U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 10 West 15th Street, Suite 2200 Helena, MT 59626

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

To Whom it May Concern,

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

The bridge locations are listed below (see attached maps):

- Pedestrian Bridge over Fleshman Creek
 - o Location 45°40'07"N, 110°32'27"W
 - Anticipated structure to be a single span prefabricated steel bridge with a concrete deck and driven steel pile foundation
- Pedestrian Bridge over the Yellowstone River
 - o Location 45°39'57"N, 110°32'20"W
 - Anticipated structure to be a single span prefabricated steel bridge with a concrete deck and driven steel pile foundation

As part of the grant application process, we are required to complete an environmental checklist, necessitating initial comments from several state and federal agencies, yours' being one. Please provide us with initial comment or concerns regarding the above-mentioned project by November 15, 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 522-8594 or e-mail at kthompson@seaeng.com.

Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

Water Protection Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

To Whom it May Concern,

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Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

Park County Floodplain Administrator Attn: Lawson Moorman 414 East Callender Street Livingston, MT 59047

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

Dear Lawson,

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 522-8594 or e-mail at kthompson@seaeng.com.

Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

October 12, 2021

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Attn: Scott Opitz 1354 Highway 10 West Livingston, MT 59047

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

Dear Scott

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

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Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

October 12, 2021

Montana Natural Heritage Program PO Box 201800 Helena, MT 59620-1800

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

To Whom it May Concern,

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Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Water Resources Division Bozeman Regional Office 2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110 Bozeman, MT 59715

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

To Whom it May Concern,

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 522-8594 or e-mail at kthompson@seaeng.com.

Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

State Historic Preservation Office Attn: Damon Murdo PO Box 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

Dear Damon,

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 522-8594 or e-mail at kthompson@seaeng.com.

Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region Office 134 Union Boulevard Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Comment – Park County Pedestrian Bridge Projects

To Whom it May Concern,

Stahly Engineering & Associates is gathering information for a grant application for the installation of two pedestrian bridges in Park County. The bridges will be constructed to match the existing channel banks and channel bank elevations and be designed to pass the 50-year flood event, at a minimum, per the Park County Transportation Standards.

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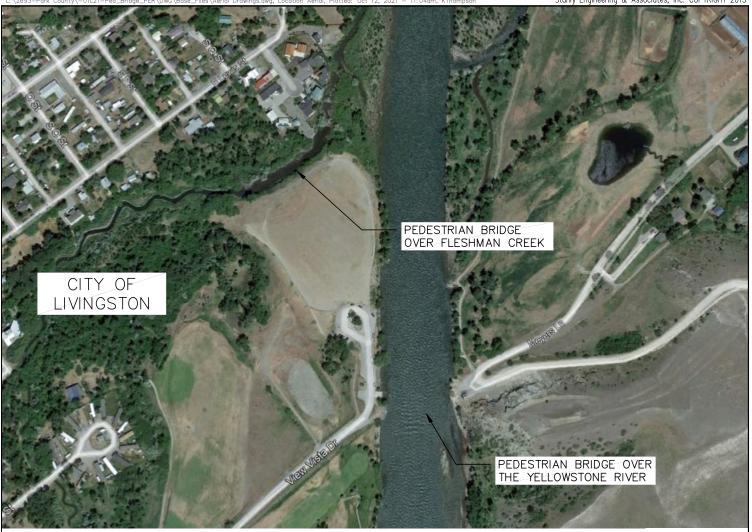
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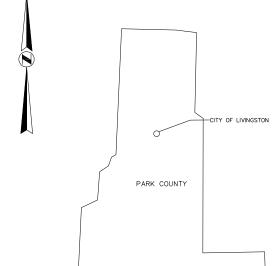
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If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 522-8594 or e-mail at kthompson@seaeng.com.

Sincerely,

Stahly Engineering & Associates









STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

www.seaeng.com

2223 MONTANA AVE. SUITE 201 BILLINGS, MT 59101 Phone: (406)601-4055 Fax: (406)601-4062

3530 CENTENNIAL DR. HELENA, MT 59601 Phone: (406)442–8594 Fax: (406)442–8557 851 BRIDGER DRIVE SUITE 1 BOZEMAN, MT 59715 Phone: (406)522-8594 Fax: (406)522-9528

PROJECT LOCATION AERIAL PHOTO

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE LOCATIONS
YELLOWSTONE RIVER & FLESHMAN CREEK

PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

DESIGNED: KLT
DRAWN: KLT
CHECKED: NTP
DATE: 10/12/21

SHEET

A1.1





STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

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3530 CENTENNIAL DR. HELENA, MT 59601 Phone: (406)442–8594 Fax: (406)442–8557

851 BRIDGER DRIVE SUITE 1 BOZEMAN, MT 59715 Phone: (406)522-8594 Fax: (406)522-9528

PROJECT AERIAL PHOTO

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER

PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

DESIGNED: KLT DRAWN: KLT CHECKED: NTP 10/12/21 DATE:

SHEET

A1.2



STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

www.seaeng.com

2223 MONTANA AVE.
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BILLINGS, MT 59101
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Fax: (406)442-8557

851 BRIDGER DRIVE SUITE 1 BOZEMAN, MT 59715 Phone: (406)522-8594 Fax: (406)522-9528

PROJECT AERIAL PHOTO

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER FLESHMAN CREEK

PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

DESIGNED: KLT DRAWN: KLT CHECKED: NTP 10/12/21 DATE:

SHEET

A1.3

FWP.MT.GOV



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 3 Headquarters 1400 S 19th Avenue Bozeman, MT 59718

November 1, 2021

Kathy Thompson Stahly Engineering and Associates, Inc. 851 Bridger Drive #1 Bozeman, MT 59715

RE: Park County Pedestrian Bridge Project

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project for construction of two bridges in Park County.

FWP supports the proposed single span bridge crossing the Yellowstone River. Piers in the water are not preferred in the Yellowstone River given the bridge will be located immediately upstream of the boat ramp at Mayor's Landing Fishing Access Site. This bridge is proposed at the location of a prior bridge across the Yellowstone River on an existing road base, so minimal impact would be anticipated.

FWP also supports a single span bridge over Fleishman Creek. We recommend minimizing removal of riparian vegetation at this site to maintain bank stability and retain cover.

For any further questions or concerns, please reach out to the following FWP personnel;

Scott Opitz, Fisheries Biologist (phone: 406-223-3951, email: sopitz@mt.gov)
Michael Yarnall, Wildlife Biologist (phone: 406-224-1162, email: michael.yarnall@mt.gov)

Claire Gower, Wildlife Biologist (phone: 406-577-7866, email: cgower@mt.gov)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka

Region Three Supervisor



P.O. Box 201800 * 1515 East Sixth Avenue * Helena, MT 59620-1800 * fax 406.444.0266 * tel 406.444.5363 * http://mtnhp.org

October 15, 2021

Kathy Thompson 851 Bridger Drive Suite 1 Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Kathy Thompson,

Thank you for your request for Natural Heritage information for Pedestrian Bridge Fleshman and Yellowstone, located at Fleshman Creek at 45 40"07"N 110 32"27"W Yellowston River at 45 39"57"N 110 32"20"W. Included with this letter is an Environmental Summary report PDF and a companion Excel workbook summarizing information managed in the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MTNHP) databases for: (1) species occurrences; (2) other observed species without Species Occurrences; (3) other species potentially present based on their range, presence of associated habitats, or predictive distribution model output if available; (4) structured surveys (organized efforts following a protocol capable of detecting one or more species); (5) land cover mapped as ecological systems; (6) wetland and riparian mapping; (7) land management categories; and (8) biological reports associated with plant and animal observations. The PDF report contains introductory materials and limitations associated with the use of each of these data types, a list of additional information resources, data use terms and conditions, and suggested contacts. The Excel workbook contains worksheets for each data type that can be easily sorted to summarize particular information needs. In addition to these materials, we have included a compilation of one page snapshots containing general description, habitat, spatial and temporal distribution, and conservation status information for each species listed in the species occurrence, other observed species, and other potential species sections of the Environmental Summary report. These three field guide compilations are excerpted from the full accounts found on the Montana Field Guide http://fieldguide.mt.gov for general reference use and, if desired, as appendices to environmental review documents.

Please keep in mind the following when using and interpreting the enclosed information:

- (1) This information is intended for distribution or use only within your department, agency, or business. Please see the Data Use Terms and Conditions in the Environmental Summary report PDF for additional guidelines.
- (2) Our minimum search area for standard information requests consists of the requested area buffered by an additional mile in order to capture records that may be immediately adjacent to the requested area. Please let us know if a buffer greater than 1 mile would be of use to your efforts.

- (3) Additional information on animal, plant, and lichen species and ecological systems in Montana is available on the Montana Field Guide at http://fieldguide.mt.gov/
- (4) In addition to the information you receive from us, we encourage you to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies in the area where your project is located (see Environmental Summary report PDF).

In order to help us improve our services to you, we invite you to take a simple survey. The survey is intended to gather some basic information on the value and quality of the information and services you recently received from the Montana Natural Heritage Program. The survey is short and should not take more than a few minutes to complete. All information will be kept confidential and will be used internally to improve the delivery of services and to help document the value of our services. Use this link to go to the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RYN8Y8L.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at the phone or email address below if you have any questions, require additional information, or have suggestions for how we could improve our information resources.

