MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT: YEAR 2008

Meriwether-East Glacier County, Montana



Prepared for:

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

December 2008

PBS&J Project No: 0B4308801.04.04

Prepared by:

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



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Meriwether-East Wetland Mitigation Site was constructed during 2005 to partially mitigate for wetland impacts associated with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) project NH 1-3(36)234F (Meriwether-East) (**Figure 1**). The Meriwether-East wetland mitigation project was constructed along Highway 2 in Glacier County. It consists of two areas: Site 1 was built near milepost 236 and was designed to encompass approximately 2.67 acres (ac) and Site 2 was built near milepost 239 and was designed to encompass approximately 6.62 acres. Combined, the on-site mitigation project was designed to create 9.29 acres of new wetland in areas that had no prior wetlands.

Wetland hydrology was designed to be supplied from the neighboring wetlands, interception of the water table, and ponding of direct precipitation. It is anticipated that, over time, vegetation would be comprised of emergent wetland species.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Monitoring Dates and Activities

Site 1 and Site 2 were visited on July 8, 2008 to document vegetation, soil, and hydrologic conditions that are used to map jurisdictional wetlands. For the third consecutive year, Site 1 showed no indication of wetland development. As per MDT's instruction, Site 1 was not further monitored in 2008 beyond an initial reconnaissance and is not further reported on in this document (MDT 2007). All information contained on the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form was collected at Site 2 on July 8 (**Appendix B**). Activities conducted and information collected at this site included: wetland delineation; vegetation community mapping; vegetation transect monitoring; soils data collection; hydrology data collection; bird and wildlife use documentation; macroinvertebrate sampling; and photographing.

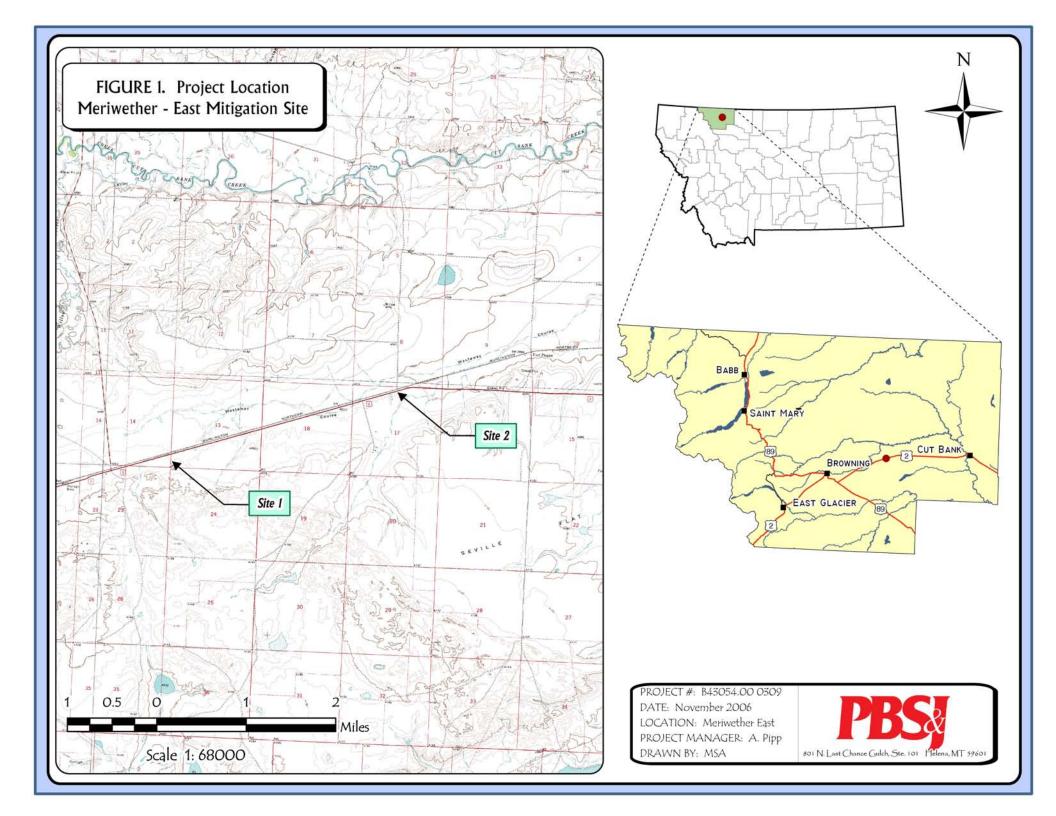
2.2 Hydrology

Wetland hydrology at Site 2 was to be provided via groundwater, seepage from the adjacent wetland, and direct precipitation. Impoundment areas are indicated on the proposed project plan sheets.

Hydrologic indicators were evaluated during the mid-season visit in 2008. Wetland hydrology indicators were recorded using procedures outlined in the COE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). Hydrology data were recorded onto COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**).

There are no groundwater monitoring wells at the site. Groundwater depths were only documented if groundwater was located within 12 inches of the ground surface. 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 onto the 2008 aerial photographs. Standardized community mapping was not employed as many of these techniques 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), *Plants of Montana* (Dorn 1984), *Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges* (Hurd et. al. 1998), and *Field Guild to Intermountain Rushes* (Hurd et. al. 1997). Nomenclature primarily follows that of Dorn (1984).

A single 10-foot wide belt transect was sampled during the mid-season monitoring event to represent the range of current vegetation conditions. 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%).

The transect location is depicted on **Figure 2** in **Appendix A**. All data were recorded onto the Wetland Mitigation Site Monitoring Form (**Appendix B**). Transect photographs were taken from both ends during the mid-season visit. 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 according to 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 Forms (**Appendix B**). The web soil survey was consulted to determine the pre-construction soil types (NRCS 2006).

2.5 Wetland Delineation

Wetland delineation was conducted during the mid-season visit in accordance with the 1987 COE Wetland Delineation Manual. In July 2008, consultation with the COE (Steinle pers. comm.) confirmed that, where the 1987 manual was used to establish baseline wetland conditions at MDT wetland mitigation sites, it should continue to be applied at such sites for the duration of the monitoring period. Consequently, application of the new *Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region* (COE 2008) was not required or undertaken at this site in 2008.

All habitats 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 on COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**). Wetland delineation data collected during 2008 were compared to the pre-construction acreage of wetland in order to estimate that acreage of wetland created at each mitigation site.



2.6 Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians

Mammal, reptile, and amphibian species observations and other positive indicators of use, such as vocalizations, were recorded on the wetland monitoring form during the site visit. Indirect use indicators, including tracks; scat; burrows; eggshells; skins; bones; etc., 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 list of wildlife species observed was created.

2.7 Birds

Bird observations were recorded onto the Bird Survey Field Data Sheet during the site visit. No formal census plots, spot mapping, point counts, or strip transects were conducted. During the site visit, bird observations were recorded incidental to other monitoring activities. Observations were categorized by species, activity code, and general habitat association (**Appendix B**). A comprehensive bird list was compiled using these observations. No birdhouses are currently located on the site.

2.8 Macroinvertebrates

No aquatic macroinvertebrate sample was collected from either site.

2.9 Functional Assessment

A functional assessment was completed in 2006 and 2007 using the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method (Berglund 1999). In 2008 the 2008 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method (Berglund and McEldowney 2008) was applied. Field data necessary for this assessment were collected during the mid-season site visit with the remainder of the functional assessment completed in the office. A Functional Assessment Form was completed for each wetland or groups of wetlands at Site 2 (**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. One photograph point was established (**Figure 2** in **Appendix A**). A panoramic photo was taken at this established point. A 2008 post-construction aerial photograph of Site 2 was taken by MDT and used to map features and community boundaries. All photographs pertaining to the project are in **Appendix C**.

