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# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT: YEAR 2007

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*Perry Ranch  
Glacier County, Montana*



Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

**POST, BUCKLEY, SCHUH, AND JERNIGAN**  
801 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 101  
Helena, MT 59601-3360

December 2007

PBS&J Project No. B43088.00 - 0410



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Perry Ranch wetland mitigation site was constructed during early summer 2001 to mitigate for wetland impacts associated with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) projects NH 1-3(12)225F (Browning-Meriwether) and F BRF 1-3(11)219 (Browning East & West). These two projects resulted in a combined projected wetland loss of approximately 14.7 acres.

This report documents the sixth year of monitoring at the Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation site. The mitigation site is located approximately 13 miles west of Browning and four miles north of U.S. Highway 2 in Glacier County (**Figure 1**). The entire site occurs within the confines of the Tribally-owned Perry Ranch on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is within Watershed #8 (Marias).

The intent of the project was to create, via dike placement and shallow excavation, two wetland impoundments within historic oxbows located in the Cut Bank Creek floodplain (**Appendix D**). The inner oxbow impoundment, located adjacent to Cut Bank Creek, was designed to provide approximately 6.1 wetland acres with a maximum depth of 2.6 feet. The outer oxbow impoundment, located immediately north of the inner oxbow, was designed to provide approximately 21.5 wetland acres with a maximum three-foot depth.

Wetland hydrology at the inner oxbow would be provided via overbank flood flows, alluvial flow, and precipitation; flood flows and precipitation would source the outer oxbow. The site was designed to provide ephemeral surface water. It is anticipated that, over time, vegetation at the inner oxbow will be comprised of scrub/shrub and emergent communities with occasional cottonwoods scattered throughout. The outer oxbow would likely be dominated by emergent communities.

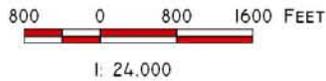
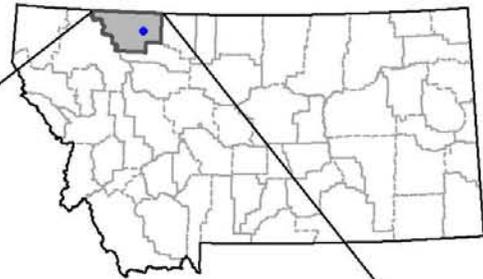
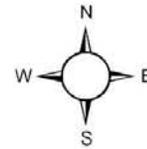
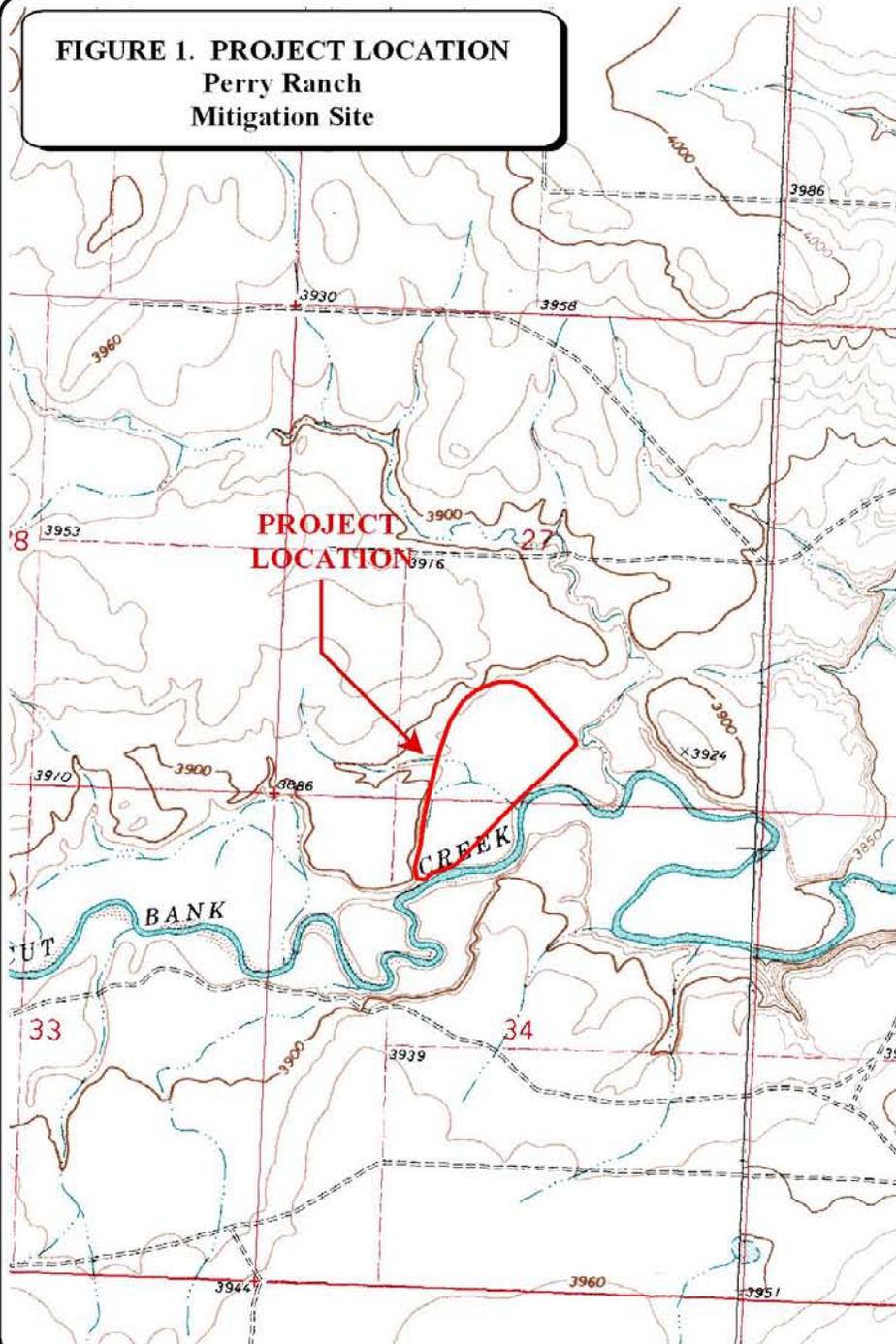
Prior to construction, approximately 2.3 acres of wetland occurred at the inner oxbow and approximately 1.1 acres occurred at the outer oxbow. The mitigation target of 27.6 acres is inclusive of these 3.4 acres of existing wetlands. This site has been monitored twice per year to document wetland and other biological attributes. No performance standards or success criteria were required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), MDT, Blackfeet Tribe, or other agencies. The monitoring area is illustrated in **Figure 2 (Appendix A)**

## 2.0 METHODS

### 2.1 Monitoring Dates and Activities

The site was visited on May 8<sup>th</sup> (spring) and July 17<sup>th</sup> (mid-season) of 2007. The primary purpose of the spring visit was to conduct a survey for birds and general wildlife.

**FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION**  
**Perry Ranch**  
**Mitigation Site**



PROJECT #: 130091.020  
 DATE: DEC 2002  
 LOCATION:  
 PROJECT MANAGER: J. BERGLUND  
 DRAWN BY: B. NOECKER

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

The mid-season visit was conducted in July to document vegetation, soil, and hydrologic conditions used to map jurisdictional wetlands. All information contained on the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form (**Appendix B**) was collected at this time. Activities typically conducted and information collected included: wetland delineation; vegetation community mapping; vegetation transect monitoring; soils data collection; hydrology data collection; bird and wildlife use documentation; macroinvertebrate sampling; photopoint sampling; and a non-engineering examination of the site.

## 2.2 Hydrology

Wetland hydrology at the inner oxbow (2.6-foot maximum depth) was to be provided via overbank flood flows, alluvial flow, and precipitation. Wetland hydrology at the outer oxbow (3-foot maximum depth) was to be provided via flood flows and precipitation. Impoundment areas are indicated on the proposed project plan sheets (**Appendix D**).

Hydrologic indicators were primarily evaluated during the mid-season visit. Wetland hydrology indicators were recorded using procedures outlined in the COE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). Hydrology data were recorded on COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**).

All additional hydrologic data were recorded on the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form (**Appendix B**). The boundary between wetlands and open water aquatic habitats (no rooted vegetation) was mapped on an aerial photograph and an estimate of the average water depth at this boundary was recorded.

There were no groundwater monitoring wells at the site. Groundwater depths were only documented if they were located within 12 inches of the ground surface, which is depth at which soil pits are dug for purposes of delineating wetlands. Groundwater depths within soils pits were recorded onto COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**).

## 2.3 Vegetation

General dominant species-based vegetation community types were delineated on the 2007 aerial photograph. Standardized community mapping was not employed as many of these systems are geared towards climax vegetation. Estimated percent cover of the dominant species in each community type was recorded on the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form (**Appendix B**). Plants observed were identified using Flora of the Pacific Northwest (Hitchcock and Conquist 1975) and Plants of Montana (Dorn 1984). Nomenclature follows that of Dorn (1984).

A single 10-foot wide belt transect was sampled during the mid-season visit to represent the range of current vegetation conditions (**Figure 2** in **Appendix A**). Percent cover was estimated for each vegetative species encountered within the “belt” within each community type using the following values: + (<1%); 1 (1-5%); 2 (6-10%); 3 (11-20%); 4 (21-50%); and 5 (>50%). Photographs of the transect were taken from both ends. No monitoring of planted species was conducted as no woody species were planted at the site.

## 2.4 Soils

Soils were evaluated during the mid-season visit in accordance with procedures outlined in the COE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. Soil data were recorded for each wetland determination point on the COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Form (**Appendix B**). The most current NRCS terminology was used to describe hydric soils (USDA 1998). The 1980 Glacier Area soil survey was consulted relative to mapped soil units at the site.

## 2.5 Wetland Delineation

Wetland delineation was conducted during the mid-season visit in accordance with 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 indicator status of vegetation was derived from the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Northwest Region 9 (Reed 1988). The information was recorded onto COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**). In 2002, the wetland/upland boundaries were delineated using a GPS unit in conjunction with hand-mapping onto the aerial photograph. In 2007, wetland mapping revisions were accomplished using a combination of GPS coordinates and hand-mapping onto the 2007 aerial photograph. Wetland delineation data collected during 2007 were compared to pre-construction estimates in an effort to calculate additional wetland development since project construction.

## 2.6 Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians

Mammal, reptile, and amphibian species observations and other positive indicators of use, such as vocalizations, were recorded onto the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form during each site visit (**Appendix B**). Indicators of indirect use, such as tracks, scat, burrows, eggshells, skins, and bones were also recorded. Observations were recorded during all visits as the observer traversed the site while conducting other required activities. Direct sampling methods such as snap traps, live traps, and pitfall traps, were not implemented. A comprehensive list of wildlife species observed was compiled.

## 2.7 Birds

Bird observations were recorded during both site visits. No formal census plots, spot mapping, point counts, or strip transects were conducted. During the spring visit, observations were recorded in compliance with the Bird Survey Protocol (**Appendix E**). During the mid-season visit, bird observations were recorded incidental to other monitoring activities. During all visits, observations were categorized by species, activity code, and general habitat association on the Bird Survey Field Data Sheet (**Appendix B**). A comprehensive bird list was compiled using these observations. No birdhouses occur on the site.

## 2.8 Macroinvertebrates

No macroinvertebrate samples were collected in 2007 as no surface water was present during the mid-season visit.

## 2.9 Functional Assessment

A functional assessment was conducted using the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method (Berglund 1999). Field data necessary for this assessment were primarily collected during the mid-season site visit. The remainder of the functional assessment was completed in the office. A Functional Assessment Form was completed for the inner oxbow, outer oxbow, and northern excavated area (**Appendix B**).

## 2.10 Photographs

Photographs were taken showing the current land use surrounding the site, the upland buffer, the monitored area, and the vegetation transect (**Appendix C**). Three photograph points were established and shot each year from 2002 to 2007 (**Figure 2** in **Appendix A**). Panoramic type photographs were taken at these three photograph points (**Appendix C**). In 2007 MDT/Blackfoot Tribe established four permanent photo points for monitoring noxious weed populations.

## 2.11 GPS Data

During the 2002 and 2007 a resource grade GPS unit was used to mark the following locations: vegetation transect start and end, photograph points, wetland boundaries, soil pits, noxious weed populations, and reference landmarks. Procedures used for GPS mapping and aerial photography referencing are included in **Appendix E**.

## 2.12 Maintenance Needs

The dike along the east boundary was examined during the 2007 site visits for obvious signs of breaching, damage, or other problems. This did not constitute an engineering-level structural inspection, but rather a cursory examination. Current or future potential problems were documented.

## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 Hydrology

Hydrology at the Perry Ranch Mitigation Site is determined by flow in Cut Bank Creek and by direct precipitation. These water sources interact with groundwater, which ultimately will drive wetland development. Inferences regarding hydrology at the site were made from a gauging station on Cut Bank Creek near Browning and at a weather station in Cut Bank.

Based on the period of record between December 1903 and July 2007, the mean annual precipitation at the Cut Bank weather station (#242173) was 7.86 inches (in) (WRCC 2007). The total precipitation received from January through July of 2007 was 4.64 in (WRCC 2007). The 2007 precipitation was mid-range when compared to this seven month period in 2006 (2.70 in), 2005 (9.21 in), 2004 (4.57 in), and 2003 (3.63 in) (WRCC 2007). It was assumed that

precipitation levels measured at the Cut Bank Airport would serve as an indicator of precipitation received at the mitigation site.