Sincerely,

Bryce A. Maxell

Montana Natural Heritage Program

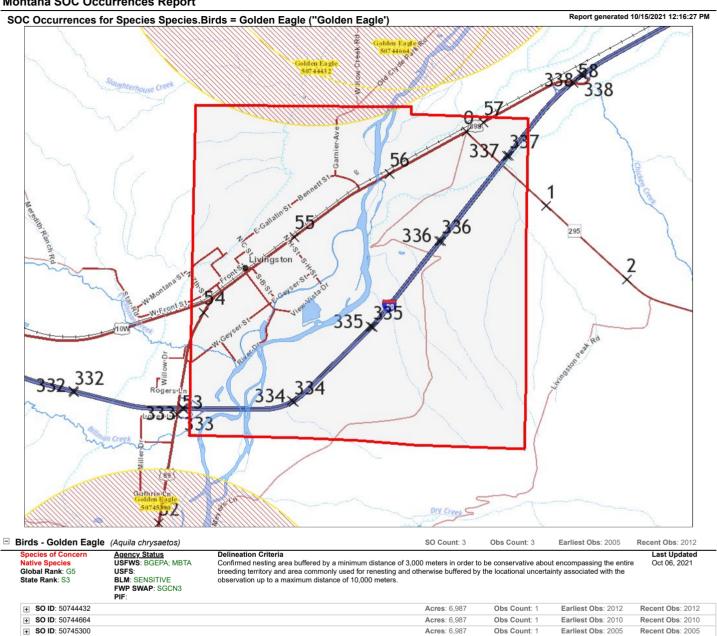
Byce A. Maxell

(406) 444-3989

bmaxell@mt.gov



Montana SOC Occurrences Report



Citation for this report:

Montana SOC Occurrences Report

SOC Occurrences for Species Species.Birds = Golden Eagle ("Golden Eagle')

Within Lat/Long: (45.62608,-110.43768) to (45.69808,-110.64213)

Natural Heritage Map Viewer. Montana Natural Heritage Program

Retrieved on October 15, 2021, from https://mtnhp.org/MapViewer/SOReport.aspx



MONTANA

Vatural Heritage rogram 1515 East 6th Avenue Helena, MT 59620

(406) 444-5363

mtnhp.org

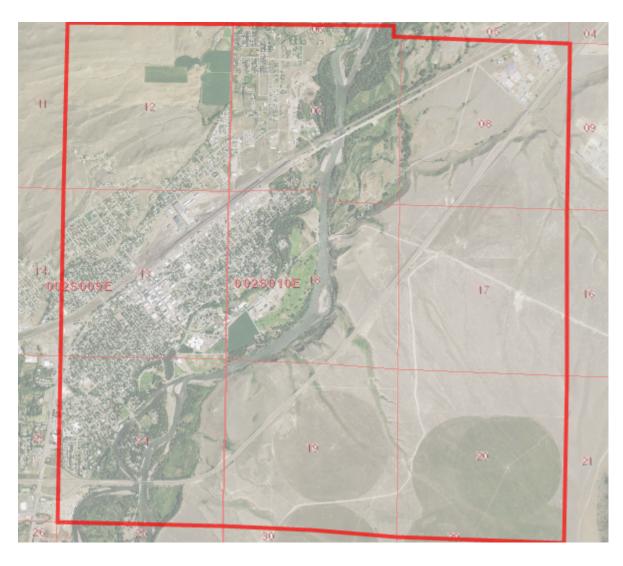


Latitude Longitude 45.63911 -110.50850

-110.57141

Summarized by: 002S010E018

(Buffered PLSS Section)



Suggested Citation

Montana Natural Heritage Program. Environmental Summary Report.

for Latitude 45.63911 to 45.68513 and Longitude -110.50850 to -110.57141. Retrieved on 10/15/2021.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System. Since 1985, it has served as a neutral and non-regulatory provider of easily accessible information on Montana's species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. The program is part of NatureServe, a network of over 80 similar programs in states, provinces, and nations throughout the Western Hemisphere, working to provide current and comprehensive distribution and status information on species and biological communities.







Environmental Summar

Table of Contents

- Species Report
- Structured Surveys
- Land Cover
- Wetland and Riparian
- Land Management
- Biological Reports
- Invasive and Pest Species
- Introduction to Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Data Use Terms and Conditions
- Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Agencies
- Introduction to Native Species
- Introduction to Land Cover
- Introduction to Wetland and Riparian
- Introduction to Land Management
- Introduction to Invasive and Pest Species
- Additional Information Resources

Introduction to Environmental Summary Report

Environmental Summary Reports from the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) provide information on species and biological communities to inform all stakeholders in environmental review, permitting, and planning processes. For information on environmental permits in Montana, please see permitting overviews by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Index of Environmental Permits for Montana and our Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies. The report for your area of interest consists of introductory and related materials in this PDF and an Excel workbook with worksheets summarizing information managed in the MTNHP databases for: (1) species occurrences; (2) other observed species without species occurrences; (3) other species potentially present based on their range, presence of associated habitats, or predictive distribution model output if available; (4) structured surveys that follow a protocol capable of detecting one or more species; (5) land cover mapped as ecological systems; (6) wetland and riparian mapping; (7) land management categories; and (8) biological reports associated with plant and animal observations. If your area of interest corresponds to a statewide polygon layer (e.g., watersheds, counties, or public land survey sections) information summaries in your report will exactly match those boundaries. However, if your report is for a custom area, users should be aware that summaries do not correspond to the exact boundaries of the polygon they have specified, but instead are a summary across a layer of hexagons intersected by the polygon they specified as shown on the report cover. Summarizing by these hexagons which are one square mile in area and approximately one kilometer in length on each side allows for consistent and rapid delivery of summaries based on a uniform grid that has been used for planning efforts across the western United States (e.g., Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool).

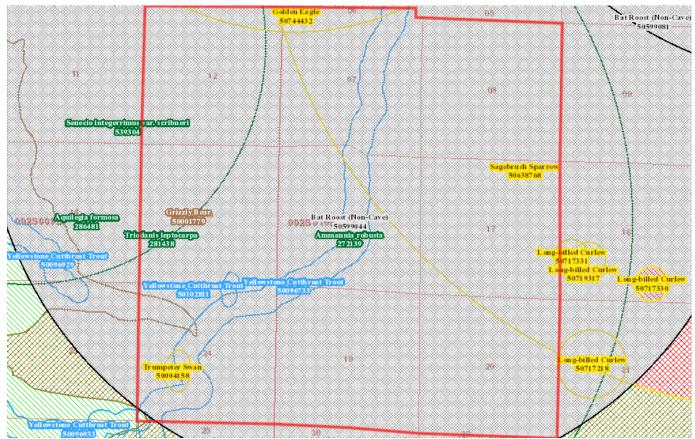
In presenting this information, MTNHP is working towards assisting the user with rapidly assessing the known or potential species and biological communities, land management categories, and biological reports associated with the report area. Users are reminded that this information is likely incomplete and may be inaccurate as surveys to document species are lacking in many areas of the state, species' range polygons often include regions of unsuitable habitat, methods of predicting the presence of species or communities are constantly improving, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. Field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities in a report area will always be an important obligation of users of our data. Users are encouraged to only use this environmental summary report as a starting point for more in depth analyses and are encouraged to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies for additional data or management guidelines relevant to your efforts. Please see the Appendix for introductory materials to each section of the report, additional information resources, and a list of relevant agency contacts.

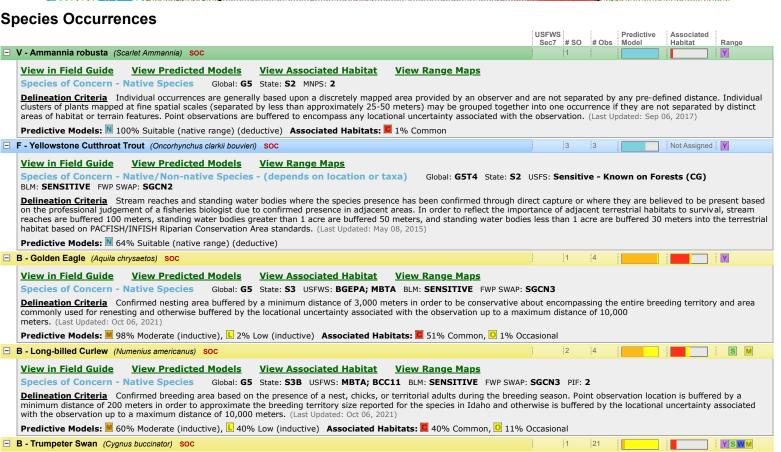


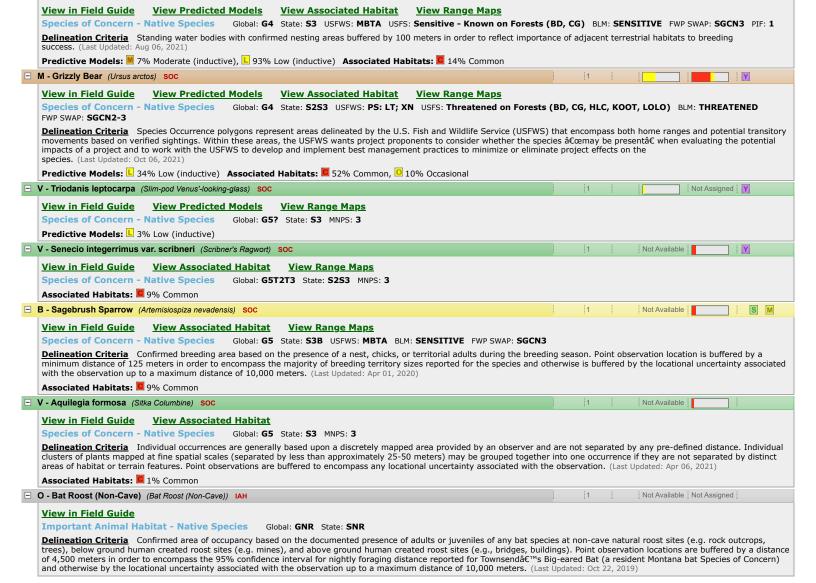
Native Species

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)

