Montana State Wetland Program Summary

(Osna Slough; Photo Credit: Lynda Saul)

Click Here to Skip to Montana Information about Wetland:

Section A. Quick Overview

Description of Montana's Wetlands

Montana's wetlands include marshes, swamps, prairie potholes, wet meadows, fens, impoundments, ponds and sloughs.

State Definition(s) of Wetlands

Montana relies on the definition of wetland found in the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual issued by the Corps of Engineers. Montana's definition of "state water" does not include wetlands explicitly. "State Waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground. The term does not apply to:

1. Ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or
2. Irrigation water or land application disposal water when the waters are used up within the irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

While wetlands are not listed as state waters, in most cases wetlands fit into the state definition.

Historic Wetland Loss/Gain

Original Wetland Acreage	Remaining Wetland Acreage	Acreage Lost	% Lost
1,147,000 (Dahl, 1989)	840,3000 (Dahl, 1989); 2,729,963 (Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center, 2014)	306,700 (Dahl, 1989	27% (Dahl, 1989)

Detail: Dahl (1989) estimated that Montana has lost about one-third of its original wetland base since EuroAmerican settlement, mainly as a result of draining and filling. In addition, countless wetland acres have been lost due to diminished quality, inappropriate land use, and other impacts. Development degrades riparian areas, the margins along streams, rivers, and wetlands. However, based on Montana's recent data from the Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center from project on Wetland and Riparian Mapping Progress-October 2014. This project Mapped 2,009 USGS 24K Quads and identified 2,729,963 Total Acres (in total there are approximately 2,886 USGS Quads in Montana), which included

2,125,476 acres of wetlands and 604,485 acres of riparian area. For a copy of this study, go to: **http://mtnhp.org/nwi/NWI_Status_map.asp**

Primary State Wetlands Web Page

Montana Wetland Information Clearinghouse
http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/default.mcpx

State Wetland Program Plan

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Wetland Program Plan (http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/mt-wpp-amendments.pdf) addresses the four core elements EPA designated for state wetland program. The Montana Natural Heritage Program also completed a WPP to address the Monitoring and Assessment core element. In addition, several tribes in Montana have approved WPP (could link EPA's website of WPP – list tribes by name).
The broader state-wide planning document that guides wetland program priorities is based on collaborative work with many agencies and organizations through the Montana Wetland Council. The Council acts as a forum for all stakeholders to participate in wetland issues. With DEQ leadership and extensive public involvement, the Council developed Priceless Resources: Strategic Framework for Wetland and Riparian Area Conservation and Restoration in Montana 2013-2017, which guides the Council and all involved in wetland issues, in pursuing wetland conservation activities. The Strategic Framework was approved by the Governor and Directors of the MDEQ, DNRC, & DFWP as the state plan for wetlands and riparian areas. A 17 member Steering Committee provide guidance and assistance in implementing the Strategic Framework. Several working groups are active or are being formed to help implement the Strategic Framework. (Please note: WPP is a DEQ document to EPA required to apply for WPDG. It identifies how DEQ aligns w/ EPA priorities. The bigger collaborative work is the Wetland Council's state plan titled "Priceless Resources…. ").

Innovative Features

- The *Montana Wetland Council* is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetlands and riparian ecosystems and work toward solutions on complex wetland and riparian issues. The Council provides tools, resources, and a forum to help all stakeholders implement the state's wetland plan titled "Priceless Resources: A Strategic Framework for Wetland and Riparian Area Conservation and Restoration in Montana 2013-2017". The Council meets three times a year, sponsors trainings, and shares information via an active website and listserv. The Council is led by the DEQ Wetland Program Coordinator and guided by a broad-based Steering Committee. All are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Lynda Saul at (406) 444-6652 or lsaul@mt.gov or visit our website http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/Index.asp. MWC meets three times a year, and typically focuses on a topic of interest or management challenge, for example controlling invasive species, water rights for wetland restoration, local government assistance, or forested wetlands. Meetings conclude with a session on next steps to collectively discuss options and approaches for follow up and implementation.

- An example of Council meeting follow up was the creation of the Beaver Working Group. This group is working to install beaver mimic structures for willing landowners and find practical solutions to the challenges of reintroducing beaver for their water quality, water storage and wetland forming benefits.