Flow in Cut Bank Creek near Browning (USGS 06098500) peaked at about 350 cubic feet per second (cfs) from early May through mid-June in 2007 (USGS 2007). In comparison, 2006 peak flows ranged from 600 to 900 cfs between late May and mid-June, 2005 peak flows ranged from 450 to 700 cfs between late May and early June, and 2004 peak flows ranged from 400 to 550 cfs between early May and early June (USGS 2006). Given the low 2007 peak streamflow, it is unlikely that the site was inundated between the spring and mid-season visits.

### 3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation community types are based on topography, hydrology, and plant composition. At Perry Ranch, shifts in plant composition have been observed annually in many communities. Vegetation communities delineated in 2006 remained the same in 2007. During 2007 seven vegetation community types were identified and mapped in the mitigation area: Type 1 - *Juncus balticus*/*Carex praegracilis*, Type 2 - *Eleocharis palustris*/*Polygonum amphibium*, Type 3 – Upland Floodplain, Type 3A – Transitional Upland Floodplain, Type 4- *Salix*/*Hordeum jubatum*/*Equisetum*, Type 5 – *Hordeum*, and Type 6 – Upland (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Overall, dry soil conditions in 2007 caused plants to cure out faster and it appeared that plants rated as facultative or upland increased in abundance (compare photographs of PBSJ 2006 and PBSJ 2007 reports). As a result small changes in community boundaries occurred in 2007. A comprehensive plant species list has been maintained over the past five years for the Perry Ranch Mitigation Site (**Table 1; Monitoring Form** in **Appendix B**).

Vegetation Community Type 1 has occurred primarily as a fringe along the deeper wetland areas of the inner oxbow (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). The southern polygon of Type 1 did not meet criteria for wetland vegetation and/or hydrology in 2007 (**Soil Pits 4 and 5** in **COE Forms of Appendix B; Photo 4** in **Appendix C**). The polygon contained very dry soil and the plant community showed a strong presence of upland plants [e.g., yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*), prairie sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), and others]. As a result the size of Type 1 decreased in 2007. The northern portion of Type 1 appears to receive either more surface water via flooding and/or groundwater, such that a facultative wetland plant community (FACW) has been maintained.

Vegetation Community Type 2 occupied deeper wetland areas that retain surface water for longer durations (**Photos 6 and 7** in **Appendix C; Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). However, 2006 and 2007 have been dry and it appears that groundwater movement may be sustaining the Type 2 community into the Outer Oxbow. In July 2007 there was no inundation except for a few small pools in the inner oxbow. Soil moisture conditions were the driest observed since 2005

**Table 1: 2002-2007 Perry Ranch vegetation species list.**

Scientific Name	Region 9 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator	Scientific Name	Region 9 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	FACU	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	FAC+
<i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	--	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	OBL
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	FACU	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	FAC
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	--	<i>Koeleria pyramidata</i>	--
<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	FAC	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	--
<i>Agrostis alba</i>	FACW	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	FACU
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	FACW	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	FACU
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	FACU+	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	FAC
<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	--	<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	--
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	--	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	FACW
<i>Aster (pansus)</i>	(--)	<i>Phleum pretense</i>	FAC-
<i>Atriplex</i> spp.	--	<i>Plantago hirtella</i>	FACW
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	--	<i>Plantago major</i>	FAC+
<i>Brassica kaber</i>	--	<i>Poa annua</i>	FAC-
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	--	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	FACU+
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	--	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	OBL
<i>Carex lanuginosa</i>	OBL	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	OBL
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	FACW	<i>Potentilla (gracilis)</i>	(FAC)
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	FAC	<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	NI
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	FAC-	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	FACW
<b><i>Cynoglossum officinale</i></b>	--	<i>Rumex maritimus</i>	OBL
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	FACU	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	FACW
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	--	<i>Salix exigua</i>	OBL
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	FAC+	<i>Salix lutea</i>	OBL
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	OBL	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	--
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	OBL	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	FACU
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	FACW-	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	FAC-
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	FAC	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	OBL
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	FACW	<i>Stipa viridula</i>	--
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	--	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	--
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	---	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	FACU
<i>Glyceria elata</i>	FACW+	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	--
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	FAC+	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	OBL
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	--	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	OBL

**Bolded** species indicate those documented in the analysis area for the first time in 2007.

(Soil Pits 3, 7, and 10 in COE Forms of Appendix B). Type 2 in the inner oxbow has remained a strong-hold for obligate wetland plants such as water smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*). Type 2 in the outer oxbow continued to be dominated by a mosaic of obligate wetland plants [e.g., silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), least spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), and water smartweed], and facultative wetland plants [e.g., curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*)] (Photo 8 in Appendix C). In addition, fox-tail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) was the only significant facultative plant species present in the outer oxbow. Approximately 100 feet of the ditch connecting the inner and outer oxbows also met wetland criteria for soils, plants, and hydrology for the second time in five years.

Vegetation Community Type 3 is upland floodplain habitat (**Figure 3 in Appendix A**). It is dominated by snowberry, rose, smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), intermediate wheatgrass (*Agropyron intermedium*), yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), Kochia (*Kochia scoparia*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and others. A subset of this community is Type 3A – *Transitional Upland Floodplain*. In 2007 Type 3A continued to show both facultative plants and facultative wetland plants, but with very dry soils (**Figure 3 in Appendix A**).

Vegetation Community Type 4 occurs primarily within excavated portions of the inner oxbow, and is characterized by mudflat colonized by wetland plants (**Figure 3 in Appendix A; Photo 7 in Appendix C**). Since 2003, the Type 4 community has demonstrated significant growth in sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) whips, field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), creeping spikerush, reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and others (**Figure 3 in Appendix A; Photo 5 in Appendix C**). Facultative wetland and obligate plant species have become fairly dense in Type 4. In 2006 the community was renamed as Type 4 – *Salix/Hordeum/Equisetum* to more accurately reflect its components. Despite the dry year a few portions of Type 4 were saturated within 12 inches of the soil surface (**Soil Pit 6 in COE Forms of Appendix B**). Despite the wetland development, leafy spurge and Canada thistle are present within and bordering the Type 4 community.

The extreme northern portion of the project area (which contains the designed island) also fluctuates in community development based on the presence of water. In 2005 this area was mapped as Type 7 - Open Water/Mudflat and was inundated such that the foxtail barley community had died. The Type 5 – *Hordeum jubatum* community has sustained itself in 2006 and 2007, implying that groundwater may be influencing the vegetation community (**Photo 9 in Appendix C; Figure 3 in Appendix A**). In 2006 a mosaic of saturated and dry surface soils were observed. In 2007 these surface soils were dry, but between from 6 - 12 inches soil was very moist (**Soil Pit 1 in COE Forms of Appendix B**). A perimeter of actively growing yellow and sandbar willow whips continue to develop along with separate patches of horsetail (*E. arvense*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), and Canada thistle.

Vegetation Community Type 6 is upland habitat that occupies the slopes north and west of the project area. These adjacent slopes are primarily colonized by native species, such as phlox (*Phlox* spp.), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*).

Three noxious weed species were found on the Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation site: Canada thistle, hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), and leafy spurge. These noxious weed locations were partially mapped (**Figure 3 in Appendix A**). All species are rated as Category 1 noxious weeds. In response to last year's monitoring report, MDT and the Blackfeet Tribe released bio-control and created four photo points to monitor their effect (**Figure 2 in Appendix A**). Blackfeet weed control personnel are trying to avoid the use of herbicides at this site due to its proximity to Cut Bank Creek.

Leafy spurge was first documented as a small occurrence in Community Type 4 in 2005. In 2006 it was commonly found in Community Types 1, 3, and 4 within the southern half of the

project area; in 2007 its population remained abundant (**Photo 14-20** in **Appendix C**). Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles (*Aphthona* spp.) were released on July 19, 2007 at two locations within and at two locations outside the Perry Ranch Mitigation Site (Bandel pers. comm.). Adult flea beetles feed on foliage during the summer while larvae feed on root hairs and young roots, which compromise the plant's ability to take up water and nutrients (Integrated Weed Control 2007). Comparison photos were taken prior to and after release of the beetles ((**Photo 14-19** in **Appendix C**). It was observed on August 21<sup>st</sup> that many of the leafy spurge plants had dried up fruits (infertile) (**Photo 20** in **Appendix C**). It is possible that the released flea beetles were responsible for this fruit infertility. Although reducing seed production is important, retarding development of the rhizomes will be necessary to reduce the population.

Canada thistle has been common throughout the site (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). It is primarily found in the Type 3 community where soils are drier. The Canada thistle stem mining weevil (*Hadroplontus* [*Ceutorhynchus*] *litura*) was released at two areas within the mitigation site on or around September 15, 2007. Young larvae hatch on young leaves and stem tissue and bore into the main stem of the plant; Older larvae feed on the stem, crown, and root (Integrated Weed Control 2007). Research completed in Canada showed that a rust fungus disease, fatal for the thistle, more than doubled on plants where this weevil was present (Integrated Weed Control 2007). One photo point was also established to monitor the effectiveness of the bio-control (**Figure 2** in **Appendix A**; **Photos 12** and **13** in **Appendix C**).

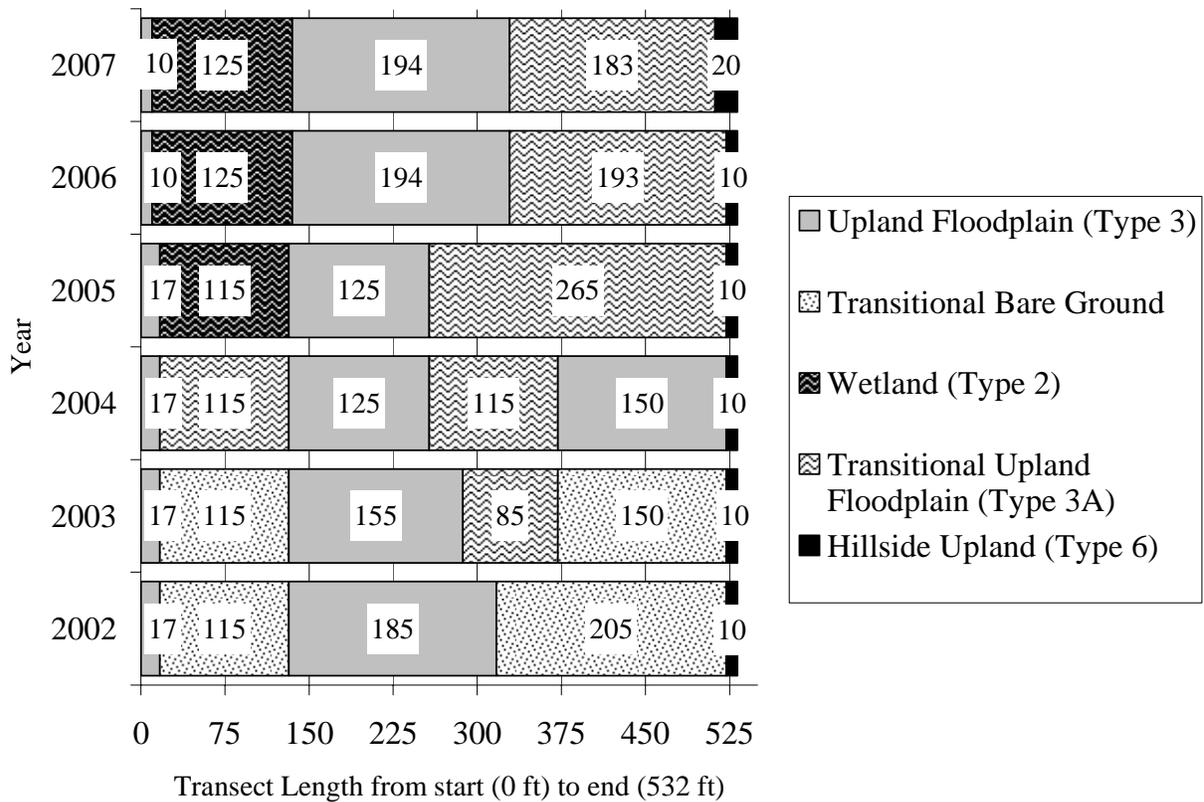
Hound's-tongue was found for the first time within the mitigation site. Two plants were found at one locality on the boundary of Communities Type 2 and Type 3 (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Though it was destroyed with a shovel, the roots were not removed. It will be necessary to bag and remove it from the site next year.

From 2002 to 2006 vegetation data has been recorded from the same transect (**Monitoring Data Forms** in **Appendix B**), summarized in tabular format (**Table 2**), and graphically illustrated (**Charts 1** and **2**). Photographs were taken at the start and end of the transect (**Photos 10** and **11** in **Appendix C**). Inundation along the transect was not observed in 2007 and soils were moist to dry. Overall, the area of Type 2 wetland remained the same in 2007 while upland increased slightly (**Table 2**; **Charts 1** and **2**). In 2007 the line between Type 3 - *Upland Floodplain* and Type 3A – *Transitional Upland Floodplain* remained apparent and was based on plant cover and not soils. In 2007 the plant cover and soil data indicated that soil is moister on the west side and drier on the east side of the ditch (**Soil Pits 8** and **9** in **COE Forms** of **Appendix B**). However, wetland criteria were still not met in the Type 3A polygon. For Type 3A to transition into wetland would require inundation.