MT_Status='Species of Concern', 'Special Status', 'Important Animal Habitat', 'Potential SOC'

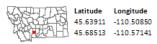












Native Species

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)

Filtered by:

MT_Status='Species of Concern', 'Special Status', 'Important Animal Habitat', 'Potential SOC'

Other Observed Species





Native Species

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)

Filtered by:

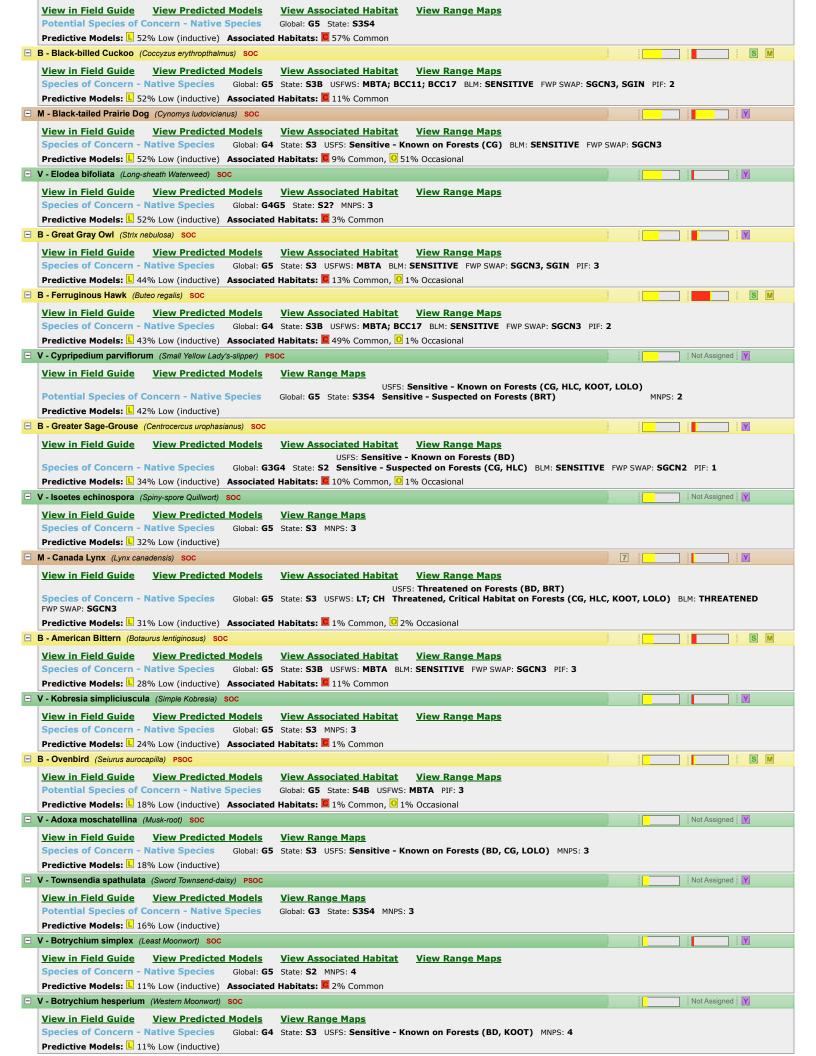
MT_Status='Species of Concern', 'Special Status', 'Important Animal Habitat', 'Potential SOC'

Other Potential Species





















Structured Surveys

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) records information on the locations where more than 80 different types of well-defined repeatable survey protocols capable of detecting an animal species or suite of animal species have been conducted by state, federal, tribal, university, or private consulting biologists. Examples of structured survey protocols tracked by MTNHP include: visual encounter and dip net surveys for pond breeding amphibians, point counts for birds, call playback surveys for selected bird species, visual surveys of migrating raptors, kick net stream reach surveys for macroinvertebrates, visual encounter cover object surveys for terrestrial mollusks, bat acoustic or mist net surveys, pitfall and/or snap trap surveys for small terrestrial mammals, track or camera trap surveys for large mammals, and trap surveys for turtles. Whenever possible, photographs of survey locations are stored in MTNHP databases.

MTNHP does not typically manage information on structured surveys for plants; surveys for invasive species may be a future exception.

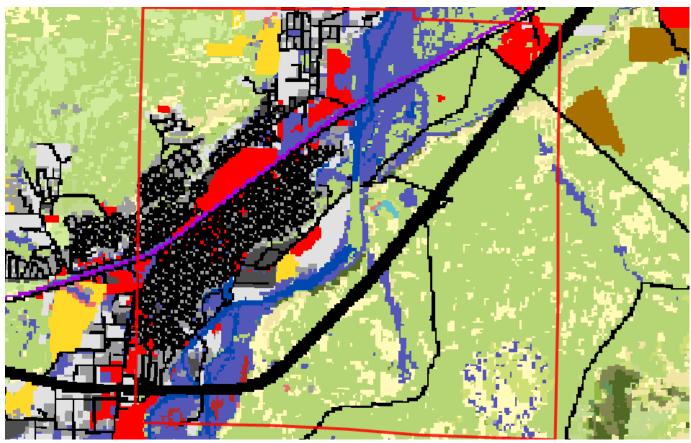
Within the report area you have requested, structured surveys are summarized by the number of each type of structured survey protocol that has been conducted, the number of species detections/observations resulting from these surveys, and the most recent year a survey has been conducted.

B-Long-billed Curlew (Long-billed Curlew, Road-based, Point Count)	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2015
B-Raptor nest (Raptor Nest Survey)	Survey Count: 11	Obs Count: 11	Recent Survey: 2020
E-Eastern Heath Snail (Eastern Heath Snail Survey)	Survey Count: 1	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2012
E-Eurasian Water-milfoil Rake (Rake tows/pulls for Eurasian Water-milfoil)	Survey Count: 25	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2020
E-Invasive Mussel Plankton Tow (Plankton tows for veligers of Invasive Mussels)	Survey Count: 5	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2020
E-Kicknet (Kicknet Collection Survey for Invasive Mussels and Snails)	Survey Count: 7	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2020
E-Noxious Weed, Road-based (Noxious Weed Road-based Visual Surveys)	Survey Count: 16	Obs Count: 112	Recent Survey: 2003
E-Noxious Weed, Visual (Noxious Weed Visual Surveys)	Survey Count: 2	Obs Count: 21	Recent Survey: 2007
E-Visual Aquatic Invasives (Visual Encounter Surveys for Aquatic Invasives on Shorelines or Underwater)	Survey Count: 66	Obs Count: 54	Recent Survey: 2020
F-Fish Electrofishing (Fish Electrofishing Surveys)	Survey Count: 4	Obs Count: 12	Recent Survey: 1991
F-Fish Other Survey (Fish Other Survey (FWP Survey Type))	Survey Count: 15	Obs Count: 36	Recent Survey: 1986
I-Mosquito CDC Trap (Montana Mosquito Surveillance Project)	Survey Count: 12	Obs Count: 70	Recent Survey: 2006
I-Mussel (Stream Mussel Survey)	Survey Count: 1	Obs Count:	Recent Survey: 2009
M-Bat Roost (Active Season) (Bat Roost (Active Season) Survey)	Survey Count: 1	Obs Count: 1	Recent Survey: 2019
P-Algal scraping (Algal Scraping)	Survey Count: 1	Obs Count: 75	Recent Survey: 2000



Land Cover

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)





39% (*2,287* Acres)

Grassland Systems Montane Grassland

Rocky Mountain Lower Montane, Foothill, and Valley Grassland

This grassland system of the northern Rocky Mountains is found at lower montane to foothill elevations in mountains and valleys throughout Montana. These grasslands are floristically similar to Big Sagebrush Steppe but are defined by shorter summers, colder winters, and young soils derived from recent glacial and alluvial material. They are found at elevations from 548 - 1,650 meters (1,800-5,413 feet). In the lower montane zone, they range from small meadows to large open parks surrounded by conifers; below the lower treeline, they occur as extensive foothill and valley grasslands. Soils are relatively deep, fine-textured, often with coarse fragments, and non-saline. Microphytic crust may be present in high-quality occurrences. This system is typified by cool-season perennial bunch grasses and forbs (>25%) cover, with a sparse shrub cover (<10%). Rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*) is dominant in the northwestern portion of the state and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) is dominant or co-dominant throughout the range of the system. Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) occurs as a co-dominant throughout the range as well, especially on xeric sites. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) is consistently present, often with appreciable coverage (>10%) in lower elevation occurrences in western Montana and virtually always present, with relatively high coverages (>25%), on the edge of the Northwestern Great Plains region. Species diversity ranges from a high of more than 50 per 400 square meter plot on mesic sites to 15 (or fewer) on xeric and disturbed sites. Most occurrences have at least 25 vascular species present. Farmland conversion, noxious species invasion, fire suppression, heavy grazing and oil and gas development are major threats to this system.