2.11 GPS Data

During the 2008 site visit, a global positioning system (GPS) along with hand-mapping was used to mark each photograph point, transect start and end, community boundaries, soil pits, and other features.



2.12 Maintenance Needs

The boundaries of Site were inspected for obvious signs of 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 Meriwether-East Mitigation Site was designed to be supplied by groundwater seepage from the adjacent wetland, surface runoff from snow melt, and direct precipitation. About 15% of Site 2's surface was inundated during the site evaluation. The large, green algal mat of *Rhizoclomium* observed in 2007 occurred as very small patches in 2008. Soils throughout were saturated in the upper 12 inches of the profile during the monitoring visit.

It was assumed that precipitation levels measured at the Cut Bank FAA Airport would serve as an indicator of precipitation received at the mitigation site. The total precipitation received at this station from January through July of 2008 was 9.84 in (WRCC 2008). This represented 124% of the mean precipitation (7.88 inches) recorded between January and July from 1903 to July 2008. This period during 2008 was significantly wetter than the same period in 2007 (1.17 in), 2006 (2.70 in), 2004 (4.57 in), and 2003 (2.63 in), and was comparable to 2005 (9.21 in) (WRCC 2008).

3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation community types are based on topography, hydrology, and plant composition. Vegetation community data and a list of plant species observed were recorded for Site 2 (**Monitoring Forms** in **Appendix B**). A comprehensive plant list has been compiled for Site 2 since 2006 (**Table 1**).

At Site 2, three vegetation community types were documented in 2008: Type 3 – *Grassland Upland*, Type 5/6 – *Wetland*, and Type 7 – *Wetland*. Type 3 is upland grassland that borders Site 2 to the west and southwest and also occupies the upland buffer along the west and southwest sides (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Type 5/6 is wetland, which expanded by colonizing the mudflat during 2008 (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Type 5/6 has always been fairly diverse though the dominant plants seem to change each year. The dominant plants of Type 5/6 changed in abundance from 2007 to 2008; foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) and Nuttall's alkali grass (*Puccinellia nuttalliana*) increased in cover while Pursh seepweed (*Suaeda calceoliformis*) decreased sharply and oakleaf goosefoot (*Chenopodium glaucum*) was absent. Bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and cattail (*Typha latifolia*) continued to increased on the west side where soils were saturated to the surface and/or inundated. Even where soils were inundated, wetland plants were observed growing up through the water. Along the north boundary, foxtail barley and Nuttall's alkali grass intermixed with fowl bluegrass. Between the delineated wetland and the highway right-of-way fence, wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*) dominates. Type 7 is undisturbed wetland that was delineated (as #11) in October of 2002 by



Scientific Name	Region 9 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator	Scientific Name	Region 9 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator
Achillea millifolium	FACU	Kochia scoparia	FAC
Agropyon smithii	FACU	Lactuca serriola	FAC-
Agropyon trachycaulum	FAC	Liatris punctata	
Agrostis alba	FACW	Poa juncifolia	FACU+
Alopecurus pratensis	FACW	Poa palustris	FAC
Artemisia frigida		Polygonum spp.	
Aster pansus	FAC+	Polypogon monspeliensis	FACW+
Beckmannia syzigachne	OBL	Populus tremuloides	FAC+
Bouteloua gracilis		Puccinellia nuttalliana	OBL
Chenopodium album		Ranunculus cymbalaria	OBL
Chenopodium capitatum		Ranunculus sceleratus	OBL
Chenopodium glaucum	FAC	Ratibida columnifera	
Chenopodium hybridum		<i>Rhizoclonium</i> spp. (a green algae)	
Chenopodium leptophyllum	FACU	Rosa spp.	
Cirsium arvense ¹	FACU+	Salicornia rubra	OBL
Crepis runcinata	FACU	Salix exigua	OBL
Distichlis spicata	FAC+	Salix lutea	
Eleocharis palustris	OBL	Salsola iberica	
Gaillardia aristata		Scirpus acutus	OBL
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	FAC+	Scirpus (maritimus)	OBL
Grindelia squarrosa	FACU	Scirpus pungens (syn. S. americana)	OBL
Heterotheca villosa (syn. Chrysopsis villosa)		Spergularia marina	OBL
Hordeum brachyantherum	FACW	Suaeda calceoliformis (syn. S. depressa)	FACW-
Hordeum jubatum	FAC+	Triglochin maritimum	OBL
Juncus balticus	OBL	Typha latifolia	OBL

Table 1: Vegetation species observed from 2006 through 2008 at the Meriwether-EastWetland Mitigation Site 2.

Bolded species were observed for the first time in 2007.

¹ Montana State Noxious Plant.

URS-BRW, Inc. (2003) and borders Site 2 to the east (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Dominant plants found in Type 7 during July 2008 included Baltic rush, alkali bluegrass (*Poa juncifolia*), and Nuttall's alkali grass (**Photo 3** in **Appendix C**).

For Site 2, 2008 transect data (**Monitoring Forms** in **Appendix B**) were summarized in tabular format (**Table 2**) and graphically illustrated (**Charts 1** and **2**). Photographs were taken at the start and end of the Transect 1 at Site 2 (**Photos 2** and **3** in **Appendix C**). Transect 1 traversed through an upland community, a large wetland community, and the existing adjacent wetland (**Chart 1**). The amount of wetland along the transect doubled in size (**Chart 2**). The *Rhizoclonium* mat that suppressed plant growth in 2007 did not develop. As a result barley foxtail and Nuttall's alkali grass grew well (**Photo 3** in **Appendix C**).

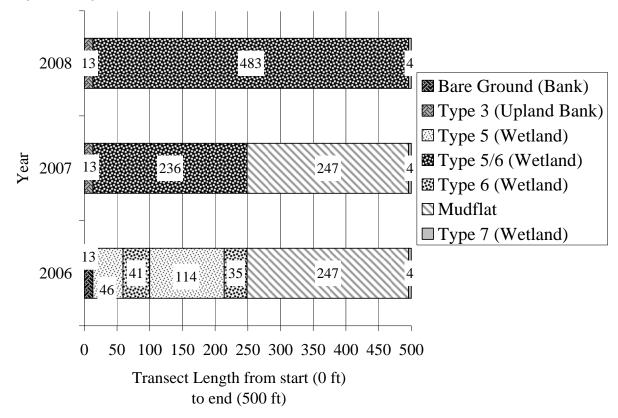
One noxious weed, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), was found at Site 2. Two polygons were mapped in the uplands and a few plants were also present near the start of Transect 1 (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**).



Table 2. Dulu summury for Transect 1 at the Mertweiner-East Metiana Mulgation Sue 2.				
Monitoring Year	2006	2007	2008	
Transect Length (feet)	500	500	500	
# Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	7	2	2	
# Vegetation Communities along Transect	5	3	3	
# Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	2	2	2	
Total Vegetative Species	18	18	19	
Total Hydrophytic Species	12	13	13	
Total Upland Species	6	5	6	
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	30	50	75	
% Transect Length Comprised of Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	48	48	97	
% Transect Length Comprised of Upland Vegetation Communities	0	3	3	
% Transect Length Comprised of Unvegetated Open Water / Mudflat	49	49	0	
% Transect Length Comprised of Bare Substrate	3	0	0	

Table 2: Data summary for Transect 1 at the Meriwether-East Wetland Mitigation Site 2.

Chart 1: Transect map showing vegetation types of Transect 1 from start (0 feet) to end (500 feet) for Site 2 from 2006 to 2008.