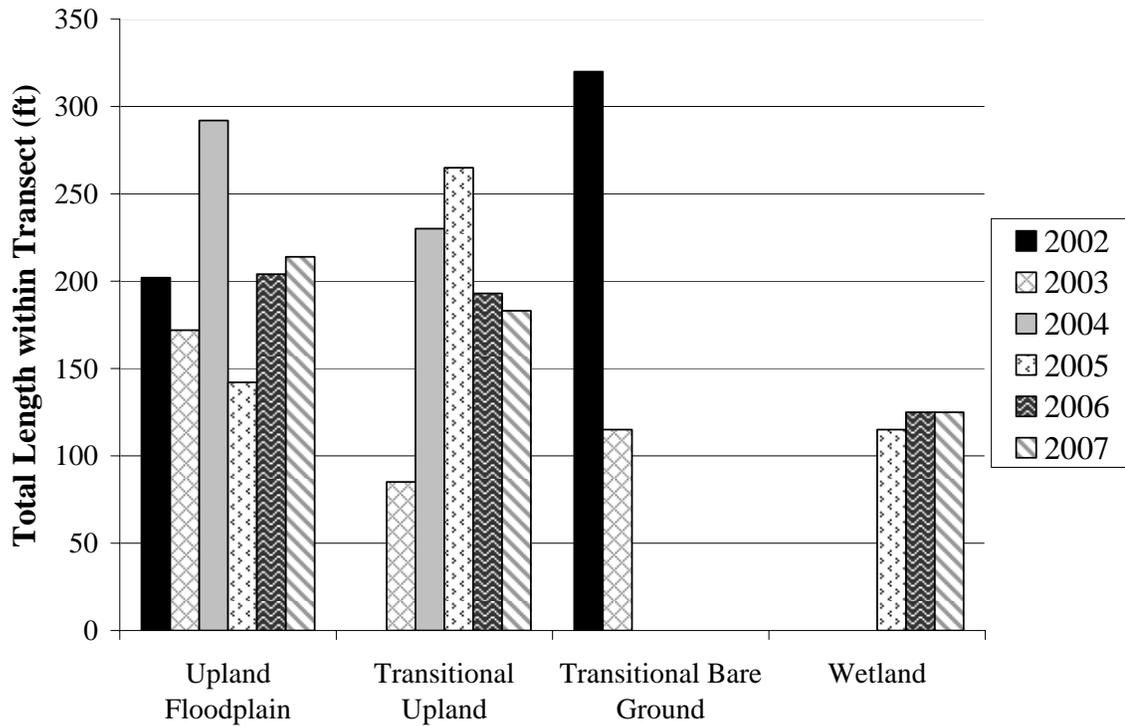
**Table 2: Transect 1 data summary for each year monitored.**

Monitoring Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Transect Length (feet)	532	532	532	532	532	532
# Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	4	5	5	4	4	4
# Vegetation Communities along Transect	3	3	3	4	4	4
# Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	0	0	0	1	1	1
Total Vegetative Species	18	25	20	26	28	30
Total Hydrophytic Species	6	14	10	13	15	11
Total Upland Species	12	11	10	13	13	19
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	35	45	90	80	90	95
% Transect Length Comprised of Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	0	0	0	22	23	23
% Transect Length Comprised of Upland Vegetation Communities	40	50	100	78	77	77
% Transect Length Comprised of Unvegetated Open Water	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Transect Length Comprised of Bare Substrate	60	50	0	0	0	0

**Chart 1: Transect maps showing vegetation types of Transect 1 from start (0 feet) to end (532 feet) for each year monitored.**



**Chart 2: Total length of each vegetation community within Transect 1 for 2002 to 2007.**



### 3.3 Soils

Soils on the vast majority of the site were mapped as Kiwanis fine sandy loam, 0-2 percent slopes (NRCS 1980). This well drained soil typically occurs on terraces and is subject to flooding as a result of winter ice jams (NRCS 1980). The Kiwanis soil type is generally considered non-hydric by the NRCS (NRCS 2006).

Matrix soil colors and textures have remained fairly stable during the five years of monitoring. The B Horizon soils in wetland portions of the project area ranged from silty clay loam to sandy clay loam with a matrix color ranging from 2.5Y3/2 to 10YR3/2 (COE Forms in Appendix B). Mottles in the matrix soil indicate a fluctuating water table. Mottles were present in vegetation communities Type 2, Type 4, and Type 5, and ranged in colors from 10YR3/4 to 7.5YR4/6 (COE Forms in Appendix B).

Along Transect 1, soil matrix colors in the Type 2 community have remained the same since 2004; mottles have not yet developed, though oxidized rhizospheres have been abundantly observed in 2005 through 2007 (COE Forms in Appendix B). Oxidized rhizospheres indicate that the soil had been flooded with water long enough that the plants transported oxygen from the leaves to the roots. Soils within the Type 3A – *Transitional Upland* lacked mottles, though a few oxidized rhizospheres were present in one of the two soil pits (COE Forms in Appendix B).

### 3.4 Wetland Delineation

Wetland boundaries were re-delineated in 2007, based upon vegetation, soil, and hydrological data taken from at least 10 soil pit locations (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**; **COE Forms** in **Appendix B**). For each year from 2002 to 2007, the aerial extent of all aquatic and wetland habitats have been mapped and summarized (**Table 3**).

**Table 3. Aerial coverage of aquatic habitats from 2002 to 2007 at Perry Ranch.**

Aquatic Habitat	Pre-Construction (acre)	2002 (acre)	2003 (acre)	2004 (acre)	2005 (acre)	2006 (acre)	2007 (acre)
Wetland	3.40	10.09	12.41	12.33	13.65	18.97	19.96
Open Water / Mudflat	0.00	7.83	6.20	0.00	6.39	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>17.92</b>	<b>18.61</b>	<b>12.33</b>	<b>20.04</b>	<b>18.97</b>	<b>19.96</b>

Almost 20 acres of wetlands presently occur on the site (**Table 3**; **Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). This represents an increase in acreage from 2006. The Type 1 Wetland a showed significant decline in area as it has gradually become drier since 2005, if not before. However, the re-delineation of Type 2 showed significant gains in the Outer Oxbow in 2007. The Northern Excavated Area also showed a slight increase in wetland area from 2006. However, the Northern Excavated Area still remains marginal for wetland conditions.

Approximately 3.4 acres of wetland occurred at the site prior to construction (**Table 3**). The 27.6-acre mitigation goal is inclusive of these 3.4 acres of pre-existing wetlands. Consequently, the net goal for this project is to create 24.2 wetland acres. As of 2006 the site has netted 16.56 wetland acres, or 68% of the project target.

### 3.5 Wildlife

A comprehensive list of wildlife species (or their sign) observed at the project site has been maintained from 2002 to 2007 (**Table 4**). For each bird species observed, information on their activity and habitat use was also recorded (**Bird Survey Form** in **Appendix B**). The site provides habitat for many types of wildlife such as deer, waterfowl, and amphibians.

Ten bird species were noted at the mitigation site during the course of the 2007 monitoring season. No birdhouses were installed at this site. Western chorus frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata*) have been abundant in the past, and were heard during the May 2007 visit.

The northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) is globally ranked as a G5 indicating it is globally common, widespread, and abundant. In Montana, this species has been assigned the rank of S1 (critically imperiled) in the intermountain valleys and S3 (rare occurrence and/or restricted range and/or vulnerable to extinction) in the Great Plains region (MTNHP 2006). The inner and outer oxbow is considered documented secondary habitat for this species because it has been present in areas of where surface water is intermittent. In 2002 (6-8 individuals) and 2005 (4 individuals), northern leopard frogs were observed in the outer oxbow. In 2006, one northern leopard frog was observed on the north side of the inlet channel. In 2007 the northern leopard frog was not observed.

**Table 4: Fish and wildlife species observed on the Perry Ranch Mitigation Site from 2002 to 2007.**

<b>FISH</b>	
None	
<b>AMPHIBIAN</b>	
Northern Leopard Frog ( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )	<b>Western Chorus Frog (<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>)</b>
<b>REPTILE</b>	
None	
<b>BIRD</b>	
American Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra americana</i> ) American Robin ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> ) American White Pelican ( <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> ) Bank Swallow ( <i>Riparia riparia</i> ) Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ) Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anas discors</i> ) <b>Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)</b> Canada Goose ( <i>Branta Canadensis</i> ) Chukar ( <i>Alectoris chukar</i> ) Cinnamon Teal ( <i>Anas cyanoptera</i> ) <b>Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>)</b> Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> ) <b>Common Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)</b> Double-crested Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> ) Eastern Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> ) Franklin's Gull ( <i>Larus pipixcan</i> ) Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> ) <b>Gray Partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>)</b> Horned Lark ( <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> ) <b>Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>)</b>	Lesser Scaup ( <i>Aythya affinis</i> ) Long-billed Dowitcher ( <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> ) Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) Northern Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) Northern Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> ) Northern Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) <b>Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)</b> <b>Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)</b> <b>Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)</b> Semipalmated Plover ( <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> ) Solitary Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa solitaria</i> ) Spotted Sandpiper ( <i>Actitis macularia</i> ) <b>Vesper Sparrow (<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>)</b> <b>Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)</b> Western Sandpiper ( <i>Calidris mauri</i> ) Willet ( <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i> ) Wilson's Phalarope ( <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> ) Yellow-headed Blackbird ( <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> )
<b>MAMMAL</b>	
American Badger ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> ) Coyote ( <i>Canis latrans</i> ) Deer ( <i>Odocoileus</i> spp.) Raccoon ( <i>Procyon lotor</i> )	Richardson's Ground Squirrel ( <i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i> ) White-tailed Deer ( <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> )

**Bolded species** were observed during 2007. All other species were observed during one or more of the previous monitoring years, but not during 2007.

### 3.6 Macroinvertebrates

No macroinvertebrate sample was collected during the July 2007 site visit because there was no surface inundation. Over the 5-year monitoring period, macroinvertebrates were sampled in 2002 and 2005 when surface water was present in the outer oxbow. Conversely, no macroinvertebrate sample was taken in 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2007.

### 3.7 Functional Assessment

Functional assessment forms were completed for the inner oxbow, outer oxbow, and the northern excavated area (**Appendix B**) and the results were summarized (**Table 5**). As wetlands have developed within the oxbows and northern excavated area, so have their associated functions and values. In 2007, the inner oxbow rating remained a Category II site (**Table 5**). A large scrub-shrub (willow) component continues to develop within Type 4 Wetland (**Appendix B**). In 2007, the outer oxbow maintained its Category II status, and the northern excavated area remained a Category III site (**Table 5**). It rated lower primarily because of its lower value associated with rare and general wildlife species and production export/food chain support. It appears to be maintaining this category because it is being fed by groundwater; however, soils will need to be inundated or saturated for a longer period for it can increase in function or value.

**Table 5: Summary of baseline and 2007 wetland function/ value ratings and functional points at the Perry Ranch Mitigation Project.**

Function and Value Parameters from the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method <sup>1</sup>	Pre-Construction (1997 method)		Post-Construction (1999 method)		
	Inner Oxbow	Outer Oxbow	2007 Inner Oxbow	2007 Outer Oxbow	2007 Northern Excavated Area
Listed/Proposed TE Species Habitat	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)	Low (0.3)	Low (0.3)	Low (0.3)
MTNHP Species Habitat	None (0.0)	None (0.0)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.6)
General Wildlife Habitat	Mod (0.4)	Low (0.1)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.4)
General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Flood Attenuation	Mod (0.5)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)
Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	--	--	High (0.9)	High (0.9)	High (0.9)
Sediment, Nutrient, Toxicant Removal	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Production Export/Food Chain Support	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.7)
Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	High (1.0)	Low (0.1)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	High (1.0)
Uniqueness	Low (0.3)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.4)	Mod (0.4)	Mod (0.4)
Recreation/Education Potential	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)
Actual Points/Possible Points	4.4 / 10	2.7 / 10	6.9 / 10	6.8 / 10	6.5 / 10
% of Possible Score Achieved	44%	27%	69%	68%	65%
Overall Category	III	IV	II	II	III
<b>Total Acreage of Assessed Wetlands and Other Aquatic Habitats within Site Boundaries (ac)</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>7.97</b>	<b>6.47</b>
<b>Functional Units (acreage x actual points)</b>	<b>10.12</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>38.09</b>	<b>54.20</b>	<b>42.1</b>
<b>Net Acreage Gain (ac)</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	5.52 – 2.30 <b>= 3.22</b>	7.97 – 1.10 <b>= 6.87</b>	6.47 - 0.00 <b>= 6.47</b>
<b>Net Functional Unit Gain (fu)</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	38.09-10.12 <b>= 27.97</b>	54.20 – 2.97 <b>= 51.23</b>	42.1 – 0.00 <b>= 42.1</b>
<b>Total Functional Unit Gain</b>	<b>121.3</b>				

<sup>1</sup> See completed MDT functional assessment forms in **Appendix B** for further detail.

