
**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT: YEAR 2004**

*Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*



Prepared for:

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2701 Prospect Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Prepared by:

LAND & WATER CONSULTING
~ A DIVISION OF **PBS&J**
P.O. Box 239
Helena, MT 59624

June 2005

Project No: B43054.00 - 0512



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Cover Photo: West impoundment, view to northeast.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Stillwater River wetland was constructed in the spring of 1999 to mitigate wetland impacts associated with a proposed Federal Aviation Administration expansion of the Columbus airport and a proposed MDT roadway improvement project between Absarokee and Columbus in watershed #13 in the Billings District. The site is located in Stillwater County approximately eight miles southwest of the interstate interchange at Columbus, Section 22, Township 3 South, Range 19 East (**Figure 1**). Elevations within the assessment area range from approximately 3,382 to 3,387 feet above sea level. The surrounding land uses include pastures, cropland and residential areas.

The project was intended to develop approximately 10.7 acres of wetlands within a 20-acre conservation easement on property owned by Virginia K. Thompson. Two dikes were constructed across a former channel of the Stillwater River to impound return irrigation water from the nearby Whitebird irrigation ditch and groundwater. The two dikes were to create 3.79 acres of wetland behind Dike #1 and 6.90 acres of wetland behind Dike #2 (total 10.69 acres). The mitigation activities were to impact approximately 3.77 acres of existing wetlands.

The impoundments have standing water with depths ranging from 0-6 feet. Outflow from the west (#1) to the east impoundment (#2) is through a beaver control device installed in the central dike separating the two impoundments. A similar device allows outflow through the second dike into a small stream connecting to the Stillwater River. The site boundary is illustrated on **Figure 2, Appendix A**.

2.0 METHODS

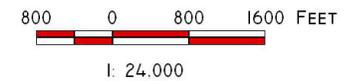
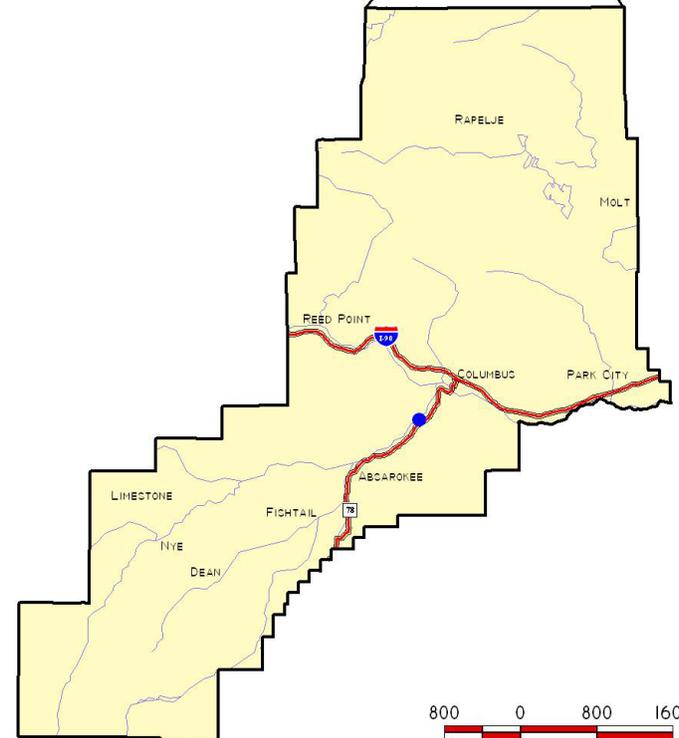
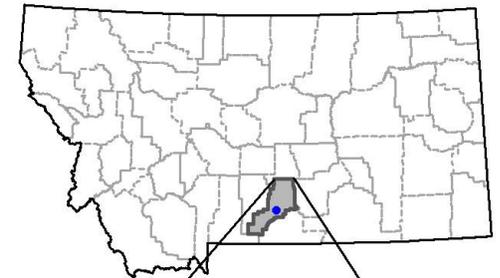
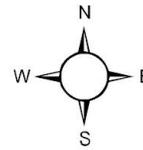
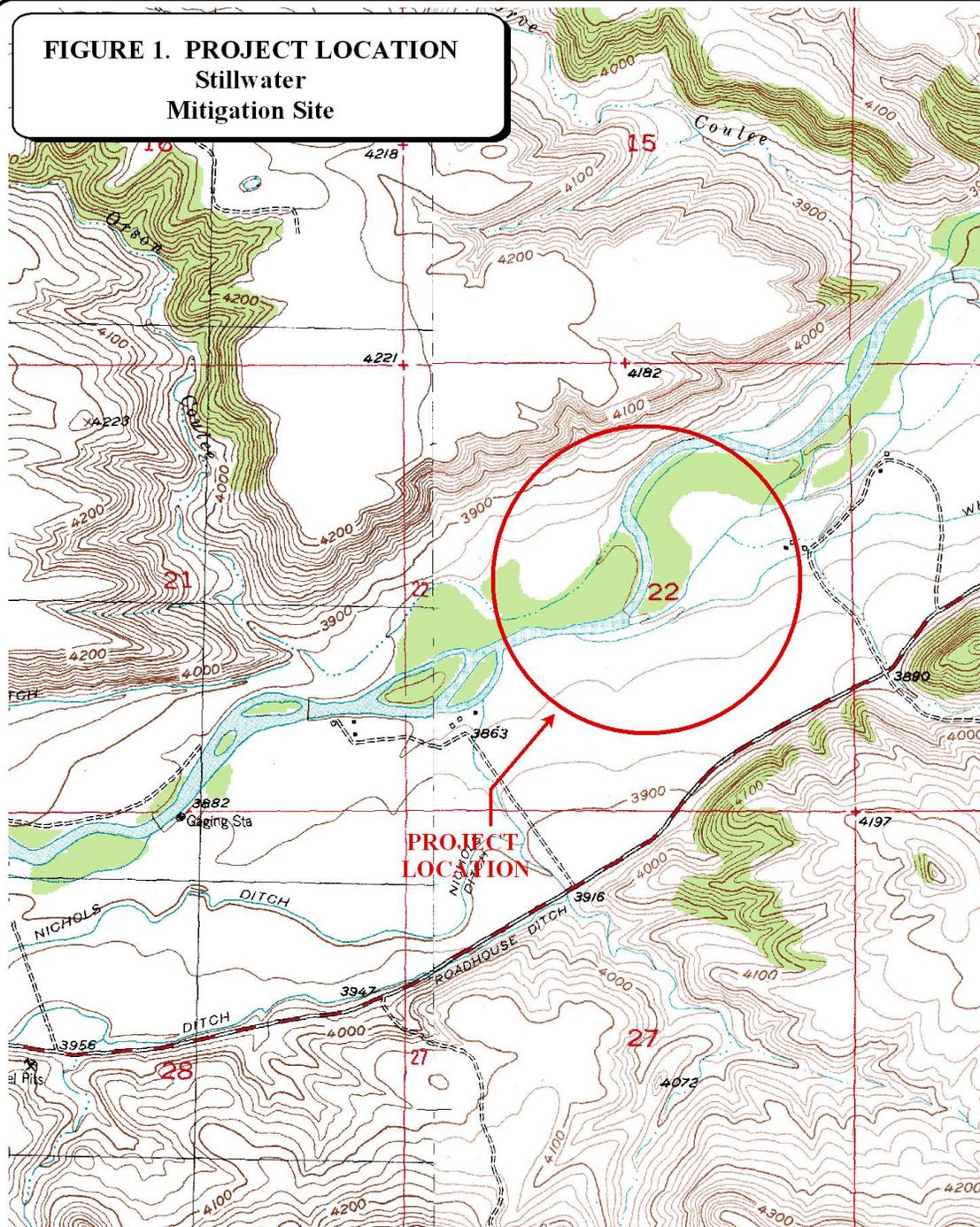
2.1 Monitoring Dates and Activities

The site was visited during 2004 on May 25 for spring avian migration use, and on August 2 to collect the wetland monitoring form data (**Appendix B**). Activities and information conducted/collected during the monitoring event included: wetland delineation; wetland/open water boundary mapping; vegetation community mapping; vegetation transects; soils data; hydrology data; bird and general wildlife use; photograph points; macroinvertebrate sampling; GPS data points; functional assessment; and, maintenance needs of any bird nesting structures and inflow and outflow structures (non-engineering).

2.2 Hydrology

Wetland hydrology indicators were recorded using procedures outlined in the COE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. Hydrology data were recorded on the COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Form (**Appendix B**) at each wetland determination point. Precipitation data for 2004 were compared to the 1948-2004 average (WRCC 2005).

FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION
Stillwater
Mitigation Site



PROJECT #: 130091.032
 DATE: APRIL 2001
 LOCATION:
 PROJECT MANAGER: B. DUTTON
 DRAWN BY: B. NOECKER
 M. ARTHUR

LAND & WATER CONSULTING, INC.
 1120 CEDAR PO BOX 8254 MISSOULA, MT 59807

All additional hydrologic data were recorded on the mitigation site monitoring form (**Appendix B**). The boundary between emergent vegetation and open water was mapped on the aerial photograph (**Figure 3, Appendix A**). There are no groundwater monitoring wells within the assessment area.

2.3 Vegetation

General vegetation types were delineated on the aerial photograph during the August site visit (**Figure 3, Appendix A**). Coverage of the dominant species in each community type is listed on the monitoring form (**Appendix B**). A comprehensive plant species list for the entire site was compiled and will be updated as new species are encountered. Observations from past years will be compared with new data to document vegetation changes over time. The assessment area is fenced and woody species were not planted on this site.

Two (2) transects were established during the 2001 monitoring event to represent the range of current vegetation conditions; the transect in the vicinity of impoundment #2 was relocated during 2002. These transects locations are shown on **Figure 2, Appendix A**. Percent cover for each species was recorded on the vegetation transect form (**Appendix B**). The transects will be used to evaluate changes over time, especially the establishment and increase of hydrophytic vegetation. Transect ends are marked with metal fence posts and their locations recorded with the GPS unit. Photos of each transect were taken during the mid-season visit.

2.4 Soils

Soils were evaluated during the mid-season visit according to the procedure outlined in the COE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). Soil data were recorded for each wetland determination point on the COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Form (**Appendix B**). The most current terminology used by NRCS was used to describe hydric soils.

2.5 Wetland Delineation

A wetland delineation was conducted within the assessment area according to the 1987 COE Wetland Delineation Manual. Wetland and upland areas within the monitoring area were investigated for the presence of wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils. The information was recorded on the COE Routine Wetland Delineation Forms (**Appendix B**). The indicator status of vegetation was derived from the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Northwest Region 9 (Reed 1988). The wetland/upland and open water boundaries were used to calculate the wetland area developed at the Stillwater River wetland. A pre-construction wetland map was completed by the MDT (Urban 1998) and is included in **Appendix D**.

2.6 Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians

Mammal, reptile, and amphibian species observations were recorded on the wetland monitoring form during each visit (**Appendix B**). Indirect use indicators were also recorded including tracks, scat and burrows. A comprehensive wildlife species list for the entire site was compiled

and will be updated as new species are encountered. Observations from past years will be compared with new data to determine if wildlife use is changing over time.

2.7 Birds

Bird observations were recorded during the site visit according to the established bird survey protocol (**Appendix E**). A general, qualitative bird list has been compiled using these observations. Observations will be compared between years in future studies.

2.8 Macroinvertebrates

One macroinvertebrate composite sample was collected during the site visit following the protocol (**Appendix F**); a sample was collected from each impoundment and mixed. Samples were preserved as outlined in the sampling procedure and sent to Rhithron Associates for analysis. The approximate sampling locations are indicated on **Figure 2, Appendix A**. Results are included in **Appendix F**.

2.9 Functional Assessment

A functional assessment form was completed for the site using the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method. Field data necessary for this assessment were collected on a condensed data sheet. The remainder of the assessment was completed in the office. Pre-construction functional assessments were completed by MDT and are included in the 2001 monitoring report.

2.10 Photographs

Photographs were taken showing the current land use surrounding the site, the wetland buffer, the monitored area, and the vegetation transects (**Appendix C**). A description and compass direction for each photograph were recorded on the wetland monitoring form.

During the 2001 monitoring season, each photograph point was marked on the ground with a wooden stake and the location recorded with a resource grade GPS. The approximate locations are shown on **Figure 2, Appendix A**. Photos were taken from the same locations during the mid-season visits. All photographs were taken using a digital camera.

2.11 GPS Data

During the 2002 monitoring season survey points were collected using a resource grade Trimble, Geoplotter III hand-held GPS unit (**Appendix E**). Points collected included: the beginning and end locations of the vegetation transects, the jurisdictional wetland boundary, and the sample point (SP) locations. In addition, GPS data were collected for four (4) landmarks recognizable on the air photo for purposes of line fitting to the topography. In 2004, the wetland delineation boundary was recorded on an aerial photo; GPS data were not collected.

2.12 Maintenance Needs

The condition of inflow and outflow structures, habitat enhancement structures or other mitigation related structures were evaluated. Minor maintenance needs and recommendations are presented in **Section 3.9**. This examination did not entail an engineer-level analysis.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Hydrology

The source of hydrology for the Stillwater River mitigation wetland includes groundwater from the river and irrigation return water from the nearby Whitebird irrigation ditch. The historic river channel to the south and adjacent to the Stillwater River was excavated and diked to create the mitigation wetlands. Water is conveyed from the first to the second impoundment through a “beaver-proof” outflow device. A similar device allows outflow through the second dike into a small stream connecting to the Stillwater River.

During the August 2, 2004 monitoring visit approximately 58% of the assessment area was inundated with 0-6 feet of standing water and was at full-pond level. Open water, or the area without emergent vegetation, is depicted on **Figure 3, Appendix A**.

According to the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC, 2005), the Columbus station annual mean (1948-2004) precipitation was 14.18 inches; the average precipitation through the month of July was 9.72 inches. For the year 2004, precipitation through July was 7.85 inches or 81% of the mean. Though precipitation results are not available for October through December 2004, through the month of September precipitation remained 81% of the average. Yearly precipitation has been below average since 1999 at the Columbus weather station.

3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation species identified on the site are presented in **Table 1** and in the monitoring form (**Appendix B**). The upland community continues to decrease in size as a result of the increase in wetland acreage within the cottonwood area (**Figure 3, Appendix A** and **Charts 1** and **3**).

The Stillwater vegetation types include: Type 1, *Typha latifolia*; Type 2, *Carex* spp./*Juncus* spp./*Scirpus* spp; and Type 3, *Agropyron trachycaulus*/*Poa pratensis*. Dominant species within each community are listed on the monitoring form (**Appendix B**). Hydrophytic vegetation communities have also increased in diversity over time; changes in communities along the vegetation transects are presented in **Table 2** and the adjoining figure.

The site has developed wetland vegetation along 100% of the upland impoundment periphery and the shallow fingers of open water within the cottonwood areas. There are approximately 30 known species of wetland plants with a FACW to OBL status within the assessment area.

The vegetation transect results are detailed in the monitoring form (**Appendix B**) and are summarized in **Table 2** and **Charts 1-4**. Both transects are located on the northwest side of the

impoundments; one adjacent to each impoundment. Transect 2 on the east impoundment was moved during 2002 to better represent wetland changes over time.

A decrease in upland area along Transect 1 has been observed over time along with a subsequent increase in community type 2 represented by several obligate and FACW species (**Charts 1 and 2**). Wetland community types increased along Transect 2 from 2002 to 2003, but stabilized by 2004 (**Charts 3 and 4**). The number of hydrophytic species appears to oscillate slightly between years as certain species change density; *Scirpus* species appeared to drop out of Transect 1 which may have been an oversight by the investigator or simply overgrown by the maturing *Typha* community. The edges of the Stillwater wetland do not appear to have stabilized as of 2004 as CT 1 (*Typha* dominant) and CT 2 (*Carex/Juncus/Scirpus*) continue to expand and contract depending on water levels. Since 2002, the CT 1 and CT 2 boundaries within the internal open water fingers have become more distinct. Since 2002 the cottonwood overstory has continued to decrease wetland-wide as a result of beaver kill and some loss to utility line installation.