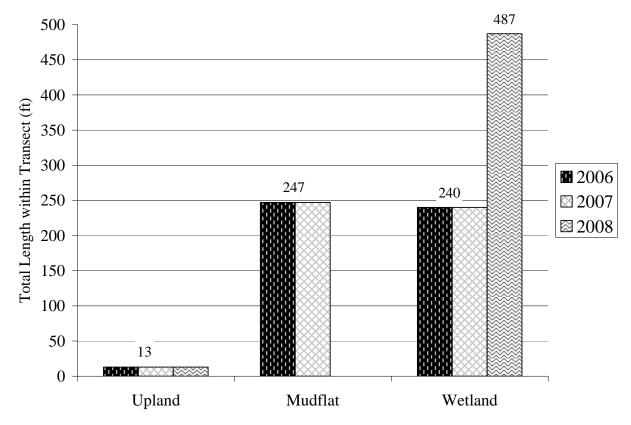


Chart 2: Total length of each vegetation community within Transect 1 at Site 2 from 2006 to 2008.

3.3 Soils

At Site 2 wetland matrix colors were fairly consistent, ranging from 2.5Y 4/2 to 2.5Y 4/1 (**COE Forms** in **Appendix B**). Pockets of 10YR 3/2 and 10YR 2/1 were found in various portions of the soil profiles. Mottling was commonly observed, but varied in color between 5Y 5/4 and 10YR 4/6 (**COE Forms** in **Appendix B**). Soil textures ranged from clay to silty-clay-loam with abundant cobbles and gravels. Soils indicated hydric conditions and were similar in 2008 as in 2006 and 2007.

3.4 Wetland Delineation

Wetland development throughout Site 2 was achieved this year (**Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Wetland plant growth was not suppressed by the *Rhizoclonium* mat; rather, plants were germinating or establishing where soils were inundated. Wetland habitat covered 6.62 acres, which accounts for the entire site. However, a strip along the northern boundary (along the highway) exhibited marginal wetland conditions; this strip was comprised of a higher percentage of *Agropyron smithii* and drier soils and may be slightly higher in elevation than the rest of the site.



3.5 Wildlife

A comprehensive list of wildlife species (from site observations or their sign) was compiled for Site 2 (**Table 3**). Specific information on wildlife sightings at Site 2 can be found in the **Monitoring Forms** in **Appendix B**. In 2008 several migratory bird species that associated with water and/or wetlands were observed at the site (**Monitoring Forms** in **Appendix B**).

Table 3: Fish and wildlife species observed at the Meriwether-East WetlandMitigation Site 2 from 2006 to 2008.

iper (unidentified species)
w (unidentified species)
(Catoptrophorus semipalmatus)
n's Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)

Bolded species were observed for the first time in 2008.

3.6 Macroinvertebrates

No aquatic macroinvertebrate sample was collected at Site 2.

3.7 Functional Assessment

The revised 2008 Montana Wetland Assessment Method (MWAM) for MDT projects was used to assess the values and functions of the wetland at Site 2 (**Functional Assessment Form** in **Appendix B**). In 2007 and 2006 the 1999 version of the Montana Wetland Assessment Form was used to assess the values and functions of the wetland area at Site 2. The 1999 and 2008 MWAMs differ; however, general comparison between the 2006/2007 and 2008 years can still be made at Site 2.

Site 2 continued to rate as a Category III wetland (**Table 4**). Notable functions and values included General Wildlife Habitat, Flood Attenuation, Short and Long Term Water Storage, Sediment / Nutrient / Toxicant Removal, Production / Export Food Chain Support, and Groundwater Discharge/Recharge (**Table 4**). The functional assessment score increased by over three points from that in 2007 score. This is a result of changes in the MWAM and better conditions for developing wetland habitat. Environmental conditions were much improved over



Function and Value Parameters from the MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method	2006 ¹ Site 2	2007 ¹ Site 2	2008 ² Site 2
Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	Low (0.0)	Low (0.0)	Low (0.0)
MTNHP Species Habitat	Low (0.0)	Low (0.0)	Low (0.0)
General Wildlife Habitat	Mod (0.5)	Low (0.2)	Mod (0.7)
General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	NA	NA	NA
Flood Attenuation	Mod (0.5)	Mod (0.5)	High (0.9)
Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	High (0.9)	High (0.9)	High (0.9)
Sediment / Nutrient / Toxicant Removal	Mod (0.7)	Mod (0.7)	High (1.0)
Sediment / Shoreline Stabilization	NA	NA	NA
Production Export / Food Chain Support	Mod (0.6)	Mod (0.6)	High (0.8)
Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	High (1.0)	High (1.0)	Mod (0.7)
Uniqueness	Low (0.3)	Low (0.3)	Low (0.3)
Recreation/Education Potential	Low (0.1)	Low (0.1)	NA
Actual Points/Possible Points	4.6 / 10	4.3 / 10	5.3 / 9.0
% of Possible Score Achieved	46%	43%	59%
Overall Category	III	III	III
Total Acreage of Assessed Wetlands and Other Aquatic Habitats within Site Boundaries (ac)	6.62	6.64	6.62
Functional Units (acreage x actual points)	30.45	28.5	35.1

Table 4: Summary of 2006 to 2008 wetland function/value ratings and functional points atSite 2 of the Meriwether-East Wetland Mitigation Project.

¹Conducted using the 1999 version of the MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method.

² Conducted using the 2008 version of the MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method.

last year because Site 2 received more precipitation before and during the early growing season and summer temperatures were lower as well. In 2006 the project acreage was provided by MDT (based on design). In 2007, a combinations of hand-mapping and resource grade GPS mapping was used; the resource grade GPS points were overlaid onto an unrectified 2007 aerial photograph (**Appendix D**). This was believed to have created an overestimate in acreage. For this 2008 report, the MDT Survey grade data was used.

3.8 Photographs

A 2008 aerial photograph was used to create **Figures 2** and **3** in **Appendix A**. One photo point was established at Site 2 (**Figure 2** in **Appendix A**). A panoramic photo was taken at Photo Point 1 (**Photo 1** in **Appendix C**). Representative single frame photographs were taken of the transect and conditions within Site 2 (**Photos 2-4** in **Appendix C**).

3.9 Maintenance Needs/Recommendations

The dikes were surveyed for erosion problems in 2008. The dikes were covered evenly with erosion control fabric and no erosion problems were found. Plants have incrementally been colonizing the erosion control fabric.

The two small sub-populations of Canada thistle should be sprayed with the appropriate herbicide before they flower in 2009.



3.10 Current Credit Summary

No wetlands were present prior to construction of the Meriwether-East Mitigation Site 2. The goal is to create 6.62 acres of wetland habitat at Site 2. No specific performance criteria were required to be met at this site in order to document its success. The goal at Site 2 has been achieved as 6.62 acres of wetland were present in 2008. Proper hydrology and a seed source from adjacent natural wetlands has been the key to driving the development and maintenance of this wetland habitat. The quality of these aquatic habitats equated to a gain of 35.1 functional units (**Table 4**).