The functional assessment completed prior to construction is not directly comparable with that of 2007 because two different renditions of the MDT Functional Assessment Method were used (**Table 5**). However, a general comparison provides a general sense of where functions have improved. Since pre-construction, the Inner Oxbow has gained 27.97 functional units in the following functions and values: MTNHP and general wildlife habitat; sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal; uniqueness; and recreation/education potential (**Table 5**). When compared to previous years, the Inner Oxbow has actually lost functional units because the Type 1 Wetland area has gradually reverted to upland because it lacks sufficient hydrology. Since pre-construction, the Outer Oxbow has gained 51.23 functional units in the following functions and values: MTNHP and general wildlife habitat; flood attenuation; sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal; groundwater discharge/recharge; uniqueness; and recreation/education potential (**Table 5**). When compare to previous years this represents an increase in functional units and is attributable to an increase in area (Type 2 Wetland) in 2007. Since pre-construction the northern excavated area has gained 42 functional units in all the value and function parameters (**Table 5**). The increase in functional units in 2007 is also attributable to a slight increase in wetland area. In 2007, the total 121 functional units represent the net gain for the Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site (**Table 5**).

### 3.8 Photographs

A 2007 aerial photograph was taken by MDT and used as the base photograph for **Figures 2 and 3 (Appendix A)**. Representative panoramic and single frame photographs were taken from established photo-points (**Appendix C**).

### 3.9 Maintenance Needs/Recommendations

Several dike problems were noted during the 2002 summer visit, repaired during 2003, and have been stable into 2007. However, it seems that the site is not getting sufficient water from Cut Bank Creek either because streamflows have been insufficient or because the inlet channel is too high. The Blackfeet Tribe and MDT have developed a weed plan for the Perry Ranch site. Bio-control was established for leafy spurge and Canada thistle and will be monitored through aerial photograph assessments and at four established Weed Photo Points. Leafy spurge is fairly apparent on the 2006 and 2007 aerial photographs as yellow-green patches. It is recommended that the two occurrences of hound's-tongue be pulled, bagged, and removed from the site in 2008.

### 3.10 Current Credit Summary

No specific performance criteria were required to be met at this site in order to document its success. In general, the site appears to be developing as designed, subject to the limitations of dry and wet years.

Approximately 19.9 acres of wetlands presently occur on the site (**Table 3; Figure 3 in Appendix A**). Approximately 3.4 acres of wetland occurred at the site prior to construction (**Table 3**). The 27.6-acre mitigation goal is inclusive of these 3.4 acres of pre-existing wetlands. Consequently, the net goal for this project is to create 24.2 acres. As of 2007 the site has netted 16.56 wetland acres, or 68% of the project target.

#### 4.0 REFERENCES

- Bandel, B. 2007. Glacier County Roads Department. Phone conversations on July 26<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> regarding bio-control released at the Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation Site.
- Berglund, J. 1999. *MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method*. May 25<sup>th</sup>. Prepared for Montana Department of Transportation and Morrison-Maierle, Inc. Prepared by Western EcoTech. Helena, Montana. 18 pp.
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[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Hydric\\_Soils/Lists/mt.xls](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/Hydric_Soils/Lists/mt.xls).
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- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 2006. Streamflow data for Cut Bank Creek near Browning, Montana. Obtained on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>.
- Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC). 2007. Precipitation data for Cut Bank weather station, Montana (#242173). Obtained on November 1<sup>st</sup> from <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/CLIMATEDATA.html>.

## **Appendix A**

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### **FIGURES 2 & 3**

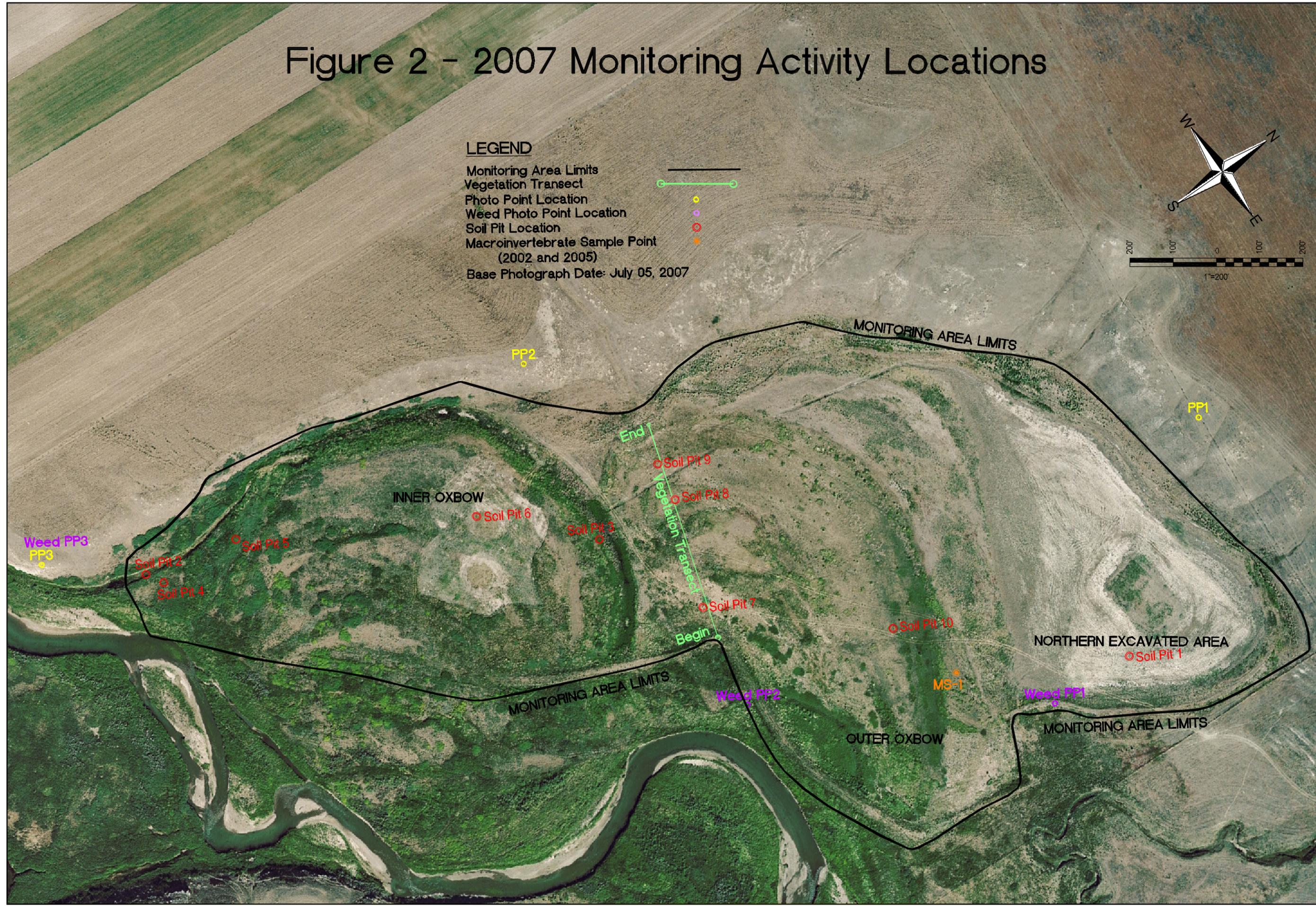
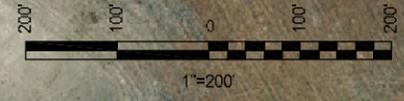
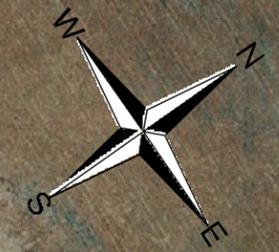
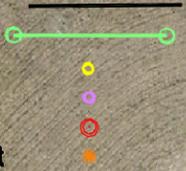
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*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring*  
*Perry Ranch*  
*Glacier County, Montana*

# Figure 2 - 2007 Monitoring Activity Locations

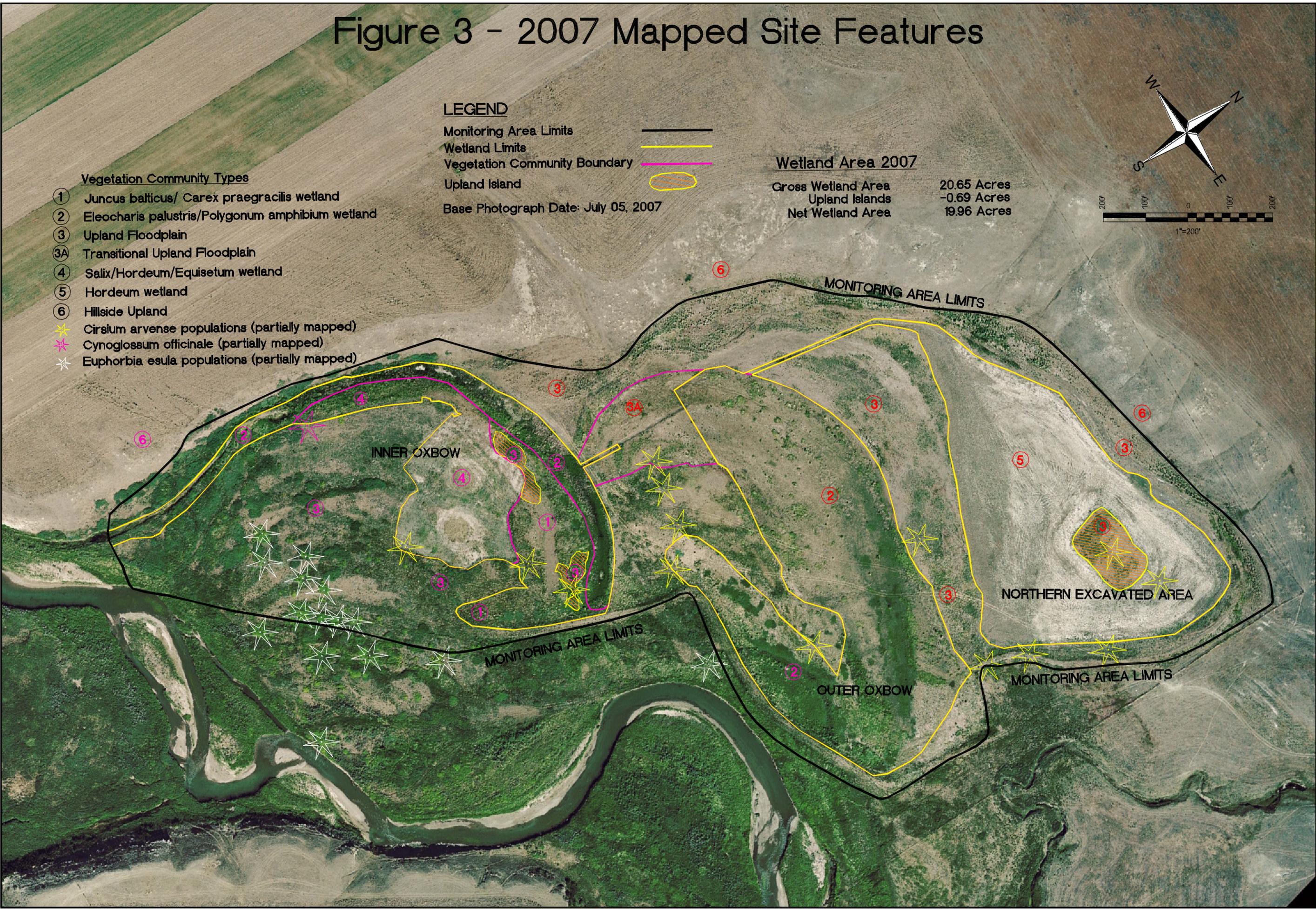
## LEGEND

- Monitoring Area Limits
  - Vegetation Transect
  - Photo Point Location
  - Weed Photo Point Location
  - Soil Pit Location
  - Macroinvertebrate Sample Point  
(2002 and 2005)
- Base Photograph Date: July 05, 2007



PROJECT NAME <b>MDT Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation</b>	
DRAWING TITLE <b>2007 Monitoring Activity Locations</b>	
PROJ NO: B43088.305	DRAWN: LLL
LOCATION: Perry Ranch	PROJ MGR: A. Pipp
SCALE: 1" = 200'	CHECKED: [blank]
FILE NAME: L:\B43054.305PerryRanch\dwg\Perry2007A12.dwg	APPVD: [blank]
1120 Cedar Missoula, MT 59802	
<b>PBSJ</b>	
FIGURE <b>2</b> OF 3	
REV - Nov/16/2007	

# Figure 3 - 2007 Mapped Site Features



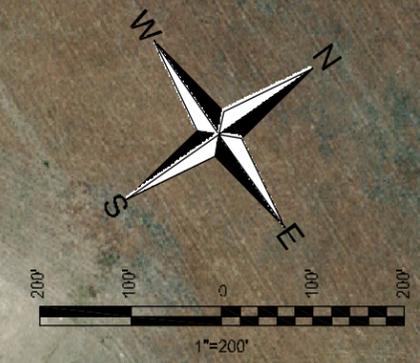
### LEGEND

- Monitoring Area Limits
- Wetland Limits
- Vegetation Community Boundary
- Upland Island

Base Photograph Date: July 05, 2007

### Wetland Area 2007

Gross Wetland Area 20.65 Acres  
 Upland Islands -0.69 Acres  
 Net Wetland Area 19.96 Acres



### Vegetation Community Types

- ① *Juncus balticus/ Carex praegracilis* wetland
- ② *Eleocharis palustris/Polygonum amphibium* wetland
- ③ Upland Floodplain
- ③A Transitional Upland Floodplain
- ④ *Salix/Hordeum/Equisetum* wetland
- ⑤ *Hordeum* wetland
- ⑥ Hillside Upland
- ★ *Cirsium arvense* populations (partially mapped)
- ✳ *Cynoglossum officinale* (partially mapped)
- ✳ *Euphorbia esula* populations (partially mapped)

