

Summary MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday January 19th, 2012
DEQ Directors Conference Room
1520 East 6th Avenue, Helena MT

8:45 am. Gather for CCC (Coffee and Conversation with Colleagues).

9:00 am. Welcome, Round-Robin Introductions, and Participant Updates.

Lynda Saul, DEQ Wetland Program Coordinator/Wetland Council Chair.

Lynda welcomed participants to the winter meeting and thanked those attending for braving the winter travel conditions. 50-70 people attended the meeting for part of all of the day, please see attached sign-in sheet.

Wetland Council Working Group Updates:

Mapping and Assessment, Karen Newlon, Montana Natural Heritage Program

- MTNHP Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center has hired two new photo interpreters: Sara Owen and John Davenport. There are five full time photo interpreters working to complete a wetland and riparian map layer for Montana based on Federal Wetland Mapping Standards.
- Wetland and riparian for a large portion of southeast Montana funded by the BLM and EPA has been approved by the NWI Regional Coordinator and will be submitted into the National Wetland Geodatabase.
- Mapping for Missoula and Flathead Counties funded by the Montana Land Information Advisory Council has been submitted to the NWI Regional Coordinator for approval.
- Mapping for the Custer National Forest-Beartooth Ranger District funded by the Custer NF was submitted to the NWI Regional Coordinator for approval.
- MTNHP will be submitting mapping for the Flint and Rock Creek watersheds to the NWI Regional Coordinator by the end of the month. This project was funded by Region 1 of the USFS.
- MTNHP has just begun mapping the Upper Musselshell watershed – a project funded by MLIAC.
- MTNHP is submitting a grant proposal to the FGDC-NSDI to produce training materials and procedures for attribution of wetland mapping with descriptors that describe potential wetland function.
- MTNHP Ecology Program will release our second basin wide wetland assessment report for Southwest MT in April and will be conducting a second field season in southeastern MT for our third basin wide assessment.

Vulnerable Wetlands, Public Policy and Local Government, Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ

Several ad-hoc projects are ongoing to address these strategic directions from the State's Wetland Strategy. Recently much focus has been on protecting and restoring the natural and beneficial functions of the state's floodplains and floodplain wetlands for the flood control benefits they provide.

- Wetland Program Development Grant funds were used to conduct a study resulting in floodplain recommendations to better protect and restore the natural and beneficial functions of Montana's floodplains, "Montana Floodplain Management Assessment: Strengthening Policies and Programs that Reduce Flood Risk and Protect Floodplains." www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov. These recommendations are being implemented through the Montana Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Program (a program of the Corps of Engineers and locally led by Montana DNRC). DNRC will be looking for workgroup members to help implement Montana's Silver Jackets charter.
- Four county governments, two NGO's, DNRC, and DEQ Wetland Program have jointly initiated a project to map 119 river miles of floodplains for the Big Hole River and use this pilot process to develop state standards and guidelines for rapid floodplain mapping that other communities could use. Maps are needed to enable communities to regulate development in floodplains and better protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains and riparian wetlands.

- DEQ has been evaluating the state's 401 certification program which certifies that a federal permit (such as CWA 404) meets state water quality standards. The US Corps of Engineers began the reauthorization process for the 2012 Nationwide Permits and regional conditions in 2010 (NWP reauthorization occurs every 5-years). A Federal Register notice should be out shortly on the reauthorization.

Restoration, Tom Hinz, DFWP Montana Wetland Legacy Partnership.

Several local partnerships are pursuing landscape-scale grant proposals for funding for 2012 which integrate wetland restoration with easement protections to build landscape resilience. MT DEQ, FWP, the Big Hole Watershed Committee, and the Greater Gallatin Watershed Committee are collaborating on a watershed/wetland integration project funded by an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant. One of the outputs from the grant which will be complete in 2012 will be a model which will be replicable in other watersheds around Montana.