Noxious weeds are spreading within the Stillwater wetland. There are five (5) State of Montana declared Category 1 noxious weeds and one county declared. Concentrated infestations of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) occur in the uplands along the northwest side of the east impoundment and the beaver-house peninsula and knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) is expanding along the northwest end of the berm. Other listed noxious weed species scattered throughout the site include: mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*, Stillwater CO. Noxious Weed), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*).

Table 1: 2001-2004 Stillwater River vegetation species list.

| Scientific Name ¹ | Region 4 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator Status |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i> | FAC |
| <i>Agrostis alba</i> | FACW |
| <i>Alnus incana</i> | FACW |
| <i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i> | NI (FAC+) |
| <i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i> | OBL |
| <i>Bromus inermis</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Bromus japonicus</i> | FACU |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | FACW+ |
| <i>Callitriche palustris (verna)</i> | OBL |
| <i>Carex hystericina</i> | OBL |
| <i>Carex limnophilia</i> | FACW |
| <i>Carex nebrascensis</i> | OBL |
| <i>Carex stipata</i> | -(FACW) |
| <i>Carex utriculata</i> | OBL |
| <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Cirsium arvensis</i> | FACU+ |
| <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | FACU |
| <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | OBL |
| <i>Epilobium spp.</i> | -(OBL) |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i> | FAC |
| <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | -(UPL) |

Table 1: 2001-2004 Stillwater River vegetation species list.

| Scientific Name ¹ | Region 4 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator Status |
|--|---|
| <i>Gallium sp.</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Glyceria grandis</i> | OBL |
| <i>Hordeum jubatum</i> | FAC+ |
| <i>Juncus balticus</i> | OBL |
| <i>Juncus ensifolius (confirm 2005)</i> | FACW |
| <i>Juncus nevadensis</i> | FACW |
| <i>Juncus tenuis</i> | FAC |
| <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Lemna minor</i> | OBL |
| <i>Linaria sp. (may be State Noxious Weed)</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> | FACU |
| <i>Mimulus spp.</i> | -(OBL) |
| <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | FACW |
| <i>Phleum pretense</i> | FACU |
| <i>Poa pratensis</i> | FACU+ |
| <i>Polygonum amphibium</i> | OBL |
| <i>Populus angustifolia</i> | FACW |
| <i>Potentilla argentea</i> | FAC- |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i> | FACU |
| <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> | OBL |
| <i>Ribes spp.</i> | -(FACU) |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> | FACW |
| <i>Salix bebbiana</i> | FACW |
| <i>Salix exigua</i> | OBL |
| <i>Salix lasiandra</i> | FACW+ |
| <i>Scirpus acutus</i> | OBL |
| <i>Scirpus microcarpus</i> | OBL |
| <i>Scirpus pallidus</i> | OBL |
| <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | FAC |
| <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> | FACU |
| <i>Trifolium sp.</i> | Likely UPL |
| <i>Typha latifolia</i> | OBL |
| <i>Verbascum thapsus (Stillwater CO. Noxious Weed)</i> | -(UPL) |
| <i>Veronica wormskjoldii (?)</i> | FAC+ |

¹ **Bolded** species indicate those documented within the analysis area for the first time in 2004.

-Species either not included or classified as “non-indicator” for the Northwest Region in the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands (Reed 1988); status in parentheses are probable based on national indicators and classifications for adjacent regions.

Table 2a: 2001-2004 Transect 1 data summary.

| Monitoring Year | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Transect Length | 75 feet | 75 feet | 75 feet | 75 feet |
| # Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| # Vegetation Communities along Transect | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| # Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Vegetative Species | 7 | 19 | 20 | 18 |
| Total Hydrophytic Species | 2 | 16 | 17 | 14 |
| Total Upland Species | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover | 99% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities | 11% | 26% | 46% | 60% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Upland Vegetation Communities | 89% | 74% | 54% | 40% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Unvegetated Open Water | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Bare Substrate | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Chart 1: Length of vegetation communities along Transect 1.

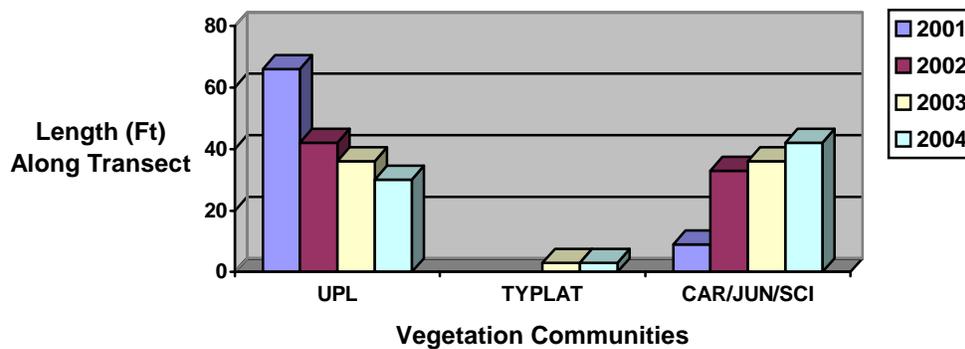


Chart 2: Transect maps showing vegetation types of Transect 1 from the start (0 feet) to the end (75 feet). Vegetation species within community types are not static across years.

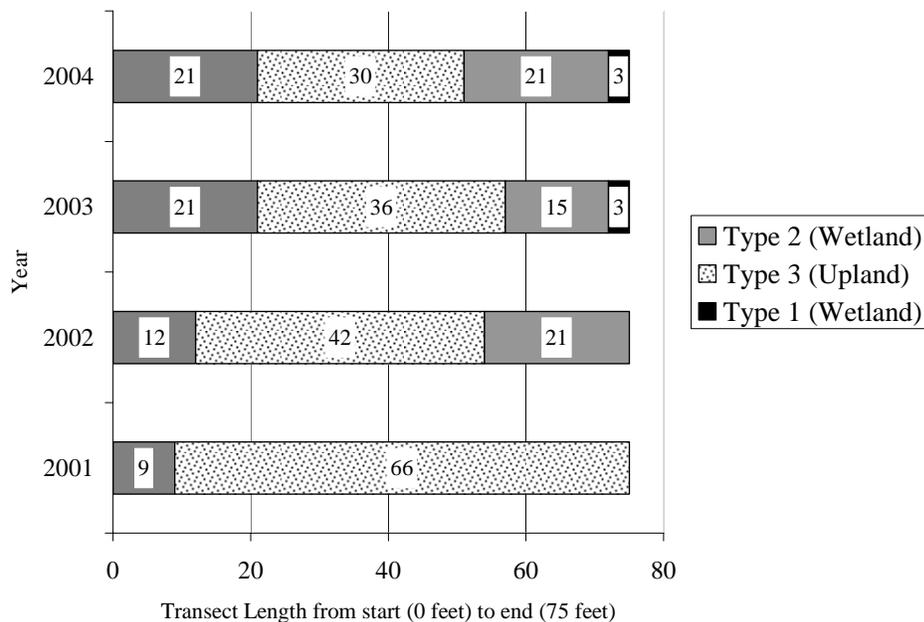
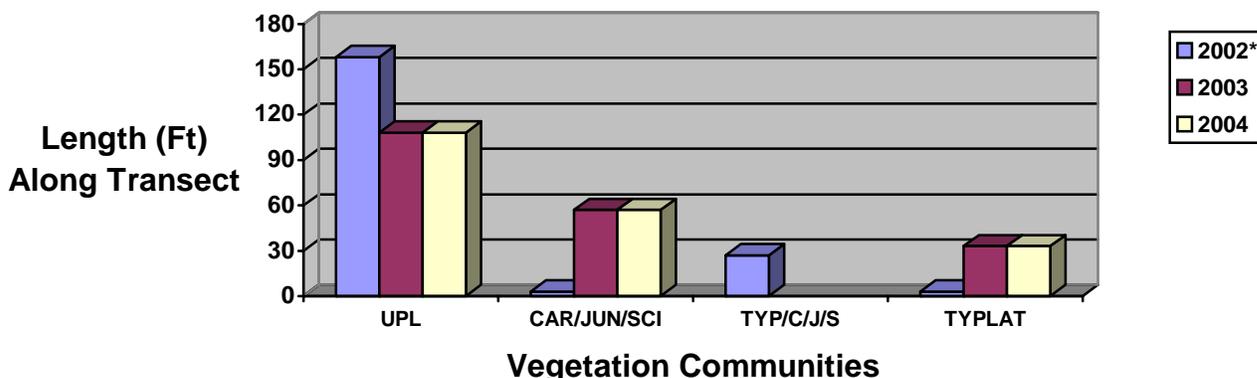


Table 2b: 2001-2004 Transect 2 data summary.

| Monitoring Year | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Transect Length | 60 feet ¹ | 198 feet | 198 feet | 198 feet |
| # Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 |
| # Vegetation Communities along Transect | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| # Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Vegetative Species | | 17 | 19 | 21 |
| Total Hydrophytic Species | 6 | 13 | 15 | 15 |
| Total Upland Species | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover | 85% | 78% | 94% | 99% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities | 20% | 38% | 45% | 45% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Upland Vegetation Communities | 80% | 61% | 55% | 55% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Unvegetated Open Water | 6% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| % Transect Length Comprised of Bare Substrate | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

¹ Transect moved in 2002.

Chart 3: Length of vegetation communities along Transect 2. In 2002 Transect 2 was moved to a new location and the data is not included in bar graph (*).

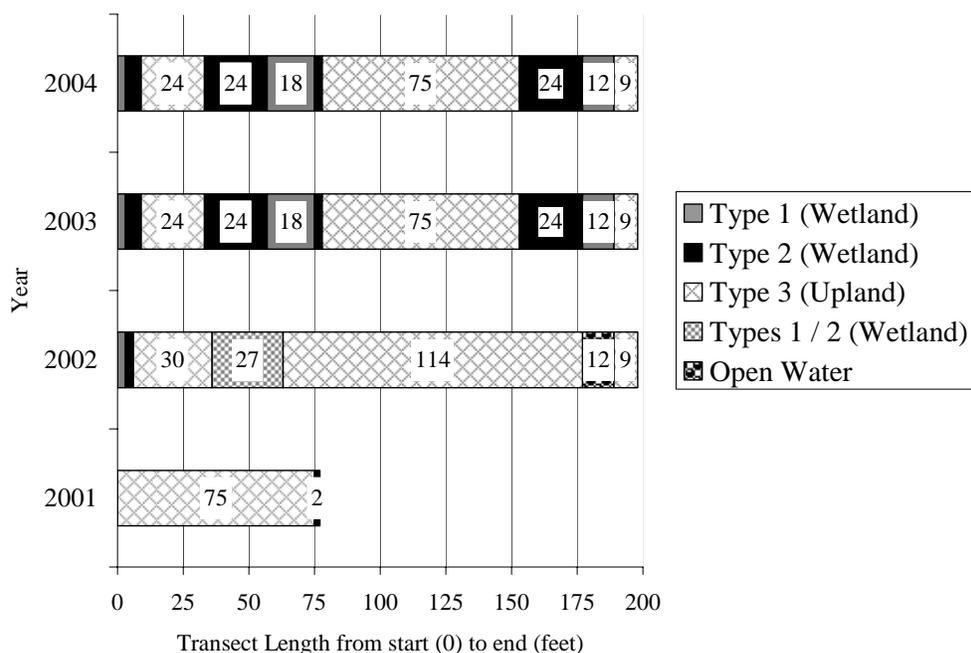


3.3 Soils

The site was mapped as part of the Carter County Stillwater Soil Survey (USDA 1980). The dominant soil on the site is mapped as the undifferentiated Lolo and Nesda soils, flooded (38). These soils are found on low stream terraces and flood plains. Lolo is a very gravelly loam that is taxonomically classified as a Pachic Haploboroll and Nesda is a gravelly loam with the classification of Fluventic Haploboroll. The Lolo-Nesda soil complex has four inclusions with only the Larry inclusion being hydric; neither component is hydric. The Larry inclusion is typical of wooded terraces like the Stillwater site.

Soils were sampled at two wetland sample points (SP-1, Transect 1 and SP-3, Transect 2). Soils at SP-1 (Transect 1) were black (10YR 2/1) loam from 0-5 inches; at a depth greater than 5 inches cobbles were encountered. Saturation was at the surface. At SP-2 the same soil profile was encountered and saturation was to the surface. This upland area will likely convert to

Chart 4: Transect maps showing vegetation types of Transect 2 from the start (0 feet) to the end (198 feet). Vegetation species within community types are not static across years.



upland over time. The soils at SP-3 (Transect 2) were black (10YR 2/1) loam to a depth of 6 inches where cobbles were encountered. Saturation was to the surface with water in the pit at a depth of 1 inch. SP-4 soils were also a black (10YR 2/1) loam from 0 to 6 inches and were saturated to the surface. Cobbles were encountered at 6 inches. This upland portion of transect 2 may also convert to wetland given the soil saturation level.

3.4 Wetland Delineation

The delineated wetland boundary is depicted on **Figure 3, Appendix A**. The COE data forms are included in **Appendix B**. Emergent vegetation has developed beyond the edge of inundation around the entire wetland periphery. Aquatic vegetation has also developed in the shallow backwater areas. Submerged aquatic vegetation (species not all identified) appears to occur throughout the wetland and as far into the open water as can be observed from shore. According to MDT (Urban, pers. comm.), submerged aquatics have been observed during the aerial flights throughout the open water component of the impoundments. The wetland boundary encompasses 9.25 acres of wetland and includes 5.41 acres of shallow open water (<6 feet deep). Gross wetland acreage has increased 0.74 acre while approximately 1.1 acres of open water has converted to emergent wetland since 2001.

3.5 Wildlife

Wildlife species observed on the site between 2001 and 2004 are listed in **Table 3**. Activities and densities associated with these observations are included on the monitoring form in **Appendix B**. No mammals were observed within the assessment area during the monitoring

event except cattle. Most of the bluebird boxes were inhabited with breeding tree swallows; no activity was observed in three (3) boxes which may indicate disuse or long foraging flights were occurring. Avian species diversity is high for the Stillwater wetland and totals 49 species.

Table 3: 2001-2004 wildlife species observed within the Stillwater River mitigation site¹.

| | |
|---|--|
| REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS | |
| Painted turtle (<i>Chrysemys picta</i>) Western Chorus Frog (<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>) | |
| BIRDS | |
| American Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis tristis</i>) American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>) American Coot (<i>Fulica americana</i>) Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)² Belted Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>) Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>) Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>) Cinnamon Teal (<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>) Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>) Common Merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>) Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>) Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>) Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>) Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>) Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>) European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>) Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>) Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)² Greater Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>)² Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>) | Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>) Least Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>) House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Marsh Wren (<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>)² Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>) Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>) Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>) Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)² Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)² Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>) Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>) Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>) Sora (<i>Porzana Carolina</i>) Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>) Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>) Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>) Western Bluebird (<i>Sialis mexicana</i>)² Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>) Western Wood Pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>) Willet (<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>) Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>) Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>) Yellow-rumped Warbler (<i>Dendroica coronata</i>) |
| MAMMALS | |
| beaver (<i>Castor Canadensis</i>) white-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) Muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>)² striped skunk (<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>)² rabbit (<i>Lepus spp.</i>) | |

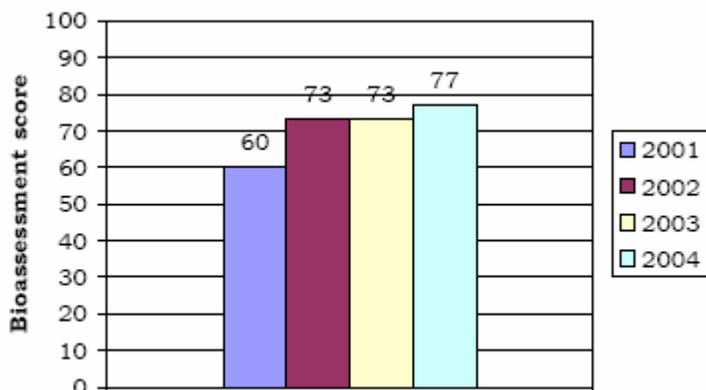
¹**Bolded** species indicate those documented within the analysis area for the first time in 2004.