PROJECT NAME		MDT Perry Ranch Wetland Mitigation	
DRAWING TITLE		2007 Mapped Site Features	
PROJ NO: B43088.305	DRAWN: LL	PROJ MGR: J.Berglund	APPVD:
LOCATION: Perry Ranch	CHECKED:	CHECKED:	APPVD:
SCALE: 1"=200'	FILE NAME: L:\B43054.305PerryRanch\dwg\Perry2007A12.dwg		
1120 Cedar Missoula, MT 59802			
FIGURE			
<b>3</b> OF			
REV - Dec/06/2007			

## **Appendix B**

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**2007 WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM**

**2007 BIRD SURVEY FORM**

**2007 COE WETLAND DELINEATION FORMS**

**2007 FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FORMS**

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*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring*

*Perry Ranch*

*Glacier County, Montana*

**PBS&J / MDT WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM**

Project Name: Perry Ranch Project Number: B43088.00-0410  
 Assessment Date: July 17, 2007 Person(s) conducting the assessment: A. Pipp  
 Location: Cut Bank Creek MDT District: Great Falls Milepost: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Description: T 34N R 8W Section 27, 34  
 Weather Conditions: slight overcast, 95 deg., calm wind Time of Day: 0800-1600  
 Initial Evaluation Date: May 15, 2002 Monitoring Year: #6-2007 # Visits in Year: 2  
 Size of evaluation area: 30 acres Land use surrounding wetland: rangeland and Cut Bank Creek

**HYDROLOGY**

Surface Water Source: seasonal flooding via Cut Bank Creek  
 Inundation: Absent Average Depth: 0.0 feet Range of Depths: 0 inch  
 Percent of assessment area under inundation: 0%  
 Depth at emergent vegetation-open water boundary: 0.0 feet  
 If assessment area is not inundated then are the soils saturated within 12 inches of surface: Yes  
 Other evidence of hydrology on the site (ex. – drift lines, erosion, stained vegetation, etc.):  
cracked soils; deep tire tracks and animal tracks

Groundwater Monitoring Wells: Absent  
 Record depth of water below ground surface (in feet):

Well Number	Depth	Well Number	Depth	Well Number	Depth

Additional Activities Checklist:

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

**COMMENTS / PROBLEMS:**

During the May visit the Inlet Channel and Inner Oxbow had a few areas of pooled water, but was mostly void of surface water (as seen on aerial photograph). During the July visit these pools had become dry. In May about 13 cows/calves were grazing within the mitigation site, but were later removed and no damage to plants or structures were observed. At least 10 soil pits were dug throughout the site in 2007 with only 3 pits demonstrating very moist soils. Compared to 2006, soils were drier. The Northern Excavated Area was one of portions with very moist soil, indicating that groundwater may be supplying that moisture.

## VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Community Number: **1** Community Title (main spp): **Juncus balticus / Carex praegracilis**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Juncus balticus	5 = > 50%	Hordeum jubatum	+ = < 1%
Carex praegracilis	5 = > 50%	Agropyron repens	1 = 1-5%
Potentilla anserina	4 = 21-50%	Eleocharis palustris	1 = 1-5%
Artemisia ludoviciana	1 = 1-5%		
Equisetum arvense	3 = 11-20%		
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	1 = 1-5%		

Comments / Problems: **This wetland community is slowly drying out and shrinking. Symphoricarpos occidentalis, Rosa arkansana, Euphorbia esula, Bromus inermis, Poa pratensis, and Cirsium arvense are invading. Area mapped in 2007 is smaller than in 2006 or 2005.**

Community Number: **2** Community Title (main spp): **Eleocharis palustris / Polygonum amphibium**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Eleocharis palustris	2 = 6-10%	Hordeum jubatum	5 = > 50%
Polygonum amphibium	3 = 11-20%	Typha latifolia	+ = < 1%
Alopecurus pratensis	2 = 6-10%	Rumex crispus	2 = 6-10%
Rumex maritimus	2 = 6-10%	Juncus balticus	1 = 1-5%
Phalaris arundinacea	2 = 6-10%	Agropyron trachycaulum	2 = 6-10%
Equisetum arvense	2 = 6-10%	Potentilla anserina	3 = 11-20%

Comments / Problems: **Although soils were drier in 2007 the plant community continues to exhibit a dominance of wetland plants.**

Community Number: **3A** Community Title (main spp): **Transitional Upland Floodplain**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Agropyron trachycaulum	1 = 1-5%	Rumex maritimus	1 = 1-5%
Agropyron intermedium	2 = 6-10%	Hordeum jubatum	5 = > 50%
Agropyron repens	1 = 1-5%	Alopecurus pratensis	3 = 11-20%
Artemisia ludoviciana	1 = 1-5%	Aster pansus	1 = 1-5%
Symphoricarpos occidentalis	1 = 1-5%	Salix exigua	+ = < 1%
Rumex crispus	1 = 1-5%	Poa pratensis	+ = < 1%

Comments / Problems: **This is a transitional upland/wetland. The plant community is dominated with H. jubatum and scattered with upland and wetland plants. Soils again were dry in 2007. However, plants east of the channel were brown and cured while those west of the channel were still green and fruiting.**

## VEGETATION COMMUNITIES (continued)

Community Number: **4** Community Title (main spp): **Salix/Hordeum/Equisteum Wetland**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Equisetum arvense	4 = 21-50%	Salix amygdaloides	3 = 11-20%
Hordeum jubatum	4 = 21-50%	Agropyron intermedium	1 = 1-5%
Alopecurus pratensis	2 = 6-10%	Carex praegracilis	1 = 1-5%
Rumex crispus	1 = 1-5%	Eleocharus palustris	1 = 1-5%
Potentilla anserina	3 = 11-20%	Phalaris arundinacea	2 = 6-10%
Salix exigua	4 = 21-50%	Typha latifolia	+ = < 1%

Comments / Problems: **Salix, Equisetum, Potentilla, and Hordeum were prevalent around the excavated ponds. Alopecurus, Phalaris, and S. exigua were prevalent along the inlet channel.**

Community Number: **3** Community Title (main spp): **Upland Floodplain**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Agropyron trachycaulum	3 = 11-20%	Euphorbia esula	4 = 21-50%
Agropyron smithii	3 = 11-20%	Cirsium arvense	4 = 21-50%
Agropyron intermedium	3 = 11-20%	Bromus inermis	2 = 6-10%
Hordeum jubatum	4 = 21-50%	Aster pansus	3 = 11-20%
Rosa arkansas	3 = 11-20%	Bromus inermis	1 = 1-5%
Symphoricarpos occidentalis	4 = 21-50%		

Comments / Problems: **Occupies the flood prone area.**

Community Number: **6** Community Title (main spp): **Hillside Upland**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Stipa viridula	5 = > 50%	Koeleria macranta (K. cristata)	2 = 6-10%
Agropyron smithii	4 = 21-50%	Symphoricarpos occidentale	3 = 11-20%
Agropyron intermedia	4 = 21-50%	Rosa arkansana	3 = 11-20%
Artemisia frigida	3 = 11-20%	Bromus inermis	1 = 1-5%
Grindelia squarrosa	3 = 11-20%	Bouteloua gracilis	2 = 6-10%
Opuntia spp.	2 = 6-10%		

Comments / Problems: **Consists of upland areas on hillsides outside of the floodplain.**

Community Number: **5** Community Title (main spp): **Hordeum jubatum**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Hordeum jubatum	5 = > 50%	Salix lutea	1 = 1-5%
Salix exigua	3 = 11-20%	Cirsium arvense	1 = 1-5%
Rumex maritimus	+ = < 1%	Alopecurus pratensis	+ = < 1%
Rumex crispus	+ = < 1%	Equisetum arvense	+ = < 1%
Lactuca serriola	+ = < 1%		
Thlaspi arvense	+ = < 1%		

Comments / Problems: **Wetland quality present, but marginal.**

### Additional Activities Checklist:

- Record and map vegetative communities on aerial photograph.

## COMPREHENSIVE VEGETATION LIST

Plant Species	Vegetation Community Number (s)	Plant Species	Vegetation Community Number (s)
Achillea millefolium	3, 6	Medicago sativa	3, 6
Agropyron intermedium	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Melilotus alba	3, 6
Agropyron repens	3	Melilotus officinalis	3, 6
Agropyron smithii	3, 6	Mentha arvensis	3
Agropyron trachycaulum	1, 2, 3, 3A	Opuntia spp.	6
Agrostis alba	2, 3	Phalaris arundinacea	1, 2, 4, 6
Alopecurus pratensis	2, 3, 4, 5	Phleum pratense	3, 6
Amaranthus retroflexus	3, 6	Plantago hirtella	1
Artemisia frigida	6	Plantago major	1, 2
Artemisia ludoviciana	1, 3, 3A	Poa annua	(2), 3, (3A), (4)
Aster (pansus)	3, 6	Poa pratensis	3, 6
Atriplex spp.	3, 6	Polygonum amphibium	1, 2
Bouteloua gracilis	6	Potentilla (gracilis)	1, 3
Brassica kaber	6	Potentilla anserina	1, 2, 3, 4
Bromus inermis	3, 6	Ranunculus cymbalaria	4
Cardaria draba	6	Rosa arkansana	1, 3, 6
Carex lanuginosa	1, 2	Rumex crispus	2, 3, 4, 5
Carex praegracilis	1, 3, 4	Rumex maritimus	2, 3, 3A, 5
Chenopodium album	3, 6	Salix amygdaloides	3, 4
Cirsium arvense (N)	3, 4, 6	Salix exigua	2, 3, 3A, 4, 5
Cynoglossum officinale (N)	border 3/4	Salix lutea	2, 3, 3A, 4, 5
Dactylis glomerata	3	Sisymbium altissimum	3
Descurainia pinnata	3, 6	Smilacina stellata	1
Distichlis spicata	1	Solidago canadensis	1, 3
Eleocharis acicularis	2	Spartina pectinata	1, 2
Eleocharis palustris	1, 2, 3, 4	Stipa viridula	6
Epilobium ciliatum	1	Symphoricarpos occidentalis	1, 3, 6
Equisetum arvense	1, 2, 3, 4	Taraxacum officinale	3, 6
Equisetum hyemale	2	Thlaspi arvense	3, 5, 6
Euphorbia esula (N)	1, 3, 4	Triglochin maritimum	1, 2
Glyceria elata	2	Typha latifolia	2, 4
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	1, 3		
Grindelia squarrosa	3, 6		
Hordeum jubatum	1, 2, 3/3A, 4, 5		
Juncus balticus	1		
Kochia scoparia	3		
Koeleria macrantha	6		

**Comments / Problems: Parenthesis placed around specific epithets indicates an uncertainty in the species identification. (N) indicates a Montana State Noxious plant.**



## WILDLIFE

### Birds

Were man-made nesting structures installed? **No**  
 If yes, type of structure: \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are the nesting structures being used? **NA**  
 Do the nesting structures need repairs? \_\_\_\_\_

### Mammals and Herptiles

Mammal and Herptile Species	Number Observed	Indirect Indication of Use			
		Tracks	Scat	Burrows	Other
White-tailed Deer	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Badger	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Frogs (unidentified spp.)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	heard vocals
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### Additional Activities Checklist:

**No** Macroinvertebrate Sampling (if required)

**Comments / Problems: May visit: 13 cows/calves were grazing within the site. July visit: Site was dry and could not be sampled for macroinvertebrates.**



## GPS SURVEYING

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

### GPS Checklist:

- Jurisdictional wetland boundary.
- 4-6 landmarks that are recognizable on the aerial photograph.
- Start and End points of vegetation transect(s).
- Photograph reference points.
- Groundwater monitoring well locations.

Comments / Problems: **Hand-mapping onto the aerial photograph was also used to mark landmarks.**

## WETLAND DELINEATION

(attach COE delineation forms)

At each site conduct these checklist items:

- Delineate wetlands according to the 1987 Army COE manual.
- Delineate wetland – upland boundary onto aerial photograph.
- NA** Survey wetland – upland boundary with a resource grade GPS survey.

Comments / Problems: **The GPS unit and hand-mapping onto the aerial photograph were used to delineate wetland boundaries.**

## FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

(Complete and attach full MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method field forms.)

(Also attach any completed abbreviated field forms, if used)

Comments / Problems: \_\_\_\_\_

## MAINTENANCE

Were man-made nesting structure installed at this site? **No**

If yes, do they need to be repaired? **NA**

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

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

If yes, are the structures working properly and in good working order? **Yes**

If no, describe the problems below.