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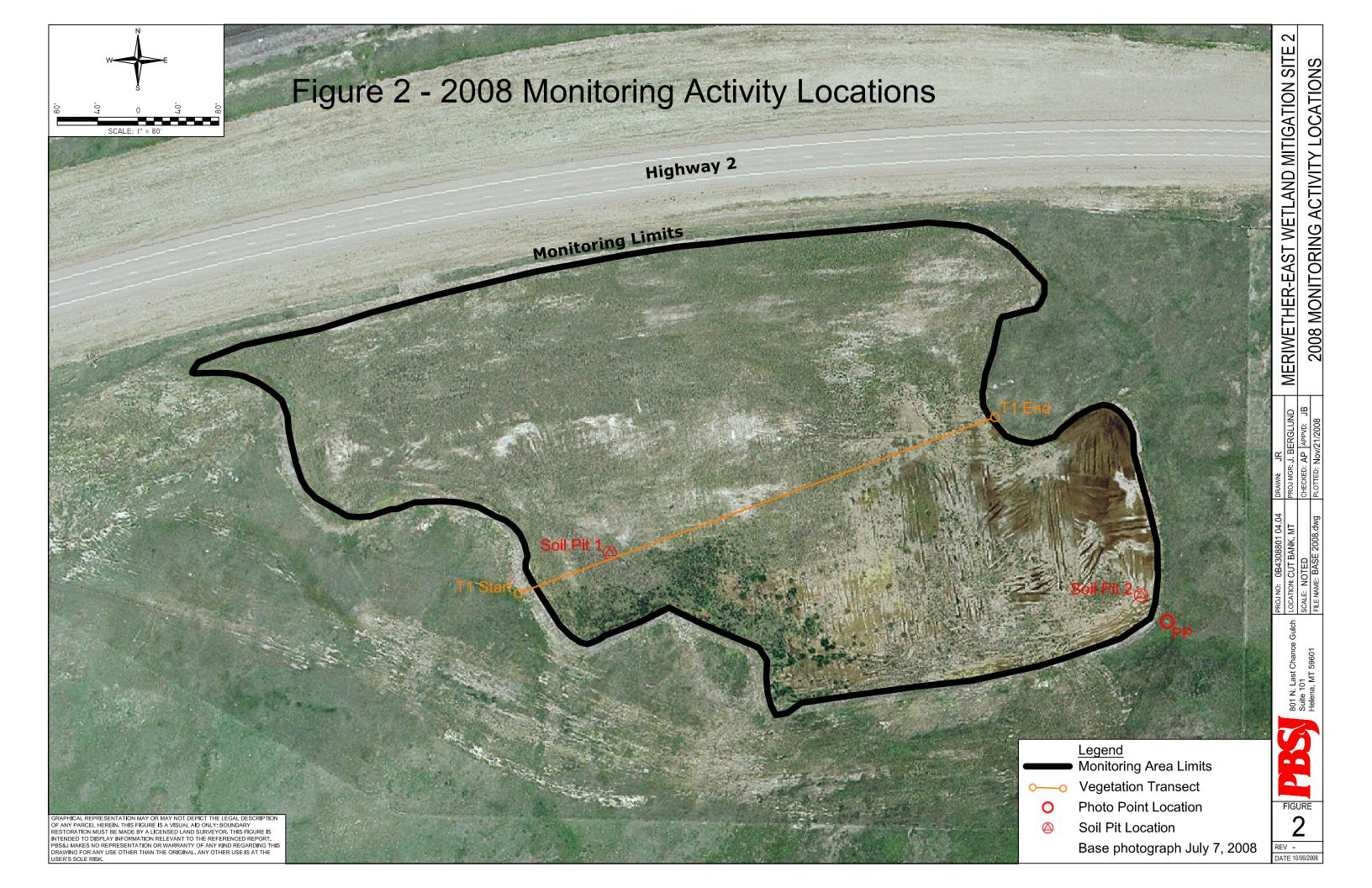
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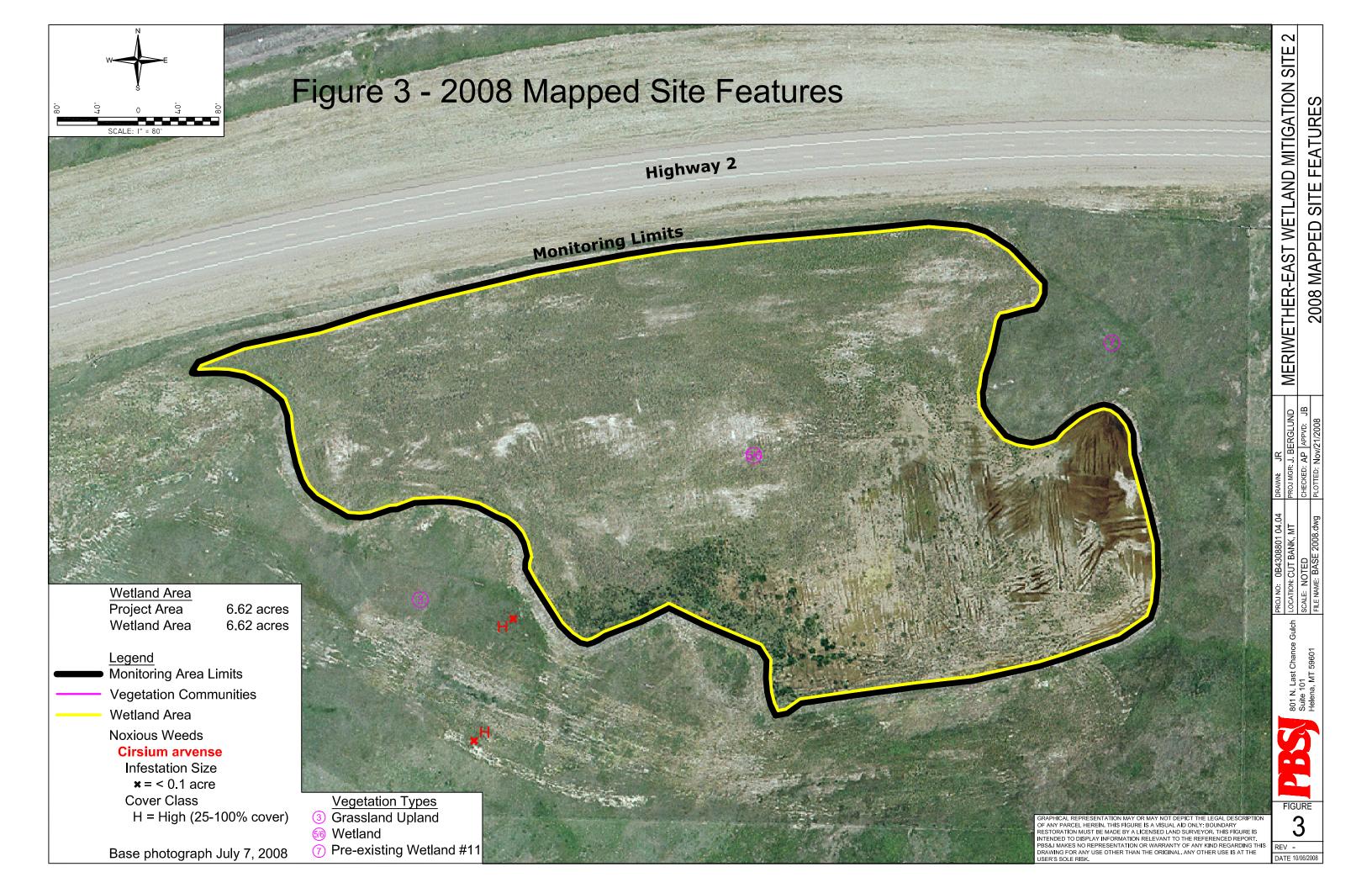


Appendix A

SITE 2 FIGURES 2 & 3

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Meriwether-East Glacier County, Montana





Appendix B

2008 SITE 2 WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM 2008 SITE 2 BIRD SURVEY FORM 2008 SITE 2 COE WETLAND DELINEATION FORMS 2008 SITE 2 MDT FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FORM

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Meriwether-East Glacier County, Montana

PBS&J / MDT WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM

Project Name: <u>Meriwether-East, Site 2</u> Project Number: <u>0B4308801.04.04</u> Assessment Date: <u>July 8, 2008</u> Person(s) conducting the assessment: <u>Andrea Pipp</u> Location: <u>Highway 2, west of Cut Bank</u> MDT District: <u>Great Falls</u> Milepost: _____ Legal Description: T <u>33N</u> R <u>8W</u> Section <u>8</u> Weather Conditions: <u>sunny, 5-10mph winds, low 80 degrees</u> Time of Day: <u>1315 to 1648pm</u> Initial Evaluation Date: <u>August 8, 2006</u> Monitoring Year: <u>3</u> # Visits in Year: <u>1</u> Size of evaluation area: <u>6.64 acres</u> Land use surrounding wetland: <u>highway, railroad, & rangeland</u>