- Montana Wetland Council participants created a new *professional development training series* in 2010 that offered continuing education credits eligible for Professional Wetland Scientist Certification. The result of these trainings means that consultants, sanitarians, floodplain managers, land-use planners, range managers, local decision-makers, and public and private resource professionals can better identify potential wetland areas, are better able to avoid impacts to these areas, have the tools and resources to integrate wetland and riparian protection into their work, know when permits are needed, and are acquainted with wetland and riparian resource professionals they can call upon.

- Montana Wetland Council's *Biennial Wetland Stewardship Awards* recognize individuals and teams who exemplify excellence and commitment in wetland conservation, protection, restoration, and stewardship. The Award Ceremony is held in odd numbered years during American Wetland Month in the State Capitol.

Models and Templates

- A detailed description of Montana's collaborative approach to managing wetlands can be found in: Priceless Resources: Strategic Framework for Wetland and Riparian Area Conservation and Restoration in Montana 2013-2017

State Resources for Wetland Work

State Name	Core element #1: Regulation	Core Element #2: Monitoring and Assessment	Core Element #3: Wetland Water Quality Standards	Core Element #4: Voluntary Wetland Restoration
Agency	MDEQ	MMHP	None	MDEQ
Source		EPA Wetland Program Development Grants		EPA Wetland Program Development Grants; 319 and other restoration grants
Amount	Information unavailable	Information unavailable		Information unavailable
FTE	0.5 FTE	1 FTE		0.5 FTE
Agency				
FTE		0.25 FTE		

State Permitting Fees

State Permitting Fee	State Name
Yes/No	YES
Amount (range)	$400-$20,000
Agency	MDEQ

Section B. Montana's Regulatory Approaches

How are Montana's Wetlands Regulated?

Montana uses 401 certification as its primary form of state-level wetland regulation The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conserves wetlands under the Montana Water Quality Act. MDEQ is able to either informally add conditions to the federal 404 permit or include conditions in the state 318 authorization for short term water quality standard exemption for turbidity (Montana's 401 Water Quality Certification ARM 17.30.101-109).

DEQ is transitioning to a more integrated 401 certification program including moving the 401 certification program from the Permitting Division to the Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division which includes watershed restoration planning, water quality standards, and the non-regulatory wetland program.

Under section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, states and tribes can review and approve, condition, or deny all Federal permits or licenses that might result in a discharge to State or Tribal waters, including wetlands. The major Federal licenses and permits subject to Section 401 are Section 402 and 404 permits (in non-delegated states), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower licenses, and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 9 and 10 permits. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that 80 percent of all Clean Water Act permit applications in Montana involve streams or rivers (ie flowing water as opposed to wetlands).

Wetland Delineation

Delineation Guidance	Yes	No	Detail
Use State's Own Method		X	
Use Corps' 87 Manual and Regional Supplement	X		The USACE and EPA are the only two agencies that can make a jurisdictional determination as part of the 404 and Section 10 process in Montana.
Other (Please describe)		X	

Evaluation Methodology

Montana uses the Montana Wetland Assessment Method (MWAM) to evaluate wetlands. In 1989, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) developed this wetland evaluation method to be applied to highway projects in Montana. MWAM was revised in 2008. Depending on the wetland being evaluated, up to 12 functions/values can be evaluated using MWAM. To download the MWAM evaluation tool, go to: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/environmental/external/wetlands/2008_wetland_assessment/2008_mwam_manual.pdf

Exempted Activities

The Montana Water Quality Act identifies activities that are exempt from both the water quality classification and standards section (75-3-301) and the non-degradation section (75-5-303).

Special Provisions for Agriculture and Forestry

Montana's streamside management zone law prohibits some timber harvest activities within at least 50 feet of any stream, lake, or other body of water:

http://dnrc.mt.gov/Permits/StreamPermitting/StreamsideManagementZoneLaw.asp

Penalties and Enforcement

Enforcement actions under the state's water quality laws apply, but are not specific to wetlands. Under Montana law, it is unlawful to cause pollution in state water. MDEQ only enforces the statutes if it can document pollution and if "state water" is affected. The definition of "state water" does not include wetlands, so MDEQ only considers the presence of surface water or groundwater in determining whether a "state water" has been polluted. Violations of state water quality laws may result in penalties of up to $10,000 per day or have civil penalties of up to $25,000 per day, with each day constituting a separate violation and one year of imprisonment. Subsequent convictions are punishable with $50,000 per day of violation and two years of imprisonment. However, violations of the state's water quality laws seldom result in criminal penalties. For more information about Montana's enforcement requirements, go to: http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/MontanaPolicyLegislation.mcpx.

