

## A Quick Reference Guide To Wetlands Assistance Programs Available In Montana

Program	Eligible Lands	Sponsor	Contact	Address
Challenge Cost-Share Program (BLM)	wetlands on leased public lands	financial	Roxanne Falise	406-896-5025 Billings rfalise@mt.blm.gov
Conservation Reserve Program-CRP (FSA)	wetlands	financial	Glenn Patrick  Dave Heilig	406-587-6880 Bozeman glenn.patrick@mt.usda.gov  406-587-6789 Bozeman dheilig@mt.nrcs.usda.gov
Debt For Nature - Conservation Contract Program (FSA)	highly erodible lands, wetlands, and special kinds of habitat that may support particular wildlife	financial	Mel Yost, or  Local Farm Service Agency	406-587-6799 Bozeman mel.yost@mt.usda.gov
Emergency Watershed Program (NRCS) Floodplain Easements	wetlands	financial/ technical	Dave Heilig	406-587-6789 Bozeman dheilig@mt.nrcs.usda.gov
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)	wetlands farm and ranch lands	technical/ financial/ educational	Dennis Loreth	406-587-6795 Bozeman dloreth@mt.nrcs.usda.gov
Farmland Protection Program (NRCS)	wetlands farmland	financial	Dave Heilig	406-587-6789 Bozeman dheilig@mt.nrcs.usda.gov
Forestry Incentives Program & Stewardship Incentives Program (NRCS)	wetlands, forests	technical/ financial	Robert Logar	406-587-6836 Bozeman rlogar@mt.nrcs.usda.gov
Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat (Ducks Unlimited)	wetlands	financial	Steve Bayless	406-458-5794 Helena sbayless@ducks.org
Future Fisheries, Improvement Program (MFWP)	wetlands	technical/ financial	Glenn Phillips	406-444-5334 Helena gphillips@state.mt.us
Montana Migratory Bird Stamp Program (MFWP)	wetlands	financial	Tom Hinz	406-444-3248 Helena thinz@state.mt.us
N. American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan & N. American Wetland Conservation Act (USFWS)	wetlands	financial	Jim Stutzman	406-727-7400 Great Falls jim_stutzman@fws.gov
Montana Partners for Wildlife/PDW (USFWS)	wetlands	financial	Jim Stutzman	406-727-7400 Great Falls jim_stutzman@fws.gov
Wetland Development Program (BOR)	wetlands	financial	Rick Blaskovich	406-247-7311 Billings rblaskovich@gp.usbr.gov
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (NRCS)	owned lands not in mitigation or wildlife program	financial/ technical	Dennis Loreth	406-587-6795 dloreth@mt.nrcs.usda.gov Bozeman
Wetland Reserve Program (NRCS)	restorable wetlands	financial/ technical	Dave Heilig	406-587-6789 Bozeman dheilig@mt.nrcs.usda.gov

\*Acronyms: BLM= Bureau of Land Management, FSA= Farm Service Agency, USDA= United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS= Natural Resource Conservation Service, MFWP= Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, USFWS= United States Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA= Environmental Protection Agency, DEQ= Department of Environmental Quality, BOR= Bureau of Reclamation

# WORKING WITH MONTANA'S WETLANDS

## Wetlands Are An Integral Component Of Montana's Watersheds

There are a wealth and variety of wetlands in Montana. Sloughs, wet meadows, fens, ephemeral ponds, irrigation canals, prairie potholes and margins around lakes, ponds and rivers are all considered wetlands and can be found under our "big sky."

Montana landowners are reaping great benefits from wisely managing their wetlands. This brochure presents options for wetland conservation and outlines some of the wetland programs and technical assistance available from state, tribal and federal agencies and private organizations in Montana.