Trout Unlimited and MT DEQ, through another EPA wetland grant, have successfully incubated the development of Montana Aquatic Resources Services, Inc. (MARS), a 501c3 corporation that will deliver a statewide In Lieu Fee (ILF) aquatic resource mitigation program in Montana. ILF will provide a third option for 404 and Section 10 permit applicants to provide compensatory mitigation for regulated impacts to aquatic resources in Montana. The Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership continues to work with NRCS for Farm Bill program outreach and project delivery. Similarly, PPL Montana is working through the Legacy Partnership to deliver projects in the Madison/Missouri Corridor. Part of this work involves USDA agencies, including Farm Service Agency, which oversees delivery of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Recent amendments to the CREP program are anticipated to increase landowner interest in enrolling land in CREP to establish riparian buffers.

Public Education and Professional Training, Steve Carpenedo, Montana DEQ

Currently we are working on two different projects that address the education component of the Wetlands Strategic Framework.

- Montana DEQ and MT Water Center are currently working on developing the second of three professional wetland training courses that are being provided at Montana State University. The second course is on "Wetland Restoration: Planning for Success." This course will be offered on September 18th-20th, 2012 in Bozeman. Announcements will be sent out closer to the course date with complete information on topics and instructors.
- Montana DEQ is currently working with Scott Mincemoyer at the Montana Natural Heritage Program to provide 6 wetland plant identification courses in the summer of 2012. These courses will be free of charge and will be provided in various locations around the state. Announcements on course dates and locations will be sent out over the wetlands listserv.

Other announcements:

- Mark Ockey, DEQ commented that the 2011 Non Point Source management plan is out and available at DEQ's website. DEQ NPS program is currently working on 2012 NPS management plan and will seek comments in spring 2012. At the most recent MWCC meeting they approved new operating guidelines, please see the MWCC website for more information.
- Rob Hazelwood, PPL Montana is working on restoration projects at Odell Spring Creek and a project in the Billings area.
- Mark Leary, MTFWP, announced that the Future Fisheries improvement grant/project RFP is out and the current deadline is June 1st, 2012.
- Rick Northrup, MTFWP, announced that the Migratory Bird group is currently working on new objectives for the group.
- Jim Lovell, Confluence Consulting, hold the current contract for conducting all MDT mitigation site monitoring. They are also working on other mitigation banks around the state.

- Jeff Combs, NRCS Bozeman, the resource planning implementation team is working on a resource assessment in Lower Ruby Watershed.
- Pete Husby, NRCS State Biologist, is dealing with Swampbusters compliance. NRCS also has several new WRP projects in the works.
- Larry Urban, MDT, the most current wetland mitigation monitoring reports are available at MDT's website. Also available on the website is an electronic version of their Wetland Functional Assessments that includes automatic calculations of values. MDT also completed several new projects this summer.
- Russell Smith, MSU PhD student, is looking at wetland impacts by increased salinity and re-vegetation techniques for restoration.

Meeting Focus

Wetland mitigation and other aquatic ecosystem exchange and market mechanisms.

Lynda introduced the purpose of this Council meeting as to inform participants of wetland mitigation developments in Montana and learn about related mitigation, ecosystem exchange and market mechanisms and approaches used in Montana and new approaches which may be coming to Montana. Compensatory mitigation and other market drivers for offsetting impacts to water resources are increasing important mechanisms for restoration of wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems. At the same time, peer reviewed research continues to document that "Restoration performance is limited: current restoration practice fails to recover original levels of wetland ecosystem functions, even after many decades. If restoration as currently practiced is used to justify further degradation, global loss of wetland ecosystem function and structure will spread." www.plosbiology.org ([Structural and Functional Loss in Restored Wetland Ecosystems](#)).

Presentation abstracts and PowerPoint presentations are linked below. Speaker bios and contact information are at the end of this summary.

10:00 am. [Federal Wetland Mitigation Rule and Mitigation Activities in Other States.](#)

Jeanne Christie, Executive Director, Association of State Wetland Managers

In 2008, EPA and the COE issued revised regulations governing compensatory mitigation for unavoidable authorized impacts to wetlands, streams, and other waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These regulations are designed to improve the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation to replace lost aquatic resource functions and area, expand public participation in compensatory mitigation decision making, and increase the efficiency and predictability of the mitigation project review process. Compensatory mitigation may be accomplished through three distinct mechanisms; permittee-responsible, mitigation banking, and in-lieu fee mitigation. Since the rule was finalized states and federal agencies have worked with permit applicants to implement the new requirements of the rule. Several states have also undertaken studies to evaluate mitigation success. Since 2008 ASWM has sponsored and participated in a number of forums to improve understanding and compliance with the mitigation rule. Changes in compensatory mitigation programs and other state experiences will be compared and contrasted.