Permit Tracking

Montana does not have a have a system for tracking permits or mitigation.

State General Permit (statewide vs. regional coverage)

Permit Coverage	Yes	No	Detail (Type of Permit)
Regional General Permit		X	
Statewide General Permit		X	

Assumption of 404 Powers

Assumption Status	Yes	No	Detail
Assumed		X	
Working Toward Assumption		X	
Explored Assumption		X	

Joint Permitting

Due to the number of agencies that have permitting authority, Montana uses a Joint Application for Proposed Work in Streams, Lakes and Wetlands in Montana to make applying for permits easier (http://dnrc.mt.gov/Permits/StreamPermitting/JointApplication.asp).

Special Area Management Plans and Advanced Identification Plans

Montana has a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the Upper Yellowstone River.
http://cdm16021.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16021coll7/id/14

No Net Loss/Net Gain Goal

Montana has the formal goal of "no overall net loss of the state's remaining wetland resource base (as of 1989) and an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands in Montana." The Montana Wetland Council also supports a riparian goal: Maintain, protect, and restore the ecological integrity of riparian areas. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has chosen a collaborative

approach involving the Montana Wetland Council (MWC), to develop and help implement the state's wetland and riparian goal.

Mitigation Policy

The State of Montana does not have formal regulations, policies or legislation that guide wetland or stream mitigation. However, the Corps' Montana Regulatory Office does as part of the 104(b)3 sequencing guidelines (avoid, minimize, mitigate). The Corps revised its stream mitigation procedures in 2013. Montana Stream Mitigation Procedure and the calculation Spreadsheet can be found at this link: http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Montana/Mitigation.aspx. Wetland compensatory mitigation ratios and other Corps mitigation information for Montana can also be found on the above link.

Mitigation Database

None.

Section C. Monitoring and Assessment

Agency Responsible for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment

Montana does not have a formal state wetland monitoring and assessment program. Multiple state agencies contribute to wetland assessment and monitoring information. For example, the Montanan Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) developed a rotating basin monitoring program based on ecological integrity http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks collects data on wetland condition to assess the success of its Migratory Bird Stamp habitat program. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) continues statewide monitoring of its compensatory mitigation projects http://mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/wetlands.shtml. Montana DEQ is piloting integrating wetland functional assessment into risk based water quality monitoring in the Musselshell basin. Montana Department of Agriculture inconjunction with DEQ is conducting a sampling study of pesticides in groundwater and wetlands.

Wetland Classification and Assessment

Montana has collected a wealth of wetland and riparian information over the last two decades. The Montana Riparian Association and the University of Montana worked collaboratively to develop the document "Classification and Management of Montana's Riparian and Wetland Sites." (Hansen 1995). Since then, much more detailed wetland assessment and monitoring in Montana has been accomplished. For example, the BLM has assessed more than 11,000 acres of wetlands and more than 5,000 miles of riparian resources. The MNHP has created a statewide reference network of herbaceous wetlands, and conducted hundreds of assessments to collect information on the ambient condition of wetlands across the state. Regarding classification, Montana NHP developed a "Field Guide to Montana's Wetland and Riparian Ecological Systems" http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/docs/MTWetland_Riparian_EcolSys_Nov2010.pdf. The state has also developed two tools to assess wetland condition and function. 1) MNHP's Montana Ecological Integrity Assessment protocol, http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/docs/EIAProtocol_2014.pdf which consistently assesses wetlands and establishes a baseline condition for many wetlands and wetland types in the state. MNHP uses a science-based assessment and monitoring approach, which provides an ecological

understanding of wetland systems in the Montana, as well as information on their condition, typical stressors that occur near wetlands, and how those affect wetland health.