No Image

Human Land Use Developed



Other Roads

14% (800 Acres) County, city and or rural roads generally open to motor vehicles.



Wetland and Riparian Systems Floodplain and Riparian

Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Riparian Woodland and Shrubland

This ecological system is found throughout the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau regions. In Montana, it ranges from approximately 945 to 2,042 meters (3,100 to 6,700 feet), characterristically occuring as a mosaic of multiple communities that are tree-dominated with a diverse shrub component. It is dependent on a natural hydrologic regime, especially annual to episodic flooding. Occurrences are found within the flood zone of rivers, on islands, sand or cobble bars, and on immediate streambanks. It can form large, wide occurrences on midchannel islands in larger rivers or narrow bands on small, rocky canyon tributaries and well-drained benches. It is also typically found in backwater channels and other perennially wet but less scoured sites, such as floodplains swales and irrigation ditches. In some locations, occurrences extend into moderately high intermountain basins where the adjacent vegetation is sage steppe. Dominant trees may include boxelder maple (Acer negundo), narrowleaf cottonwood (Populus angustifolia), Plains cottonwood (Populus deltoides), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), peachleaf willow (Salix amygdaloides), or Rocky Mountain juniper (Juniperus scopulorum). Dominant shrubs include Rocky Mountain maple (Acer glabrum), thinleaf alder (Alnus incana), river birch (Betula occidentalis), redoiser dogwood (Cornus sericea), hawthorne (Crataegus spp.), chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), skunkbush sumac (Rhus trilobata), Drummond's willow (Salix drummondiana), sandbar willow (Salix exigua), Pacific willow (Salix lucida), rose (Rosa species), silver buffaloberry (Shepherdia argentea), or snowberry (Symphoricarpos species). Exotic trees of Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) and saltcedar (Tamarix species) may invade some stands in southeastern and south-central Montana.



Acres)

Shrubland, Steppe and Savanna Systems Sagebrush Steppe

Big Sagebrush Steppe

This widespread ecological system occurs throughout much of central Montana, and north and east onto the western fringe of the Great Plains. In central Montana, where this system occurs on both glaciated and non-glaciated landscapes, it differs slightly, with more summer rain than winter precipitation and more precipitation annually. Throughout its distribution, soils are typically deep and non-saline, often with a microphytic crust. This shrub-steppe is dominated by perennial grasses and forbs with greater than 25% cover. Overall shrub cover is less than 10 percent. In Montana and Wyoming, stands are more mesic, with more biomass of grass, and have less shrub diversity than stands farther to the west, and 50 to 90% of the occurrences are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush with western wheatgrass (Pascopyrum smithii). Japanese brome (Bromus japonicus) and cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) are indicators of disturbance, but cheatgrassis typically not as abundant as in the Intermountain West, possibly due to a colder climate. The natural fire regime of this ecological system maintains a patchy distribution of shrubs, preserving the steppe character. Shrubs may increase following heavy grazing and/or with fire suppression. In central and eastern Montana, complexes of prairie dog towns are common in this ecological system.



Human Land Use Developed



5% (*278* Acres)

Includes areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20-50% of total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units in rural and suburban areas. Paved roadways may be classified into this category.

Human Land Use

Developed



Interstate

4% (247 Acres)

National Highway System (NHS) limited access highways and their shoulders and rights of way.

Human Land Use

Developed



4% (243 Acres)

Businesses, industrial parks, hospitals, airports; utilities in commercial/industrial areas.



Human Land Use Developed

4% (211

Developed, Open Space

Vegetation (primarily grasses) planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. This category often includes highway and railway rights of way and graveled rural roads.



Wetland and Riparian Systems

Open Water



Open Water

3% (162 Acres)

All areas of open water, generally with less than 25% cover of vegetation or soil



Grassland Systems Montane Grassland

2% (100 Acres)

Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Mesic Meadow

This system is restricted to sites from lower montane to subalpine elevations where finely textured soils, snow deposition, or windswept conditions limit tree establishment. Many occurrences are small patches, and are often found in mosaics within woodlands, dense shrublands, or just below alpine communities. Elevations range from 600 to 2,011 meters (2,000-6,600 feet) in the northern Rocky Mountains and up to 2,286- 2,682 meters (7,500-8,800 feet) in the mountains of southwestern Montana. This system occurs on gentle to moderate-gradient slopes and in relatively moist habitats. Soils are typically seasonally moist to saturated in the spring, but dry out later in the growing season. At montane elevations, soils are usually clays or silt loams, and some occurrences may have inclusions of hydric soils in low, depressional areas. At subalpine elevations, soils are derived a variety of parent materials, and are usually rocky or gravelly with good aeration and drainage, but with a well developed organic layer. Some occurrences are more heavily dominated by grasses, while others are more dominated by forbs. Common grasses include tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia caespitosa), showy oniongrass (Melica spectabilis), mountain brome (Bromus carinatus), blue wildrye (Elymus glaucus), awned sedge (Carex atherodes), and small wing sedge (Carex microptera). Forb dominated meadows usually comprise a wide species diversity which differs from montane to subalpine elevations. Shrubs such as shrubby cinquefoil (Dasiphora fruticosa ssp. floribunda) and snowberry (Symphoricarpos species) are occasional but not abundant. This system differs from the Rocky Mountain Alpine Montane Wet Meadow system in that it soils dry out by mid-summer.

Additional Limited Land Cover

1% (78 Acres) Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie

1% (77 Acres) Montane Sagebrush Steppe

1% (76 Acres) Cultivated Crops

1% (67 Acres) Major Roads

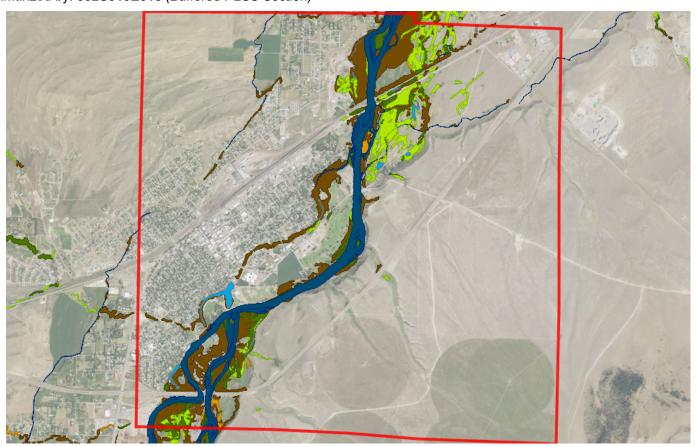
1% (65 Acres)	High Intensity Residential
1% (51 Acres)	Railroad
<1% (18 Acres)	Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland
<1% (18 Acres)	Introduced Riparian and Wetland Vegetation
<1% (7 Acres)	Rocky Mountain Montane-Foothill Deciduous Shrubland
<1% (6 Acres)	Great Plains Saline Depression Wetland
<1% (5 Acres)	Introduced Upland Vegetation - Annual and Biennial Forbland
<1% (4 Acres)	Great Plains Shrubland
<1% (4 Acres)	Aspen Forest and Woodland
<1% (2 Acres)	Rocky Mountain Foothill Limber Pine - Juniper Woodland
<1% (2 Acres)	Great Plains Floodplain
<1% (1 Acres)	Great Plains Wooded Draw and Ravine
<1% (1 Acres)	Low Sagebrush Shrubland
<1% (1 Acres)	Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow
<1% (0 Acres)	Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland



45.63911 -110.50850 45.68513 -110.57141

Wetland and Riparian

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)



Wetland and Riparian Mapping

P - Palustrine

AB - Aquatic Bed		
F - Semipermanently Flooded		11 Acres
(no modifier)	7 Acres	PABF
h - Diked/Impounded	4 Acres	PABFh
G - Intermittently Exposed		8 Acres
h - Diked/Impounded	8 Acres	PABGh
K - Artificially Flooded		<1 Acres
x - Excavated		DADIC
A - LACAVALEU	<1 Acres	PABKX

P - Palustrine, AB - Aquatic BedWetlands with vegetation growing on or below the water

surface for most of the growing season.

EM - Emergent

A - Temporarily Flooded		95 Acres
(no modifier)	95 Acres	PEMA
C - Seasonally Flooded		9 Acres
(no modifier)	9 Acres	PEMC

P - Palustrine, EM - Emergent Wetlands with erect, rooted herbaceous vegetation present during most of the growing season.