² New species observed by Larry Urban, MDT, in May, 2004.

3.6 Macroinvertebrates

According to this bioassessment method, optimal biotic conditions persisted at the Stillwater River site in 2004 (Bollman, 2003, Appendix F). Taxa richness was restored to the level noted in 2002 and the biotic index value was well below the median for sites in this study, suggesting very good water quality. It appears that the invertebrate assemblage was able to take advantage of a diversity of available habitats. Benthic substrates and macrophytes appear to have been the major sites of colonization. The functional composition of the assemblage did not change appreciably between 2003 and 2004, and seemed appropriate for a functioning wetland.

Chart 5: Bioassessment scores for 2001-2004.



3.7 Functional Assessment

Completed functional assessment forms are included in Appendix B and summarized in Table 4. Pre-construction functional assessments were completed for the wetlands by the MDT (Urban 1998) and results of that assessment are included in Table 4. The net functional units have increased by 39 points since 2001 due to several high to exceptional ranking variables. The wetland has attained the Category 1 Wetland status since 2002. Ten of the 12 evaluated parameters received high to exceptional ratings, six with functional points of 1.0.

3.8 Photographs

Representative photos taken from photo points and transect ends are included in Appendix C. A 2004 aerial photograph is also provided in Appendix C.

Table 4: Summary of 1998 and 2001-2004 wetland function/value ratings and functional points at the Stillwater River wetland mitigation project.

| Function and Value Parameters From the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method | Pre-construction 1998 | Post-construction 2001 | Post-construction 2002 | Post-construction 2003 | Post-construction 2004 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat | High (1.0) | Moderate (0.80) | Moderate (0.8) | Moderate (0.8) | Moderate (0.8) |
| MNHP Species Habitat | Low (0.1) | Moderate (0.7) | Low (.1) | Low (.1) | Low (.1) |
| General Wildlife Habitat | Moderate (0.5) | Moderate (0.7) | Exceptional (1.0) | Exceptional (1.0) | Exceptional (1.0) |
| General Fish/Aquatic Habitat | High (0.8) | Moderate (0.6) | High (0.8) | High (0.8) | High (0.8) |
| Flood Attenuation | Moderate (0.5) | Moderate (0.6) | High (0.7) | High (0.9) | High (0.9) |
| Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage | NA | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) |
| Sediment, Nutrient, Toxicant Removal | Moderate (0.5) | Moderate (0.6) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) |
| Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization | NA | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) |
| Production Export/Food Chain Support | High (1.0) | High (0.9) | High (0.9) | High (0.9) | High (0.9) |
| Groundwater Discharge/Recharge | Low (0.1) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) |
| Uniqueness | Moderate (0.4) | Moderate (0.5) | Moderate (0.6) | High (0.6) | High (0.9) |
| Recreation/Education Potential | Low (0.1) | Low (0.3) | Moderate (0.7) | High (1.0) | High (1.0) |
| Actual Points/Possible Points | 5/10 | 8.7/12 | 9.6/12 | 10.1/12 | 10.4/12 |
| % of Possible Score Achieved | 50% | 73% | 80% | 84% | 87% |
| Overall Category | III | II | II | I | I |
| Total Acreage of Assessed Wetlands within Easement | 3.77 | 8.49 | 9.24 | 9.39 | 9.25 ¹ |
| Functional Units (acreage x actual points) | 15 | 73.82 | 88.7 | 94.84 | 98.1 |
| Net Acreage Gain | NA | 4.72 | 5.47 | 5.62 | 5.48 |
| Net Functional Unit Gain | | 58.82 | 73.7 | 79.84 | 83.1 |
| Total Functional Unit "Gain" | | 58.82 | 73.7 | 79.84 | 83.1 |

¹ Slight decrease in acreage the result of higher quality aerial photo and subsequent higher accuracy in photo interpretation.

3.9 Maintenance Needs/Recommendations

Only two (2) wood duck boxes remain attached to trees. A third, found on the ground, was brought out and placed beside the lower cattle guard for reattachment by the landowner's son. The fence around the wetland was intact though cattle were observed grazing within the wetland area; their entrance location into the wetland could not be discerned. The site contains five State of Montana Noxious Weeds (Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, field bindweed, houndstongue, and leafy spurge) and one (1) on the Stillwater County list (mullein). Active control measures are recommended for knapweed and spurge.

The cottonwood forest continues to decline as a result of beaver kill and may be negatively affected by the expanding saturation zone. Recruitment is occurring, but at low to moderate numbers. Discussion regarding the future of the cottonwood forest as it relates to the wetland mitigation goals is warranted.

3.10 Current Credit Summary

Emergent vegetation has developed around 100% of the open water circumference. The wetland boundary encompasses 9.25 acres of wetland and includes 5.41 acres of shallow open water (<6 feet deep). Gross wetland acreage has increased 0.74 acre while approximately 1.1 acres of open water has converted to emergent wetland since 2001. The wetland has attained a Category 1 wetland status since 2002. Eleven of the 12 evaluated function and value parameters rated as high, 7 of which earned actual functional points of 1.0.

MDT anticipated creating 10.69 acres of wetland within a 15 to 20-acre conservation easement (MDT 1998). The mitigation efforts have thus far resulted in 9.25 gross wetland acres or 86% of the goal (the 10.69-acre goal included the pre-existing wetlands). The gross wetland acreage has been fairly stable since 2002, however, the open water areas have decreased as a result of emergent wetland encroachment.

4.0 REFERENCES

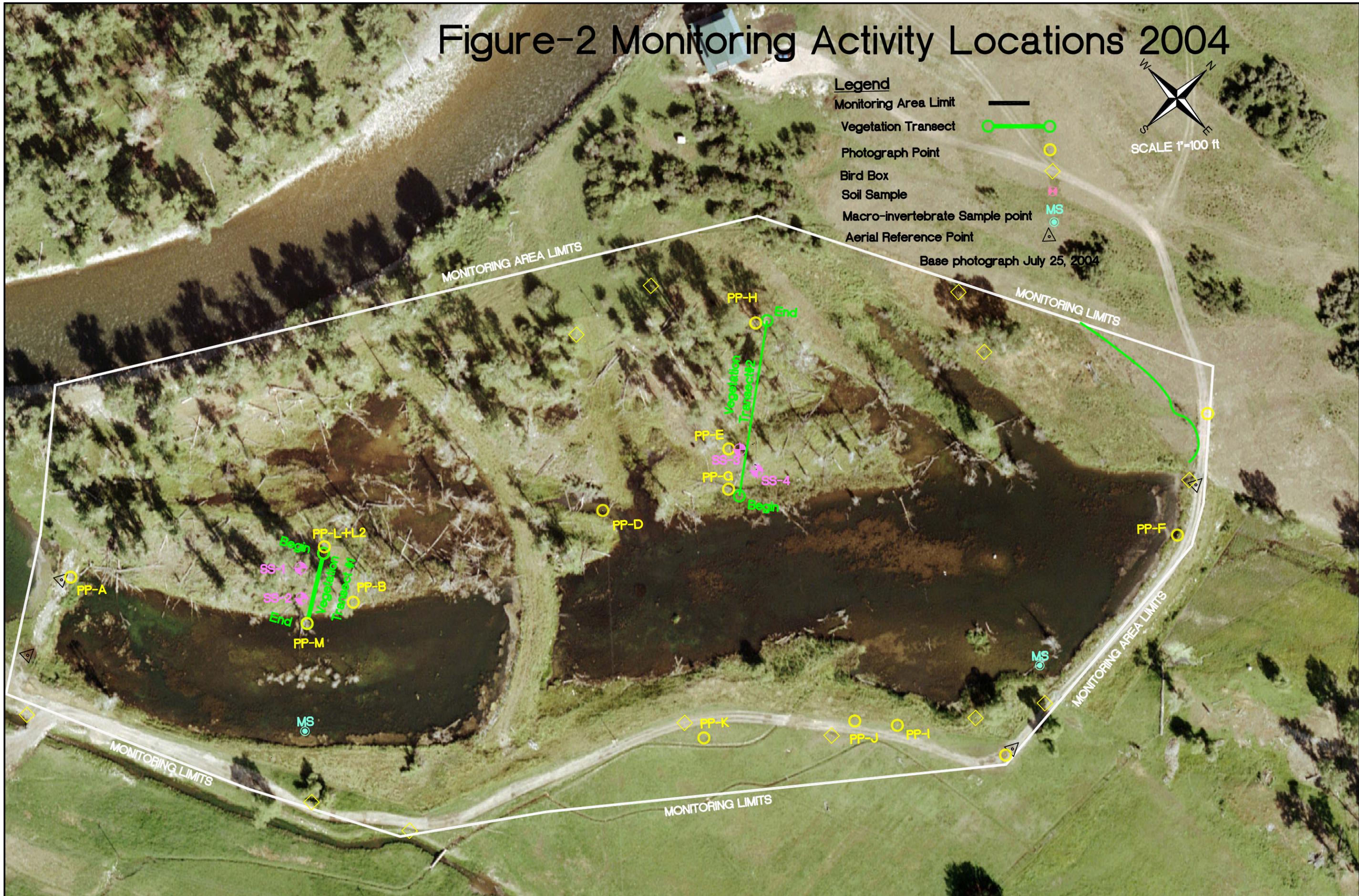
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Appendix A

FIGURES 2 - 3

*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*

Figure-2 Monitoring Activity Locations 2004



| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| PROJECT NAME | | MDT Stillwater Wetland Mitigation | |
| DRAWING TITLE | | Monitoring Activity Locations 2004 | |
| PROJ NO: 330054.512 | DRAWN: RA | CHECKED: | BD |
| FILE NAME: TASK32BASE2004.dwg | APPVD: | PROJ MGR: | BD |
| SCALE: 1"= 100 ft | LOCATION: Stillwater River | | |
| | | SHEET NUMBER | 2 OF |
| | | REV 02 | DATE: 06/23/05 |

Figure 3 - Mapped Site Features 2004

Legend

- Monitoring Area Limit
- Wetland Boundary
- Vegetation Community Boundary
- Open Water Boundary
- Base photograph July 25, 2004

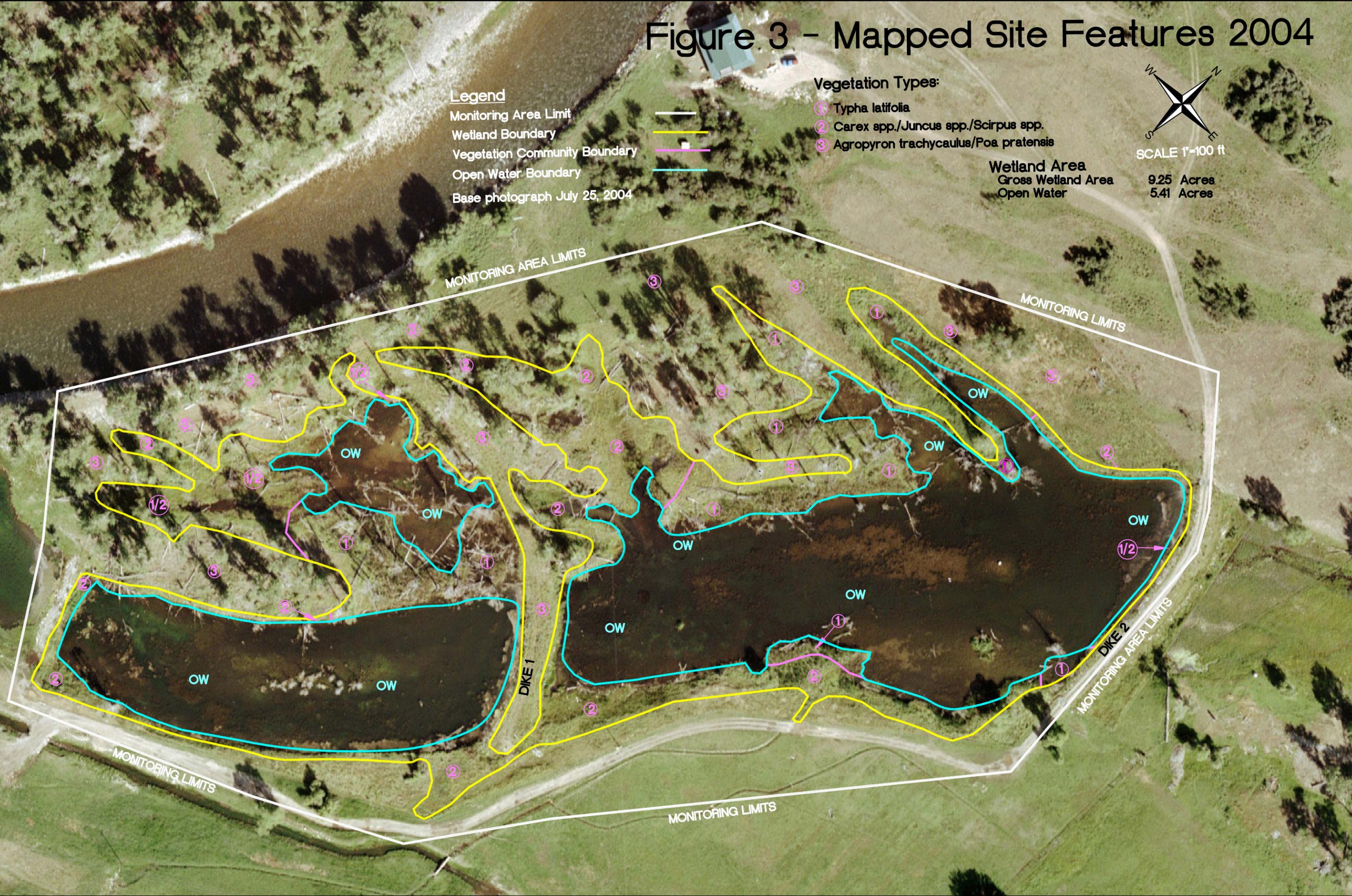
Vegetation Types:

- ① *Typha latifolia*
- ② *Carex* spp./*Juncus* spp./*Scirpus* spp.
- ③ *Agropyron trachycaulus*/*Poa pratensis*



Wetland Area
Gross Wetland Area
Open Water

9.25 Acres
5.41 Acres



| | |
|--|--------------|
| PROJECT NAME MDT Stillwater Wetland Mitigation | |
| DRAWING TITLE Mapped Site Features 2004 | |
| PROJ NO: 330054.512 | DRAWN: RA |
| FILE NAME: TASK32BASE2004.dwg | CHECKED: JH |
| SCALE: 1"= 100ft | APPVD: BD |
| LOCATION: Stillwater | PROJ MGR: BD |
| | |
| SHEET NUMBER 3 OF | |
| REV 02 | |
| DATE: 06/23/05 | |

Appendix B

2004 WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM

2004 BIRD SURVEY FORMS

2004 WETLAND DELINEATION FORMS

2004 FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FORMS

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring

Stillwater River

Absarokee, Montana

LWC / MDT WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM

Project Name: Stillwater Project Number: B43054.512 Assessment Date: 8 / 2 / 04
 Location: 8.6 mi sw of Columbus MDT District: Billings District #13 Milepost: 37.31
 Legal description: T 3S R 19E Section 22 Time of Day: ~9AM
 Weather Conditions: overcast/windy Person(s) conducting the assessment: LB/LWC
 Initial Evaluation Date: 8 / 12 /01 Visit #: 4 Monitoring Year: 2004
 Size of evaluation area: 9.24 acres Land use surrounding wetland: livestock grazing

