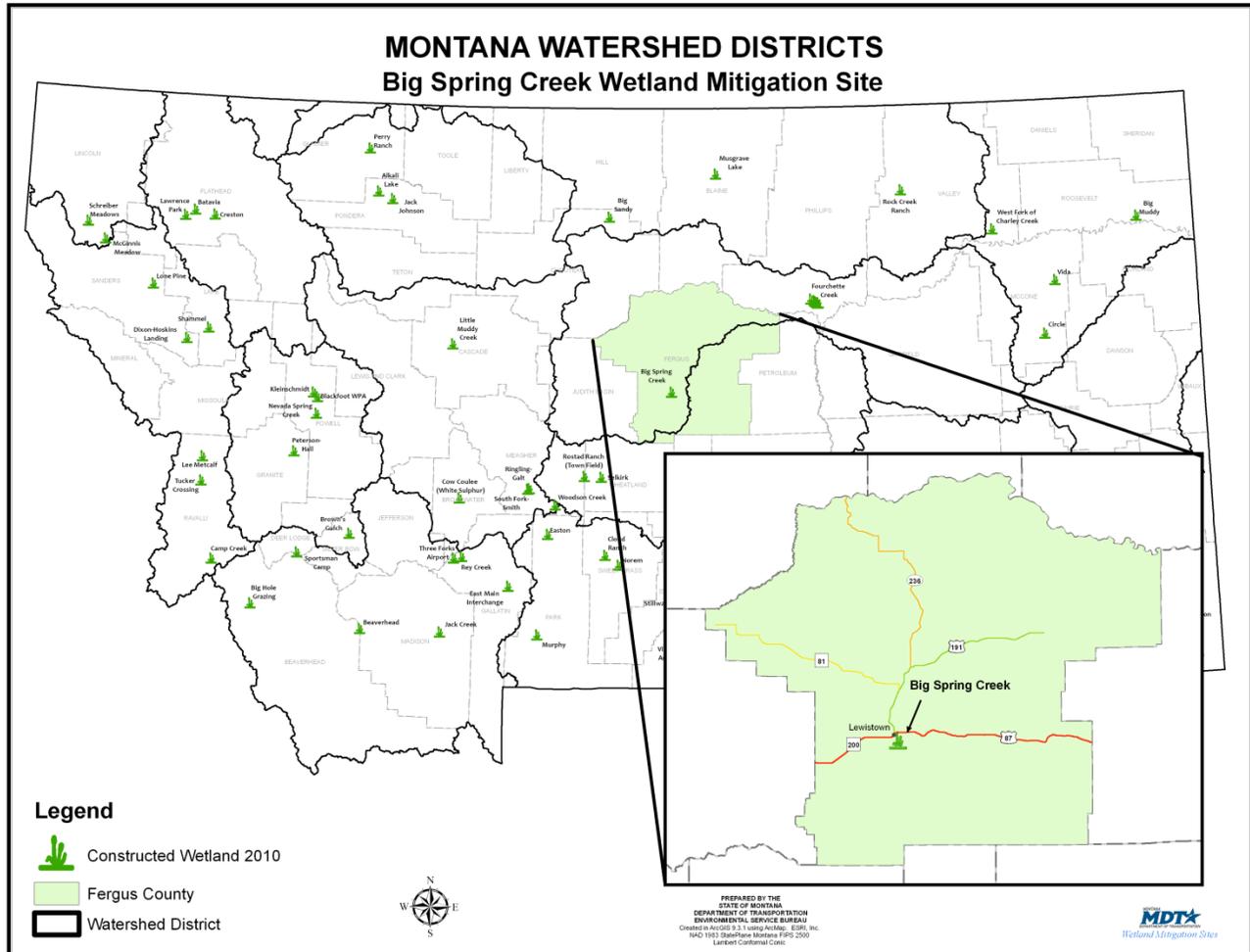


# BIG SPRING CREEK

Watershed #9-Middle Missouri River Basin  
Fergus County, Montana



**LAND OWNERSHIP: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS (FWP)**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1996, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) partnered with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to restore approximately one half of a mile of Big Spring Creek, at the FWP Brewery Flats Fishing Access site. Big Spring Creek was straightened through the Brewery Flats area around 1907 by the Milwaukee Railroad to facilitate the construction of a freight yard to the west of the creek. FWP proposed, through their Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP), to restore that section of Big Spring Creek that traversed Brewery Flats to a more natural condition for the purpose of improving fisheries habitat. In addition to increasing total stream length from 2,300 feet to 4,000 feet, the design also included the establishment of a functional floodplain and associated wetland habitat. This restoration project provided approximately 7.2 acres of mitigation credits to mitigate transportation projects in watershed #9 (Missouri River Basin).

# WETLAND INHABITANTS

<b>FISH</b>	
Rainbow Trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>	
Western Chorus Frog ( <i>Pseudacris triseriata</i> )	
<b>REPTILES</b>	
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake ( <i>Thamnophis elegans</i> )	
<b>BIRDS</b>	
American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )	Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )
Black-headed Grosbeak ( <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> )	Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )
Belted Kingfisher ( <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> )	Northern Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )
<b>Black-billed Magpie</b> ( <i>Pica pica</i> )	Northern Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> )
Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anas discors</i> )	<b>Osprey</b> ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )
Canada Goose ( <i>Branta Canadensis</i> )	Red-tailed Hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )
Cedar Waxwing ( <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> )	<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b> ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )
Cinnamon Teal ( <i>Anas cyanoptera</i> )	<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b> ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> )
Cliff Swallow ( <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> )	Sandhill Crane ( <i>Grus Canadensis</i> )
Common Merganser ( <i>Mergus merganser</i> )	<b>Song Sparrow</b> ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )
<b>Common Snipe</b> ( <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> )	Sora ( <i>Porzana Carolina</i> )
Common Yellowthroat ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> ( <i>Actitis macularia</i> )
Downy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )	<b>Tree Swallow</b> ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b> ( <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> )	Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii</i> )
European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	<b>Yellow Warbler</b> ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )
Gray Catbird ( <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> )	Yellow-headed Blackbird ( <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> )
<b>Killdeer</b> ( <i>Charadrius vociferous</i> )	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> ( <i>Dendroica coronata</i> )
<b>Mallard</b> ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
White-tailed Deer ( <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> )	
American Beaver ( <i>Castor Canadensis</i> )	
Eastern Cottontail ( <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i> )	
Meadow Vole ( <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i> )	
Muskrat ( <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i> )	
Raccoon ( <i>Procyon lotor</i> )	

**Bolded species** were seen during the 2004 monitoring. All other species have been seen during one or more of the previous monitoring seasons.



**Osprey**



**Muskrat**

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## WETLAND VEGETATION

### Dominant wetland vegetation

*Three types of communities were observed:*

**Type 1-** Red top (*Agrostis alba*)

**Type 2-** Broad-leaf cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*)

**Type 3-** Peach leaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*)



*Salix amygdaloides* (Peach leaf willow)

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## Big Spring Creek



*Click the icon below for complete monitoring reports for this site (2001 to 2005)*