SS - Scrub-Shrub

A - Temporarily Flooded	53 Acres
(no modifier)	53 Acres PSSA
C - Seasonally Flooded	2 Acres
(no modifier)	2 Acres PSSC

P - Palustrine, SS - Scrub-Shrub

Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. Woody vegetation includes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to environmental conditions.

R - Riverine (Rivers)

3 - Upper Perennial

(no modifier)	162 Acres R3UBH
H - Permanently Flooded	162 Acres
■ UB - Unconsolidated Bottom	

R - Riverine (Rivers), 3 - Upper Perennial, UB -**Unconsolidated Bottom**

Stream channels where the substrate is at least 25% mud, silt or other fine particles.

US - Unconsolidated Shore

A - Temporarily Flooded 29 Acres 29 Acres R3USA (no modifier)

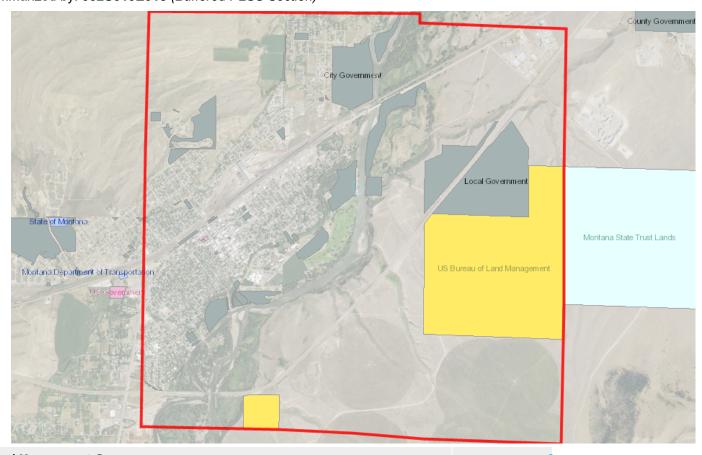
R - Riverine (Rivers), 3 - Upper Perennial, US -

Unconsolidated Shore
Shorelines with less than 75% areal cover of stones, boulders, or bedrock and less than 30% vegetation cover. The area is

C - Seasonally Flooded 1		.8 Acres	also irregularly exposed due to seasonal or irregular flooding
(no modifier)	18 Acres R	R3USC	and subsequent drying.
4 - Intermittent			
SB - Stream Bed			R - Riverine (Rivers), 4 - Intermittent, SB - Stream Bed Active channel that contains periodic water flow.
C - Seasonally Floode	d	4 Acres	Active channel that contains periodic water now.
x - Excavated	vated 4 Acres R4SBCx		
Du Dinavian			
Rp - Riparian 1 - Lotic			
•	10 Acres Rp1Ss	s Th tha inc	- Riparian, 1 - Lotic, SS - Scrub-Shrub is type of riparian area is dominated by woody vegetation at is less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. Woody vegetation cludes tree saplings and trees that are stunted due to vironmental conditions.

Land Management

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)



Land Management Summary			Explain 🗹	
	Ownership	Tribal	Easements	Other Boundaries (possible overlap)
🛚 🗀 Public Lands	1,186 Acres (20%)			
🗉 🧀 Federal	667 Acres (11%)			
🗄 🗀 US Bureau of Land Management	666 Acres (11%)			
BLM Owned	666 Acres (11%)			
■	1 Acres (<1%)			
US Government Owned	1 Acres (<1%)			
⊞ 🛅 State	2 Acres (<1%)			
🗉 🗀 Montana State Trust Lands	2 Acres (<1%)			
MT State Trust Owned	2 Acres (<1%)			
🗉 🧀 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks				
■				3 Acres
Mayor's Landing Fishing Access Site				3 Acres
■	517 Acres (9%)			
■ Docal Government	517 Acres (9%)			
Local Government Owned	517 Acres (9%)			



Biological Reports

Summarized by: 002S010E018 (Buffered PLSS Section)

Within the report area you have requested, citations for all reports and publications associated with plant or animal observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) databases are listed and, where possible, links to the documents are included.

The MTNHP plans to include reports associated with terrestrial and aquatic communities in the future as allowed for by staff resources. If you know of reports or publications associated with species or biological communities within the report area that are not shown in this report, please let us know: mtnhp@mt.gov

- Dubovsky, James. 2004. Trumpeter Swan Survey of the Rocky Mountain Population, U.S. Breeding Segment Fall 2004. USFWS Migratory Birds and State Programs.
 Mountain-Prairie Region. Lakewood, CO.
- Dubovsky, James. 2005. Trumpeter Swan Survey of the Rocky Mountain Population, U.S. Breeding Segment Fall 2005. USFWS Migratory Birds and State Programs.
 Mountain-Prairie Region, Lakewood, CO.
- Dubovsky, Jim. 2002. Trumpeter Swan Survey of the Rocky Mountain Population Fall 2002. US Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region. Lakewood, CO. 28 pages including appendices plus errata.
- Dubovsky, Jim. 2003. Trumpeter Swan Survey of the Rocky Mountain Population, US Breeding segment Fall 2003. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region.
 Lakewood CO. 28 pages including appendices.
- Fuller, Pam and A. Benson. U.S. Department of the Interior. USGS NAS: **Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database**. 2017. Accessed 10 October 2017. https://nas.er.usqs.qov/
- Gomez, Daniel. 1995. 1995 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. USFWS Lakeview, Montana. 10pp.
- Gomez, Daniel. 1996. 1996 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. US Fish and Wildlife Service Lakeview, Montana. 24 pp.
- Gomez, Daniel. 1997. Trumpeter swan survey of the Rocky Mountain population/U.S. flocks, Fall 1997. Unpublished report from the Red Rock Lakes NWR.
- Gomez, Daniel. 1998. Trumpeter swan survey of the Rocky Mountain population/U.S. flocks, fall 1998. Red Rock Lakes NWR.
- Gomez, Daniel. 1999. 1999 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Lakeview, MT.
- Gomez, Daniel. 1999. Trumpeter swan survey of the Rocky Mountain population/U.S. flocks, fall 1999. Red Rock Lakes NWR.
- Olson, Dave. 2001. 2001 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Lakeview, MT.
- Olson, Dave. 2001. Trumpeter swan survey of the Rocky Mountain population Fall 2001. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Lakeview,
 MT. 7 pp. plus appendices.
- Olson, Dave. 2002. 2002 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Lakeview, MT.
- Reed, Tom and Daniel Gomez. 2000. 2000 mid-winter survey Rocky Mountain population trumpeter swans. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Lakeview, MT.
- Reed, Tom. 2000. Trumpeter Swan Survey of the US sub-population of the Rocky Mountain population Fall 2000. US Fish and Wildlife Service. Red Rock Lakes NWR.
 Lakeview, MT. 15pp.
- Regele, Deb. 2020. Email with tabular data detailing nesting records for osprey on the Yellowstone River. 30 November 2020.
- Tobalske, Claudine and Linda Vance. 2017. Predicting the distribution of Russian Olive stands in eastern Montana valley bottoms using NAIP imagery. Report to the US EPA. Montana Natural Heritage Program. Helena, MT. 40pp.







Num Obs Count of obs with 'good precision (<=1000m) + indicates additional 'poor

precision' obs (1001m-

10,000m)



Not Assigned

Invasive and Pest Species

Summarized by: **002S010E018** (Buffered PLSS Section)







Introduction to Montana Natural Heritage Program





P.O. Box 201800 • 1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • phone 406.444.5363 • mtnhp.org

Introduction

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is Montana's source for reliable and objective information on Montana's native species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern. MTNHP was created by the Montana legislature in 1983 as part of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) at the Montana State Library (MSL). MTNHP is "a program of information acquisition, storage, and retrieval for data relating to the flora, fauna, and biological community types of Montana" (MCA 90-15-102). MTNHP's activities are guided by statute as well as through ongoing interaction with, and feedback from, principal data source agencies such as Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana University System, the US Forest Service, and the US Bureau of Land Management. Since the first staff was hired in 1985, the Program has logged a long record of success, and developed into a highly respected, service-oriented program. MTNHP is widely recognized as one of the most advanced and effective of over 80 natural heritage programs throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Vision

Our vision is that public agencies, the private sector, the education sector, and the general public will trust and rely upon MTNHP as the source for information and expertise on Montana's species and habitats, especially those of conservation concern. We strive to provide easy access to our information in order for users to save time and money, speed environmental reviews, and inform decision making.

Core Values

- We endeavor to be a single statewide source of accurate and up-to-date information on Montana's plants, animals, and aquatic and terrestrial biological communities.
- We actively listen to our data users and work responsively to meet their information and training needs.
- We strive to provide neutral, trusted, timely, and equitable service to all of our information users.
- We make every effort to be transparent to our data users in setting work priorities and providing data products.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information requests made to the Montana Natural Heritage Program are considered library records and are protected from disclosure by the Montana Library Records Confidentiality Act (MCA 22-1-11).

INFORMATION MANAGED

Information managed at the Montana Natural Heritage Program is botanical, zoological, and ecological information that describes the distribution (e.g., observations, structured surveys, range polygons, predicted habitat suitability models), conservation status (e.g., global and state conservation status ranks, including threats), and other supporting information (e.g., accounts and references) on the biology and ecology of species and biological communities.