Comments / Problems: \_\_\_\_\_

## MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

Site: **Perry Ranch** Date: **July 17, 2007** Examiner: **A. Pipp**

Transect Number: **1** Approximate Transect Length: **532 feet** Compass Direction from Start: **288°** Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetation Type A: <b>Type 3 - Upland Floodplain</b>	
Length of transect in this type: 0-10 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Hordeum jubatum	+ = < 1%
Kochia scoparia	+ = < 1%
Alopecurus pratensis	3 = 11-20%
Medicago sativa	1 = 1-5%
Agropyron intermedium	3 = 11-20%
Thlaspi arvense	+ = < 1%
Aster pansus	4 = 21-50%
Agropyron trachycaulum	2 = 6-10%
Rumex maritimus	+ = < 1%
Bromus inermis	1 = 1-5%
Total Vegetative Cover:	100%

Vegetation Type B: <b>Type 2 - Eleocharis palustris / Polygonum amphibium</b>	
Length of transect in this type: 10-135 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Cirsium arvense	1 = 1-5%
Hordeum jubatum (last yr's stems still identifiable)	+ = < 1%
Alopecurus pratensis	4 = 21-50%
Potentilla anserina	3 = 11-20%
Rumex maritimus	1 = 1-5%
Salix exigua	1 = 1-5%
Equisetum arvense & Juncus balticus EACH	1 = 1-5%
Agropyron trachycaulum	3 = 11-20%
Carex lanuginosa & Glycyrrhiz lepidota EACH	+ = < 1%
Descurainia pinnata & Thlaspi arvense EACH	+ = < 1%
Taraxacum officinale & Chenopodium album EACH	+ = < 1%
Total Vegetative Cover:	100%

Vegetation Type C: <b>Type 3 - Upland Floodplain</b>	
Length of transect in this type: 135 - 329 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Agropyron trachycaulum & A. intermedium together	5 = > 50%
Bromus inermis	3 = 11-20%
Hordeum jubatum	3 = 11-20%
Thlaspi arvense	+ = < 1%
Descurainia pinnata	3 = 11-20%
Chenopodium album	+ = < 1%
Phalaris arundinacea	+ = < 1%
Lactuca serriola & Taraxacum officinale EACH	+ = < 1%
Cirsium arvense	2 = 6-10%
Aster pansus	1 = 1-5%
Alopecurus pratensis & Agropyron smithii EACH	1 = 1-5%
Rumex maritimus & Equisetum arvense EACH	+ = < 1%
Total Vegetative Cover:	100%

Vegetation Type D: <b>Type 3A-Transitional Upland Floodplain</b>	
Length of transect in this type: 329 - 512 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Hordeum jubatum	5 = > 50%
Agropyron trachycaulum & intermedium	3 = 11-20%
Rumex maritimus	1 = 1-5%
Alopecurus pratensis	4 = 21-50%
Descurainia pinnata	1 = 1-5%
Salix exigua	+ = < 1%
Salix lutea	+ = < 1%
Artemisia ludoviciana	1 = 1-5%
Poa pratensis	1 = 1-5%
Lactuca serriola, Grindelia squarrosa EACH	+ = < 1%
Total Vegetative Cover:	100%

## MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

Site: **Perry Ranch** Date: **July 17, 2007** Examiner: **A. Pipp**

Transect Number: **1** Approximate Transect Length: **532 feet** Compass Direction from Start: **288°** Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetation Type E: <b>Type 6 - Hillside Upland</b>	
Length of transect in this type: 512-532 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Kochia scoparia (not observed in 2007)	
Rumex maritimus & R. crispus TOGETHER	1 = 1-5%
Thlaspi arvense	1 = 1-5%
Hordeum jubatum	1 = 1-5%
Salix lutea & S. exigua EACH	+ = < 1%
Mentha arvensis & Descurainia pinnata EACH	1 = 1-5%
Aster pansus	1 = 1-5%
Agropyron smithii	4 = 21-50%
Family Onagraceae	+ = < 1%
Phalaris arundinacea	+ = < 1%
Potentilla anserina	+ = < 1%
Total Vegetative Cover:	100%

Vegetation Type F:	
Length of transect in this type: _____ feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Total Vegetative Cover:	%

Vegetation Type G:	
Length of transect in this type: _____ feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Total Vegetative Cover:	%

Vegetation Type H:	
Length of transect in this type: _____ feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Total Vegetative Cover:	%

## MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

### Cover Estimate

+ = < 1%      3 = 11-10%  
1 = 1-5%      4 = 21-50%  
2 = 6-10%     5 = > 50%

### Indicator Class

+ = Obligate  
- = Facultative/Wet  
0 = Facultative

### Source

P = Planted  
V = Volunteer

Percent of perimeter developing wetland vegetation (excluding dam/berm structures): 75%

Establish transects perpendicular to the shoreline (or saturated perimeter). The transect should begin in the upland area. Permanently mark this location with a standard metal fencepost. Extend the imaginary transect line towards the center of the wetland, ending at the 3 foot depth (in open water), or at the point where water depths or saturation are maximized. Mark this location with another metal fencepost.

Estimate cover within a 10 foot wide "belt" along the transect length. At a minimum, establish a transect at the windward and leeward sides of the wetland. Remember that the purpose of this sampling is to monitor, not inventory, representative portions of the wetland site.

Comments: **In general, plant communities appeared more stable and similar to what was found in 2006. Soil conditions were dry in 2007.**



























**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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Piping Plover
- 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 & Rating	---	---	---	---	---	.3 (L)	---

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

**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 Northern Leopard Frog
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Bald Eagle
- No usable habitat  D  S \_\_\_\_\_

ii. 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 & Rating	---	---	.7 (M)	---	---	---	---

If documented, list the source (e.g., observations, records, etc.): A Northern Leopard Frog was observed in 'inner oxbow' in 2006 only.

**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 the AA attribute 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 type="checkbox"/> High								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate								<input type="checkbox"/> Low			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input type="checkbox"/> Uneven				<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uneven				<input type="checkbox"/> Even			
Class Cover Distribution (all vegetated classes)	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
Duration of Surface Water in ≥ 10% of AA																				
Low disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

iii. Rating: Use 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 type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Substantial	--	--	--	--
Moderate	--	.7 (M)	--	--
Low	--	--	--	--

Comments: Upland birds and mammals were observed in 2007.

**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 or 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 determine the quality rating of exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L).

Duration of Surface Water in AA	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Perennial			<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent			<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral		
	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%
Cover - % of waterbody in AA containing cover objects (e.g. submerged logs, large rocks & boulders, overhanging banks, floating-leaved vegetation)									
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.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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 arrive at 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 type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Native game fish	--	--	--	--
Introduced game fish	--	--	--	--
Non-game fish	--	--	--	--
No fish	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 flood from in-channel or overbank flow, then check NA.

**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 type="checkbox"/> ≥ 10 acres			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <10, >2 acres			<input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 acres		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
% of flooded wetland classified as forested, scrub/shrub, or both									
AA contains no outlet or restricted outlet	--	--	--	--	--	.5 (M)	--	--	--
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:     Floods from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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.

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		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Duration of surface water at wetlands within the AA									
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	--	.9 (H)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: Although the entire inner oxbow may not flood each year, there have been puddles present each July.

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

Applies to wetlands with the 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								
AA contains no or restricted outlet	1 (H)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
AA contains unrestricted outlet	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: Sediment and nutrient inflow from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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 type="checkbox"/> Permanent / Perennial	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral
≥ 65 %	--	--	--
35-64 %	--	--	--
< 35 %	--	--	--

Comments: Not applicable at this stage.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component >5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component 1-5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component <1 acre					
B	<input type="checkbox"/> High		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate		<input type="checkbox"/> Low		<input 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
P/P	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S/I	--	--	--	.7M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T/E/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**14J. GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE / RECHARGE (DR)** (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 slope.
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge.
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods.
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet.
- Other Some alluvial flow likely.

ii.  Recharge Indicators

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

iii. **Rating:** Use 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.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant
Estimated Relative Abundance from 11									
Low disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.4M	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Public ownership	--	--	--
Private ownership	.7(M)	--	--

Comments: Tribal ownership restricts access.

**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	low	0.30	1	
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	moderate	0.70	1	
C. General Wildlife Habitat	moderate	0.70	1	
D. General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	N/A		--	
E. Flood Attenuation	moderate	0.50	1	
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	high	0.90	1	
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	high	1.00	1	
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	N/A		--	
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	moderate	0.70	1	
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	high	1.00	1	
K. Uniqueness	moderate	0.40	1	
L. Recreation/Education Potential	moderate	0.70	1	
<b>Total:</b>		<b><u>6.90</u></b>	<b><u>10.00</u></b>	
<b>Percent of Total Possible Points:</b>			<b><u>69%</u></b> (Actual / Possible) x 100 [rd to nearest whole #]	

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

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

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



**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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Piping Plover
- 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 & Rating	---	---	---	---	---	.3 (L)	---

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

**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 Northern Leopard Frog
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Bald Eagle
- No usable habitat  D  S \_\_\_\_\_

**ii. 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 & Rating	---	---	.7 (M)	---	---	---	---

If documented, list the source (e.g., observations, records, etc.): A few individual Northern Leopard Frogs have been observed in 'outer oxbow' in 2002 and 2005, but not in 2003, 2004, 2006, or 2007 in the 'outer oxbow'.

**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
- 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
- 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

**ii. Wildlife Habitat Features:** Working from top to bottom, select the AA attribute 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 type="checkbox"/> High								<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input type="checkbox"/> Uneven				<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input type="checkbox"/> Uneven				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Even			
	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
Class Cover Distribution (all vegetated classes)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	--
Duration of Surface Water in ≥ 10% of AA	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Low disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**iii. Rating:** Use 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 type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Substantial	--	--	--	--
Moderate	--	.7 (M)	--	--
Low	--	--	--	--

**Comments:** Scattered mammal and birds observed in 2007.

**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 or 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 determine the quality rating of exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L).

Duration of Surface Water in AA	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Perennial			<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent			<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral		
	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%
Cover - % of waterbody in AA containing cover objects (e.g. submerged logs, large rocks & boulders, overhanging banks, floating-leaved vegetation)									
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.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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 arrive at 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 type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Native game fish	--	--	--	--
Introduced game fish	--	--	--	--
Non-game fish	--	--	--	--
No fish	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 flood from in-channel or overbank flow, then check NA.

**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 type="checkbox"/> ≥ 10 acres			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <10, >2 acres			<input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 acres		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
% of flooded wetland classified as forested, scrub/shrub, or both									
AA contains no outlet or restricted outlet	--	--	--	--	--	.5 (M)	--	--	--
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: Floods from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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.

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		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Duration of surface water at wetlands within the AA									
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	--	.9 (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 the 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: Sediment and nutrient inflow from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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 type="checkbox"/> Permanent / Perennial	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral
≥ 65 %	--	--	--
35-64 %	--	--	--
< 35 %	--	--	--

Comments: Not applicable at this stage.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component >5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component 1-5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component <1 acre					
B	<input type="checkbox"/> High		<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low		<input 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
P/P	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S/I	--	--	--	--	--	.6M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T/E/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: 'Outlet' is exit over dike spillway.

**14J. GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE / RECHARGE (DR)** (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 slope.
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge.
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods.
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet.
- Other Some alluvial flow likely.

**ii.  Recharge Indicators**

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

**iii. Rating:** Use 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.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant
Estimated Relative Abundance from 11									
Low disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.4M	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Public ownership	--	--	--
Private ownership	.7(M)	--	--

Comments: Tribal ownership restricts access.

**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	low	0.30	1	
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	moderate	0.70	1	
C. General Wildlife Habitat	moderate	0.70	1	
D. General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	N/A		--	
E. Flood Attenuation	moderate	0.50	1	
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	high	0.90	1	
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	high	1.00	1	
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	N/A		--	
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	moderate	0.60	1	
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	high	1.00	1	
K. Uniqueness	moderate	0.40	1	
L. Recreation/Education Potential	moderate	0.70	1	
<b>Total:</b>		<b><u>6.80</u></b>	<b><u>10.00</u></b>	
<b>Percent of Total Possible Points:</b>			<b><u>68%</u></b> (Actual / Possible) x 100 [rd to nearest whole #]	

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

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

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



**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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Piping Plover
- 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 & Rating	---	---	---	---	---	.3 (L)	---

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

**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 Northern Leopard Frog
- Incidental habitat (list species)  D  S Bald Eagle
- No usable habitat  D  S \_\_\_\_\_

ii. 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 & Rating	---	---	---	.6 (M)	---	---	---

If documented, list the source (e.g., observations, records, etc.): Suspected to provide habitat for Northern Leopard Frogs as they have been found in the adjacent outer and/or inner oxbows during 2002, 2005, and 2006.

**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 the AA attribute 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 type="checkbox"/> High								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate								<input type="checkbox"/> Low			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input type="checkbox"/> Uneven				<input type="checkbox"/> Even				<input checked="" 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)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (see 12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

iii. Rating: Use 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 type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Substantial	--	--	--	--
Moderate	--	--	--	--
Low	--	.4 (M)	--	--

Comments: A few upland birds are always present, but most wildlife observations occur in the inner and outer oxbows and along Cutbank Creek.

**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 or 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 determine the quality rating of exceptional (E), high (H), moderate (M), or low (L).

Duration of Surface Water in AA	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent/Perennial			<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent			<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral		
	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%	>25%	10-25%	<10%
Cover - % of waterbody in AA containing cover objects (e.g. submerged logs, large rocks & boulders, overhanging banks, floating-leaved vegetation)									
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.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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 arrive at 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 type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Native game fish	--	--	--	--
Introduced game fish	--	--	--	--
Non-game fish	--	--	--	--
No fish	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 flood from in-channel or overbank flow, then check NA.

**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 type="checkbox"/> ≥ 10 acres			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <10, >2 acres			<input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 acres		
	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
% of flooded wetland classified as forested, scrub/shrub, or both									
AA contains no outlet or restricted outlet	--	--	--	--	--	.5 (M)	--	--	--
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: Floods from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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.

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		
	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E	P/P	S/I	T/E
Duration of surface water at wetlands within the AA									
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years	--	.9 (H)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: Between 2001 and 2007 the Northern Excavated Area flooded in 2002, 2003, and 2005. Area may pond for short durations after heavy precipitation events.