2) MDT's Montana Wetland Assessment Method https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/environmental/external/wetlands/2008_wetland_assessment/2008_mwam_manual.pdf . This functional assessment method is used primarily for wetland permitting and is the main assessment method in use in Montana. The Montana Natural Heritage Program also completed a reference network for herbaceous wetland types that represents a gradient of wetland conditions from poor condition to highest quality. The reference network can be used to set restoration targets for both regulatory mitigation and voluntary or incentive-based restoration.

Statewide Monitoring Plan Montana NHP has a *Development Plan for a Statewide Wetland and Riparian Mapping, Assessment and Monitoring Program 2009-2015* document, which identifies monitoring considerations and needs associated with measuring the impacts of climate change. To view the document, go to: http://www.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/mnhp_wpp.pdf

Overall Wetland Gain and Loss Tracking System

None. As a consequence of a lack of complete mapping database, Montana's ability to track no net loss and net gain remains elusive**.** Specific information on Montana's no net loss/net gain accomplishments between 2008-2012 can be found in the following document: http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/08-12netgaingoalaccomp.mcpx.

Monitoring and Assessment Characteristics

Level	None	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Montana		X http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/docs/LEVEL1.pdf	X http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/docs/LEVEL2.pdf	X http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/docs/LEVEL3.pdf

Type	None	IBI	Condition	Functional
Montana		X Ecological		X MWAM

Frequency	None	Project-Specific	Ongoing
Montana		X MDT, FWP, DEQ	X MNHP

Mapping /Inventory

In 2006, Montana's Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) worked with the Council to create a Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center and a partnership approach to funding the development of digital mapping information. As of 2014, 90% of Montana has been mapped or is funded for digital mapping. Click here for the current status of wetland and riparian mapping. http://mtnhp.org/nwi/NWI_Status_map.asp

MTNHP has created a spatial and tabular database to house and manage assessment data. MTNHP provides value-added information to these maps by adding descriptors that describe potential wetland functions (water storage, nutrient cycling, sediment retention), making them useful to a broad range of users for planning and prioritizing for management, restoration, and conservation.

- BLM is using the digital information to apply protective land-use stipulations during energy development.
- MDT uses the maps in highway planning efforts for new alignments and to avoid or minimize aquatic impacts.
- DEQ and watershed groups are using the maps to identify suitable restoration sites that will have a positive effect on water quality and quantity.
- Maps can also be used to address drought management, water quality impairment, and a host of other resource management needs.

In 2014, the DEQ Wetlands Program sponsored 9 lived trainings on wetland and riparian maps, where to find them and how to use them. A webinar was also presented and is linked here http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/default.mcpx

State Mapping Portal

The Montana Wetland Council is working to support the completion, maintenance, and dissemination of statewide digital wetland and riparian mapping information, and provide training and support for public and private land managers, watershed groups, and governmental entities to use this mapping information in planning, protection, and restoration decision-making. For the most current information on Montana's wetland mapping efforts, got to: http://mtnhp.org/nwi/

Participation in National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA)

NWCA Study Type	Yes	No
National Study	X	
State Intensification Study		X

Section D. Water Quality Standards Wetland and Water Quality Standards

Type	None	Use Existing WQ Standards	In Process	Adopted	Future Direction
Wetland-specific Designated Uses		**X**			
Narrative criteria in the standards to protect designated wetland uses		**X**			

Numeric criteria in the standards based on wetland type and location to protect the designated uses	X				
Anti-degradation policy includes wetlands		**X**			

Description: Montana's water quality standards, anti-degradation policy and designated uses are not specific to wetlands and the goal to maintain the physical integrity of wetlands is not currently addressed by Montana's water quality standards. General water quality criteria are narrative, chemical, and biological. These criteria recognize that "certain state waters are of such environmental, ecological or economic value that the state should, upon a showing of necessity, prohibit, to the greatest extent practicable, changes to the existing water quality of those waters." All Montana waters are classified and have designated uses. These classifications are 1) state waters, 2) high quality waters, and 3) Outstanding Natural Resource Waters. All Montana waters have numeric and narrative standards to protect established designated uses. However, existing chemical numeric standards are often not appropriate for wetlands.