Data Use Terms and Conditions

- Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) products and services are based on biological data and the objective
 interpretation of those data by professional scientists. MTNHP does not advocate any particular philosophy of natural
 resource protection, management, development, or public policy.
- MTNHP has no natural resource management or regulatory authority. Products, statements, and services from
 MTNHP are intended to inform parties as to the state of scientific knowledge about certain natural resources, and to
 further develop that knowledge. The information is not intended as natural resource management guidelines or
 prescriptions or a determination of environmental impacts. MTNHP recommends consultation with appropriate
 state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies and authorities in the area where your project is located.
- Information on the status and spatial distribution of biological resources produced by MTNHP are intended to inform parties of the state-wide status, known occurrence, or the likelihood of the presence of those resources. These products are not intended to substitute for field-collected data, nor are they intended to be the sole basis for natural resource management decisions.
- MTNHP does not portray its data as exhaustive or comprehensive inventories of rare species or biological
 communities. Field verification of the absence or presence of sensitive species and biological communities will
 always be an important obligation of users of our data.
- MTNHP responds equally to all requests for products and services, regardless of the purpose or identity of the requester.
- Because MTNHP constantly updates and revises its databases with new data and information, products will become
 outdated over time. Interested parties are encouraged to obtain the most current information possible from MTNHP,
 rather than using older products. We add, review, update, and delete records on a daily basis. Consequently, we
 strongly advise that you update your MTNHP data sets at a minimum of every four months for most applications of
 our information.
- MTNHP data require a certain degree of biological expertise for proper analysis, interpretation, and application. Our staff is available to advise you on questions regarding the interpretation or appropriate use of the data that we provide. See Contact Information for MTNHP Staff
- The information provided to you by MTNHP may include sensitive data that if publicly released might jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or biological communities. This information is intended for distribution or use only within your department, agency, or business. Subcontractors may have access to the data during the course of any given project, but should not be given a copy for their use on subsequent, unrelated work.
- MTNHP data are made freely available. Duplication of hard-copy or digital MTNHP products with the intent to sell is
 prohibited without written consent by MTNHP. Should you be asked by individuals outside your organization for the
 type of data that we provide, please refer them to MTNHP.
- MTNHP and appropriate staff members should be appropriately acknowledged as an information source in any thirdparty product involving MTNHP data, reports, papers, publications, or in maps that incorporate MTNHP graphic elements.
- Sources of our data include museum specimens, published and unpublished scientific literature, field surveys by state
 and federal agencies and private contractors, and reports from knowledgeable individuals. MTNHP actively solicits
 and encourages additions, corrections and updates, new observations or collections, and comments on any of the
 data we provide.
- MTNHP staff and contractors do not enter or cross privately-owned lands without express permission from the landowner. However, the program cannot guarantee that information provided to us by others was obtained under adherence to this policy.

Suggested Contacts for Natural Resource Management Agencies

As required by Montana statute (MCA 90-15), the Montana Natural Heritage Program works with state, federal, tribal, nongovernmental organizations, and private partners to ensure that the latest animal and plant distribution and status information is incorporated into our databases so that it can be used to inform a variety of permitting and planning processes and management decisions. We encourage you to contact state, federal, and tribal resource management agencies in the area where your project is located and review the permitting overviews by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Index of Environmental Permits for Montana for guidelines relevant to your efforts. In particular, we encourage you to contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for the latest data and management information regarding hunted and high-profile management species and to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information Planning and Consultation (IPAC) website regarding U.S. Endangered Species Act listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species.

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of relevant agency contacts and links below:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Fish Species	Zachary Shattuck zshattuck@mt.gov (406) 444-1231					
	or					
	Eric Roberts eroberts@mt.gov (406) 444-5334					
American Bison						
Black-footed Ferret						
Black-tailed Prairie Dog						
Bald Eagle						
Golden Eagle	Kristian Smucker KSmucker@mt.gov (406) 444-5209					
Common Loon						
Least Tern						
Piping Plover						
Whooping Crane						
Grizzly Bear						
Greater Sage Grouse						
Trumpeter Swan	Brian Wakeling Brian. Wakeling@mt.gov (406) 444-3940					
Big Game						
Upland Game Birds						
Furbearers						
Managed Terrestrial Game	Smith Wells – MFWP Data Analyst smith.wells@mt.gov (406) 444-3759					
and Nongame Animal Data						
Fisheries Data	Ryan Alger – MFWP Data Analyst ryan.alger@mt.gov (406) 444-5365					
Wildlife and Fisheries	https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/commercialwildlifeandscientificpermits/scientific					
Scientific Collector's	Kammi McClain for Wildlife Kammi.McClain@mt.gov (406) 444-2612					
Permits	Kim Wedde for Fisheries kim.wedde@mt.gov (406) 444-5594					
Fish and Wildlife	Charlie Sperry CSperry@mt.gov (406) 444-3888					
Recommendations for	See https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/living-with-wildlife/subdivision-recommendations					
Subdivision Development						
Regional Contacts	Region 1	(Kalispell)	(406) 752-5501	fwprg12@mt.gov		
1 4 6	Region 2	(Missoula)	(406) 542-5500	fwprg22@mt.gov		
	Region 3	(Bozeman)	(406) 577-7900	fwprg3@mt.gov		
	Region 4	(Great Falls)	(406) 454-5840	fwprg42@mt.gov		
5 7	Region 5	(Billings)	(406) 247-2940	fwprg52@mt.gov		
3	Region 6	(Glasgow)	(406) 228-3700	fwprg62@mt.gov		
The same of	Region 7	(Miles City)	(406) 234-0900	fwprg72@mt.gov		

Montana Department of Agriculture

General Contact Information: https://agr.mt.gov/About/Office-Locations/Office-Locations-and-Field-Offices

Noxious Weeds: https://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Permitting and Operator Assistance for all Environmental Permits: https://deq.mt.gov/Permitting

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Overview of, and contacts for, licenses and permits for state lands, water, and forested lands: http://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits

Stream Permitting (310 permits) and an overview of various water and stream related permits (e.g., Stream Protection Act 124, Federal Clean Water Act 404, Federal Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10, Short-term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity 318 Authorization, etc.).

http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/the-310-law

Flood and Fire Resources: http://dnrc.mt.gov/flood-and-fire

Bureau of Land Management



Billings	(406) 896-5013
Butte	(406) 533-7600
Dillon	(406) 683-8000
Glasgow	(406) 228-3750
Havre	(406) 262-2820
Lewistown	(406) 538-1900
Malta	(406) 654-5100
Miles City	(406) 233-2800
Missoula	(406) 329-3914

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Montana Regulatory Office for federal permits related to construction in water and wetlands https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Montana/ (406) 441-1375

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental information, notices, permitting, and contacts https://www.epa.gov/mt Gateway to state resource locators https://www.envcap.org/srl/index.php

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

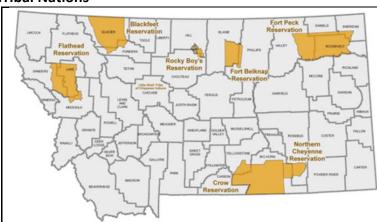
Information Planning and Conservation (IPAC) website: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

Montana Ecological Services Field Office: https://www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/ (406) 449-5225

United States Forest Service

Regional Office – Missoula, Montana Contacts					
Wildlife Program Leader	Tammy Fletcher	tammy.fletcher2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3086		
Wildlife Ecologist	Cara Staab	cara.staab@usda.gov	(406) 329-3677		
Fish Program Leader	Scott Spaulding	scott.spaulding@usda.gov	(406) 329-3287		
Fish Ecologist	Cameron Thomas	cameron.thomas@usda.gov	(406) 329-3087		
TES Program	Lydia Allen	lydia.allen@usda.gov	(406) 329-3558		
Interagency Grizzly Bear Coordinator	Scott Jackson	scott.jackson@usda.gov	(406) 329-3664		
Acting Regional Botanist	Amanda Hendrix	amanda.hendrix@usda.gov	(651) 447-3016		
Regional Vegetation Ecologist	Mary Manning	marry.manning@usda.gov	(406) 329-3304		
Invasive Species Program Manager	Michelle Cox	michelle.cox2@usda.gov	(406) 329-3669		

Tribal Nations



Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes – Fort Belknap Reservation

Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes – Fort Peck Reservation

Blackfeet Tribe - Blackfeet Reservation

Chippewa Creek Tribe - Rocky Boy's Reservation

Crow Tribe – Crow Reservation

Little Shell Chippewa Tribe

Northern Cheyenne Tribe – Northern Cheyenne Reservation

Salish & Kootenai Tribes - Flathead Reservation

Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers in Surrounding States and Provinces

Alberta Conservation Information Management System

British Columbia Conservation Data Centre

Idaho Natural Heritage Program

North Dakota Natural Heritage Program

Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre

South Dakota Natural Heritage Program

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database

Invasive Species Management Contacts and Information

Aquatic Invasive Species

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Aquatic Invasive Species staff

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program

Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC)

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3)

Noxious Weeds

Montana Weed Control Association Contacts Webpage

Montana Biological Weed Control Coordination Project

Montana Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weeds

Montana Weed Control Association

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - Noxious Weeds

Montana State University Integrated Pest Management Extension

Integrated Noxious Weed Management after Wildfires

Fire Management and Invasive Plants

Introduction to Native Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: (1) Species Occurrences (SO) for plant and animal Species of Concern, Special Status Species (SSS), Important Animal Habitat (IAH) and some Potential Plant Species of Concern; (2) other observed non Species of Concern or Species of Concern without suitable documentation to create Species Occurrence polygons; and (3) other non-documented species that are potentially present based on their range, predicted suitable habitat model output, or presence of associated habitats. Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of Species Occurrences and associated delineation criteria for construction of these polygons that have long been used for considerations of documented Species of Concern in environmental reviews; (2) the number of observations of each species; (3) the geographic range polygons for each species that the report area overlaps; (4) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (5) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the Montana Field Guide; and (6) a variety of conservation status ranks and links to species accounts in the Montana Field Guide. Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers below or are defined on our Species Status Codes page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document native and introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are restricted by budgets, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species and biological communities will always be an important obligation of users of our data.