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

Applies to wetlands with the 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								
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: Sediment and nutrient inflow from Cut Bank Creek.

**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, then 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 type="checkbox"/> Permanent / Perennial	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal / Intermittent	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary / Ephemeral
≥ 65 %	--	--	--
35-64 %	--	--	--
< 35 %	--	--	--

Comments: Not applicable at this stage.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component >5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component 1-5 acres						<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated component <1 acre					
B	<input type="checkbox"/> High		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate		<input type="checkbox"/> Low		<input 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
P/P	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S/I	--	--	--	.7M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T/E/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**14J. GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE / RECHARGE (DR)** (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 slope.
- Seeps are present at the wetland edge.
- AA permanently flooded during drought periods.
- Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet.
- Other Some alluvial flow likely.

ii.  **Recharge Indicators**

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

iii. **Rating:** Use 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.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> rare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common	<input type="checkbox"/> abundant
Estimated Relative Abundance from 11									
Low disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.4M	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (12i)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Public ownership	--	--	--
Private ownership	.7(M)	--	--

Comments: Tribal ownership restricts access.

**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	low	0.30	1	
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	moderate	0.60	1	
C. General Wildlife Habitat	moderate	0.40	1	
D. General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	N/A		--	
E. Flood Attenuation	moderate	0.50	1	
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	high	0.90	1	
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	high	1.00	1	
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	N/A		--	
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	moderate	0.70	1	
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	high	1.00	1	
K. Uniqueness	moderate	0.40	1	
L. Recreation/Education Potential	moderate	0.70	1	
<b>Total:</b>		<b><u>6.50</u></b>	<b><u>10.00</u></b>	
<b>Percent of Total Possible Points:</b>			<b><u>65%</u></b> (Actual / Possible) x 100 [rd to nearest whole #]	

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

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

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

## **Appendix C**

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### **2007 REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS**

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*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring*

*Perry Ranch*

*Glacier County, Montana*

**PERRY RANCH WETLAND MITIGATION SITE 2007**



**Photo Point 1:** Panoramic view of northern-most excavated area on July 17, 2007. Photo was taken facing south from the adjacent hillside on the north.



**Photo Point 2:** Panoramic view of "outer" (photo left) and "inner" (photo right) oxbows on July 17, 2007. Photo was taken facing northeast to southeast from the adjacent hillside on the west.



**Photo Point 3:** Panoramic view of the southwestern end of the site on July 17, 2007. Delivery ditch is in the foreground. Cut Bank Creek is on photo right. Photo was taken facing northeast from the adjacent hillside on the southwest. Light yellow-green patches are of leafy spurge plants.

## PERRY RANCH WETLAND MITIGATION SITE 2007



**Photo 4:** View is south at Soil Pit 4. Soil pit dug on delineation boundary. Wetland is being invaded by upland species of snowberry and prairie sage.



**Photo 5:** View is south at Soil Pit 6 in the western excavated pit of the Inner Oxbow. Meadow foxtail, horsetail, and sandbar willow whips dominate.



**Photo 6:** At east end of dike facing inner oxbow (Type 2 Wetland). View is west.



**Photo 7:** Soil Pit 3 in Type 2 Wetland of Inner Oxbow. View is north.



**Photo 8:** View is west at Soil Pit 10 in Outer Oxbow.

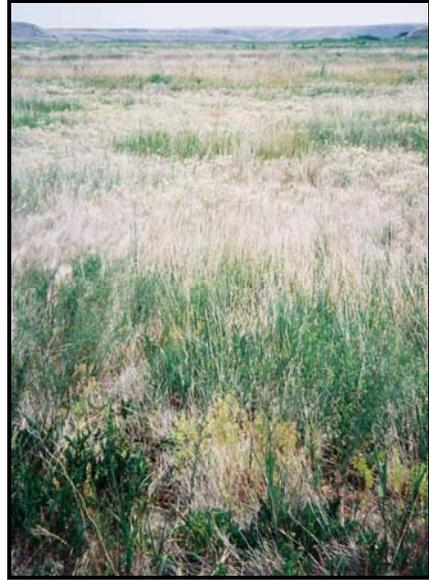


**Photo 9:** View is northwest at Soil Pit 1 in Northern Excavated Area.

**PERRY RANCH WETLAND MITIGATION SITE 2007**



**Photo 10:** From start of Transect 1 at 288°.



**Photo 11:** From end of Transect 1 at 108°.



**Photo 12:** Weed Photo Point 1 on June 18, 2007. View is northeast of emerging Canada thistle.



**Photo 13:** Weed Photo Point 1 on August 21, 2007. View is northeast of seeded Canada thistle, prior to release of a bio-control weevil.

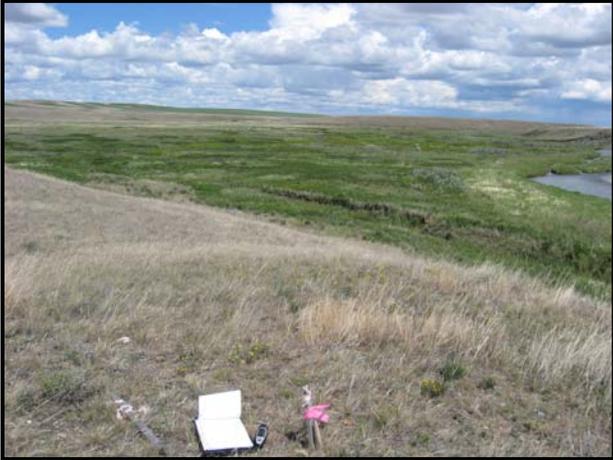


**Photo 14:** Weed Photo Point 2 on June 18, 2007. View is east showing leafy spurge (white arrows).



**Photo 15:** Weed Photo Point 2 on August 21, 2007. View is east showing leafy spurge (white arrows).

## PERRY RANCH WETLAND MITIGATION SITE 2007



**Photo 16:** Weed Photo Point 3 / Photo Point 3 on June 18, 2007. View is northeast of the Perry Mitigation Site.



**Photo 17:** Weed Photo Point 3 / Photo Point 3 on August 21, 2007. View is northeast and showing a large leafy spurge infestation.



**Photo 18:** Weed Photo Point 4 on June 18, 2007. View is south showing the leafy spurge (yellow-green) infestation.



**Photo 19:** Near Weed Photo Point 4 on August 21, 2007. View is south showing (yellow-green) leafy spurge in fruit.



**Photo 20:** A leafy spurge plant on August 21, 2007. The **purple arrow** shows a fertile fruit. The **blue arrow** shows infertile fruits. This plant had mostly infertile fruits which may be caused by the Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles which were released in July.

## **Appendix D**

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### **MDT PROPOSED PROJECT LAYOUT**

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*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring*  
*Perry Ranch*  
*Glacier County, Montana*

~ . P. L. MORSE, R.

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. NH 0002(232)

WETLAND MITIGATION

PERRY RANCH

GLACIER COUNTY

DESIGN DATA	
ASLT.	
ASLT.	
CHK.	
D.	
T.	
V.	
ALL TRUCKS	
WTS. & EQUALS	
GROWTH RATE	

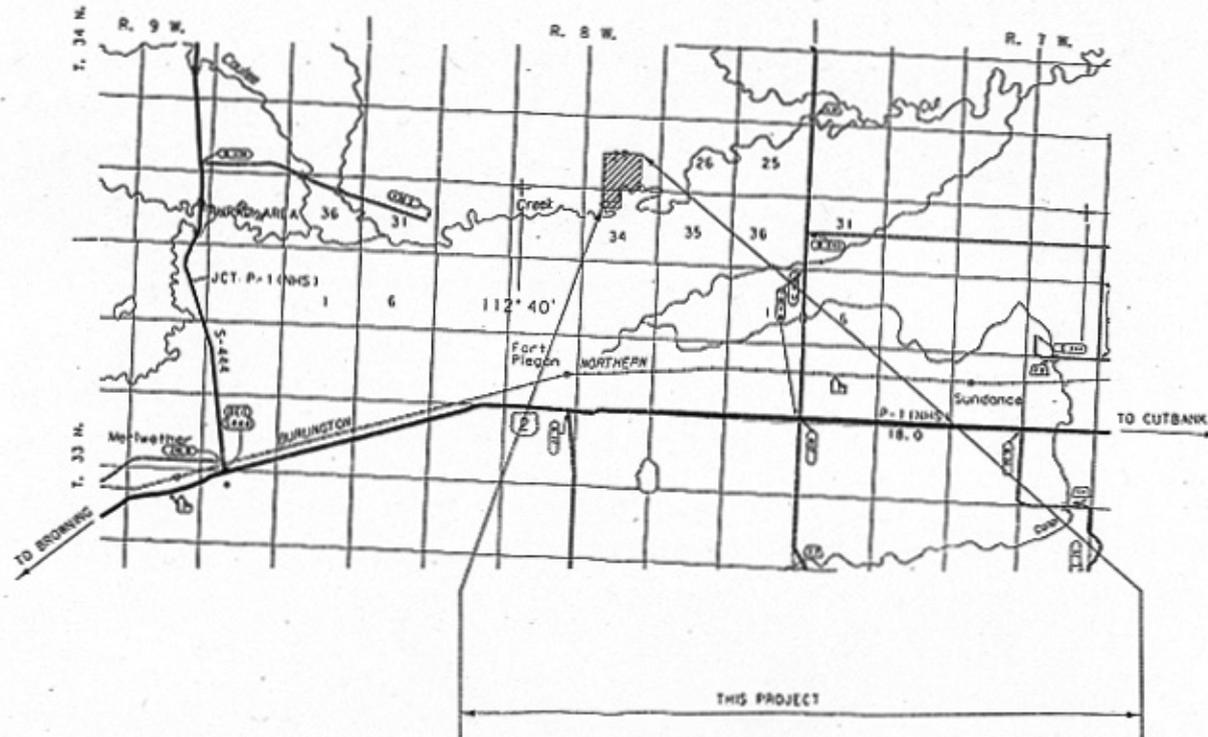
LETTING DATE \_\_\_\_\_



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LENGTH kilometers

SCALES  
 VERTICAL: 1:1  
 HORIZONTAL: 1:1  
 CROSS SECTION - HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL: 1:1  
 REDUCED PRINTS APPROXIMATELY 1/2 ORIGINAL SCALE



**PRELIMINARY  
 FOR PLAN IN HAND ONLY**

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	
APPROVED: _____	
NAME AND TITLE OF TRANSPORTATION	
BY: _____	ADMINISTRATOR REGIONAL DIVISION - ENGINEERING
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	
APPROVED: _____	
ENGINEER	DATE

RELATED PROJECTS

ASSOCIATED PROJECT AGREEMENT NUMBERS
F.W. & S.C.
P.E.

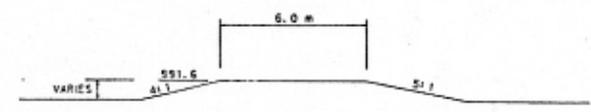
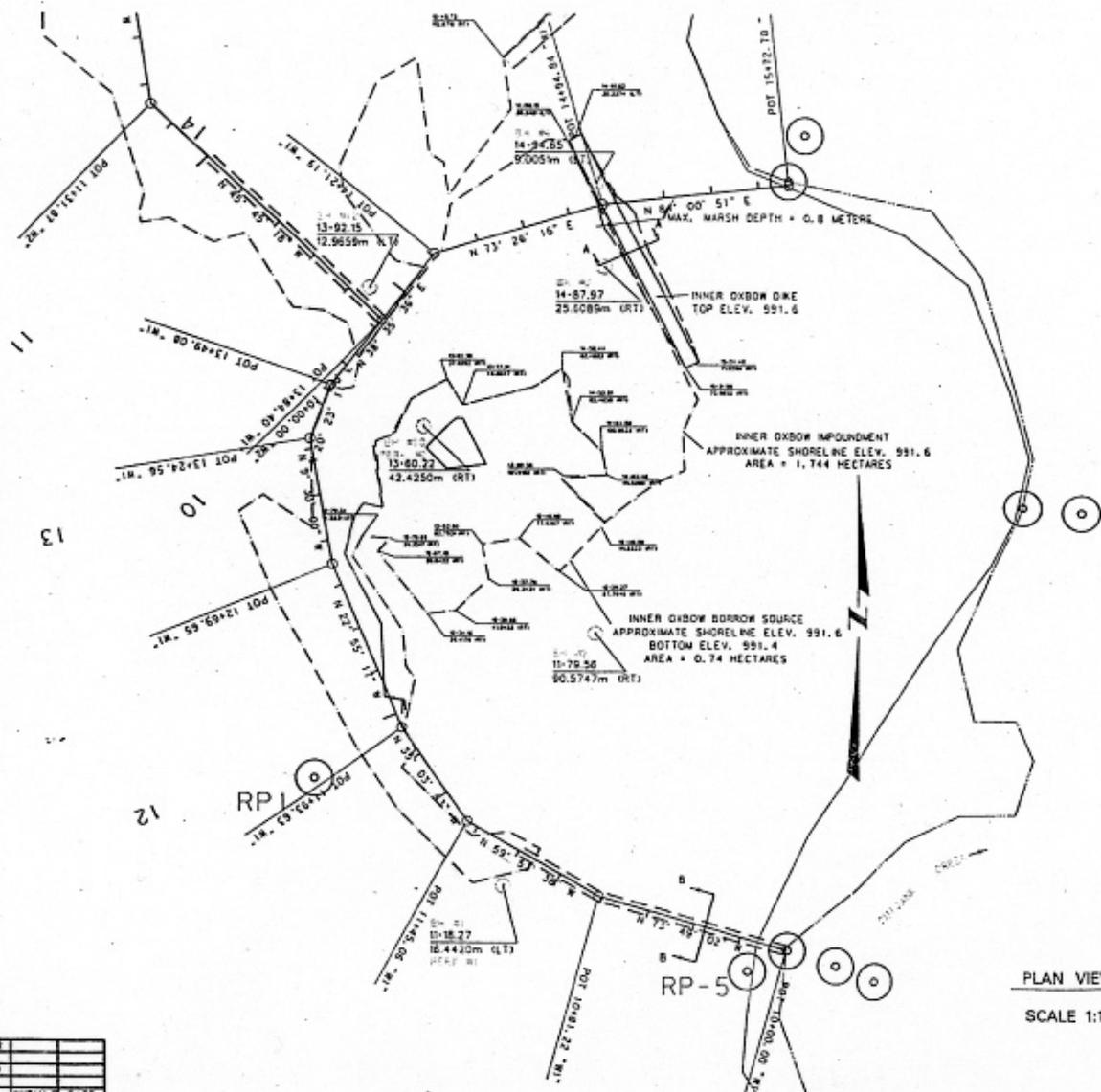
CONTROL NO.