HYDROLOGY

Surface Water Source: Stillwater River
 Inundation: Present Absent Average depths: 3 ft Range of depths: 0 - 6 ft
 Assessment area under inundation: 58 %
 Depth at emergent vegetation-open water boundary: 1-2 ft
 If assessment area is not inundated are the soils saturated w/in 12" of surface: Yes No
 Other evidence of hydrology on site (drift lines, erosion, stained vegetation etc.): (all 3)

Groundwater

Monitoring wells: Present Absent

Record depth of water below ground surface

| Well # | Depth | Well # | Depth | Well # | Depth |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Additional Activities Checklist:

- Map emergent vegetation-open water boundary on air photo
- Observe extent of surface water during each site visit and look for evidence of past surface water elevations (drift lines, erosion, vegetation staining etc.)
- GPS survey groundwater monitoring wells locations if present

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Community No.: 1 Community Title (main species): *Typha latifolia*

| Dominant Species | % Cover | Dominant Species | % Cover |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| <i>Typha latifolia</i> | 80 | <i>Glyceria grandis</i> | 1 |
| <i>Epilobium</i> spp. | 5 | <i>Scirpus acutus</i> | <1 |
| <i>Lemna minor</i> | 2 | <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | 4 |
| <i>Polygonum amphibium</i> | 1 | <i>Scirpus microcarpus</i> | <1 |
| <i>Carex utriculata</i> | 5 | <i>Scirpus pallidus</i> | <1 |

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: this CT is in inundated areas and includes CT 2 species in some areas

Community No.: 2 Community Title (main species): *Carex* spp./ *Juncus* spp./ *Scirpus* spp.

| Dominant Species | % Cover | Dominant Species | % Cover |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| <i>Carex nebrascensis</i> | 10 | <i>J. tenuis</i> | 10 |
| <i>C. stipata</i> | 10 | <i>J. nevadensis</i> | 2 |
| <i>C. limnophila</i> | 2 | <i>Scirpus</i> spp. (<i>acutus</i> , <i>pallidus</i> , <i>microcarpus</i>) | 10 |
| <i>C. hystericina</i> | 2 | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | 10 |
| <i>Juncus balticus</i> | 2 | <i>Glyceria grandis</i> | 5 |
| <i>Agrostis alba</i> | 25 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> | 2 |
| <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | 10 | | |

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: other spp observed in this rich community: LEMMIN, PHAARUN, VERsp., MIMsp., SOLDUL, RUMCRI, CARUTR, CARLAN, JUNBAL, MENARV., HORJUB, _____

Community No.: 3 Community Title (main species): *Agropyron trachycaulus*/*Poa pratensis*

| Dominant Species | % Cover | Dominant Species | % Cover |
|---|---------|------------------|---------|
| <i>Agropyron trachycaulus</i> | 30 | | |
| <i>Poa pratensis</i> | 30 | | |
| <i>Bromus inermis</i> | 30 | | |
| <i>Populus angustifolia</i> (overstory) | 10 | | |
| | | | |

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

Additional Activities Checklist:

 X Record and map vegetative communities on air photo

Comprehensive Vegetation List

| Species | Vegetation Community Number(s) | Species | Vegetation Community Number(s) |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i> | 3 | <i>Rumex crispus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Agrostis alba</i> | 2 | <i>Salix bebbiana</i> | 2 |
| <i>Alnus incana</i> | 2 | <i>Salix exigua</i> | 2 |
| <i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i> | 2 | <i>Salix lasiandra</i> | 2 |
| <i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i> | 2 | <i>Scirpus accutus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Bromus inermis</i> | 3 | <i>Scirpus microcarpus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Bromus japonicus</i> | 3 | <i>Scirpus pallidus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> | 2 | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | 2 |
| <i>Callitriche palustris (verna)</i> | 1 | <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> | 3 |
| <i>Carex hystericina</i> | 2 | <i>Trifolium sp.</i> | 1 |
| <i>Carex limnophila</i> | 2 | <i>Typha latifolia</i> | 1, 2 |
| <i>Carex nebrascensis</i> | 2 | <i>Verbascum thapsusm (Stillwater CO. Noxious Weed)</i> | 2, 3 |
| <i>Carex stipata</i> | 2 | <i>Veronica wormskjoldii (?)</i> | 1, 2 |
| <i>Carex utriculata</i> | 1 | | |
| <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | 2, 3 | | |
| <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> | 1, 2 | | |
| <i>Epilobium sp.</i> | 1 | | |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Gallium sp</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Glyceria grandis</i> | 1, 2 | | |
| <i>Hordeum jubatum</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Juncus balticus</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Juncus ensifolius (confirm 2005)</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Juncus nevadensis</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Juncus tenuis</i> | 1, 2 | | |
| <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Lemna minor</i> | 1,2 | | |
| <i>Linaria sp. (may be State Noxious Weed)</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> | 3 | | |
| <i>Mimulus sp.</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Phleum pretense</i> | 2, 3 | | |
| <i>Poa pratensis</i> | 2, 3 | | |
| <i>Polygonum amphibium</i> | 1 | | |
| <i>Populus angustifolia</i> | 2, 3 | | |
| <i>Potentilla argentea</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> | 2 | | |
| <i>Ribes sp.</i> | 3 | | |

Bold denotes observed in 2004 for the first time.

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

WILDLIFE

BIRDS

(Attach Bird Survey Field Forms)

Were man made nesting structures installed? Yes No Type: BB/Woodie How many? 10/2
Are the nesting structures being utilized? Yes No Do the nesting structures need repairs?
Yes No

MAMMALS AND HERPTILES

| Species | Number Observed | Indirect indication of use | | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| | | Tracks | Scat | Burrows | Other |
| | | | | | |
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¹ MDT Observations

Additional Activities Checklist:

Macroinvertebrate sampling (if required)

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Using a camera with a 50 mm lenses and color film take photographs of the following permanent reference points listed in the checklist below. Record the direction of the photograph using a compass. (The first time at each site establish a permanent reference point by setting a ½ inch rebar or fencepost extending 2-3' above ground, survey the location with a resource grade GPS and mark the location on the air photo.)

Checklist:

- One photo for each of the 4 cardinal directions surrounding wetland
- At least one photo showing upland use surrounding wetland – if more than one upland use exists, take additional photos
- At least one photo showing buffer surrounding wetland
- One photo from each end of vegetation transect showing transect

| Location | Photograph Description | Compass Reading |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| B | pond #1 | SE |
| D | pond #2 interior OW finger | NE |
| E | pond #2 | NE |
| F | pond #2 | SW |
| G | Transect 2: pond #2 transect from WL end | NW |
| H | Transect 2: pond #2 transect from UPL end | SE |
| I | pond #2 | NW |
| J | UPL adjacent to pond #2 | SW |
| K | UPL/WL interface pond #2 | SW |
| L | Transect 1: Pond #1 interior | SE |
| L-2 | Transect 1: View into WL fingers inside pond #1 from L-stake | NW |
| M | Transect 1: from M-stake toward L-stake | NW |

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

GPS SURVEYING

Using a resource grade GPS survey the items on the checklist below. Collect at least 3 location points with the GPS unit set at 5 second recording rate. Record file numbers fore site in designated GPS field notebook

Checklist:

- Jurisdictional wetland boundary
- 4-6 landmarks recognizable on the air photo
- Start and end points of vegetation transect(s)
- 2001 Photo reference points
- Groundwater monitoring well locations

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

WETLAND DELINEATION

(Attach Corps of Engineers delineation forms)

At each site conduct the items on the checklist below:

- Delineate wetlands according to the 1987 Army Corps manual.
- Delineate wetland-upland boundary on the air photo
- Survey wetland-upland boundary with a resource grade GPS survey

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

(Complete and attach full MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method field forms; also attach abbreviated field forms, if used)

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

MAINTENANCE

Were man-made nesting structures installed at this site? YES NO _____

If yes, do they need to be repaired? YES NO _____

If yes, describe problems below and indicate if any actions were taken to remedy the problems.

Were man-made structures build or installed to impound water or control water flow into or out of the wetland?

YES NO _____

If yes, are the structures working properly and in good working order? YES NO _____

If no, describe the problems below.

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _ Only 2 wood duck boxes remain attached to trees and one of these (north one) is hanging askew (still). Another needs to be rehung. Most of the bluebird boxes are full of nesting material; have asked landowners son to clean out 75% of the nesting material before the 2005 nesting season. _____

MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT (continued)

Site: Stillwater Date: 8/02/04 Examiner: LB/LWC Transect # 2 cont'd (pg 3/3)

Approx. transect length: _____ Compass Direction from Start (Upland): _____

| Vegetation type E: | | CT 1 |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|
| Length of transect in this type: | 12' | feet |
| Species: | Cover: | |
| shallow open water | 5 | |
| CARHYS | 15 | |
| GYCGRAN | 45 | |
| ELEPAL | 10 | |
| CARSTI | 15 | |
| BECSYZ | 5 | |
| POLYGONUMsp | 5 | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Vegetative Cover: | | 95% |

| Vegetation type F: | | CT 3 |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|
| Length of transect in this type: | 9'' | feet |
| Species: | Cover: | |
| DACGLO | 95 | |
| PHLPRA | 5 | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Vegetative Cover: | | 100% |

| Vegetation type G: | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|
| Length of transect in this type: | | feet |
| Species: | Cover: | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Vegetative Cover: | | |

| Vegetation type H: | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|
| Length of transect in this type: | | feet |
| Species: | Cover: | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Vegetative Cover: | | |

BIRD SURVEY – FIELD DATA SHEET

Page 1 of 1
 Date: see dates within table
 Survey Time: varied

SITE: Stillwater

| Bird Species | # | Behavior | Habitat | Bird Species | # | Behavior | Habitat |
|--------------------------|------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----|----------|---------|
| 5/25/04 | | | | MDT Observations (Early May) | | | |
| American Goldfinch | 1 | FO | MA/UPL | Bald Eagle | | | |
| American Robin | 4 | BD | MA/UPL | Black-capped Chickadee | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1 | F | MA/UPL | Canada Goose | 7 | | |
| Canada Goose | 31* | F | OW | Common flicker | | | |
| Cinnamon Teal | 4 | F | OW | Downy Woodpecker | | | |
| Common Grackle | 2 | F | MA | Eastern Kingbird | | | |
| Double-Crested Cormorant | 1 | L | OW dead tree | European Starling | | | |
| European Starling | 1 | FO | MA/UPL | Great Blue Heron | | | |
| Gray Catbird | 1 | BD | Adjacent UPL | Great Horned Owl | | | |
| House Wren | 3 | BD | MA?/UPL | Greater Yellowlegs | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | 2 | F | MA | Mallard | | | |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | F | MA | Marsh Wren | | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | ~15 | BD | OW/MA | Pileated woodpecker | | | |
| Song Sparrow | 3 | BD | MA | Red-winged blackbird | | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 1 | F | MA | Red-breasted merganser (and brood)* | 7 | | |
| Tree Swallow | ~30 | F/BD/N | OW/UPL/MA | Tree swallow | | | |
| Turkey Vulture | 1 | FO | OW/MA | Western Bluebird | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | 1 | BD/F | MA | Wood duck | 10 | | |
| | | | | Unidentified sparrow | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 8/2/04 | | | | | | | |
| Cedar Waxwings | many | F? | UP/MA | | | | |
| Tree Swallow | many | F | UP/MA | | | | |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | F | MA | | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | 2 | BR | MA/UPL | | | | |
| Western Kingbird | 1 | BR | MA/UPL | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | 1 | FO | OW | | | | |
| Sora | 1 | BR | MA | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

| |
|--|
| Notes: |
| *possibility this sighting may have been Common Merganser according to MDT biologist |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

Behavior: BP – one of a breeding pair; BD – breeding display; F – foraging; FO – flyover; L – loafing; N – nesting

Habitat: AB – aquatic bed; FO – forested; I – island; MA – marsh; MF – mud flat; OW – open water; SS – scrub/shrub; UP – upland buffer; WM – wet meadow, US – unconsolidated shoreline

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

| | |
|---|--|
| Project/Site: <u>Stillwater</u> Applicant/Owner: <u>MDT</u> Investigator: <u>LB/LWC</u> | Date: <u>8/2/04</u> County: <u>Stillwater</u> State: <u>MT</u> |
| Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Is the area a potential Problem Area?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (If needed, explain on reverse.) | Community ID: <u>Impoundment #1</u> Transect ID: <u>1</u> Plot ID: <u>SP-1</u> |

VEGETATION

| Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator | | Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | ELEPAL | H | OBL | 9 | | |
| 2 | JUNTEN | H | FAC | 10 | | |
| 3 | JUNENS | H | FACW | 11 | | |
| 4 | SCIVAL | H | OBL | 12 | | |
| 5 | AGRALB | H | FACW | 13 | | |
| 6 | CARLIM | H | FACW | 14 | | |
| 7 | CARNEB | H | OBL | 15 | | |
| 8 | PHLPRA | H | UPL | 16 | | |

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-). 8/8

SP on edge of open water north of pond #1

HYDROLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available | Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required): <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u> - </u> (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u> - </u> (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: <u> 0 </u> (in.) | |
| Remarks: Saturated edge of OW area. | |

SOILS

| Map Unit Name | | Lolo - Nesda | | Drainage Class: <u>well</u> | |
|---|---------|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Series and Phase): | | | | Field Observations | |
| Taxonomy (Subgroup): | | <u>Pachic Haploboroll; Fluventic Haploboroll.</u> | | Confirm Mapped Type? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Profile Description: | | | | | |
| Depth inches | Horizon | Matrix Color (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Abundance/Contrast | Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc. |
| 0-5 | A | 10YR 2/1 | | | loamy sand |
| 5+ | C | | | | cobbles |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Hydric Soil Indicators: | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol | | <input type="checkbox"/> Concretions | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon | | <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content in surface Layer in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime | | <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions | | <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) | | | |
| Hydric soil at 5" and assumed between cobbles at 10" depth, impenetrable. | | | | | |

WETLAND DETERMINATION

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Is this Sampling Point Within a Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Hydric Soils Present? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Remarks: | | | |
| Wetland boundary still gaining ground into cottonwood upland area. | | | |

Approved by HQUSACE 2/92

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

| | |
|---|--|
| Project/Site: <u>Stillwater</u> Applicant/Owner: <u>MDT</u> Investigator: <u>LB/MDT</u> | Date: <u>8/2/04</u> County: <u>Stillwater</u> State: <u>MT</u> |
| Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site: <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <u> </u> Yes <u>X</u> No Is the area a potential Problem Area?: <u> </u> Yes <u>X</u> No (If needed, explain on reverse.) | Community ID: <u>Impoundment #1; CT 3</u> Transect ID: <u>1</u> Plot ID: <u>SP-2</u> |

VEGETATION

| Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator | Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | VERTHA | H | no listing | 9 | |
| 2 | SYMALB | S | UPL | 10 | |
| 3 | POPANG | T | FACW | 11 | |
| 4 | AGRALB | H | FACW | 12 | |
| 5 | POAPRA | H | FAC | 13 | |
| 6 | | | | 14 | |
| 7 | | | | 15 | |
| 8 | | | | 16 | |

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-). 2/5

UPL veg area decreasing in size.