If you are aware of observation datasets that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov. If you have animal observations that you would like to contribute, you can submit them to our Animal Observation Entry Tool You can also submit plant and animal observations via Excel spreadsheets posted at https://mtnhp.org/observations.asp or via the Montana Natural Heritage Observations project in iNaturalist

Observations

The MTNHP manages information on several million animal and plant observations that have been reported by professional biologists and private citizens from across Montana. The majority of these observations are submitted in digital format from standardized databases associated with research or monitoring efforts and spreadsheets of incidental observations submitted by professional biologists and amateur naturalists. At a minimum, accepted observation records must contain a credible species identification (i.e. appropriate geographic range, date, and habitat and, if species are difficult to identify, a photograph and/or notes on key identifying features), a date or date range, observer name, locational information (ideally with latitude and longitude in decimal degrees), notes on numbers observed, and species behavior or habitat use (e.g., is the observation likely associated with reproduction). Bird records are also required to have information associated with date-appropriate breeding or overwintering status of the species observed. MTNHP reviews observation records to ensure that they are mapped correctly, occur within date ranges when the species is known to be present or detectable, occur within the known seasonal geographic range of the species, and occur in appropriate habitats. MTNHP also assigns each record a locational uncertainty value in meters to indicate the spatial precision associated with the record's mapped coordinates. Only records with locational uncertainty values of 10,000 meters or less are included in environmental summary reports and number summaries are only provided for records with locational uncertainty values of 1,000 meters or less.

Species Occurrences

The MTNHP evaluates plant and animal observation records for species of higher conservation concern to determine whether they are worthy of inclusion in the <u>Species Occurrence</u> (SO) layer for use in environmental reviews; observations not worthy of inclusion in this layer include long distance dispersal events, migrants observed away from key migratory stopover habitats, and winter observations. An SO is a polygon depicting what is known about a species occupancy from direct observation with a defined level of locational uncertainty and any inference that can be made about adjacent habitat use from the latest peer-reviewed science. If an observation can be associated with a map feature that can be tracked (e.g., a wetland boundary for a wetland associated plant) then this polygon feature is used to represent the SO. Areas that can be inferred as probable occupied habitat based on direct observation of a species location and what is known about the foraging area or home range size of the species may be incorporated into the SO. Species Occurrences generally belong to one of the following categories:

Plant Species Occurrences

A documented location of a specimen collection or observed plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and their spatial proximity likely allows them to interbreed). Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Plant SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Potential Species of Concern.

Animal Species Occurrences

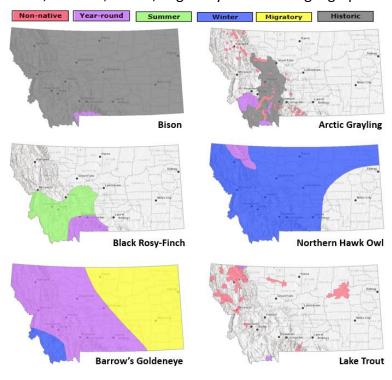
The location of a verified observation or specimen record typically known or assumed to represent a breeding population or a portion of a breeding population. Animal SO's are generally: (1) buffers of terrestrial point observations based on documented species' home range sizes; (2) buffers of stream segments to encompass occupied streams and immediate adjacent riparian habitats; (3) polygonal features encompassing known or likely breeding populations (e.g., a wetland for some amphibians or a forested portion of a mountain range for some wide ranging carnivores); or (4) combinations of the above. Tabular information for multiple observations at the same SO location is generally linked to a single polygon. Species Occurrence polygons may encompass some unsuitable habitat in some instances in order to avoid heavy data processing associated with clipping out habitats that are readily assessed as unsuitable by the data user (e.g., a point buffer of a terrestrial species may overlap into a portion of a lake that is obviously inappropriate habitat for the species). Animal SO's are only created for Species of Concern and Special Status Species (e.g., Bald Eagle).

Other Occurrence Polygons

These include significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as Important Animal Habitats like bird rookeries and bat roosts, and peatlands or other wetland and riparian communities that support diverse plant and animal communities.

Geographic Range Polygons

Geographic range polygons are still under development for most plant and invertebrate species. Native year-round, summer, winter, migratory and historic geographic range polygons as well as polygons for introduced



populations have been defined for most vertebrate animal species for which there are enough observations, surveys, and knowledge of appropriate seasonal habitat use to define them (see examples to left). These native or introduced range polygons bound the extent of known or likely occupied habitats for non-migratory and relative sedentary species and the regular extent of known or likely occupied habitats for migratory and long-distance dispersing species; polygons may include unsuitable intervening habitats. For most species, a single polygon can represent the year-round or seasonal range, but breeding ranges of some colonial nesting water birds and some introduced species are represented more patchily when supported by data. Some ranges are mapped more broadly than actual distributions in order to be visible on statewide maps (e.g., fish).

Predicted Suitable Habitat Models

Predicted habitat suitability models have been created for plant and animal Species of Concern and are undergoing development for non-Species of Concern. For species for which models have been completed, the environmental summary report includes simple rule-based associations with streams for aquatic species and seasonal habitats for game species as well as mathematically complex Maximum Entropy models (Phillips et al. 2006, Ecological Modeling 190:231-259) constructed from a variety of statewide biotic and abiotic layers and presence only data for individual species for most terrestrial species. For the Maximum Entropy models, we reclassified 90 x 90-meter continuous model output into suitability classes (unsuitable, low, moderate, and optimal) then aggregated that into the one square mile hexagons used in the environmental summary report; this is the finest spatial scale we suggest using this information in management decisions and survey planning. Full model write ups for individual species that discuss model goals, inputs, outputs, and evaluation in much greater detail are posted on the MTNHP's Predicted Suitable Habitat Models webpage. Evaluations of predictive accuracy and specific limitations are included with the metadata for models of individual species. Model outputs should not be used in place of on-the-ground surveys for species. Instead model outputs should be used in conjunction with habitat evaluations to determine the need for on-the-ground surveys for species. We suggest that the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of commonly associated habitats to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning.

Associated Habitats

Within the boundary of the intersected hexagons, we provide the approximate percentage of commonly or occasionally associated habitat for vertebrate animal species that regularly breed, overwinter, or migrate through the state; a detailed list of commonly and occasionally associated habitats is provided in individual species accounts in the Montana Field Guide We assigned common or occasional use of each of the ecological

systems mapped in Montana by: (1) using personal knowledge and reviewing literature that summarizes the breeding, overwintering, or migratory habitat requirements of each species; (2) evaluating structural characteristics and distribution of each ecological system relative to the species' range and habitat requirements; (3) examining the observation records for each species in the state-wide point observation database associated with each ecological system; and (4) calculating the percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system to get a measure of numbers of observations versus availability of habitat. Species that breed in Montana were only evaluated for breeding habitat use, species that only overwinter in Montana were only evaluated for overwintering habitat use, and species that only migrate through Montana were only evaluated for migratory habitat use. In general, species were listed as associated with an ecological system if structural characteristics of used habitat documented in the literature were present in the ecological system or large numbers of point observations were associated with the ecological system. However, species were not listed as associated with an ecological system if there was no support in the literature for use of structural characteristics in an ecological system, even if point observations were associated with that system. Common versus occasional association with an ecological system was assigned based on the degree to which the structural characteristics of an ecological system matched the preferred structural habitat characteristics for each species as represented in the scientific literature. The percentage of observations associated with each ecological system relative to the percent of Montana covered by each ecological system was also used to guide assignment of common versus occasional association.

We suggest that the percentage of commonly associated habitat within the report area be used in conjunction with geographic range polygons and the percentage of predicted optimal and moderate suitable habitat from predictive models to generate lists of potential species that may occupy broader landscapes for the purposes of landscape-level planning. Users of this information should be aware that land cover mapping accuracy is particularly problematic when the systems occur as small patches or where the land cover types have been altered over the past decade. Thus, particular caution should be used when using the associations in assessments of smaller areas (e.g., evaluations of public land survey sections).