10:40 Break (20 min)

11:00 am – 11:40 am. [Compensatory Wetland and Stream Mitigation in Montana.](#)

Todd Tillinger, Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers Montana Regulatory Office

Compensatory mitigation is the third step in a sequence of actions (following avoidance and minimization) that must be followed to offset impacts to aquatic resources. Compensatory mitigation activities in Montana will be discussed including the amount, location, preference, and status of permittee-responsible, mitigation banks, and in-lieu fee mitigation. Other program aspects highlighted will include mitigation methods (restoration, establishment, enhancement and preservation), how cumulative impacts are approached, performance standards, mitigation success, and the role of the interagency review team. While wetland mitigation crediting has been long standing, an accounting process for stream mitigation has been in place for less than two years. This presentation will include information about the stream mitigation program status, debit and credit computations, example projects, observations and potential modifications to the program.

11:40 am – 12:00 pm. Wetland and Stream Mitigation Banks.

David Patrick, Principal, Eco-Asset Management, LLC

“Ecosystem markets” have been under development in Montana since 2004, with the first mitigation banks established in the Upper Clark Fork basin in 2005/2006. Additional banks have been, or will soon be, established in another five watershed basins, addressing projects from Missoula to Billings, Great Falls to Bozeman, Lewistown to Miles City. Mitigation banks are large resource areas of high ecological value, strategically located within watersheds. Mitigation credits are a highly vetted, efficient means of satisfying the offset needs of impacting projects. Such impacts (debits) are matched with credits in the bank, and a simple, financial transaction satisfies related regulatory requirements. With the transaction, liability for mitigation transfers to the bank, leaving the project developer with no further obligation or risk.

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch break*

1:00 pm – 1:20 pm. Permittee-Responsible Wetland and Stream Mitigation.

Larry Urban, Wetland Mitigation Specialist, Montana Dept of Transportation

The Montana Department of Transportation utilizes a number of options within the regulatory toolbox to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources caused by transportation projects. One of the options used most frequently is permittee-responsible mitigation. This entails MDT’s total responsibility for developing compensatory mitigation projects at both on-site and off-site locations that are in compliance with Federal, State, and Tribal regulations, including plan development and design, construction and monitoring. MDT’s involvement in conducting permittee-responsible mitigation has evolved from its auspicious beginnings in 1989, and since 1996, this nationally-recognized mitigation program has developed a number of aquatic resource mitigation sites across the state on properties owned by tribal, state, federal and private individuals. These sites cumulatively have developed over 1,291 acres of wetland credits and restored almost 46,000 linear feet of stream channel. Monitoring reports for our larger mitigation reserves across the state can be found at on the MDT website: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/brochures/wetland_mitigation.shtml or <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/wetlands.shtml> This presentation will focus on the efforts behind permittee-responsible aquatic resource mitigation

1:20 pm – 1:40 pm. Montana Aquatic Resource Services - Providing In-lieu fee Aquatic Resource Mitigation and Other Restoration Services.

Tom Hinz, In-lieu fee Specialist, DEQ and Peter Skidmore, Professional Geologist.

Montana’s Wetland Plan supports the creation of a wetland, stream, and other aquatic natural resource mitigation crediting program. Funded by an EPA grant, DEQ contracted with Trout Unlimited and together began developing an In-lieu fee (ILF) aquatic resource mitigation program in 2011. They’ve established Montana Aquatic Resource Services (MARS) as a not for profit corporation whose mission is the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems. MARS’s ILF program will provide a third option for compensatory mitigation associated with CWA Section 404 and Section 10 permits. MARS anticipates expanding opportunity to provide mitigation and other mechanisms to offset impacts, particularly where other enterprises have limited interest. MARS will provide mitigation and restoration services under existing regulatory frameworks as well as for voluntary markets.

1:40 pm – 2:00 pm. Conservation Banking Overview.

Jeff Berglund, Fish and Wetland Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office.