HYDROLOGY

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): <u> </u> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <u> </u> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available | Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required): <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u> </u> - (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u> </u> - (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: <u> </u> 0 (in.) | |
| Remarks: upland area appears to becoming more saturated | |

SOILS

| Map Unit Name | | Lolo - Nesda | | Drainage Class: <u>well</u> | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Series and Phase): | | | | Field Observations | |
| Taxonomy (Subgroup): | | <u>Pachic Haploboroll; Fluventic Haploboroll.</u> | | Confirm Mapped Type? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Profile Description: | | | | | |
| Depth inches | Horizon | Matrix Color (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Abundance/Contrast | Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc. |
| 0-5 | A | 10YR 2/1 | | | organic loam |
| 5+ | | | | | lg. cobbles |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Hydric Soil Indicators: | | | | | |
| <u> </u> Histosol | | <u> </u> Concretions | | | |
| <u> </u> Histic Epipedon | | <u> </u> High Organic Content in surface Layer in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Sulfidic Odor | | <u> </u> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Aquic Moisture Regime | | <u> </u> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u> </u> Reducing Conditions | | <u> </u> Listed on National Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u>X</u> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors | | <u> </u> Other (Explain in Remarks) | | | |
| Hydric because of low-chroma. | | | | | |

WETLAND DETERMINATION

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? | <u> </u> Yes | <u>X</u> No | Is this Sampling Point Within a Wetland? <u> </u> Yes <u>X</u> No |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? | <u>X</u> Yes | <u> </u> No | |
| Hydric Soils Present? | <u>X</u> Yes | <u> </u> No | |
| Remarks: | | | |
| Area may continue to convert to wetland if water table remains high. | | | |

Approved by HQUSACE 2/92

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

| | |
|---|--|
| Project/Site: <u>Stillwater</u> Applicant/Owner: <u>MDT</u> Investigator: <u>LB/LWC</u> | Date: <u>8/2/04</u> County: <u>Stillwater</u> State: <u>MT</u> |
| Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Is the area a potential Problem Area?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (If needed, explain on reverse.) | Community ID: <u>Impoundment #2</u> Transect ID: <u>2</u> Plot ID: <u>SP-3</u> |

VEGETATION

| Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator | Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1 TYPLAT | H | OBL | 9 SCIVAL | H | OBL |
| 2 GLYGRA | H | OBL | 10 CARNEB | H | OBL |
| 3 ELEPAL | H | OBL | 11 CARsp. | H | FACW-OBL |
| 4 JUNsp. | H | OBL | 12 | | |
| 5 CARHYS | H | OBL | 13 | | |
| 6 CARLIM | H | FACW | 14 | | |
| 7 CARSTI (likely FACW-OBL) | H | no ind. | 15 | | |
| 8 POLAMP | H | FACW | 16 | | |

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-). 10/10

Diverse wetland community.

HYDROLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available | Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required): <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u> - </u> (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u> 1 </u> (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: <u> surface </u> (in.) | |
| Remarks: Pit excavated adjacent to finger of shallow open water. | |

SOILS

| Map Unit Name | | Lolo - Nesda | | Drainage Class: <u>well</u> | |
|---|---------|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Series and Phase): | | | | Field Observations | |
| Taxonomy (Subgroup): | | <u>Pachic Haploboroll; Fluventic Haploboroll.</u> | | Confirm Mapped Type? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Profile Description: | | | | | |
| Depth inches | Horizon | Matrix Color (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Abundance/Contrast | Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc. |
| 0-6 | A | 10 YR 2/1 | | | loam |
| 8+ | C | | | | cobbles |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Hydric Soil Indicators: | | | | | |
| <u> </u> Histosol | | <u> </u> Concretions | | | |
| <u> </u> Histic Epipedon | | <u> </u> High Organic Content in surface Layer in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Sulfidic Odor | | <u> </u> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Aquic Moisture Regime | | <u> </u> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u> </u> Reducing Conditions | | <u> </u> Listed on National Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u>X</u> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors | | <u> </u> Other (Explain in Remarks) | | | |
| Pits difficult to excavate; cobbles close to surface. | | | | | |

WETLAND DETERMINATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | Is this Sampling Point Within a Wetland? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Hydric Soils Present? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Remarks: | |
| Diverse wetland community continues to expand into upland. | |

Approved by HQUSACE 2/92

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

| | |
|---|--|
| Project/Site: <u>Stillwater</u> Applicant/Owner: <u>MDT</u> Investigator: <u>LB/LWC</u> | Date: <u>8/2/04</u> County: <u>Stillwater</u> State: <u>MT</u> |
| Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Is the area a potential Problem Area?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (If needed, explain on reverse.) | Community ID: <u>Impoundment #2</u> Transect ID: <u>2</u> Plot ID: <u>SP-4</u> |

VEGETATION

| Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator | Dominant Plant Species | Stratum | Indicator |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | DACGLO | H | FACU | 9 | |
| 2 | Gallium sp. | H | (UPL) | 10 | |
| 3 | CYNOFF | H | (UPL) | 11 | |
| 4 | unk grass (grazed) | H | ? | 12 | |
| 5 | ACHMIL | H | UPL | 13 | |
| 6 | | | | 14 | |
| 7 | | | | 15 | |
| 8 | | | | 16 | |

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-). ≥4/5

Area has been grazed very recently.

HYDROLOGY

| | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available | Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required): <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
| Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u>NA</u> (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u>NA</u> (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: <u>0</u> (in.) | |
| Remarks: Area may be converting to wetland. | |

SOILS

| Map Unit Name | | Lolo - Nesda | | Drainage Class: <u>well</u> | |
|---|---------|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Series and Phase): | | | | Field Observations | |
| Taxonomy (Subgroup): | | <u>Pachic Haploboroll; Fluventic Haploboroll.</u> | | Confirm Mapped Type? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Profile Description: | | | | | |
| Depth inches | Horizon | Matrix Color (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist) | Mottle Abundance/Contrast | Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc. |
| 0-6 | A | 10YR 2/1 | | | org. loam |
| 6+ | C | | | | cobbles |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Hydric Soil Indicators: | | | | | |
| <u> </u> Histosol | | <u> </u> Concretions | | | |
| <u> </u> Histic Epipedon | | <u> </u> High Organic Content in surface Layer in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Sulfidic Odor | | <u> </u> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils | | | |
| <u> </u> Aquic Moisture Regime | | <u> </u> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u> </u> Reducing Conditions | | <u> </u> Listed on National Hydric Soils List | | | |
| <u>X</u> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors | | <u> </u> Other (Explain in Remarks) | | | |
| Hydric soil given low-chroma and likelihood between cobbles at 10". | | | | | |

WETLAND DETERMINATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <u> </u> Yes <u>X</u> No | Is this Sampling Point Within a Wetland? <u> </u> Yes <u>X</u> No |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Hydric Soils Present? <u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No | |
| Remarks: | |
| Area may be converting to WL. | |

Approved by HQUSACE 2/92

14A. HABITAT FOR FEDERALLY LISTED OR PROPOSED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED PLANTS AND ANIMALS

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check box):

- Primary or Critical habitat (list species) D S
 Secondary habitat (list species) D S Bald Eagle
 Incidental habitat (list species) D S
 No usable habitat D S

ii. **Rating** (Based on the strongest habitat chosen in 14A(i) above, find the corresponding rating of High (H), Moderate (M), or Low (L) for this function.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| Highest Habitat Level | doc/primary | sus/primary | doc/secondary | sus/secondary | doc/incidental | sus/incidental | none |
| Functional Point and Rating | --- | --- | .8 (M) | --- | --- | --- | --- |

If documented, list the source (e.g., observations, records, etc.): Land owner's son, Blake, noted Bald Eagle fishing in ponds; 2004 MDT biologist observed eagle roosting in cottonwood in wetland and FWP has observed a nest within 1/2 mile of the mitigation site.

14B. HABITAT FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS RATED AS S1, S2, OR S3 BY THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM.

Do not include species listed in 14A(i).

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain (check box):

- Primary or Critical habitat (list species) D S _____
 Secondary habitat (list species) D S _____
 Incidental habitat (list species) D S yellowstone cutthroat
 No usable habitat D S _____

iii. **Rating** (Based on the strongest habitat chosen in 14B(i) above, find the corresponding rating of High (H), Moderate (M), or Low (L) for this function.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| Highest Habitat Level: | doc/primary | sus/primary | doc/secondary | sus/secondary | doc/incidental | sus/incidental | none |
| Functional Point and Rating | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | .1 (L) | --- |

If documented, list the source (e.g., observations, records, etc.): _____

14C. General Wildlife Habitat Rating

i. **Evidence of overall wildlife use in the AA:** (Check either substantial, moderate, or low)

Substantial (based on any of the following)

- observations of abundant wildlife #s or high species diversity (during any period)
- abundant wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- presence of extremely limiting habitat features not available in the surrounding area
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

Low (based on any of the following)

- few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods
- little to no wildlife sign
- sparse adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of AA

Moderate (based on any of the following)

- observations of scattered wildlife groups or individuals or relatively few species during peak periods
- common occurrence of wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.
- adequate adjacent upland food sources
- interviews with local biologists with knowledge of the AA

ii. **Wildlife Habitat Features** (Working from top to bottom, select appropriate AA attributes to determine the exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) rating. Structural diversity is from #13. For class cover to be considered evenly distributed, vegetated classes must be within 20% of each other in terms of their percent composition in the AA (see #10). Duration of Surface Water: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral; A= absent.

| Structural Diversity (from #13) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High | | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Low | | | |
|--|--|-----|-----|----|--|-----|-----|----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Even | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uneven | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Even | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Even | | | |
| Class Cover Distribution (all vegetated classes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Duration of Surface Water in ≥ 10% of AA | P/P | S/I | T/E | A | P/P | S/I | T/E | A | P/P | S/I | T/E | A | P/P | S/I | T/E | A | P/P | S/I | T/E | A |
| Low disturbance at AA (see #12) | -- | -- | -- | -- | E | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Moderate disturbance at AA (see #12) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| High disturbance at AA (see #12) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

iii. **Rating** (Using 14C(i) and 14C(ii) above and the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.)

| Evidence of Wildlife Use from 14C(i) | Wildlife Habitat Features Rating from 14C(ii) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> High | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Low |
| Substantial | 1 (E) | -- | -- | -- |
| Moderate | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Low | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Comments: _____

14D. GENERAL FISH/AQUATIC HABITAT RATING NA (proceed to 14E)

If the AA is not or was not historically used by fish due to lack of habitat, excessive gradient, then check the NA box above.

Assess if the AA is used by fish or the existing situation is "correctable" such that the AA could be used by fish [e.g. fish use is precluded by perched culvert or other barrier, etc.]. If fish use occurs in the AA but is not desired from a resource management perspective (e.g. fish use within an irrigation canal), then Habitat Quality [14D(i)] below should be marked as "Low", applied accordingly in 14D(ii) below, and noted in the comments.

i. **Habitat Quality** (Pick the appropriate AA attributes in matrix to pick the exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) quality rating.)

| Duration of Surface Water in AA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Perennial | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral | | |
|--|---|--------|------|--|--------|------|--|--------|------|
| Cover - % of waterbody in AA containing cover objects (e.g. submerged logs, large rocks & boulders, overhanging banks, floating-leaved vegetation) | >25% | 10-25% | <10% | >25% | 10-25% | <10% | >25% | 10-25% | <10% |
| Shading - >75% of streambank or shoreline of AA contains riparian or wetland scrub-shrub or forested communities | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Shading - 50 to 75% of streambank or shoreline of AA contains riparian or wetland scrub-shrub or forested communities. | -- | H | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Shading - < 50% of streambank or shoreline of AA contains riparian or wetland scrub-shrub or forested communities. | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

ii. **Modified Habitat Quality:** Is fish use of the AA precluded or significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, other man-made structure or activity or is the waterbody included on the 'MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development' with 'Probable Impaired Uses' listed as cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support?

Y N If yes, reduce the rating from 14D(i) by one level and check the modified habitat quality rating: E H M L

iii. **Rating** (Use the conclusions from 14D(i) and 14D(ii) above and the matrix below to pick the functional point and rating of exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L).)

| Types of Fish Known or Suspected Within AA | Modified Habitat Quality from 14D(ii) | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> Low |
| Native game fish | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Introduced game fish | -- | .8 (H) | -- | -- |
| Non-game fish | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| No fish | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Comments: unknown if native game fish thrive in ponds, suspected YCutThroat

14E. FLOOD ATTENUATION NA (proceed to 14G)

Applies only to wetlands subject to flooding via in-channel or overbank flow.

If wetlands in AA do not flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, check NA above.

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, mark the appropriate attributes to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.)

| Estimated wetland area in AA subject to periodic flooding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ≥ 10 acres | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <10, >2 acres | | | <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 acres | | |
|---|--|--------|------|--|--------|------|-----------------------------------|--------|------|
| % of flooded wetland classified as forested, scrub/shrub, or both | 75% | 25-75% | <25% | 75% | 25-75% | <25% | 75% | 25-75% | <25% |
| AA contains no outlet or restricted outlet | -- | .9 (H) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| AA contains unrestricted outlet | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

ii. **Are residences, businesses, or other features which may be significantly damaged by floods located within 0.5 miles downstream of the AA?** (check)

Y N Comments: homes, ranches

14F. SHORT AND LONG TERM SURFACE WATER STORAGE NA (proceed to 14G)

Applies to wetlands that flood or pond from overbank or in-channel flow, precipitation, upland surface flow, or groundwater flow.

If no wetlands in the AA are subject to flooding or ponding, check NA above.

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.)

Abbreviations: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral.

| Estimated maximum acre feet of water contained in wetlands within the AA that are subject to periodic flooding or ponding. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> >5 acre feet | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <5, >1 acre feet | | | <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 acre foot | | |
|--|--|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Duration of surface water at wetlands within the AA | P/P | S/I | T/E | P/P | S/I | T/E | P/P | S/I | T/E |
| Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years | 1 (H) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Comments: _____

14G. SEDIMENT/NUTRIENT/TOXICANT RETENTION AND REMOVAL NA (proceed to 14H)

Applies to wetlands with potential to receive excess sediments, nutrients, or toxicants through influx of surface or ground water or direct input.

If no wetlands in the AA are subject to such input, check NA above.

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.)

| Sediment, Nutrient, and Toxicant Input Levels Within AA | AA receives or surrounding land use has potential to deliver low to moderate levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are not substantially impaired. Minor sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present. | | | | Waterbody on MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development for "probable causes" related to sediment, nutrients, or toxicants or AA receives or surrounding land use has potential to deliver high levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are substantially impaired. Major sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present. | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ≥ 70% | | <input type="checkbox"/> < 70% | | <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 70% | | <input type="checkbox"/> < 70% | |
| % cover of wetland vegetation in AA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Evidence of flooding or ponding in AA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| AA contains no or restricted outlet | 1 (H) | | -- | | -- | | -- | |
| AA contains unrestricted outlet | -- | | -- | | -- | | -- | |

Comments: _____

14H. SEDIMENT/Shoreline Stabilization NA (proceed to 14I)

Applies only if AA occurs on or within the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage, or on the shoreline of a standing water body that is subject to wave action. If this does not apply, check NA above.

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.

| % Cover of wetland streambank or shoreline by species with deep, binding rootmasses. | Duration of Surface Water Adjacent to Rooted Vegetation | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent / Perennial | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral |
| ≥ 65 % | 1 (H) | -- | -- |
| 35-64 % | -- | -- | -- |
| < 35 % | -- | -- | -- |

Comments:

14I. PRODUCTION EXPORT / FOOD CHAIN SUPPORT

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function. A = acreage of vegetated component in the AA. B = structural diversity rating from #13. C = Yes (Y) or No (N) as to whether or not the AA contains a surface or subsurface outlet; P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E/A = temporary/ephemeral/absent.

| A | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component >5 acres | | | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component 1-5 acres | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component <1 acre | | | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| B | <input type="checkbox"/> High | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | | <input type="checkbox"/> Low | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | | <input type="checkbox"/> Low | | <input type="checkbox"/> High | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | | <input type="checkbox"/> Low | |
| C | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N | <input type="checkbox"/> Y | <input type="checkbox"/> N |
| P/P | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | .9H | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| S/I | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| T/E/A | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Comments:

14J. GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE/RECHARGE (D/R) (Check the indicators in i & ii below that apply to the AA)

i. **Discharge Indicators**

- Springs are known or observed.
- Vegetation growing during dormant season/drought.
- Wetland occurs at the toe of a natural slopes.
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge.
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods.
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet.
- Other

ii. **Recharge Indicators**

- Permeable substrate presents without underlying impeding layer.
- Wetland contains inlet but not outlet.
- Other

iii. **Rating:** Use the information from 14J(i) and 14J(ii) above and the table below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H) or low (L) for this function.

| Criteria | Functional Point and Rating |
|---|-----------------------------|
| AA has known Discharge/Recharge area or one or more indicators of D/R present | 1 (H) |
| No Discharge/Recharge indicators present | -- |
| Available Discharge/Recharge information inadequate to rate AA D/R potential | -- |

Comments:

14K. UNIQUENESS

i. **Rating** (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.

| Replacement Potential | AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland or plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP. | | | AA does not contain previously cited rare types and structural diversity (#13) is high or contains plant association listed as "S2" by the MTNHP. | | | AA does not contain previously cited rare types or associations and structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate. | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Estimated Relative Abundance from #11 | <input type="checkbox"/> rare | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> abundant | <input type="checkbox"/> rare | <input type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> abundant | <input type="checkbox"/> rare | <input type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> abundant |
| Low disturbance at AA (#12i) | -- | .9H | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Moderate disturbance at AA (#12i) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| High disturbance at AA (#12i) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Comments: 80 yr old cottonwood forest should be acknowledged in this rating.