HYDROLOGY

Surface Water Source: groundwater & precipitation

Inundation: <u>Present</u> Average Depth: <u>0.5 feet</u> Range of Depths: <u>0-10 inches</u>

Percent of assessment area under inundation: 15%

Depth at emergent vegetation-open water boundary: NA feet

If assessment area is not inundated then are the soils saturated within 12 inches of surface: <u>Yes</u> Other evidence of hydrology on the site (ex. – drift lines, erosion, stained vegetation, etc.): **Rhizoclonium, a species of green algae, present, but not dominating.**

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:

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Community runder. <u>5</u> Community rule (main spp). <u>Type 5 - Weitand</u>				
Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover	
Juncus balticus	+ = < 1%	Hordeum jubatum	1 = 1-5%	
Ranunculus	+ = < 1%			
Spergularia marina	+ = < 1%			
Chenopodium glaucum	3 = 11-20%			
Typha latifolia	2 = 6-10%			
Puccinellia nuttalliana	1 = 1-5%			

Community Number: **5** Community Title (main spp): **Type 5 - Wetland**

Comments / Problems: In 2006, surface soils were saturated, light colored, and covered with salt deposition.

Community Number: <u>6</u> Community Title (main spp): <u>Type 6 - Wetland</u>

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Puccinellia nuttalliana	+ = < 1%	Agropyron	+ = < 1%
Chenopodium glaucum	3 = 11-20%		
Hordeum jubatum	+ = < 1%		
Chenopodium leptophyllum	2 = 6-10%		
Suaeda depressa	4 = 21-50%		
Kochia scoparia	4 = 21-50%		

Comments / Problems: In 2006, surface soils were darker colored with no salt deposition.

Community Number: <u>3</u> Community Title (main spp): <u>Type 3 - Grassland Upland</u>

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Artemisia frigida	1 = 1-5%		
Kochia scoparia	4 = 21-50%		
Bouteloua gracilis	2 = 6-10%		
Chrysopsis villosa	2 = 6-10%		
Liatris punctata	2 = 6-10%		
Agropyron spp.	2 = 6-10%		

Comments / Problems: Present in 2006-2007.

Community Number: 7 Community Title (main spp): Type 7 - Wetland #11

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Poa juncifolia	4 = 21-50%		
Juncus balticus	4 = 21-50%		
Puccinellia nuttalliana	+ = < 1%		
Agropyron spp.	+ = < 1%		
Aster (pansus)	+ = < 1%		

Comments / Problems: Present in 2006-2007.

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES (continued)

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
Juncus balticus	1 = 1-5%	Hordeum jubatum	4 = 21-50%
Ranunculus cymbalaria	1 = 1-5%	Chenopodium album	0%
Spergularia marina	0%	Suaeda calceoliformis	+ = < 1%
Chenopodium glaucum	0%	Eleocharis palustris	2 = 6-10%
Typha latifolia	1 = 1-5%	Scirpus maritimus & S.	1 = 1-5%
	1 – 1-3%	pungens	
Puccinellia nuttalliana	5 = > 50%	Hordeum brachyantherum	0%
Alopecurus pratensis	1 = 1-5%	Triglochin maritimum	+ = < 1%
Puccinellia nuttalliana	5 => 50%	Poa palustris	1 = 1-5%
Comments / Problems: Type 5/6	from 2007 continu	ued to be present in 2008, but s	hifted in species

Community Number: <u>5/6</u> Community Title (main spp): <u>Type 5 / 6 - Wetland</u>

Comments / Problems: <u>Type 5/6 from 2007 continued to be present in 2008, but shifted in specie</u> <u>abundance and distribution.</u>

Community Number: ____ Community Title (main spp): _____

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover

Comments / Problems:

Community Number: <u>Community Title (main spp)</u>:

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover

Comments / Problems:

Community Number: ____ Community Title (main spp): _____

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover

COMPREHENSIVE VEGETATION LIST

Plant Species	Vegetation Community	Plant Species	Vegetation Community
	Number (s)		Number (s)
Achillea millifolium	7	Kochia scoparia	3, 6
Agropyron smithii	3, 7	Lactuca serriola	3
Agropyron trachycaulum	5/6	Liatris punctata	3
Agrostis alba	5/6	Poa juncifolia	7
Alopecurus pratensis	5/6	Poa palustis	5/6
Artemisia frigida	3	Polygonum spp.	5/6
Aster pansus	7	Polypogon monspeliensis	5/6
Beckmannia syzigachne	5/6	Populus tremuloides (1 seedling)	5/6
Bouteloua gracilis	3	Puccinellia nuttalliana	5/6, 7
Chenopodium album	5/6	Ranunculus cymbalaria	5/6
Chenopodium capitatum	5/6	Ranunculus sceleratus	5/6
Chenopodium glaucum	5/6	Ratabida columnifera	3
Chenopodium hybridum	5/6	Rhizoclonium spp. (green algal spp.)	mudflat, 5/6
Chenopodium leptophyllum	6	Rosa spp.	3
Chrysopsis villosa	3	Salicornia rubra	5/6
(syn. Heterotheca villosa)			
Cirsium arvense	3	Salix exigua	5/6
Crepis runcinata (1)	3	Salix lutea	5/6
Distichlis spicata	5/6	Salsola iberica	3
Eleocharis palustris	5/6	Scirpus acutus	5/6
Gaillardia aristata	3	Scirpus maritimus ?	5/6
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	5/6	Scirpus pungens (syn. S. americana)	5/6
Grindelia squarrosa (2)	3,7	Spergularia marina	5/6
Hordeum brachyantherum	5/6	Suaeda calceoliformis	5/6
		(syn. S. depressa)	
Hordeum jubatum	5/6	Triglochin maritimum	5/6
Juncus balticus	5/6,7	Typha latifolia	5/6

Comments / Problems: (1) Sonchus arensis was mis-identified in 2007; it should be Crepis runcinata. (2) Grindelia squarrosa plants were alive within the upland area and dead within the wetland area.

PLANTED WOODY VEGETATION SURVIVAL

Plant Species	Number Originally Planted	Number Observed	Mortality Causes
NONE PLANTED			

Comments / Problems: _____

WILDLIFE

Birds

Were man-made nesting structures installed? <u>No</u> If yes, type of structure: _____ How many? _____ Are the nesting structures being used? <u>NA</u> Do the nesting structures need repairs? _____

Mammals and Herptiles

Mammal and Herptile Species	Number		Indirect Indication of Use		
Mammar and Herptite Species	Observed	Tracks	Scat	Burrows	Other
None Observed					

Additional Activities Checklist:

<u>NA</u> Macroinvertebrate Sampling (if required)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Using a camera with a 50mm lens and color film take photographs of the following permanent reference points listed in the check list below. Record the direction of the photograph using a compass. When at the site for the first time, establish a permanent reference point by setting a ½ inch rebar or fencepost extending 2-3 feet above ground. Survey the location with a resource grade GPS and mark the location on the aerial photograph.

Photograph Checklist:

- One photograph for each of the four cardinal directions surrounding the wetland.
- At least one photograph showing upland use surrounding the wetland. If more than one upland exists then take additional photographs.
- \boxtimes At least one photograph showing the buffer surrounding the wetland.
- \boxtimes One photograph from each end of the vegetation transect, showing the transect.

Location	Photograph Frame #	Photograph Description	Compass Reading (°)
		See photo sheets	
		•	

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.