Conservation Banks are permanently protected lands that contain natural resource values. These lands are conserved and permanently managed for species that are endangered, threatened, candidates for listing, or species-at-risk. Conservation Banks function to offset adverse impacts to these species that occurred elsewhere. In exchange for permanently protecting the land and managing it for these species, the U.S. FWS approves habitat or species credits that bank owners may sell. FWS has approved more than 120 Conservation Banks nationwide that collectively conserve about 100,000 acres of valuable habitat for more than 60 threatened or endangered species in 11 states including 6 in the west. Conservation Banking could be a new tool in Montana.

Break (20 min)

2:20 pm – 2:40 pm. [Nutrient Trading to meet Water Quality Standards and DEQ's draft Nutrient Trading Policy.](#)

Mark Bostrom Water Quality Planning Bureau Chief, Montana DEQ

Nutrient trading is a market-based approach to achieving water quality standards in which a point source purchases pollutant reduction credits from another point source or a nonpoint source in the applicable trading region that are then used to meet the source's pollutant discharge obligations. Nutrient trading is allowed in the Federal Clean Water Act and the Montana Water Quality Act. DEQ has drafted a policy that allows use trading as a flexible, voluntary, and cost-effective method of achieving the State's numeric criteria for nutrients. DEQ supports the creation of water quality trading credits that achieve ancillary environmental benefits beyond the required reductions of pollutant loads, such as the creation and restoration of wetlands and riparian habitat. TMDL compliance and other state experiences will be discussed.

2:40 – 2:55 pm. [Water Banking – Water Rights Role in Ecosystem Service Markets of the West.](#)
Chris Corbin, Lotic Water Marketing

In the West no water right means no water. Ecosystem services are no exception when it comes to the importance of water rights. Researching and taking inventory of all water rights and determining how to reallocate them is critical to the overall success of mitigation development. Pressure to reallocate water rights from agriculture to urban and environmental use is driving water quantity markets across the West. With increasing thirst and decreasing supply, this arid region needs an efficient system to distribute water rights among competing users. The answer lies in private water quantity banking. Water banks provide private market opportunities to mitigate groundwater development. Stacking water quantity banks with other mitigation banks offers additional profits for mitigation bank development.

2:55 – 3:10 pm. [Mitigating for Growth: A Groundwater Mitigation Exchange Pilot Program in Montana.](#)

Meg Casey, Trout Unlimited Legal Intern

In Montana's high-growth regions, decision-makers are considering what kinds of regulatory and statutory changes would best address the conflicts stemming from increased exempt well reliance. A groundwater mitigation exchange program could serve as one tool by which to offset the impact of such permit-exempt appropriations, while avoiding the high cost of going through permit review for cumulative impacts on a case-by-case basis. While an exchange provides only a partial management solution, it would address roughly half of the exempt wells being drilled throughout the state and could be tailored to specific basins with a high degree of local control.

3:10 – 3:15 pm. **Additional aquatic ecosystem exchange and market mechanisms.**

Lynda Saul, MDEQ Wetland Coordinator

Briefly review other market mechanisms and aquatic ecosystem exchange programs that are ongoing or possible for Montana such as conservation easements and buyers, channel migration easements and flood storage mitigation. While most people are now aware of conservation easements and conservation buyers as market based land and aquatic protection mechanisms other options are also being developed or are used in other parts of the county that may be coming to Montana. Montana DFWP developed a guiding document for a channel migration easement program in 2010 to give landowners an alternative to armoring their river banks using hard engineering techniques in order to help conserve habitat crucial to native fish and wildlife populations in the lower Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. This program has not yet been implemented. Wisconsin enacted a state flood mitigation storage program which requires compensation for lost floodwater storage due to fill from development in the floodplain. Other flood storage capacity mitigation plans are being required for projects in Mississippi. Carbon credit trading is another example of market mechanisms for ecosystem impacts.

3:15 – 4:00 pm. **Panel Discussion.**

Presenters participated in a panel discussion facilitated by Lynda Saul. The discussion focused on several questions from Council participants.

Note much of these issues are detailed in rules and regulations by the COE, DNRC, DEQ and others with regulatory responsibility for these programs and should be consulted for details and requirement. The panel discussion summary below provides a flavor of the issues and concerns raised by Council participants.