14L. RECREATION / EDUCATION POTENTIAL

i. Is the AA a known recreational or educational site? Yes (Rate High (1.0), then proceed to 14L(ii) only] No [Proceed to 14L(iii)]

ii. Check categories that apply to the AA: Educational / scientific study Consumptive rec. Non-consumptive rec. Other

iii. Based on the location, diversity, size, and other site attributes, is there a strong potential for recreational or educational use?

- Yes [Proceed to 14L (ii) and then 14L(iv).]
- No [Rate as low in 14L(iv)]

iv. **Rating** (Use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.

| Ownership | Disturbance at AA from #12(i) | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Low | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate | <input type="checkbox"/> High |
| Public ownership | -- | -- | -- |
| Private ownership | -- | -- | -- |

Comments: _____

FUNCTION, VALUE SUMMARY, AND OVERALL RATING

| Function and Value Variables | Rating | Actual Functional Points | Possible Functional Points | Functional Units (Actual Points x Estimated AA Acreage) |
|--|--------|--------------------------|--|--|
| A. Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat | M | 0.80 | 1 | |
| B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat | L | 0.10 | 1 | |
| C. General Wildlife Habitat | E | 1.00 | 1 | |
| D. General Fish/Aquatic Habitat | H | 0.80 | 1 | |
| E. Flood Attenuation | H | 0.90 | 1 | |
| F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage | H | 1.00 | 1 | |
| G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal | H | 1.00 | 1 | |
| H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization | H | 1.00 | 1 | |
| I. Production Export/Food Chain Support | H | 0.90 | 1 | |
| J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge | H | 1.00 | 1 | |
| K. Uniqueness | H | 0.90 | 1 | |
| L. Recreation/Education Potential | H | 1.00 | 1 | |
| Totals: | | 10.40 | 12.00 | 96 |
| Percent of Total Possible Points: | | | 87% (Actual / Possible) x 100 [rd to nearest whole #] | |

| |
|--|
| <p>Category I Wetland: (Must satisfy one of the following criteria. If not proceed to Category II.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of 1 functional point for Listed/Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of 1 functional point for Uniqueness; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of 1 functional point for Flood Attenuation and answer to Question 14E(ii) is "yes"; or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Percent of total Possible Points is > 80%.</p> |
| <p>Category II Wetland: (Criteria for Category I not satisfied and meets any one of the following Category II criteria. If not satisfied, proceed to Category IV.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of 1 functional point for Species Rated S1, S2, or S3 by the MT Natural Heritage Program; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish/Aquatic Habitat; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "High" to "Exceptional" ratings for both General Wildlife Habitat and General Fish / Aquatic Habitat; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Score of .9 functional point for Uniqueness; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Percent of total possible points is > 65%.</p> |
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Category III Wetland: (Criteria for Categories I, II, or IV not satisfied.)</p> |
| <p>Category IV Wetland: (Criteria for Categories I or II are not satisfied and <u>all</u> of the following criteria are met; If not satisfied, proceed to Category III.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Low" rating for Uniqueness; and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Low" rating for Production Export / Food Chain Support; and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Percent of total possible points is < 30%.</p> |

OVERALL ANALYSIS AREA (AA) RATING: (Check appropriate category based on the criteria outlined above.)

I **II** **III** **IV**

Appendix C

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS 2004 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*

2004 STILLWATER RIVER



Photo A. Description: SW end of pond #1
Compass Reading: NE.



Location: B Description: Pond #1 **Compass Reading:** SE



Location: D Description: Pond #2 interior OW finger
Compass Reading: NE



Location: E Description: Pond #2 **Compass Reading:** NE



Location: F Description: Pond #2 **Compass Reading:** SW



Location: G Description: Transect 2: pond #2
transect from WL end **Compass Reading:** NW

2004 STILLWATER RIVER



Location: H **Description:** Transect 2: pond #2 transect from WL end **Compass Reading:** SE



Location: I **Description:** Pond #2 **Compass Reading:** NW



Location: J **Description:** UPL adjacent to pond #2 **Compass Reading:** SW



Location: K **Photo Frame:** 2/21A **Description:** UPL/WL interface pond #2 **Compass Reading:** SW



Location: L **Description:** Transect 1: pond #1 interior **Compass Reading:** SE



Location: L-2 **Description:** Transect 1: view into WL fingers inside pond #1 from L-stake **Compass Reading:** NW

2004 STILLWATER RIVER



Location: M **Photo Frame:** 4/5A **Description:**
Transect 1: from M-stake toward L-stake **Compass**
Reading: NW

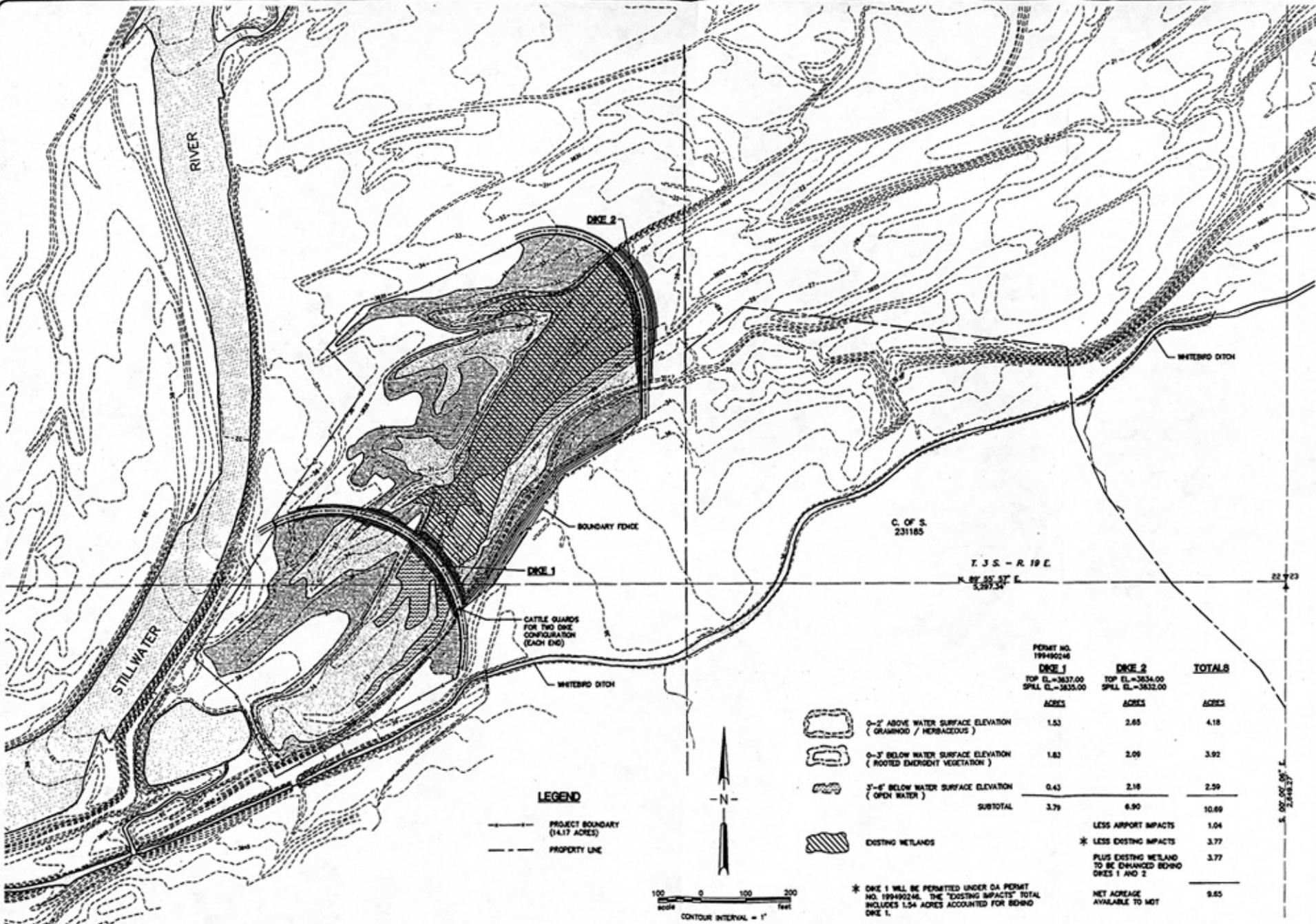


Stillwater River 2004

Appendix D

PROPOSED WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MAP

*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*



LEGEND

— PROJECT BOUNDARY (14.17 ACRES)

- - - PROPERTY LINE

- 0-2' ABOVE WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (GRAINLAND / HERBACEOUS)
- 0-3' BELOW WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (ROOTED EMERGENT VEGETATION)
- 3'-6' BELOW WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (OPEN WATER)
- EXISTING WETLANDS

| PERMIT NO. 199-90248 | DIKE 1 | DIKE 2 | TOTALS |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|--------|
| TOP EL. = 3637.00 | TOP EL. = 3637.00 | TOP EL. = 3634.00 | |
| SPILL EL. = 3635.00 | SPILL EL. = 3635.00 | SPILL EL. = 3632.00 | |
| ACRES | ACRES | ACRES | |
| 1.53 | 2.65 | 4.18 | |
| 1.83 | 2.09 | 3.92 | |
| 0.43 | 2.18 | 2.59 | |
| SUBTOTAL | 6.90 | 10.69 | |
| | LESS AIRPORT IMPACTS | 1.04 | |
| | * LESS EXISTING WETLANDS | 3.77 | |
| | PLUS EXISTING WETLAND TO BE ENLARGED BEHIND DIKES 1 AND 2 | 3.77 | |
| | NET ACREAGE AVAILABLE TO MDT | 9.65 | |

* DIKE 1 WILL BE PERMITTED UNDER DA PERMIT NO. 199-90248. THE "EXISTING IMPACTS" TOTAL INCLUDES 1.54 ACRES ACCOUNTED FOR BEHIND DIKE 1.

Project No. 24056138 • 10-28-06 • Date: JULY 1998 • Designed: B.C. • Drawn: J.M.K. • Checked: B.C. • Approved: B.C.

Wetland Mitigation Plan
 No. Revision By Date

STILLWATER RIVER WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN
 WETLAND MITIGATION SITE

MSE-IHKM, Inc.
 2727 Central Avenue
 P.O. Box 31318
 Billings, MT 59107-1318
 (406) 656-6999
 F.A.X. (406) 656-6998



FIGURE
2b

Appendix E

BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL GPS PROTOCOL

*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*

BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL

The following is an outline of the MDT Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Bird Survey Protocol. Though each site is vastly different, the bird survey data collection methods must be standardized to a certain degree to increase repeatability. An Area Search within a restricted time frame will be used to collect the following data: a bird species list, density, behavior, and habitat-type use. There will be some decisions that team members must make to fit the protocol to their particular site. Each of the following sections and the desired result describes the protocol established to reflect bird species use over time.

Species Use within the Mitigation Wetland: Survey Method

Result: To conduct a bird survey of the wetland mitigation site within a restricted period of time and the budget allotment.

Sites that can be circumambulated or walked throughout.

These types of sites will include ponds, enhanced historic river channels, wet meadows, and any area that can be surveyed from the entirety of its perimeter or walked throughout. If the wetland is not uncomfortably inundated, conduct several “meandering” transects through the site in an orderly fashion (record the number and approximate location/direction of the transects in the field notebook; they do not have to be formalized or staked). If a very small portion of the site cannot be crossed due to inundation, this method will also apply. Though the sizes of the site vary, each site will require surveying to the fullest extent possible within a set time limit. The optimum times to conduct the survey are in the morning hours. Conduct the survey from sunrise to no later than 11:00 AM. (Note: some sites may have to be surveyed in the late afternoon or evening due to time constraints or weather; if this is the case, record the time of day and include this information in your report discussion.) If the survey is completed before 11:00 AM and no additions are being made to the list, then the task is complete. The overall limiting factor regarding the number of hours that are spent conducting this survey is the number of budgeted hours; this determination must be made by site by each individual.

In many cases, binoculars will be the only instrument that is needed to identify and count the birds using the wetland. If the wetland includes deep water habitat that can not be assessed with binoculars, then a scope and tripod are necessary. If this is the case, establish as many lookout posts as necessary from key vantage points to collect the data. Depending on the size of the open water, more time may be spent viewing the mitigation area from these vantage points than is spent walking the peripheries of more shallow-water wetlands.

Sites that cannot be circumambulated.

These types of sites will include large-bodied waters, such as reservoirs, particularly those with deep water habitat (>6 ft) close to the shore and no wetland development in that area of the shoreline. If one area of the reservoir was graded in such a way to create or enhance the development of a wetland, then that will be the area in which the ambulatory bird survey is conducted. The team member must then determine the length of the shoreline that will be surveyed during each visit.

As stated above in the ambulatory site section, these large sites most likely will have to be surveyed from established vantage points.

Species Use within the Mitigation Wetland: Data Recording

Result: A complete list of bird species using the site, an estimate of bird densities and associated behaviors, and identification of habitat use.

1. Bird Species List

Record the bird species on the Bird Survey - Field Data Sheet using the appropriate 4-letter code of the common name. The coding uses the first two letters of the first two words of the birds' common name or if one name, the first four (4) letters. For example, mourning dove is coded MODO and mallard is MALL. If an unknown individual is observed, use the following protocol and define your abbreviation at the bottom of the field data sheet: unknown shorebird: UNSB; unknown brown bird (UNBR); unknown warbler (UNWA); unknown waterfowl (UNWF). For a flyover of a flock of unknown species, use a term that describes the birds' general characteristics and include the approximate flock size in parentheses; do not fill in the habitat column. For example, a flock of black, medium-sized birds could be coded: UNBB / FO (25). You may also note on the data sheet if that particular individual is using a constructed nest box.

2. Bird Density

In the office, sum the Bird Survey – Field Data Sheet data by species and by behavior. Record this data in the Bird Summary Table.

3. Bird Behavior

Bird behavior must be identified by what is known. When a species is simply observed, the behavior that it is immediately exhibiting is what is recorded. Only behaviors that have discreet descriptive terms should be used. The following terms are recommended: breeding pair individual (BP); foraging (F); flyover (FO); loafing (L; e.g. sleeping, roosting, floating with head tucked under wing are loafing behaviors); and, nesting (N). If more behaviors are observed that do have a specific descriptive word, use them and we will add it to the protocol; descriptive words or phrases such as “migrating” or “living on site” are unknown behaviors.

4. Bird Species Habitat Use

We are interested in what bird species are using which particular habitat within the mitigation wetlands. This data is easily collected by simply recording what habitat the species was initially observed. Use the following broad category habitat classifications: aquatic bed (AB - rooted floating, floating-leaved, or submergent vegetation); forested (FO); marsh (MA – cattail, bulrush, emergent vegetation, etc. with surface water); open water (OW – primarily unvegetated); scrub-shrub (SS); and upland buffer (UP); wet meadow (WM – sedges, rushes, grasses with little to no surface water). If other categories are observed onsite that are not suggested here, we will make a new category next year.