 \boxtimes 4-6 landmarks that are recognizable on the aerial photograph.

 \boxtimes Start and End points of vegetation transect(s).

 \boxtimes Photograph reference points.

Groundwater monitoring well locations.

Comments / Problems:

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.

<u>Yes</u> Survey wetland – upland boundary with a resource grade GPS survey.

Comments / Problems:

FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

(Complete and attach full MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method field forms.) (Also attach any completed abbreviated field forms, if used)

Comments / Problems:

MAINTENANCE

Were man-made nesting structure installed at this site? \underline{No}

If yes, do they need to be repaired? \underline{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? <u>No</u>

If yes, are the structures working properly and in good working order? \underline{NA} If no, describe the problems below.

MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

Site: <u>Meriwether-East Site 2</u> Date: <u>July 8, 2008</u> Examiner: <u>A. Pipp</u> Transect Number: <u>T-1</u> Approximate Transect Length: <u>500 feet</u> Compass Direction from Start: <u>59</u>[•] Note: <u>compass at 0 degrees decl.</u>

Vegetation Type A: Bank covered with erosion control	
Length of transect in this type: 0 - 12.5 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Agropyron smithii	4 = 21-50%
Hordeum jubatum	2 = 6-10%
Gaillardia aristata	1 = 1-5%
Suaeda calceoliformis	+ = < 1%
Ratitbida columnifera	1 = 1-5%
Salsola iberica (not seen in 2008)	
Puccinellia nuttalliana (base of slope)	1 = 1-5%
Total Vegetative Cover:	50%

Vegetation Type C: Type 7 - Wetland 17	
Length of transect in this type: 496 - 500 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Poa juncifolia	4 = 21-50%
Juncus balticus	3 = 11-20%
Puccinellia nuttalliana	1 = 1-5%
Agropyron smithii	+ = < 1%
Aster pansus	+ = < 1%
Hordeum jubatum	+ = < 1%
Crepis runcinata	1 = 1-5%
Suaeda calceoliformis (not seen in 2008)	
Grindelia squarrosa	+ = < 1%
Total Vegetative Cover:	90%

Vegetation Type B: Type 5/6 - Wetland					
Length of transect in this type: 12.5 - 496 feet					
Plant Species	Cover				
Puccinellia nuttalliana	5 = > 50%				
Hordeum jubatum	4 = 21-50%				
Ranunculus cymbalaria & Eleocharis palustris (EACH)	1 = 1-5%				
Typha latifolia & Triglochin maritimum (EACH)	+ = < 1%				
Juncus balticus	2 = 6-10%				
Chenopodium glaucum (not seen in 2008)					
Distichlis stricta	1 = 1-5%				
Hordeum brachyantherum (not seen in 2008)					
Agrostis alba & Beckmannia syzigachne (EACH)	+ = < 1%				
Polypogon monspeliensis (not seen in 2008)					
Alopecurus pratensis & Poa juncifolia (EACH)	+ = < 1%				
Total Vegetative Cover:	85%				

Vegetation Type D:	
Length of transect in this type: 496-500 feet	
Plant Species	Cover
Total Vegetative Cover:	%

MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

Cover Estimate		Indicator Class	Source
+ = < 1%	3 = 11-20%	+ = Obligate	$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}$ lanted
1 = 1-5%	4 = 21-50%	- = Facultative/Wet	V = Volunteer
2 = 6-10%	5 => 50%	0 = Facultative	

Percent of perimeter developing wetland vegetation (excluding dam/berm structures): 100%

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:

BIRD SURVEY – FIELD DATA SHEET

Site: Meriwether-East, Site 2 Date: 7/8/08 Survey Time: 1310 pm to 1648 pm

Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat	Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat
Wilson's Phalarope	7	FNL	MA				
Killdeer	4	F	MA				
Red-wing Blackbirds	5	F BD	MA				
	-						

BEHAVIOR CODES

BP = One of a breeding pair BD = Breeding display F = Foraging FO = Flyover L = Loafing N = Nesting

HABITAT CODES

AB = Aquatic bed FO = Forested I = Island MA = Marsh MF = Mud Flat OW = Open Water

SS = Scrub/Shrub UP = Upland buffer WM = Wet meadow US = Unconsolidated shore

Weather: sunny, 5-10mph winds, low 80 degrees

Notes: <u>Phalaropes appeared to be showing nesting behavior as they were constantly circling and</u> <u>vocalizing.</u>

DATA FORM ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION (1087 COE Woth

	87 COE	Vetland	is Delineation Manual)			
Project/Site: Meriwether-East 2008 Applicant/Owner: -Montana Department of Investigators: Pipp	licant/Owner: -Montana Department of Transportation-					
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the sit Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypica Is the area a potential Problem Area? (If needed, explain on the reverse side)		:)?	Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Field Location: Transect 1	ergent		
VEGETATION	(USFWS F	Region No. 9)			
Dominant Plant Species(Latin/Common) Hordeum jubatum Barley,Fox-Tail	the second se	A DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNE	Plant Species(Latin/Common) Ranunculus cymbalaria		Stratum Herb	Indicato OBL
Puccinellia nuttalliana Grass,Nuttall's Alkali	Herb	OBL	Butter-Cup,Seaside Juncus balticus Rush,Baltic		Herb	OBL
Agrostis alba Redtop	Herb	FACW		÷		
				3		
Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL (excluding FAC-) 5/5 = 100.00%	, FACW or	FAC:	FAC Neutral: 4/4 = 100 Numeric Index: 8/5 = 1			
Remarks: HYDROLOGY						
NO Recorded Data(Describe in Remark N/A Stream, Lake or Tide Gauge N/A Aerial Photographs	<s):< td=""><td>We</td><td>tland Hydrology Indicators Primary Indicators NO Inundated</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></s):<>	We	tland Hydrology Indicators Primary Indicators NO Inundated			

DATA FORM ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION (1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual) Project No: 0B4308801 Date: 8-Jul-2008 Meriwether-East 2008

Project/Site: Meriwether-East 2008 Applicant/Owner: -Montana Department of Transportation Investigators: Pipp			Project No: 0B4308801		Date: 8-Jul-2008 County: Glacier State: Montana Plot ID: Soil Pit 1		
SOILS		and the second					THUE D. CONTRA
Map Sym	bol: SA y (Subgrou	es and Phase): Drainage Class: p): Montmorillonitic	Saline land Poorly drained , frigid Ustic Torrior	th	Mapp Field Obso	oed Hydric Inc ervations Cont	lusion? firm Mapped Type? Yes No
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Color (Munsell Moist)		ttle e/Contrast	Texture, Con	cretions, Structure, etc
0-4	A	2.5YR4/2	10YR2/1		Prominent	Silty clay loam	
4-11	В	2.5YR4/2	5Y5/4	Common	Prominent	Silty clay loam	1
Remarks	YES Gleye	cing Conditions d or Low Chroma	Colors			nal Hydric Soi in Remarks)	ls List
WETLAND	DETERMIN	ATION					
Wetland H	ic Vegetation lydrology Pre ls Present?) No	Is the Sam	oling Point w	ithin the Wetla	ind? (Yes) No
Remarks:							

<u>NO</u> Recorded Data(Describe in Re <u>N/A</u> Stream, Lake or Tide Ga		Wetland Hydrology Indicators Primary Indicators	
N/A Aerial Photographs		NO Inundated	
<u>N/A</u> Other		YES Saturated in Upper 12 Inches	
YES No Recorded Data		NO Water Marks	
		NO Drift Lines	
Field Observations		NO Sediment Deposits	
ricid observations		NO Drainage Patterns in Wetlands	
		Secondary Indicators	
Depth of Surface Water:	N/A (in.)	NO Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches	
Depth to Free Water in Pit:	> 13 (in.)	NO Water-Stained Leaves	
Departo rice trater in rit.	10 (111.)	NO Local Soil Survey Data	
Depth to Saturated Soil:	= 0.0 (in.)	YES FAC-Neutral Test	
	and firmy	YES Other(Explain in Remarks)	

Remarks: Salt deposits were present on soil surface. Rhizoclonium spp. was present, but did not form a large mat as in 2007.