Section E. Voluntary Restoration and Protection

Montana does not have a state-run voluntary wetland restoration program. However, several state agencies are partners in The Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership (MWLP) which is a voluntary, incentive-based partnership that focuses on wetland conservation on public and private lands. In 2014, Montana DEQ and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks took the lead to revive the MWLP after staff retirement in 2013. MWLP provides a point of contact for landowners looking for technical and financial assistance from federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as private conservation organizations , including land trusts. DEQ is also developing a restorable aquatics database to help entities identify potentially restorable wetlands and other water resources. DEQ piloted integration wetland restoration into watershed restoration plans in the Gallatin and Big Hole Valleys and both watersheds are now working on voluntary wetland restoration projects as a result of that planning work.

Types of Wetland Restoration Work Funded by the State:

Type of Work	YES	NO	Description
Fund Wetland Restoration (may include easement agreements)		X	
Private Land Restoration		X	
Public Land Restoration		X	
Technical Assistance	X		Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership (MWLP)
Tax Incentives		X	
Other	X		FWP habitat programs and some limited 319 projects

Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program Components

Wetland Restoration Efforts	Nothing in the Works	Planning	In Progress	Complete
Program has a set of restoration goals		X		
Coordinate with relevant agencies that outline restoration/protection goals and strategies and timeframes		X		
Developed multi-agency body to coordinate restoration/ protection efforts			X	
Set restoration goals based on agency objectives and available information		X		

Goals for Restoration Projects

Goal	Yes	No	Description
No Net Loss		X	
Reverse Loss/Net Gain		X	
Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)		X	
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs)		X	
Habitat		X	
Coastal Protection	N/A		
Floodwater Protection		X	
Groundwater		X	
Other (please describe)			

Landowner Guides and Handbooks to Assist with Voluntary Wetland Restoration Efforts

Local Planning Guide for Wetland and Riparian Areas
http://mtaudubon.org/issues/wetlands/documents/Planning%20Guide/Planning%20Guide%202008_small.pdf

Section F. Education and Outreach

Montana has numerous wetland education and outreach efforts underway:

- DEQ leads the Wetland Council provides a forum for wetland protection and management discussions and action at Council meetings and through implementing the Strategic Framework.
- DEQ and MNHP provide four wetland plant identification courses across Montana each summer.
- Montana State University holds a 2-3 day professional wetland development course each fall.
- DEQ sponsored Wetland and Riparian Map Training presentations and a webinar.

As a network, numerous Montana Wetland Council partners have created public education resources and embarked on outreach and marketing efforts. These target several specific audiences regarding knowledge of, appreciation for, and encouragement to take action to restore and protect the valuable functions performed by wetlands and riparian resources. Examples of useful resources provided to the public include:

- *A Landowners' Guide to Montana's Wetlands*
- *Landowners' Guide to Eastern Montana Wetlands and Grasslands*
- *A Planning Guide for Protecting Montana's Wetland and Riparian Areas.*
- *Common Native and Invasive Wetland Plants in Montana Booklet* http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/wetlandplantbooklet.mcpx

Climate Change and Wetland Program Work

Although the wetland program is not actively working on climate change issues, the program is looking at extreme weather planning. Both promoting the restoration of natural infrastructure and drought resiliency area key features of the state's revised 2014 State Water Plan**.**

Assessment of monitoring considerations and needs associated with measuring the impacts of climate change are included in the Wetland program Plan:
http://www.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/mnhp_wpp.pdf

Section G. Integration with Other Programs

Program Area	Yes/No	Description of the Connection
NPDES/ Stormwater	YES	Working with the MDEQ Watershed Protection Section's nonpoint source program to provide support and assistance to local governments, watershed groups, and others, to develop and implement effective education and outreach strategies to protect and restore wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains, along with the state's other aquatic resources.
303(d)/305 Reporting	YES	MNHP is developing a template to input their monitoring and assessment data into 305(b) reporting; will include narrative descriptions
TMDL	NO	Wetlands not being integrated
Climate Change/ Climate Resiliency	YES	Promoting the restoration of natural infrastructure and drought resiliency area key features of the revised 2014 State Water Plan; Assessment of monitoring considerations and needs associated with measuring the impacts of climate change in http://www.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/mnhp_wpp.pdf
Land Use Planning	NO	
Watershed Planning	YES	Montana Wetland Council participants piloted projects with two watershed groups in the Big Hole and Gallatin watersheds that hold promise for larger replication and significant restoration success. All aquatics are included in watershed restoration plans, including