APR 11 2004  
 03313

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

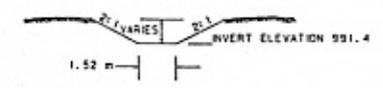
STATE	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET NO.
MONTANA	NH 0002 (232)	6

# INNER OXBOW LAYOUT



SECTION A-A-SPREER DIKE TYPICAL SECTION  
SCALE 1:10

STA. 10+00 TO STA. 11+20



SECTION B-B-INTAKE WEIR TYPICAL SECTION  
SCALE 1:10

PLAN VIEW  
SCALE 1:100

INNER OXBOW  
LAYOUT DETAIL  
ALIGNMENT "W1"  
**PRELIMINARY**

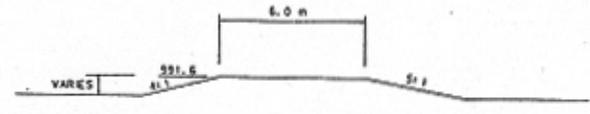
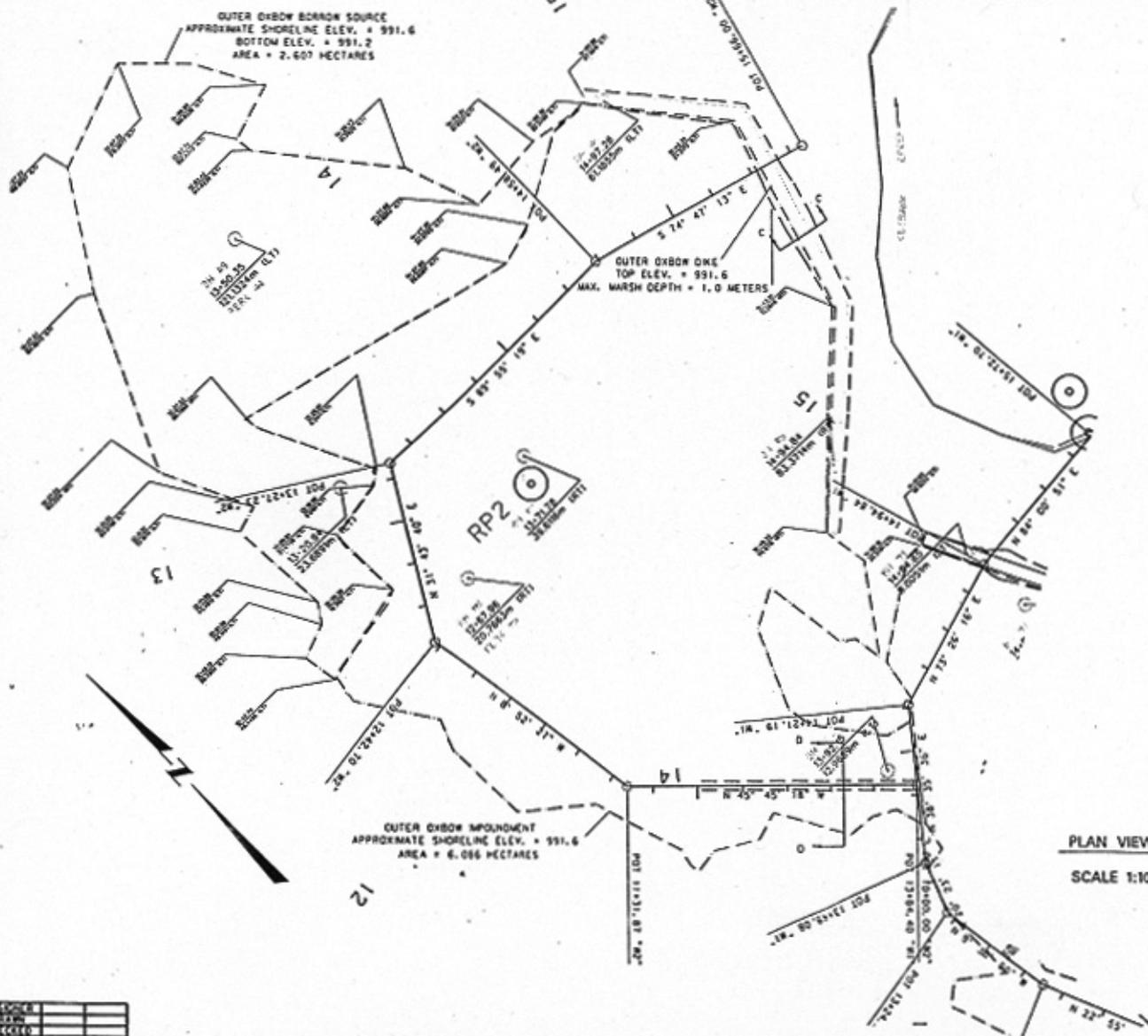
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DESIGNED BY: JAC  
DRAWN BY: JAC  
CHECKED BY: JAC  
REVISED BY: JAC  
DATE: 02/13

DESIGNER	DRAWN	CHECKED	REVISED	INITIALS	DATE

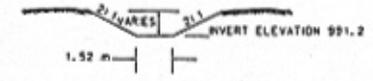
# OUTER OXBOW LAYOUT

STATE	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET
MONTANA	NH 000212321	3



SECTION C-C-SPREADER DIKE TYPICAL SECTION  
SCALE 1:10

STA. 10+00 TO STA. 11+00



SECTION D-D-INTAKE WEIR TYPICAL SECTION  
SCALE 1:10

PLAN VIEW  
SCALE 1:100

OUTER OXBOW  
LAYOUT DETAIL  
ALIGNMENT "W2"  
**PRELIMINARY**

132-371-45  
28 JUL 1998  
C-IND  
02313

132-371-45  
28 JUL 1998  
C-IND  
02313

132-371-45  
28 JUL 1998  
C-IND  
02313

NO.	REVISION	DATE

## **Appendix E**

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### **BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL GPS PROTOCOL**

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*MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring  
Perry Ranch  
Glacier County, Montana*

## BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL

This protocol was developed by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to monitor bird use within their Wetland Mitigation Sites. Though each wetland mitigation site is vastly different, the bird survey data collection methods were standardized to order to increase repeatability. The protocol uses an "area search within a restricted time frame" to collect data on bird species, density, behavior, and habitat-type use.

### Survey Area

***Sites that can be entirely walked:*** Sites where the entire perimeter or area can be walked include, but are not limited to: small ponds, enhanced historic river channels, and wet meadows. If the wetland is not uncomfortably inundated, walk several meandering transects to sufficiently cover the wetland. Meandering transects can be used, even if a small portion of the area is inaccessible (e.g. cannot cross due to inundation). Use binoculars to identify the bird species, to count the number of individuals, and to identify their behavior and habitat type. Data can be recorded directly onto the bird survey form or into a field notebook. The number of meandering transects and their direction (or location) should be recorded in the field notebook and/or drawn onto the aerial photograph or topographic map. Meandering transects are not formal and should not be staked. Each site should be walked and surveyed to the fullest extent within the set time limit.

***Sites than cannot be entirely walked:*** Sites where the entire perimeter or area cannot be walked include, but are not limited to: very large sites (i.e. perimeter of 2-3 miles), and large-bodied waters (i.e. reservoirs), where deep water habitat (> 6 feet) is close to shore. For large-bodied waters where only one area was graded to create or enhance the development of wetland, bird surveys should be walked along meandering transects within or around the graded area (see above.). For sites that cannot be walked, bird surveys should be conducted from many lookout posts, established at key vantage points. The general location of lookout posts should be recorded in the field notebook or drawn onto the aerial photograph or topographic map. Lookout post locations do not need to be staked. Both binoculars and spotting scopes may be used in order to accurately identify and count the birds. Depending upon the size of the open water, more time may be spent viewing the mitigation area from lookout posts than is spent traveling between posts.

### Survey Time

Ideally, bird surveys should be conducted in the morning hours when bird activity is often greatest (i.e. sunrise to no later than 11:00 am). Surveys can be completed before 11am if all transects have been walked or all lookout posts have been viewed with no new bird activity observed. For some sites bird surveys may need to be performed in the late afternoon or evening due to traveling constraints or weather. The overall limiting time factor will be the number of budgeted hours for the project.

### Data Recording

***Bird Species List:*** Record each bird species observed onto the Bird Survey-Field Data Sheet (or field notebook). Record the bird's common name using the appropriate 4-letter code. The 4-letter code uses the first two letters of the first two word's of the bird's common name or if one name, the first four letters. For example, Mourning Dove is coded as MODO while Mallard is coded as MALL. If an unknown individual is observed, use the 4-letter protocol, but define your

## BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL (continued)

abbreviation at the bottom of the field data sheet. For example, unknown shorebird is UNSB; unknown brown bird is UNBR; unknown warbler is UNWA; and unknown waterfowl is 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 parenthesis; do not fill in the habitat column. For example, a flock of black, medium-sized birds could be coded as UNBB / FO (25).

**Bird Density:** For each observation record the actual or estimated number of individuals observed per species and per behavior. Totals can be tallied in the office and entered onto the Bird Survey-Field Data Sheet.

**Bird Behavior:** Bird behavior must be identified by what is known. When a species is observed, the behavior that is immediately exhibited is recorded. Only behaviors that have discreet descriptive terms should be used. The following terms are recommended: breeding pair (BP); foraging (F); flyover (FO); loafing (L), which is defined as sleeping, roosting, or floating with head tucked under wing; and nesting (N). If other behaviors that have a specific descriptive word are observed then it can be used and should later be added to the protocol. Descriptive words or phrases such as "migrating" or "living on site" are unknown behaviors.

**Bird Species Habitat Use:** When a species is observed, the habitat is also recorded. The following broad habitat categories are used:

- ◆ aquatic bed (AB), defined as rooted-floating, floating-leaved, or submergent vegetation.
- ◆ marsh (MA), defined as emergent (e.g. cattail, bulrush) vegetation with surface water.
- ◆ wet meadow (WM), defined as grasses, sedges, or rushes with little to no surface water.
- ◆ scrub-shrub (SS), defined as shrub covered wetland.
- ◆ forested (FO), defined as tree covered wetland.
- ◆ open water (OW), defined as unvegetated surface water.
- ◆ upland (UP), defined as the upland buffer.

Other categories can be used and defined on the data sheet and should later be added to the protocol.

### Other Fields

**Bird Visit:** Each bird survey (i.e. spring, fall, and mid-season) should be completed on separate Bird Survey-Field Data Sheets.

**Time:** Record the start time and end time on the Bird Survey-Field Data Sheet.

**Date:** Record the date of the bird survey.

**Weather:** Record the weather conditions (i.e. temperature, wind, condition).

**Notes:** Note if a particular individual bird is using a constructed nest box and note the condition of constructed nest box(es). Also record any comments about the site, wildlife, wetland conditions, etc.

## **GPS MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTO REFERENCING PROCEDURE**

From 2001 through 2006, PBS&J mapped the vegetation community boundaries, photograph points, and other sampling locations in the field using the resource-grade Trimble GEO III GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. The data were collected with a minimum of three positions per feature using Course/Acquisition code. The collected data were then transferred to a personal computer (PC) and differentially corrected to the nearest operating Community Base Station. The corrected data were then exported to ACAD drawings in Montana State Plain Coordinates NAD 83 international feet.

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

In 2007, some sites continued to be mapped using the Trimble GEO III GPS unit while most sites were mapped using the resource-grade Magellan MobileMapper Office GPS unit. The Magellan GPS unit has a comparable accuracy level to the Trimble Geo III unit.

Each year, MDT photographs each mitigation site from the air. These aerial photographs are not geo-referenced, but serve as a visual aid to map wetland development and vegetation communities, and to show approximate locations for various monitoring activities (i.e. photograph points, transects, or macroinvertebrate sampling). Reference points that are observable on the aerial photo (i.e. road, stream channel, or fence) were also marked with the GPS unit in order to better position the aerial photograph. This positioning did not remove any of the distortion inherent to all photos. All mapped features and community boundaries were reviewed by the wetland biologist, to increase the figure's accuracy.

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.