Judy McCarthy

*Landowners are beginning to view wetlands as a benefit rather than an obstacle.*

## Why Work With Wetlands?

Wetlands are a source of water often overlooked. Wetlands benefit farms and ranches because they:

- ✦ Maintain late summer stream flows that are critical for irrigating crops and watering stock
- ✦ Sustain high water tables increasing subsurface irrigation and production of forage
- ✦ Filter sediment, which protects the quality of water, prolongs the life of irrigation pumps, and reduces siltation of ponds and irrigation ditches
- ✦ Reduce velocity of floodwaters and bank erosion
- ✦ Filter out chemicals applied to the land, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and pesticides, which helps keep these elements from entering nearby lakes, streams or ground water
- ✦ Provide shrubs and trees that shelter livestock



Jim Stutzman

Restored wetland, Ovando MT

## Are You Sure You Have A Wetland?

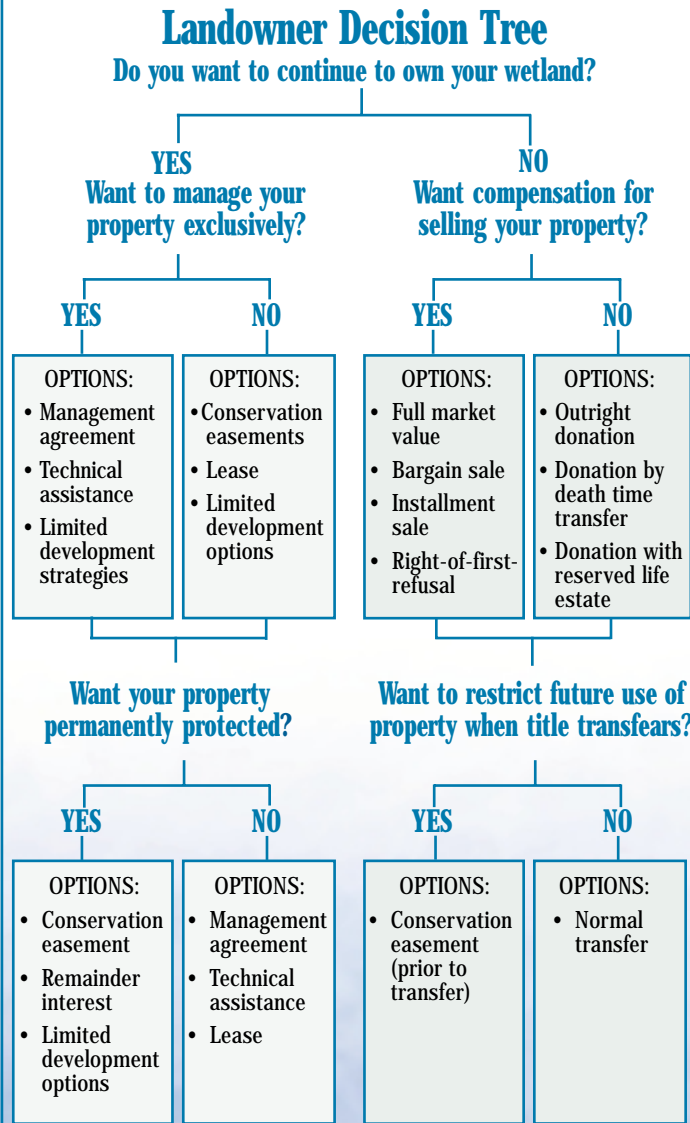
If you think your property contains a wetland, check with a wetland specialist. These folks work for agencies like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) while others are private consultants. Remember, most land management practices that occur in or near wetlands require state and/or federal permits.



What's  
Right  
For Me?

If you are considering wetlands conservation, restoration or enhancement, how do you decide what actions to take? You

can determine several possible options by asking yourself the following questions:



## Landowner Options

**Option 1:** Retain ownership and guide future use of the property through:

- ✦ **Conservation Easements**—term or perpetual legal agreements between a private property owner and a qualified conservation organization.
- ✦ **Leases**—agreements for the rental of land by a landowner to a conservation organization or agency for a specified period of time.
- ✦ **Restoration**—active rehabilitation of a degraded wetland to recover its natural attributes, functions, and values.
- ✦ **Management Agreements**—understanding between landowner and a conservation agency.
- ✦ **Limited Development Strategies**—development of the least environmentally significant portions of property to finance conservation of remaining property.
- ✦ **Remainder Interests** transfer full or partial interest in a property to an appropriate grantee.

**Option 2: Sell the property**—sell land to a conservation organization at full market value, or as a bargain sale.

**Option 3: Donate the land**—donate land to a conservation organization. Ensure total protection, maintenance and enhancement for the wetland.



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### For More Information

Or to request additional materials on wetlands and wetland-related programs available in the state, contact the Montana Watercourse at 406-994-6671.

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