Page 1 of 2

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

Project/Site: Meriwether-East 2008 Applicant/Owner: -Montana Department of Investigators: Pipp	Transporta	tion-	County: G	ontana	
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the sit Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypica Is the area a potential Problem Area? (If needed, explain on the reverse side)		:)? Y	es No Community ID: Emergent es No Transect ID: es No Field Location: Southeast area of site.		
VEGETATION	(USFWS Re	egion No. 9)		
Dominant Plant Species(Latin/Common)	Stratum	Indicator	Plant Species(Latin/Common)	Stratum	Indicator
Puccinellia nuttalliana Grass,Nuttall's Alkali	Herb	OBL	Juncus balticus Rush Baltic	Herb	OBL
Hordeum jubatum Barley,Fox-Tail	Herb	FAC+			
Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL (excluding FAC-) 3/3 = 100.00% Remarks:			FAC Neutral: 2/2 = 100.00% Numeric Index: 5/3 = 1.67		

Also dominant are seedlings of Polygonum, which cannot be identified to species at this stage. Rhizoclonium spp. is also dominant, but not forming a continuous mat as in 2007.

HYDROLOGY

<u>NO</u> Inundated <u>YES</u> Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <u>NO</u> Water Marks NO Drift Lines	
NO Sediment Deposits	
Secondary Indicators <u>NO</u> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches	
YES FAC-Neutral Test	
	YES Saturated in Upper 12 Inches <u>NO</u> Water Marks <u>NO</u> Drift Lines <u>NO</u> Sediment Deposits <u>NO</u> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators <u>NO</u> Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches <u>NO</u> Water-Stained Leaves <u>NO</u> Local Soil Survey Data

Rhizoclonium spp. present.

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

Project/S Applican Investiga	t/Owner: -M	eriwether-East 2008 Iontana Departmen pp		Project No: 0B4308801			Date: 8-Jul-2008 County: Glacier State: Montana Plot ID: Soil Pit 2
SOILS					1. S.		
Map Sym	bol: SA y (Subgrou	ies and Phase): Drainage Class: p): Montmorillonitic	Saline land Poorly drained , frigid Ustic Torrior	rth		oed Hydric Incl ervations Conf	lusion? Tirm Mapped Type? Yes No
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Color (Munsell Moist)		ottle ce/Contrast	Texture, Con	cretions, Structure, etc
0-4	A	2.5Y4/2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Silty clay	
4-8	A/B	10YR3/2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clay	
8-12	В	2.5Y4/1	10YR4/6	Common	Prominent	Clay	
4-8	A/B	2.5Y4/2	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clay	
8-12	В	2.5Y4/1	10YR4/6	Common	Prominent	Clay	
	NO Redu YES Gleye	Moisture Regime cing Conditions d or Low Chroma		NO List	ted on Loca ted on Natio	ing in Sandy S Hydric Soils L nal Hydric Soil in Remarks)	List
	of 10YR 2/1 (vers and some coople:	nch AND 10 inch dept s are also present from	ths. From 4-1 m 4 - 12 inche	2 inches, it is es deep.	difficult to color th	e soils as there are two matrix
lydrophyt Netland ⊢	ic Vegetation ydrology Pr Is Present?	n Present? Yes) No	Is the Sam	pling Point w	ithin the Wetlar	nd? (Tes) No
Remarks:							

WetFormtm

MDT MONTANA WETLAND ASSESSMENT FORM (revised March 2008)

8. Wetland Size (acre):

- 1. Project Name: Meriwether-East Wetland Mitigation Site 2. MDT Project #: STPX-NH 0037(26) 3. Control #: 5000
- 3. Evaluation Date: July 8, 2008 4. Evaluator(s): Andrea Pipp 5. Wetland/Site #(s): Site 2
- 6. Wetland Location(s): Township 33 N, Range 8 W, Section 17; Township N, Range E, Section

Approximate Stationing or Roadposts: ST 284+40 to ST 287+50 (R); Approximately at MP 239.

Watershed: 8 - Marias County: Glacier

- 7. Evaluating Agency: MDT
 - Purpose of Evaluation:
 - Wetland potentially affected by MDT project
 - Mitigation wetlands; pre-construction Mitigation wetlands; post-construction
 - Mitigation wetl

 Other

9. Assessment Area (AA) Size (acre): _____ (visually estimated) (see manual for determining AA) <u>6.62</u> (measured, e.g. GPS)

(visually estimated)

6.62 (measured, e.g. GPS)

10. CLASSIFICATION OF WETLAND AND AQUATIC HABITATS IN AA (See manual for definitions.)

HGM Class (Brinson)	Class (Cowardin)	Modifier (Cowardin)	Water Regime	% OF AA
Depressional	Emergent Wetland	Excavated	Seasonal / Intermittent	100

Comments:

11. ESTIMATED RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (of similarly classified sites within the same Major Montana Watershed Basin; see manual.) common

12. GENERAL CONDITION OF AA

i. Disturbance: Use matrix below to select the appropriate response; see manual for Montana listed noxious weed and aquatic nuisance vegetation species lists.

	Predominar	nt Conditions Adjacent to (within	500 feet of) AA
Conditions within AA	Managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is ≤15%.	Land not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to minor clearing; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is ≤30%.	Land cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >30%.
AA occurs and is managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or occupied buildings; and noxious weed or ANVS cover is ≤15%.			
AA not cultivated, but may be moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged; or has been subject to relatively minor clearing, fill placement, or hydrological alteration; contains few roads or buildings; noxious weed or ANVS cover is \leq 30%.		moderate disturbance	
AA cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to relatively substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density; or noxious weed or ANVS cover is >30%.			

Comments (types of disturbance, intensity, season, etc.): Livestock grazing was present prior to construction of mitigation site.

ii. Prominent noxious, aquatic nuisance, and other exotic vegetation species: Cirsium arvense present in upland.

iii. Provide brief descriptive summary of AA and surrounding land use/habitat: <u>AA is an excavated are bordering an existing wetland</u>. Highway 2 occurs on the immediate north boundary. Rangeland occurs on all boundaries though livestcok is excluded by fences.

13. STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY (Based on number of "Cowardin" vegetated classes present [do not include unvegetated classes]; see #10 above.)

Existing # of "Cowardin" Vegetated Classes in AA	Initial Rating				
≥3 (or 2 if one is forested) classes		NA	NA	NA	
2 (or 1 if forested) classes		NA	NA	NA	
1 class, but not a monoculture	mod	←NO	YES→		
1 class, monoculture (1 species comprises ≥90% of total cover)		NA	NA	NA	

Comments:

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

i. AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S) to contain: Check box based on definitions in manual.

Primary or critical habitat (list species)	D		-
Secondary habitat (list species)	🗆 D		
Incidental habitat (list species)	🗌 D	□s	
No usable habitat		⊠s	

ii. Rating: Based on the strongest habitat chosen in 14A(i) above, select the corresponding functional point and rating.