		wetlands.
Flood/Hazard Mitigation	YES	Working on E&O with DNRC Floodplain Section and Conservation Districts Bureau; Also working with the DNRC state floodplain program outreach coordinator and Disaster and Emergency Services to integrate wetland and riparian mapping and information in training venues, community assistance visits and material, website links, local ordinance, mitigation projects, technical assistance, and suggested guidance. As a result of a range of efforts (see strategic plan) work, the constituency for wetland protection has increased and become more broad-based, and partnerships between wetland and floodplain programs have strengthened. Additionally, channel migration zone mapping is encouraged as a planning and outreach tool and a webpage for channel migration mapping has been developed.
Coastal Work	N/A	
Transportation (DOT)	YES	Some mitigation sites are used in plant identification training and monitoring. MDT participates on the Wetland Council Steering Committee.
Other	YES	Some work with the mining community

Section G. Climate Change and Wetlands

Montana Natural Heritage Program's Plan *Development Plan for a Statewide Wetland and Riparian Mapping, Assessment and Monitoring Program 2009-2015* identifies monitoring considerations and needs associated with measuring the impacts of climate change. To view the document, go to: http://www.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/mnhp_wpp.pdf

State Wetland Program Development Continuum

Level of Completeness	**Core Element 1: Regulation**	**Core Element 2: Monitoring and Assessment**	**Core Element 3: Wetland Water Quality Standards**	**Core Element 4: Voluntary Restoration**
Mature + Ongoing Improvements	State has an active 401 Certification Program			
Working on Implementation				**X** (Legacy Partnership)
Working on Developing	**X**	**X** (State has collected a lot of data, but has no plan or program)		
Early Stages			**X**	

State Wetland Contacts

Lynda A. Saul, PWS, CFM
Wetland Program Coordinator
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
(406) 444-6652

Stephen M. Carpenedo, PWS
Wetland Environmental Science Specialist
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
(406) 444-6652

Useful Website Links

State Government Programs

1. Department of Environmental Quality
    a) Wetland Program (includes pdf link to Strategic Framework plan)
    http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/default.mcpx
        i. Montana Wetland Council
        http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/WetlandsCouncil.mcpx
2. Montana Natural Heritage Program
    Contains Wetland Conditions Assessment Documents and Wetland Information
    http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/
    a) Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center
    http://mtnhp.org/nwi/
    b) Wetland and Riparian Mapping Framework
    http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Data/DataList/datalist_Details.aspx?did={f57e92f5-a3fa-45b2-9de8-0ba46bbb2d46}
    c) Herbaceous Wetland Reference Network
    http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/assess/state/
    d) Basin-wide Wetland Assessment of the Milk-Marias
    http://mtnhp.org/wetlands/assess/mm/
3. Department of Agriculture
    a) Groundwater Protection Program
    http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Pesticides/Environmental/Groundwater/index.html
4. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
    a) Wetland Protection Advisory Committee
    http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/committees/wetlandProtectionAC.html
    b) Bird Conservation Program
        i. Habitat Conservation
        http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/birds/habitat.html
1. Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
    a) Water Resources Division
    http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp
        i. Water Management Bureau
        http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_mgmt/default.asp
        ii. Floodplain Management

http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_op/floodplain/

2. Department of Transportation
    a) Wetland Mitigation Program
    http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/wetlands.shtml

Other Organization Wetland Programs

1. Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership
   http://www.wetlandslegacy.org/
1. Montana Watercourse
   http://mtwatercourse.org/index.php
2. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation
   http://www.mfwpfoundation.org/current-projects/montana-wetlands-legacy/
3. Montana Watershed Coordination Council
   http://www.mtwatersheds.org/
4. Montana State University Water Center (Water Research Institute)
   http://watercenter.montana.edu/
5. Ducks Unlimited
   http://www.ducks.org/montana/montana-projects/montana-wetlands-reserve-program-projects
6. Montana Umbrella Mitigation Bank
   http://www.mtumbrellabank.com/
7. Montana Aquatic Resources Services http://montanaaquaticresources.org/
8. Montana Audubon http://mtaudubon.org/issues/wetlands/index.html