Credit Stacking and Carbon Sequestration:

Has the USACE put much thought to stacking credits?

The USACE has rules that address the double dipping principal. Double dipping is not allowed under current rules. For example the same piece of ground with conservation credits, wetland credits, nutrient credits, etc, cannot be sold for wetland credits and then sold again for nutrient credits. From the perspective of carbon sequestration wetland banks that have sold credits cannot stack and sell additional credits for carbon sequestration on the exact same parcel.

Discussion ensued - the major issues covered and perspectives include:

Can you bank a wetland downstream from someone that can't meet their MPDES permit?

Yes off site mitigation would work.

Conservation and water quality and species banks. With a combination you would not have to use the total you can separate them out.

Timing issue in wetland mitigation banking? Once you've completed the work you can't go back and claim credits for other types of mitigation (conservation, nutrients, etc). The base line mitigation has been created.

Stacking functions on private land as a whole is allowed, but how you use that as "marketing" is not clear.

How to deal w/ different quantity – ie. acres verses air quality are different measurements. As the site develops it is storing more and more carbon so some thought there should be some allowance for stacking. You could say that you are adding to your carbon but this needs to be in writing so that you can measure it.

If you have a wetland bank and the credits are determined, then it's hard to come back and do a nutrient bank.

Aquifer recharge basins should be able to be used as a wetland bank. Part of the preserved function of the wetland is a recharge basin so this should already be a part of the wetland bank.

If it happens to be a part of the scoring and it does not contain groundwater recharge then you should be able to also use it as a groundwater recharge bank.

If there is a remainder of ground outside of the conservation of wetland, could it be considered for other types of banking? You have to be careful not to just make the assumption.

For additional information, here is a link for an EPRI 2011 Technical Report that was mentioned as a resource regarding credit stacking [**U.S. National Opinion Survey on Stacking Environmental Credits: Definition, Status, and Predictions of Wetland, Species, Carbon, and Water Quality Credit Stacking**](#)

Water Rights:

Is it hard to obtain a water right for wetland mitigation in a closed basin? In closed basins need to use existing water rights. If the basin is not closed, then apply for new water right. MDT has some applications that are out for years trying to get approval. It is difficult to do mitigation in closed basins. Irrigation is a surface water right. DNRC has guidelines on how to quantify a water right for wetlands (Note: DNRC water rights representatives not present for this discussion, so should check with DNRC on state requirements).

When computing credits to create a wetland can using the water source can have impacts? Is that factored into the calculation? When mitigating some commented that they use the water right the same way it was used originally. Sometimes that improves the way the water and quality of the water is used. Best to rely less on head gates and other structures and restore so that water available without man's intervention. Try to steer away from projects that will dewater a stream and try to restore the natural flow. Doesn't make sense to pull water out of a stream with fish habitat to create a wetland mitigation. How do you balance the outcome?

If you are going from irrigated crop to watering a wetland, you need to change the usage for wetland under mitigation. You need to change the use to mitigation of wetland. You will continue the way you are using the water but are getting credit for improving the wetland. Not sure they require a change of use but are using it for mitigation. Have you run into objections for water rights due to change of use? A lot of water courts address this. Once it's banked the water right it's available for legal usage to keep the site going. This has been in discussion for years and at Council meetings. ASWM may use water rights issue as an example of complexity of wetland restoration in western states.

Long term requirements for wetland mitigation banks

Question about requirement for monitoring and maintenance of the sites as one of the impact costs?

Maintenance and management are in perpetuity. MDT monitors their site until it meets their goal and will do monitoring in perpetuity. They have a budget set aside to do this work in each location. Ongoing inspections to keep an eye on it to make sure nothing goes array. Does the in lieu fee program intend to set aside funds for

ongoing monitoring? MDT does annual aerial photos and talks to land owners and compensates them for weed control etc.