Introduction to Land Cover

Land Use/Land Cover is one of 15 Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The layer records all Montana natural vegetation, land cover and land use, classified from satellite and aerial imagery, mapped at a scale of 1:100,000, and interpreted with supporting ground-level data. The baseline map is adapted from the Northwest ReGAP (NWGAP) project land cover classification, which used 30m resolution multi-spectral Landsat imagery acquired between 1999 and 2001. Vegetation classes were drawn from the Ecological System Classification developed by NatureServe (Comer et al. 2003). The land cover classes were developed by Anderson et al. (1976). The NWGAP effort encompasses 12 map zones. Montana overlaps seven of these zones. The two NWGAP teams responsible for the initial land cover mapping effort in Montana were Sanborn and NWGAP at the University of Idaho. Both Sanborn and NWGAP employed a similar modeling approach in which Classification and Regression Tree (CART) models were applied to Landsat ETM+ scenes. The Spatial Analysis Lab within the Montana Natural Heritage Program was responsible for developing a seamless Montana land cover map with a consistent statewide legend from these two separate products. Additionally, the Montana land cover layer incorporates several other land cover and land use products (e.g., MSDI Structures and Transportation themes and the Montana Department of Revenue Final Land Unit classification) and reclassifications based on plot-level data and the latest NAIP imagery to improve accuracy and enhance the usability of the theme. Updates are done as partner support and funding allow, or when other MSDI datasets can be incorporated. Recent updates include fire perimeters and agricultural land use (annually), energy developments such as wind, oil and gas installations (2014), roads, structures and other impervious surfaces (various years): and local updates/improvements to specific ecological systems (e.g., central Montana grassland and sagebrush ecosystems). Current and previous versions of the Land Use/Land Cover layer with full metadata are available for download at the Montana State Library's Geographic Information Clearinghouse

Within the report area you have requested, land cover is summarized by acres of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Ecological Systems.

Literature Cited

Anderson, J.R. E.E. Hardy, J.T. Roach, and R.E. Witmer. 1976. A land use and land cover classification system for use with remote sensor data. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 964.

Comer, P., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Evans, S. Gawler, C. Josse, G. Kittel, S. Menard, M. Pyne, M. Reid, K. Schulz, K. Snow, and J. Teague. 2003. Ecological systems of the United States: A working classification of U.S. terrestrial systems. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.

Introduction to Wetland and Riparian

Within the report area you have requested, wetland and riparian mapping is summarized by acres of each classification present. Summaries are only provided for modern MTNHP wetland and riparian mapping and not for outdated (NWI Legacy) or incomplete (NWI Scalable) mapping efforts; described here. MTNHP has made all three of these datasets and associated metadata available for separate download on the Montana Wetland and Riparian Framework web page.

Wetland and Riparian mapping is one of 15 <u>Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure</u> framework layers considered vital for making statewide maps of Montana and understanding its geography. The wetland and riparian framework layer consists of spatial data representing the extent, type, and approximate location of wetlands, riparian areas, and deep water habitats in Montana.

Wetland and riparian mapping is completed through photointerpretation of 1-m resolution color infrared aerial imagery acquired from 2005 or later. A coding convention using letters and numbers is assigned to each mapped wetland. These letters and numbers describe the broad landscape context of the wetland, its vegetation type, its water regime, and the kind of alterations that may have occurred. Ancillary data layers such as topographic maps, digital elevation models, soils data, and other aerial imagery sources are also used to improve mapping accuracy. Wetland mapping follows the federal Wetland Mapping Standard and classifies wetlands according to the Cowardin classification system of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (Cowardin et al. 1979, FGDC Wetlands Subcommittee 2013). Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands differently than the NWI. Similar coding, based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conventions, is applied to riparian areas (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). These are mapped areas where vegetation composition and growth is influenced by nearby water bodies, but where soils, plant communities, and hydrology do not display true wetland characteristics. These data are intended for use at a scale of 1:12,000 or smaller. Mapped wetland and riparian areas do not represent precise boundaries and digital wetland data cannot substitute for an on-site determination of jurisdictional wetlands.

See a detailed overview, with examples, of both <u>wetland and riparian classification systems and associated</u> <u>codes</u>

Literature Cited

- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79/31. Washington, D.C. 103pp.
- Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2013. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. FGDC-STD-004-2013. Second Edition. Wetlands Subcommittee, Federal Geographic Data Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. 2009. A system for mapping riparian areas in the western United States. Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Branch of Resource and Mapping Support, Arlington, Virginia.

Introduction to Land Management

Within the report area you have requested, land management information is summarized by acres of federal, state, and local government lands, tribal reservation boundaries, private conservation lands, and federal, state, local, and private conservation easements. Acreage for "Owned", "Tribal", or "Easement" categories represents non-overlapping areas that may be totaled. However, "Other Boundaries" represents managed areas such as National Forest boundaries containing private inholdings and other mixed ownership which may cause boundaries to overlap (e.g. a wilderness area within a forest). Therefore, acreages may not total in a straight-forward manner.

Because information on land stewardship is critical to effective land management, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) began compiling ownership and management data in 1997. The goal of the Montana Land Management Database is to manage a single, statewide digital data set that incorporates information from both public and private entities. The database assembles information on public lands, private conservation lands, and conservation easements held by state and federal agencies and land trusts and is updated on a regular basis. Since 2011, the Information Management group in the Montana State Library's Digital Library Division has led the Montana Land Management Database in partnership with the MTNHP.

Public and private conservation land polygons are attributed with the name of the entity that owns it. The data are derived from the statewide Montana Cadastral Parcel layer Conservation easement data shows land parcels on which a public agency or qualified land trust has placed a conservation easement in cooperation with the land owner. The dataset contains no information about ownership or status of the mineral estate. For questions about the dataset or to report errors, please contact the Montana Natural Heritage Program at (406) 444-5363 or mthp@mt.gov. You can download various components of the Land Management Database and view associated metadata at the Montana State Library's GIS Data List at the following links:

Public Lands
Conservation Easements
Private Conservation Lands
Managed Areas

Map features in the Montana Land Management Database or summaries provided in this report are not intended as a legal depiction of public or private surface land ownership boundaries and should not be used in place of a survey conducted by a licensed land surveyor. Similarly, map features do not imply public access to any lands. The Montana Natural Heritage Program makes no representations or warranties whatsoever with respect to the accuracy or completeness of this data and assumes no responsibility for the suitability of the data for a particular purpose. The Montana Natural Heritage Program will not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of errors displayed here. Consumers of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the viability of the information for their purposes.

Introduction to Invasive and Pest Species

Within the report area you have requested, separate summaries are provided for: Aquatic Invasive Species, Noxious Weeds, Agricultural Pests, Forest Pests, and Biocontrol species that have been documented or potentially occur there based on the predicted suitability of habitat. Definitions for each of these invasive and pest species categories can be found on our Species Status Codes page.

Each of these summaries provides the following information when present for a species: (1) the number of observations of each species; (2) the geographic range polygons for each species, if developed, that the report area overlaps; (3) predicted relative habitat suitability classes that are present if a predicted suitable habitat model has been created; (4) the percent of the report area that is mapped as commonly associated or occasionally associated habitat as listed for each species in the Montana Field Guide; and (5) links to species accounts in the Montana Field Guide. Details on each of these information categories are included under relevant section headers under the Introduction to Native Species above or are defined on our Species Status Codes page. In presenting this information, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is working towards assisting the user with rapidly determining what invasive and pest species have been documented and what species are potentially present in the report area. We remind users that this information is likely incomplete as surveys to document introduced species are lacking in many areas of the state, information on introduced species has only been tracked relatively recently, the MTNHP's staff and resources are limited, and information is constantly being added and updated in our databases. Thus, field verification by professional biologists of the absence or presence of species will always be an important obligation of users of our data.

If you are aware of observation or survey datasets for invasive or pest species that the MTNHP is missing, please report them to the Program Coordinator bmaxell@mt.gov Program Botanist apipp@mt.gov or Senior Zoologist dbachen@mt.gov. If you have observations that you would like to contribute, you can submit animal observations using our online data entry system at mtnhp.org/AddObs or via Excel spreadsheets posted at mtnhp.org/observations.asp

Additional Information Resources

MTNHP Staff	Contact	Information
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Montana Field Guide

MTNHP Species of Concern Report - Animals and Plants

MTNHP Species Status Codes - Explanation

MTNHP Predicted Suitable Habitat Models (for select Animals and Plants)

MTNHP Request Information page

Montana Cadastral

Montana Code Annotated

Montana Fisheries Information System

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Subdivision Recommendations

Montana GIS Data Layers

Montana GIS Data Bundler

Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Project Submittal Site

Montana Ground Water Information Center

Montana Index of Environmental Permits, 21st Edition (2018)

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

Montana Environmental Policy Act Analysis Resource List

Laws, Treaties, Regulations, and Agreements on Animals and Plants

Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure Layers

Montana State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance

Montana Stream Permitting: a guide for conservation district supervisors and others

Montana Water Information System

Montana Web Map Services

National Environmental Policy Act

Penalties for Misuse of Fish and Wildlife Location Data (MCA 87-6-222)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (Section 7 Consultation)

Web Soil Survey Tool