GPS Mapping and Aerial Photo Referencing Procedure

The wetland boundaries, photograph location points and sampling locations were field located with mapping grade Trimble Geo III GPS units. The data was collected with a minimum of three positions per feature using Course/Acquisition code. The collected data was then transferred to a PC and differentially corrected to the nearest operating Community Base Station. The corrected data was then exported to ACAD drawings in Montana State Plain Coordinates NAD 83 international feet.

The GPS positions collected and processed had a 68% accuracy of 7 feet except in isolated areas of Tasks .008 and .011, where it went to 12 feet. This is within the 1 to 5 meter range listed as the expected accuracy of the mapping grade Trimble GPS.

Aerial reference points were used to position the aerial photographs. This positioning did not remove the distortion inherent in all photos; this imagery is to be used as a visual aide only. The located wetland boundaries were given a final review by the wetland biologist and adjustments were made if necessary.

Any relationship of features located to easement or property lines are not to be construed from these figures. These relationships can only be determined with a survey by a licensed surveyor.

Appendix F

2004 MACROINVERTEBRATE SAMPLING PROTOCOL AND DATA

*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Stillwater River
Absarokee, Montana*

AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING PROTOCOL

Equipment List

- D-frame sampling net with 1 mm mesh. Wildco is a good source of these.
- Spare net.
- 1-liter plastic sample jars, wide-mouth. VWR has these: catalog #36319-707.
- 95% ethanol: Northwest Scientific in Billings carries this.

All these other things are generally available at hardware or sporting goods stores. Make the labels on an ink jet printer preferably.

- hip waders.
- pre-printed sample labels (printed on Rite-in-the-Rain or other coated paper, two labels per sample).
- pencil.
- plastic pail (3 or 5 gallon).
- large tea strainer or framed screen.
- towel.
- tape for affixing label to jar.
- cooler with ice for sample storage.

Site Selection

Select the sampling site with these considerations in mind:

- Select a site accessible with hip waders. If substrates are too soft, lay a wide board down to walk on.
- Determine a location that is representative of the overall condition of the wetland.

Sampling

Wetland invertebrates inhabit the substrate, the water column, the stems and leaves of aquatic vegetation, and the water surface. Your goal is to sweep the collecting net through each of these habitat types, and then to combine the resulting samples into the 1-liter sample jar.

Dip out about a gallon of water into the pail. Pour about a cup of ethanol into the sample jar. Fill out the top half of the sample labels, using pencil, since ink will dissolve in the ethanol.

Ideally, you can sample a swath of water column from near-shore outward to a depth of approximately 3 feet with a long sweep of the net, keeping the net at about half the depth of the water throughout the sweep. Sweep the water surface as well. Pull the net through a vegetated area, beneath the water surface, for at least a meter of distance.

Sample the substrate by pulling the net along the bottom, bumping it against the substrate several times as you pull.



This step is optional, but it gives you a chance to see that you've collected some invertebrates. Rinse the net into the bucket, and look for insects, crustaceans, etc. If necessary, repeat the sampling process in a nearby location, and add the net contents to the bucket. Remember to sample all four environments.

Sieve the contents of the bucket through the straining device and pour or carefully scrape the contents of the strainer into the sample jar.

If you skip the bucket-and-sieve steps, simply lift handfuls of material out of the sampling net into the jars. In either case, please include some muck or mud and some vegetation in the jar. Often, you will have collected a large amount of vegetable material. If this is the case, lift out handfuls of material from the sieve into the jar, until the jar is about half full. Please limit material you include in the sample, so that there is only a single jar for each sample.

Top off the sample jar with enough ethanol to cover all the material in the jar. Leave as little headroom as possible.

It is not necessary to sample habitats in any specified order. Keep in mind that disturbing the habitats prior to sampling will chase off the animals you are trying to capture.

Complete the sample labels. Place one label inside the sample jar and tape the other label securely to the outside of the jar. Dry the jar before attaching the outer label if necessary. In some situations, it may be necessary to collect more than one sample at a site. If you take multiple samples from the same site, clearly indicate this by using individual sample numbers, along with the total number of samples collected at the site (e.g. Sample #3 of 5 total samples).

Photograph the sampled site.

Sample Handling/Shipping

- In the field, keep collected samples cool by storing them in a cooler. Only a small amount of ice is necessary.
- Inventory all samples, preparing a list of all sites and enumerating all samples, before shipping or delivering to the laboratory.
- Deliver samples to Rhithron.

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Project
Aquatic Invertebrate Monitoring
Summary 2001 - 2004

METHODS

Among other monitoring activities, aquatic invertebrate assemblages were collected at a number of mitigation wetlands throughout Montana. This report summarizes data generated from four years of collection.

The method employed to assess these wetlands is based on constructing an index using a battery of 12 bioassessment metrics or attributes (Table 1) tested and recommended by Stribling et al. (1995) in a report to the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Science. In that study, it was determined that some of the metrics were of limited use in some geographic regions, and for some wetland types. Despite that finding, all 12 metrics are used in this evaluation of mitigated wetlands, since detailed geographic information and wetland classifications were unavailable.

Scoring criteria for metrics were developed by generally following the tactic used by Stribling et al. Boxplots were generated using a statistical software package, and distributions, median values, ranges, and quartiles for each metric were examined. All sites in all years of sampling were used. Camp Creek, which was sampled in 2002, 2003, and 2004, was assessed using the tested metric battery developed for montane streams of Western Montana (Bollman 1998). The fauna at the Camp Creek site was different from that of the other sites, and suggested montane stream conditions rather than wetland conditions. For the wetlands, "optimal" scores were generally those that fell above the 75th percentile (for those metrics that decrease in value in response to stress) or below the 25th percentile (for metrics that respond to stress by an increase in value) of all scores. Additional scoring ranges were established by bisecting the range below the 75th percentile for decreasing scores (or above the 25th percentile for increasing scores) into "sub-optimal" and "poor" assessment categories. A score of 5, 3, or 1 was assigned to optimal, sub-optimal, and poor metric performance, respectively. In this way, metric values were translated into normalized metric scores, and scores for all metrics were summed to produce a total bioassessment score. Total bioassessment scores were classified according to a similar process, using the ranges and distributions of total scores for all sites studied in all years.

The purpose of constructing an index from biological attributes or metrics is to provide a means of integrating information to facilitate the determination of whether management action is needed. The nature of the action needed is not determined solely by the index score, however, but by consideration of an analysis of the component metrics, the taxonomic composition of the assemblages, and other issues. The diagnostic functions of the metrics and taxonomic data need more study; our understanding of the interrelationships of natural environmental factors and anthropogenic disturbances are tentative. Thus, the further interpretive remarks accompanying the raw taxonomic and metric data are offered cautiously.

Sample processing

Aquatic invertebrate samples were collected at mitigation wetland sites in the summer months of 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 by personnel of Land and Water Consulting, Inc. Sampling procedures utilized were based on the protocols developed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ). Sampling consisted of D-frame net sweeps through emergent vegetation (when present), the water column, over the water surface, and included disturbing and scraping substrates at each sampled sites. Samples were preserved in ethanol at each wetland site and subsequently delivered to Rhithron Associates, Inc. for processing, taxonomic determinations, and data analysis.

At Rhithron's laboratory, Caton subsamplers and stereomicroscopes with 10X magnification were used to randomly select a minimum of 100 organisms, when possible, from each sample. In some cases, the entire sample contained fewer than 100 organisms; in these cases, all organisms from the sample were taken. Taxa were identified in general accordance with the taxonomic resolution standards set out in the MT DEQ Standard Operating Procedures for Sampling and Sample Analysis (Bukantis 1998). All samples were re-identified by a second taxonomist for quality assurance purposes. The identified samples have been archived at Rhithron's laboratory. Taxonomic data and organism counts were entered into an Excel 2000 spreadsheet, and metrics were calculated and scored using spreadsheet formulae.

Bioassessment metrics

An index based on the performance of 12 metrics was constructed, as described above. Table 1 lists those metrics, describes their calculation and the expected response of each to increased degradation or impairment of the wetland.

In addition to the summed scores of each metric and the associated impairment classification described above, each individual metric informs the bioassessment to some degree. The four richness metrics (Total taxa, POET, Chironomidae taxa, and Crustacea taxa + Mollusca taxa) can be interpreted to express habitat complexity as well as water quality. Complex, diverse habitats consist of variable substrates, emergent vegetation, variable water depths and other factors, and are potential features of long-established stable wetlands with minimal human disturbance. In the study conducted by Stribling et al. (1995), all four richness metrics were found to be significantly associated with water quality parameters including conductance, salinity, and total dissolved solids.

Four composition metrics (%Chironomidae, %Orthoclaadiinae of Chironomidae, %Crustacea + %Mollusca, and %Amphipoda) measure the relative contributions of certain taxonomic groups that may have significant responses to habitat and/or water quality impacts. For example, amphipods have been demonstrated to increase in abundance in alkaline conditions. Short-lived, relatively mobile taxa such as chironomids dominate ephemeral environments; many are hemoglobin-bearers capable of tolerating de-oxygenated conditions.

Two tolerance metrics (the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index and %Dominant taxon) were included in the bioassessment battery. The HBI indicates the overall invertebrate assemblage tolerance to nutrient enrichment, warm water, and/or low dissolved oxygen conditions. The percent abundance of the dominant taxon has been demonstrated to be strongly associated with pH, conductance, salinity, total organic carbon, and total dissolved solids.

Two trophic measures (%Collector-gatherers and %Filterers) may be helpful in expressing functional integrity of the invertebrate assemblage, which can be impacted by poor water quality or habitat degradation. High proportions of filtering organisms suggest nutrient and/or organic enrichment, while abundant collectors suggest more positive functional conditions and well-developed wetland morphology. These organisms graze periphyton growing on stable surfaces such as macrophytes.

RESULTS

In 2001, 29 sites were sampled statewide. Nineteen of these sites were revisited in 2002, and 13 new sites were sampled. In 2003, 17 sites that had been visited in both 2001 and 2002 were re-sampled, and 11 sites sampled for the first time in 2001 were re-visited. In addition, 2 new sites were sampled. In 2004, 25 sites were re-visited, and 6 new sites were sampled. Thus, the 2004 database contains data for 122 sampling events at 50 unique sites. Table 2 summarizes sites and sampling years.

Metric scoring criteria were re-developed each year as new data was added. For 2004, all 122 records were utilized. Ranges of individual metrics, as well as median metric values remained remarkably consistent in each of the 4 years; minimal changes resulted from the addition of new data in 2004. The summary metric values and scores for the 2004 samples are given in Tables 3a-3d.

Literature cited

Bollman, W. 1998. Montana Valleys and Foothill Prairies Ecoregion. Master's Thesis. (M.S.) University of Montana. Missoula, Montana.

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Stribling, J.B., J. Lathrop-Davis, M.T. Barbour, J.S. White, and E.W. Leppo. 1995. Evaluation of environmental indicators for the wetlands of Montana: the multimetric approach using benthic macroinvertebrates. Report to the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Science. Helena, Montana.

Table 1. Aquatic invertebrate metrics employed in the MTDT mitigation wetland monitoring study, 2001- 2004.

| Metric | Metric Calculation | Expected Response to Degradation or Impairment |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Total taxa | Count of unique taxa identified to lowest recommended taxonomic level | Decrease |
| POET | Count unique Plecoptera, Trichoptera, Ephemeroptera, and Odonata taxa identified to lowest recommended taxonomic level | Decrease |
| Chironomidae taxa | Count unique midge taxa identified to lowest recommended taxonomic level | Decrease |
| Crustacea taxa + Mollusca taxa | Count unique Crustacea taxa and Mollusca taxa identified to lowest recommended taxonomic level | Decrease |
| % Chironomidae | Percent abundance of midges in the subsample | Increase |
| Orthocladiinae/Chironomidae | Number of individual midges in the sub-family Orthocladiinae / total number of midges in the subsample. | Decrease |
| %Amphipoda | Percent abundance of amphipods in the subsample | Increase |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | Percent abundance of crustaceans in the subsample plus percent abundance of molluscs in the subsample | Increase |
| HBI | Relative abundance of each taxon multiplied times that taxon's modified Hilsenhoff Biotic Index value. These numbers are summed over all taxa in the subsample. | Increase |
| %Dominant taxon | Percent abundance of the most abundant taxon in the subsample | Increase |
| %Collector-Gatherers | Percent abundance of organisms in the collector-gatherer functional group | Decrease |
| %Filterers | Percent abundance of organisms in the filterer functional group | Increase |

Table 2. Montana Department of Transportation Mitigated Wetlands Monitoring Project sites. 2001 – 2004.

| 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beaverhead 1 | Beaverhead 1 | Beaverhead 1 | Beaverhead 1 |
| Beaverhead 2 | Beaverhead 2 | | |
| Beaverhead 3 | Beaverhead 3 | | Beaverhead 3 |
| Beaverhead 4 | Beaverhead 4 | Beaverhead 4 | |
| Beaverhead 5 | Beaverhead 5 | Beaverhead 5 | Beaverhead 5 |
| Beaverhead 6 | Beaverhead 6 | Beaverhead 6 | Beaverhead 6 |
| Big Sandy 1 | | | |
| Big Sandy 2 | | | |
| Big Sandy 3 | | | |
| Big Sandy 4 | | | |
| Johnson-Valier | | | |
| VIDA | | | |
| Cow Coulee | Cow Coulee | Cow Coulee | |
| Fourchette - Puffin | Fourchette - Puffin | Fourchette - Puffin | Fourchette - Puffin |
| Fourchette - Flashlight | Fourchette - Flashlight | Fourchette - Flashlight | Fourchette - Flashlight |
| Fourchette - Penguin | Fourchette - Penguin | Fourchette - Penguin | Fourchette - Penguin |
| Fourchette - Albatross | Fourchette - Albatross | Fourchette - Albatross | Fourchette - Albatross |
| Big Spring | Big Spring | Big Spring | Big Spring |
| Vince Ames | | | |
| Ryegate | | | |
| Lavinia | | | |
| Stillwater | Stillwater | Stillwater | Stillwater |
| Roundup | Roundup | Roundup | Roundup |
| Wigeon | Wigeon | Wigeon | Wigeon |
| Ridgeway | Ridgeway | Ridgeway | Ridgeway |
| Musgrave - Rest. 1 |
| Musgrave - Rest. 2 |
| Musgrave - Enh. 1 |
| Musgrave - Enh. 2 | | | |
| | Hoskins Landing | Hoskins Landing | Hoskins Landing |
| | Peterson - 1 | Peterson - 1 | Peterson - 1 |
| | Peterson - 2 | | Peterson - 2 |
| | Peterson - 4 | Peterson - 4 | Peterson - 4 |
| | Peterson - 5 | Peterson - 5 | Peterson - 5 |
| | Jack Johnson - main | Jack Johnson - main | |
| | Jack Johnson - SW | Jack Johnson - SW | |
| | Creston | Creston | Creston |
| | Lawrence Park | | |
| | Perry Ranch | | |
| | SF Smith River | SF Smith River | SF Smith River |
| | Camp Creek | Camp Creek | Camp Creek |
| | Kleinschmidt | Kleinschmidt - pond | Kleinschmidt - pond |
| | | Kleinschmidt - stream | Kleinschmidt - stream |
| | | Ringling - Galt | |
| | | | Circle |
| | | | Cloud Ranch Pond |
| | | | Cloud Ranch Stream |
| | | | Colloid |
| | | | Jack Creek |
| | | | Norem |

Table 3a.

