provides for tax breaks for wetlands creation. If such a thing exists, provide publicity.								x							x			
The longer we wait to implement any planning for wetland protection, the harder it becomes.											x							
don't underestimate impacts of domestic livestock.																		
educate don't regulate		x																
Education of benefits and need for protecting wetlands.		x																
Look forward and insure current collection of data is widespread and consistent.													x					
You either 'buy them', pass rules/laws to protect them, or you achieve voluntarily conservation through education. You will never buy all or enough and education lies at the heart of both legislative and voluntary conservation.		x		x							x							
Change FSA farm programs so they are wetland friendly and include public access to land enrolled in these programs.			x									x						
First, Protect what you have and then work on re-establishing wetlands that have been impacted.							x				x							
Used balanced science and common sense.													x					
think before you act. Yes we need new wetlands to replace some that are being replace with subdivisions,, and growth.	x						x											
Using 'conservation credits' from development of coal, oil, gas, residential and/or commercial to fund restoration, development, and/or acquisition of wetlands.	x													x				
please remember that parts of MT are still very agriculture driven, and that any plan should keep in mind that wetlands can exist along with ranchers and farmers livelihoods.												x					x	

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Set up management plans for not only for revegetation, but for noxious weeds and mosquitoes as well. This will save valuable time, energy and money in the long run.							x							x				
The biggest environmental threat that we have in the state of Montana is the spread of noxious weeds. We stand to lose many more acres to these invaders if we do not address this issue. Prevention is the key to protecting our weed-free areas, and persistence is going to be critical in saving those wetlands already infested with these plants. A management plan needs to be developed for these areas, and a budget for noxious weed/invasive species management must be included in this plan.														x				
Work with other competing demands for water use and help make wetlands development and protection as important an issue for securing a protectible water right as any other beneficial use of water in Montana.				x												x		
Work toward State regulatory protection and educate local govts. of the value of wetlands.				x														
I don't see a really effective program for working with the Ag community to promote wetland preservation on Ag land.							x					x					x	
Start with a plan for conservation now and follow it-map out the wetland areas and set in motion a long term plan that will not let the money interests devaluate or modify the plan.							x						x					
find and protect wetlands before new developers ruin them.	x					x							x					
Start with a willing participant and grow and expand from there. I believe on 'the' ground work is most critical, and in order to get that accomplished, just pick out a good project and go for it.											x							
Go to Florida this year and see what is going on down there. Then come home and fight all the battles. To hell with the 'choosing your battle' mentality. Draw the line in the sand now, and say right from the beginning, through legislation, and any and all means, wetlands are off limits to development and are protected. We have only a fraction of the wetlands Florida has, but development will want it all, as Florida is demonstrating!	x			x														
provide alternatives to detrimental commercial and private development on or near wetlands	x																	
skip the bureaucratic nonsense and use common sense approach. Use info and input from those most attached to the land (farmers & ranchers) as they are the true conservationists in this country. If they weren't, they would no longer be in business.		x					x					x					x	
We need to increase our existing wetlands by 10 fold. Federal, state, county, and private landowners need to work together to develop long-term strategic plans to conserve these vital natural resources.							x					x						

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Make accessible to the folks on the ground, homeowner's developers, etc. Often science stays up in the stratosphere instead of getting grounded in every day realities of those people who own the property.		x																
to preserve its natural habitat											x							
Complete the wetland mapping effort and then work with the Council, the Corps, EPA, and DEQ to identify and prioritize different wetland complexes, watersheds, or counties (maybe all 3) for more focused interventions. More focused interventions might include helping cities/counties draft wetland regulations that are reasonable and appropriate for their area, presenting informational slide shows on how wetlands benefit humans to planning offices and commissioners, provide resources and information on wetland buffers and other best management practices.		x		x		x						x	x					
Consider Montana's ever changing human demography when making long-term planning decisions. As Montanans themselves change, what was once an important consideration or attitude regarding the environment may now be irrelevant or have different importance to residents.	x						x											
You have to think about the consequences of your actions or in-actions to future generations.							x											
Take a real long term outlook at these wetlands and what can be done to conserve/enhance looking 50-150 years out							x											
Think big picture and long term							x											
Placing special emphasis on the integrity of the plant communities within the wetlands that are being conserved. Without healthy plant communities the wetlands are unhealthy.													x					
Doing it right!							x											
Not to allow Montana to be overrun by development at the expense of our environment and wildlife.	x																	
working together can get things done												x						
Protecting / improving the ecological health of Montana's riparian areas, which wetlands are a component of, should be a main priority for consideration of Montana's future. Maintaining healthy plant communities in the environment will ultimately be the surest way to sustain long-term viability.						x							x			x		
Make wetlands mapping widespread, understandable and easily accessible.		x											x					
Some wetlands should be drained for agricultural production for a productive Montana							x											x
Make sure to coordinate efforts with local government regulators, who may not have staff resources or training regarding wetland issues.				x								x						