In mitigation banks and sold credits what happens to the land? If it's one we purchase we will put it in protective conservation and can sell it to an interested landowner or to the conservation group. Property can be sold but will remain in conservation. The bank will be closed once the credits are sold. So the third party will hold the endowment and use it to monitor the conservation easement. Conservation easements have grown in the recent years. What happens when land trusts go out of business? At least it is secured for 10 years or so but the litigation doesn't show what the future will be with the conservation easement. The legal cost for non-compliance could be negative. The requirement to maintain in perpetuity may eventually be obscure. Wetlands can change and dry up. If the easement is part of the deed that land should still be in the easement. MDT makes sure the easement gives the stream room to move. The easement may not contain a buffer that will last forever. If you develop land and wetlands get filled naturally the easement is only as long as the life of the wetland.

4:00 pm. Meeting Adjourned

Next Council Meeting: Requested potential topics and will set the date for mid-May.

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year and is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetland and riparian ecosystems by implementing Montana's Wetland Plan. Everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, (406) 444-6652 or lsaul@mt.gov. Website: [Montana Wetland Clearinghouse](http://MontanaWetlandClearinghouse.org)

Bio's Montana Wetland Council meeting. January 19, 2012.

Jeanne Christie, Executive Director, Association of State Wetland Managers.

Jeanne has been with ASWM since 1999 and Executive Director since 2001. From 1995 to 1999 she was a Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wetlands and Watersheds Division where she was national program leader for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. She worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetlands Division (1988-1995) moving from the staff level to Section Chief and Acting Branch Chief. As an environmental planner at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1985-1988) responsibilities included the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan and the 208 Watershed Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. She has a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Environmental Science, both from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Jeanne is a 2007 winner of the National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach. During her spare time she competes in ultra runs, teaches digital photography, and does volunteer work with the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Riding to the Top Therapeutic Riding Center. She lives in an 1860 farmhouse in Windham, Maine with her husband Larry and their 'rescued' animal companions Tux, and Massey.

Todd Tillinger, Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers Montana Regulatory Office.

Todd Tillinger accepted the reins as Program Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District's Montana Regulatory Office in May 2009. The Corps' regulatory program evaluates and authorizes the discharge of dredged or fill material under provisions of the Clean Water Act. Affected are wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams. Nationwide, the program annually issues more than 100,000 permits and verifies even more jurisdictional determinations affecting an estimated \$200 billion in economic development annually. He specializes in water resources engineering, including surface water hydraulics and hydrology as they relate to fish and aquatic resources. He has been with the Corps Regulatory Program since 1999; prior to that he was a Hydraulic Engineer with the Montana Department of Transportation and the Corps Kansas City District.

David Patrick, Principle, Eco-Asset Management, LLC.

David Patrick has broad education and over 25 years of experience in ecological assessment and restoration, and eco-asset valuation, development and marketing. Mr. Patrick has become nationally recognized for his work in ecosystem services markets, including establishment of the first Corps-certified mitigation banks (stream and wetland) in the state of Montana, where five additional mitigation banks have been, or are being, established by his firm, Eco-Asset Management. Over the past seven years Mr. Patrick has focused almost exclusively on development of market-based resource conservation/restoration strategies including stream, wetland and species mitigation banking, water quality trading, water leasing, and carbon sequestration throughout the US.

Larry Urban, Wetland Mitigation Specialist, Montana Dept of Transportation.

Mr. Urban is a graduate of Montana State University with a Bachelor's degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. He has worked as a park naturalist, and for a variety of private engineering and environmental firms as a consultant specializing in wetland and aquatic ecological assessments for proposed developments and transportation projects in the Mid-Atlantic region. From 1987 to 1996, he worked as an Environmental Specialist for the New Jersey Department of Transportation involved in conducting biological assessments for aquatic and wetland ecosystems associated with transportation projects, NEPA document preparation, and the development of wetland mitigation and monitoring of constructed wetlands for regulatory compliance. Since 1996 has been the wetland mitigation specialist for the Montana Department of Transportation involved in the development of a comprehensive wetland mitigation and monitoring program to meet wetland mitigation needs for transportation projects throughout the state.

Tom Hinz, In-lieu fee Specialist, Montana DEQ.