| | BEAVER HEAD #1 | BEAVER HEAD #3 | BEAVER HEAD #5 | BEAVER HEAD #6 | BIG SPRING CREEK | CIRCLE | CLOUD RANCH POND | CLOUD RANCH STREAM | COLLOID | CRESTON |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total taxa | 27 | 12 | 21 | 18 | 25 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 8 | 18 |
| POET | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 2 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| % Chironomidae | 0.33636 | 0.18888 | 0.39285 | 0.57547 | 0.44329 | 0.55855 | 0.41666 | 0.84 | 0.09090 | 0.06087 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 0.05405 | 0.35294 | 0.06818 | 0.36065 | 0.27907 | 0.69354 | 0.4 | 0.16666 | 0 | 0 |
| %Amphipoda | 0.03636 | 0 | 0.01785 | 0.05660 | 0.05154 | 0 | 0.00925 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 0.31818 | 0.73333 | 0.05357 | 0.12264 | 0.18556 | 0.03603 | 0.36111 | 0.01 | 0.09090 | 0.73913 |
| HBI | 7.97169 | 7.88888 | 8.36363 | 8.15789 | 7.61855 | 7.19090 | 7.32291 | 4.84 | 6 | 6.92173 |
| %Dominant taxon | 0.2 | 0.57777 | 0.23214 | 0.25471 | 0.23711 | 0.38738 | 0.13888 | 0.38 | 0.27272 | 0.37391 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 0.40909 | 0.75555 | 0.51785 | 0.62264 | 0.78350 | 0.05405 | 0.67592 | 0.74 | 0.18181 | 0.29565 |
| %Filterers | 0.12727 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.01030 | 0.15315 | 0.09259 | 0.17 | 0 | 0.06087 |
| Total taxa | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| POET | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| % Chironomidae | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| %Amphipoda | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 5 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| HBI | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| %Dominant taxon | 5 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| %Filterers | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | 40 | 26 | 38 | 38 | 44 | 32 | 36 | 38 | 34 | 32 |
| | 0.666667 | 0.433333 | 0.633333 | 0.633333 | 0.733333 | 0.533333 | 0.6 | 0.633333 | 0.566667 | 0.533333 |
| | sub-optimal | poor | sub-optimal | sub-optimal | optimal | sub-optimal | sub-optimal | sub-optimal | sub-optimal | sub-optimal |

Table 3b.

| | FOURCHETTE CREEK ALBATROSS RESERVOIR | FOURCHETTE CREEK FLASHLIGHT RESERVOIR | FOURCHETTE CREEK PENGUIN RESERVOIR | FOURCHETTE CREEK PUFFIN RESERVOIR | JACK CREEK | MDT CAMP CREEK | MDT HOSKINS LANDING | MDT KLEINSCHMIDT CREEK | MDT KLEINSCHMIDT POND |
|------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total taxa | 18 | 23 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 35 | 25 | 19 | 19 |
| POET | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 6 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| % Chironomidae | 0.135135 | 0.265306 | 0.066116 | 0.247934 | 0.352113 | 0.37963 | 0.036697 | 0.438776 | 0.047619 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 0.2 | 0.346154 | 0.625 | 0.3 | 0.52 | 0.585366 | 0.5 | 0.627907 | 0.8 |
| %Amphipoda | 0.126126 | 0.336735 | 0.578512 | 0.041322 | 0.028169 | 0 | 0.018349 | 0.010204 | 0.009524 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 0.684685 | 0.387755 | 0.77686 | 0.371901 | 0.380282 | 0.111111 | 0.541284 | 0.061224 | 0.190476 |
| HBI | 7.972973 | 7.216495 | 7.7 | 6.950413 | 7.647059 | 4.570093 | 6.59633 | 6.561224 | 6.67619 |
| %Dominant taxon | 0.495495 | 0.336735 | 0.561983 | 0.140496 | 0.15493 | 0.111111 | 0.366972 | 0.316327 | 0.552381 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 0.873874 | 0.816327 | 0.702479 | 0.38943 | 0.394366 | 0.416667 | 0.091743 | 0.683673 | 0.114286 |
| %Filterers | 0 | 0.010204 | 0.132231 | 0.008264 | 0.042254 | 0.12037 | 0.018349 | 0.153061 | 0.047619 |
| Total taxa | | | | | | | | | |
| POET | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| % Chironomidae | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| %Amphipoda | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| HBI | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| %Dominant taxon | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| %Filterers | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | 32 | 44 | 32 | 40 | 46 | 46 | 48 | 42 | 44 |
| | 0.533333 | 0.733333 | 0.533333 | 0.666667 | 0.766667 | 0.766667 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.733333 |
| | sub-optimal | optimal | sub-optimal | optimal | optimal | optimal | optimal | optimal | optimal |

Table 3d.

| | ROUNDUP | SOUTH FORK SMITH RIVER | STILLWATER | WIGEON |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Total taxa | 9 | 20 | 23 | 16 |
| POET | 0 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| % Chironomidae | 0.55 | 0.482143 | 0.466667 | 0.314815 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 0.072727 | 0.055556 | 0.244898 | 0.647059 |
| %Amphipoda | 0 | 0.071429 | 0.12381 | 0.481481 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 0.42 | 0.116071 | 0.180952 | 0.574074 |
| HBI | 8.89 | 6.589286 | 6.47619 | 7.534653 |
| %Dominant taxon | 0.28 | 0.294643 | 0.133333 | 0.481481 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 0.56 | 0.839286 | 0.628571 | 0.657407 |
| %Filterers | 0.14 | 0 | 0 | 0.083333 |
| | | | | |
| Total taxa | | | | |
| POET | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Chironomidae taxa | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Crustacea + Mollusca | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| % Chironomidae | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Orthoclaadiinae/Chir | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| %Amphipoda | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| %Crustacea + %Mollusca | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| HBI | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| %Dominant taxon | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| %Collector-Gatherers | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| %Filterers | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| | 26 | 42 | 46 | 32 |
| | 0.433333 | 0.7 | 0.766667 | 0.533333 |
| | poor | optimal | optimal | Sub-optimal |

Aquatic Invertebrate Taxonomic Data

Site Name STILLWATER

Date Collected

| Order | Family | Taxon | Count | Percent | Unique | BI | FFG |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------|--------|----|-----|
| Amphipoda | | Ostracoda | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 8 | CG |
| | Talitridae | | | | | | |
| Basommatophora | | <i>Hyaletta</i> | 13 | 12.38% | Yes | 8 | CG |
| | Lymnaeidae | | | | | | |
| | Physidae | <i>Stagnicola</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 6 | SC |
| Coleoptera | | Physidae | 4 | 3.81% | Yes | 8 | SC |
| | Haliplidae | | | | | | |
| Diptera | | <i>Haliphus</i> | 3 | 2.86% | Yes | 5 | PH |
| | Ceratopogonidae | | | | | | |
| | | Ceratopogonidae | 4 | 3.81% | No | 6 | PR |
| | | Ceratopogoninae | 6 | 5.71% | Yes | 6 | PR |
| | Chironomidae | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Ablabesmyia</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 8 | CG |
| | | <i>Acricotopus</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 10 | CG |
| | | <i>Cladopelma</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 9 | CG |
| | | <i>Cricotopus (Isocladius)</i> | 8 | 7.62% | Yes | 7 | SH |
| | | <i>Dicrotendipes</i> | 8 | 7.62% | Yes | 8 | CG |
| | | <i>Nanocladius</i> | 3 | 2.86% | Yes | 3 | CG |
| | | <i>Paratanytarsus</i> | 14 | 13.33% | Yes | 6 | CG |
| | | <i>Polypeditum</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 6 | SH |
| | | <i>Pseudochironomus</i> | 12 | 11.43% | Yes | 5 | CG |
| | Ephemeroptera | Tipulidae | | | | | |
| | | <i>Tipula</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 4 | SH |
| Baetidae | | | | | | | |
| | Caenidae | <i>Callibaetis</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 9 | CG |
| Heteroptera | | <i>Caenis</i> | 11 | 10.48% | Yes | 7 | CG |
| | Notonectidae | | | | | | |
| Odonata | | <i>Notonecta</i> | 3 | 2.86% | Yes | 5 | PR |
| | Aeshnidae | | | | | | |
| | | <i>Aeshna</i> | 1 | 0.95% | Yes | 5 | PR |
| Trombidiformes | Coenagrionidae | | | | | | |
| | | Coenagrionidae | 2 | 1.90% | Yes | 7 | PR |
| Grand Total | | Acari | 5 | 4.76% | Yes | 5 | PR |
| | | | 105 | | | | |

Aquatic Invertebrate Data Summary

Project ID: MDT04LW
STORET Station ID:
Station Name: STILLWATER

Activity ID:

Sample Date:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Sample type | |
| SUBSAMPLE TOTAL ORGANISMS | 105 |
| Portion of sample used | 17.07% |
| Estimated number in total sample | 615 |
| Conversion factor | 7.881 |
| Estimated number in 1 square meter | 827 |
| Sampling effort | |
| Habitat type | |
| EPT abundance | 12 |
| Taxa richness | 22 |
| Number EPT taxa | 2 |
| Percent EPT | 11.43% |

| DOMINANCE | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| TAXON | ABUNDANCE | PERCENT |
| Paratanytarsus | 14 | 13.33% |
| Hyaella | 13 | 12.38% |
| Pseudochironomus | 12 | 11.43% |
| Caenis | 11 | 10.48% |
| Cricotopus (Isocladius) | 8 | 7.62% |
| SUBTOTAL 5 DOMINANTS | 58 | 55.24% |
| Dicrotendipes | 8 | 7.62% |
| Ceratopogoninae | 6 | 5.71% |
| Acari | 5 | 4.76% |
| Physidae | 4 | 3.81% |
| Ceratopogonidae | 4 | 3.81% |
| TOTAL DOMINANTS | 85 | 80.95% |

| TAXONOMIC COMPOSITION | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| GROUP | PERCENT | ABUNDANCE | #TAXA |
| Non-insect taxa | 22.86% | 24 | 5 |
| Odonata | 2.86% | 3 | 2 |
| Ephemeroptera | 11.43% | 12 | 2 |
| Plecoptera | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Heteroptera | 2.86% | 3 | 1 |
| Megaloptera | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Trichoptera | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Lepidoptera | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Coleoptera | 2.86% | 3 | 1 |
| Diptera | 10.48% | 11 | 3 |
| Chironomidae | 46.67% | 49 | 9 |

| TAXONOMIC RATIOS | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| METRIC | VALUE | |
| EPT/Chironomidae | 0.24 | |
| Baetidae/Ephemeroptera | 0.08 | |
| Hydropsychidae/Trichopt | #DIV/0! | |

| TOLERANCE/CONDITION INDICES | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| METRIC | VALUE |
| Community Tolerance Quotient (CTQa) | 96.35 |
| Hilsenhoff Biotic Index | 6.48 |

| DIVERSITY | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|------|
| METRIC | VALUE | | |
| Shannon H (log) | | | 4.44 |
| Shannon H (log2) | | | 3.08 |
| Margalef D | | | 4.72 |
| Simpson D | | | 0.07 |
| Evensness | | | 0.13 |

| VOLITINISM | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| TYPE | ABUNDANCE | # TAXA | PERCENT |
| Multivoltine | 56 | 12 | 53.33% |
| Univoltine | 45 | 9 | 42.86% |
| Semivoltine | 4 | 2 | 3.81% |

| TAXA CHARACTERS | | |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| METRIC | #TAXA | PERCENT |
| Tolerant | 10 | 31.43% |
| Sensitive | 0 | 0.00% |
| Clinger | 2 | 8.57% |

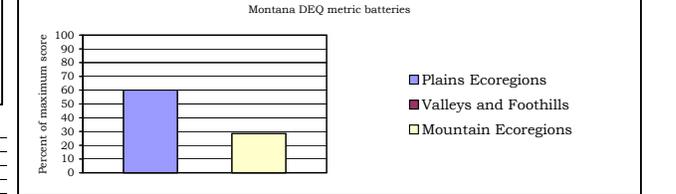
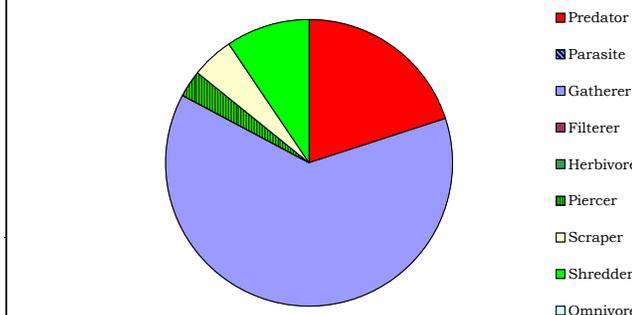
BIOASSESSMENT INDICES

| B-IBI (Karr et al.) | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|
| METRIC | VALUE | SCORE |
| Taxa richness | 22 | 3 |
| E richness | 2 | 1 |
| P richness | 0 | 1 |
| T richness | 0 | 1 |
| Long-lived | 2 | 1 |
| Sensitive richness | 0 | 1 |
| %tolerant | 31.43% | 3 |
| %predators | 20.00% | 5 |
| Clinger richness | 2 | 1 |
| %dominance (3) | 37.14% | 5 |
| TOTAL SCORE | 22 | 44% |

| FUNCTIONAL COMPOSITION | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| GROUP | PERCENT | ABUNDANCE | #TAXA |
| Predator | 20.00% | 21 | 6 |
| Parasite | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Gatherer | 62.86% | 66 | 11 |
| Filterer | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Herbivore | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Piercer | 2.86% | 3 | 1 |
| Scraper | 4.76% | 5 | 2 |
| Shredder | 9.52% | 10 | 3 |
| Omnivore | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |

| FUNCTIONAL RATIOS | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--|
| METRIC | VALUE | |
| Scraper/Filterer | #DIV/0! | |
| Scraper/Scraper + Filterer | 1.00 | |

| MONTANA DEQ INDICES (Bukantis 1998) | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| METRIC | VALUE | Plains Ecoregions | Valleys and Foothills Ecoregions | Mountain Ecoregions |
| Taxa richness | 22 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| EPT richness | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Biotic Index | 6.48 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| %Dominant taxon | 13.33% | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| %Collectors | 62.86% | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| %EPT | 11.43% | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Shannon Diversity | 3.08 | 3 | | |
| %Scrapers + Shredder | 14.29% | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Predator taxa | 6 | 3 | | |
| %Multivoltine | 53.33% | 2 | | |
| %H of T | #DIV/0! | | #DIV/0! | |
| TOTAL SCORES | 18 | #DIV/0! | 6 | |
| PERCENT OF MAXIMUM | 60.00 | #DIV/0! | 28.57 | |
| IMPAIRMENT CLASS | SLIGHT | #DIV/0! | MODERATE | |



| COMMUNITY TOLERANCES | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Sediment tolerant taxa | 2 |
| Percent sediment tolerant | 1.90% |
| Sediment sensitive taxa | 0 |
| Percent sediment sensitive | 0.00% |
| Metals tolerance index (McGuire) | 3.46 |
| Cold stenotherm taxa | 0 |
| Percent cold stenotherms | 0.00% |

| Montana Valleys and Foothills revised index (Bollman 1998) | | | |
|---|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| Percent max. | 27.78% | Impairment class | MODERATE |
| Montana Plains ecoregions metrics (Bramblett and Johnson 2002) | | | |
| Rifle | | Pool | |
| EPT richness | 2 | E richness | 2 |
| Percent EPT | 11.43% | T richness | 0 |
| Percent Oligochaetes and Leeches | 0.00% | Percent EPT | 11.43% |
| Percent 2 dominants | 25.71% | Percent non-insect | 22.86% |
| Filterer richness | 0 | Filterer richness | 0 |
| Percent intolerant | 0.00% | Univoltine richness | 9 |
| Univoltine richness | 9 | Percent supertolerant | 28.57% |
| Percent clingers | 8.57% | | |
| Swimmer richness | 3 | | |

| HABITUS MEASURES | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Hemoglobin bearer richness | 4 |
| Percent hemoglobin bearers | 22.86% |
| Air-breather richness | 1 |
| Percent air-breathers | 0.95% |
| Burrower richness | 5 |
| Percent burrowers | 26.67% |
| Swimmer richness | 3 |
| Percent swimmers | 6.67% |