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
Plan ahead and don't allow developers (money) influence wetland decisions.	x						x											
Maintain the rules and programs already in place. If you make the rules tougher and get nastier about enforcement - only wetlands will lose in the long run. People will view the increase in regulation as just another government program and intrusion on private property rights and will fight to get rid of the rules or just simply ignore them.				x														
Continue to get information out to those who need to be educated about wetlands.		x																
Think globally with respect to water regulation, there are considerations for surface water, groundwater, standards, permitting, development, and wetlands to be taken into account. Wetlands are just a part of the picture and the puzzle piece has to be looked at in context. This is not to diminish, but to enrich the view.													x			x		
reduce wetlands																		x
The main focus should be to conserve the wetlands for future generations regardless of cost or time.							x				x							
Identify all existing wetlands.													x					
focus on protecting what we have and repairing what has been damaged							x				x							
Work with local government and developers in the planning of subdivision to prevent development around wetlands.				x								x						
I believe coordination and communication is the key to any planning process.												x						
You got me there.																		
Montana is unique because we still have large, unfragmented landscapes. If we want to keep these areas intact, we need to find innovative ways to support community-based, cooperative conservation approaches.												x						
Growth control and ground/surface water use.	x															x		
Get with it! There seems to be very little going on that reaches the real public...it's academic at this point or obstructionist from the agricultural perspective.		x															x	
people don't understand the worth and importance of wetlands. education needs to be basic and illustrate why this is important to them.		x																
Enforce laws and establish more laws to protect our wetlands.			x	x	x													
Maintain access for the people of Montana and provide safe water for livestock and recreation. Utilize more wilderness designation to decrease motorized boating and pollution.																		

Response	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Focus on developing a reasonable buffer along streams. This should apply to agriculture (including grazing) as well as other 'development'. Maintaining the integrity of the riparian areas will improve water quality, bank stability, and flood control. This will benefit all Montanans.				x													x	
Location of wetlands development is crucial. Do not develop wetlands near urban areas.	x						x											
We don't know what we have right now, so we really don't know where we should go. The major thing we should be doing is assessing our wetlands, determining where they are, which ones we created, which ones are in about natural state, and which ones are the most threatened, particularly by urban sprawl and development.						x							x					
Identification of wetlands on maps would be good on a county level. Only our true wetlands (not some wet spot in a farmers field!) should be identified as natural or man made. It will surprise the environmentalists how many more acres of wetlands we have now compared to the past due to irrigation development, stockwater dams and ponds, reservoirs, etc. Our total today is ar greater than in the past in Montana.													x					
I serve on the City of Bozeman Wetland Review Board and it has been, at times, difficult for us to buffer isolated (non-jurisdictional) wetlands because there are no laws concerning these. Also, although the city has buffers on jurisdictional wetlands, it has been nearly impossible to keep recreational uses out of these buffers, e.g. establishment of new trails. I think more education on the impacts of what people consider benign uses (such as these new trails [aka nice weed pathways], hikers, dogs, bicycles and the like) have on wetlands would go a long way to help protect the wetlands.		x		x														
Southeastern Montanan has the soils, drainage, and precipitation to provide for the not only the maintenance, but also the creation of wetlands.											x							
keep public informed of issues		x																
Education about wetland issues is very critical. Although Montana has very many 'outdoor' people, many are unaware of the environmental issues around them.		x																
Believe that ecosystems are changing, either part of our control or not our control.		x																
not to worry about it																		
look at the whole ecosystem, big picture													x					
Learn to work out a compromise. We can turn the nation into a wetland and all starve to death.												x						

	Growth & Development	Education & Outreach	Better Federal Regulation	State & Local Regulation & Policy	Enforcement	Monitoring & Assessment	Prioritization & Planning	Incentives	Climate Change	Conservation Easements	On the Ground Action/Restoration	Interagency/organization/ stakeholder communication	Science/Mapping	Invasive Species/Mosquito Control	Funding	Water management	Agriculture	Too many wetlands
Response																		
engage regulated community in understanding the values of wetlands provide to society and the outdoor lifestyle enjoyed in Montana and have them help to collaboratively develop protection and incentive based solutions		x						x				x						
Try to do some public outreach. I thought wetlands were already being protected. Are they not?		x																
Look to other states to see what they are doing for wetlands. Minnesota lost millions of acres of wetlands - they now have a state law against draining and use the state lottery to fund wetland projects							x											
Constructed wetlands do not really replace altered or destroyed wetlands			x	x														
Impacts and net losses will continue without adequate mitigation.			x		x													
Preserve wetlands of all types.											x							
Fed laws inadequately protect wetlands. State must step in with its own regs and enforcement. Legislation needed. (The pages on this survey opened slowly. May reduce responses.)			x	x	x													
All decision making must be based on best available science.						x							x					
Track wetland gains/losses and provide that information to the public.		x				x												
Don't assume anything. Make certain whatever strides you make are protected in law. Look for allies in the private sector.			x	x								x					x	
Get more people out on the ground talking to local governments, monitoring wetland conditions, working with agricultural producers, working with conservation groups.		x				x						x					x	