Tom Hinz is Coordinator of the Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership in Bozeman, Montana. The Legacy is a voluntary, incentive-based public/private partnership working to protect wetlands, riparian areas, and watershed lands throughout Montana. He is working part time for Montana DEQ for 2 years as the In-lieu fee Specialist to develop a state-wide ILF program. Mr. Hinz is a graduate of Montana State University and has worked in the field of migratory bird and wetland conservation since 1974. In May 2005, Mr. Hinz was awarded the Montana Wetland Stewardship Award by Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer.

Peter Skidmore, Professional Geologist.

Peter Skidmore is Principal of Skidmore Restoration Consulting and provides planning, review, and guidance services to organizations engaged in river and watershed conservation, stewardship, and restoration. Peter currently serves on the Board of Directors of River Restoration Northwest, a nonprofit established to advance the science and standards of practice of river restoration, and as a board member of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council in Montana. He has developed guidance manuals, provided expert testimony for legal proceedings, and served as an expert panelist for the *National Riverine Restoration Synthesis*. One of Peter's visions – to institute tax reforms to fund large-scale ecological restoration - was awarded the Grand Prize from more than 20,000 contest entries for the "[Best Idea Since Sliced Bread](#)". Peter holds a Master's degree from Montana State University in Earth Sciences and is a licensed professional geologist in the State of Washington.

Jeff Berglund, Fish and Wetland Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service Montana Field Office.

Jeff Berglund is a certified wildlife biologist and certified professional wetland scientist and began his tenure with the Fish & Wildlife Service last June. A University of Montana graduate in biology/zoology, he spent the first years of his career with the Forest Service and in the private sector conducting spotted owl, bald eagle, and great blue heron surveys in western Washington. For the past 20 years he has worked in the private and public sectors in Montana, primarily dealing with non-game wildlife, T&E species, and wetlands issues. Logging thousands of field hours, Jeff designed and monitored numerous wetland mitigation reserve and restoration projects throughout Montana, and authored or co-authored all versions of the Montana Wetland Assessment Method. Jeff is an IRT member for Montana resource banking projects, and provides review and technical assistance regarding T&E species, migratory birds, wetlands, and other trust resources for proposed projects and activities throughout the state.

Todd Teegarden, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau Chief, Montana DEQ.

Todd Teegarden is a registered professional engineer who has worked on water resource related projects and issues over the past 25 years. He has worked for two consulting engineering firms and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality the past 20 years as a project engineer, program manager and bureau chief in the Water Quality and Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau's.

Chris Corbin, Lotic Water Marketing.

Chris Corbin is the founder of Lotic LLC — a water rights marketing and management company that turns blue into green. Chris's undergraduate degree in water resource management and Masters in Business Administration (MBA) provide a unique combination of water ingenuity and business acumen in the water market. This education in conjunction with additional experience as a project manager at the Montana Water Trust, a water right specialist at PBS&J, and a guerilla marketer at Big Sky Brewing Company, led him to pursue an entrepreneurial vision for Lotic. As founder of Lotic, Chris has provided consultation on water banks, water rights asset

management, water marketing plans, water capital improvements, water rights audits, water rights valuations, mitigation plans, and water rights brokerage. As a result of his early success in the emerging water market, Chris frequently presents on the topics of water markets and water marketing. When Chris is not working with water, he can be found wading in water with a fly rod in his hand and a golden retriever at his side.

Megan Casey, Trout Unlimited.

Meg Casey has been a legal Intern with Trout Unlimited since 2010; J.D. 2011 Vermont Law School, Master's of Environmental Land & Policy 2011, Vermont Law School.

Lynda Saul, Wetland Program Coordinator, Montana DEQ.

Lynda Saul leads the state-wide Montana Wetland Council to increase the protection of Montana's wetlands through scientific rigor, enhanced coordination, and regulatory and non-regulatory approaches. She has been involved in wetland protection since 1997 and water and natural resource issues for Montana state government since 1986 including hydropower relicensing, federal reserved water rights, and watershed planning. Recently, she has focused on floodplain management and riparian corridor protection. She received the 2007 National Wetland Program Development Award in Washington D.C. for building and implementing a strong State Wetland Program. Saul holds a Bachelors degree from Tulane University in geology, a Master's degree from University of Montana in forest hydrology, and is a professional wetland scientist.

Montana Wetland Council Meeting
January 19, 2012
Sign In Sheet

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