Highest Habitat Level	Doc/Primary	Sus/Primary	Doc/Secondary	Sus/Secondary	Doc/Incidental	Sus/Incidental	None
Functional Point/Rating							0L

Sources for documented use (e.g. observations, records):

14B. HABITAT FOR PLANTS OR ANIMALS RATED S1, S2, OR S3 BY THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM Do not include species listed in 14A above.

i.	AA is Documented (D) or Suspected (S	6) to co	ntain:	Check box based on definitions in manual.
	Primary or critical habitat (list species)	D	🗆 S	
	Secondary habitat (list species)	D	□s	
	Incidental habitat (list species)	🗆 D	🗆 S	
	No usable habitat		⊠s	

ii. Rating: Based on the strongest habitat chosen in 14A(i) above, select the corresponding functional point and rating.

Highest Habitat Level	Doc/Primary	Sus/Primary	Doc/Secondary	Sus/Secondary	Doc/Incidental	Sus/Incidental	None
S1 Species Functional Point/Rating							.0L
S2 and S3 Species Functional Point/Rating							.0L

Sources for documented use (e.g. observations, records):

14C. GENERAL WILDLIFE HABITAT RATING

i. Evidence of Overall Wildlife Use in the AA: Check substantial, moderate, or low based on supporting evidence.

Substantial: Based on any of the following [check].

□ observations of abundant wildlife #s or high species diversity (during any period)

Minimal: Based on any of the following [check].

□ little to no wildlife sign

presence of extremely limiting habitat features not available in the surrounding area

□ abundant wildlife sign such as scat, tracks, nest structures, game trails, etc.

interview with local biologist with knowledge of the AA

□ few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods

□ sparse adjacent upland food sources

interview with local biologist with knowledge of AA

Moderate: Based on any of the following [check].

Solutions 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

interview with local biologist with knowledge of the AA

ii. Wildlife Habitat Features: Working from top to bottom, check appropriate AA attributes in matrix to arrive at rating. Structural diversity is from #13. For class cover to be considered evenly distributed, the most and least prevalent vegetated classes must be within 20% of each other in terms of their percent composition of the AA (see #10). Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent: T/E = temporary/ephemeral: and A = absent [see manual for further definitions of these terms].

Structural Diversity (see #13)		🗌 High					🖂 Moderate							🗌 Low						
Class Cover Distribution (all vegetated classes)		E	ven			🗌 Un	even			🛛 E	ven			🗌 Un	even			E	ven	
Duration of Surface Water in ≥ 10% of AA	P/P	S/I	T/E	Α	P/P	S/I	T/E	Α	P/P	S/I	T/E	Α	P/P	S/I	T/E	Α	P/P	S/I	T/E	Α
Low Disturbance at AA (see #12i)																				
☑ Moderate Disturbance at AA (see #12i)										Н										
☐ High Disturbance at AA (see #12i)																				

iii. Rating: Use the conclusions from i and ii above and the matrix below to select the functional point and rating.

Evidence of Wildlife Use	Wildlife Habitat Features Rating (ii)										
(i)	Exceptional	🛛 High	Moderate	Low							
Substantial											
Moderate		.7M									
🗌 Minimal											

Comments: Several pairs of phalaropes and killdeer observed; at least one pair of phalaropes showed signs of nesting. Many singing Red-wing Blackbirds present. Beetles found on Crepis plants.

14D. GENERAL FISH HABITAT XA (proceed to 14E)

If the AA is not used by fish, fish use is not restorable due to habitat constraints, or is not desired from a management perspective [such as fish entrapped in a canal], then check the NA box and proceed to 14E.

Assess this function if the AA is used by fish or the existing situation is "correctable" such that the AA could be used by fish [i.e., fish use is precluded by perched culvert or other barrier].

Type of Fishery: Cold Water (CW) Warm Water (WW) Use the CW or WW guidelines in the manual to complete the matrix.

i. Habitat Quality and Known / Suspected Fish Species in AA: Use matrix to select the functional point and rating.

Duration of Surface Water in AA	D Pe	erman	nent / Perennial				🗌 Seasonal / Intermittent						Temporary / Ephemeral					
Aquatic Hiding / Resting / Escape Cover	Opti] imal	Adeq] uate	Po	or	 Opti] imal	[Ade	quate	_ Po] or	Opt	_ timal	Adec] Juate	[Po] por
Thermal Cover: optimal / suboptimal	0	S	0	S	0	S	0	S	ο	S	0	S	0	S	0	S	0	S
FWP Tier I fish species																		
FWP Tier II or Native Game fish species																		
FWP Tier III or Introduced Game fish																		
FWP Non-Game Tier IV or No fish species																		

Sources used for identifying fish spp. potentially found in AA: _____

ii. Modified Rating: NOTE: Modified score cannot exceed 1.0 or be less than 0.1.

a) Is fish use of the AA significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, or other man-made structure or activity, **or** is the waterbody included on the current final MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development with listed "Probable Impaired Uses" including cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support, **or** do aquatic nuisance plant or animal species (see **Appendix E**) occur in fish habitat? \Box **YES**, reduce score in **i** by 0.1 = ____ or \Box **N0**

b) Does the AA contain a documented spawning area or other critical habitat feature (i.e., sanctuary pool, upwelling area; specify in comments) for native fish or introduced game fish? \Box YES, add to score in i or iia 0.1 = ___ or \Box N0

iii. Final Score and Rating: Comments:

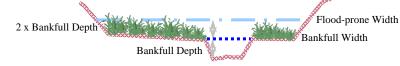
14E. FLOOD ATTENUATION IN A (proceed to 14F)

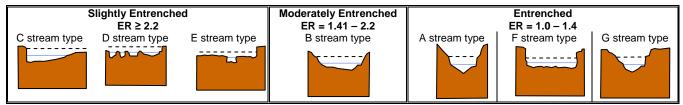
Applies only to wetlands that are subject to flooding via in-channel or overbank flow.

If wetlands in AA are not flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, check the NA box and proceed to 14F.

Entrenchment Ratio (ER) Estimation (see manual for additional guidance). Entrenchment ratio = (flood-prone width) / (bankfull width). Flood-prone width = estimated horizontal projection of where 2 X maximum bankfull depth elevation intersects the floodplain on each side of the stream.

flood prone width / bankfull width = entrenchment ratio





i. Rating: Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating.

Estimated or Calculated Entrenchment (Rosgen 1994, 1996)		ghtly Entrer , E stream t			erately Entr stream typ		Entrenched A, F, G stream types			
Percent of Flooded Wetland Classified as Forested and/or Scrub/Shrub	□ 75%	区 25-75%	□ <25%	□ 75%	□ 25-75%	□ <25%	□ 75%	□ 25-75%	□ <25%	
AA contains no outlet or restricted outlet		.9H								
AA contains unrestricted outlet										

ii. Are ≥10 acres of wetland in the AA subject to flooding AND are man-made features which may be significantly damaged by floods located within 0.5 mile downstream of the AA? ☐ YES ⊠ NO Comments: Site connects to a wetland which borders a drainage. When the drainage floods, water backs-up into this site.

14F. SHORT AND LONG TERM SURFACE WATER STORAGE IN A (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 the NA box and proceed to 14G.

i. Rating: Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating. Abbreviations for surface water durations are as follows: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; and T/E = temporary/ephemeral [see manual for further definitions of these terms].

Estimated Maximum Acre Feet of Water Contained in Wetlands within the AA that are Subject to Periodic Flooding or Ponding	⊠ >5 acre feet		□ 1.1	to 5 ac	re feet	☐ ≤1 acre foot			
Duration of Surface Water at Wetlands within the AA	□ P/P	⊠ S/I	□ T/E	□ P/P	□ S/I	□ T/E	□ P/P	□ S/I	□ T/E
Wetlands in AA flood or pond ≥ 5 out of 10 years		.9H							
Wetlands in AA flood or pond < 5 out of 10 years									

Comments:

14G. SEDIMENT / NUTRIENT / TOXICANT / RETENTION AND REMOVAL OR NO (proceed to 14H)

Applies to wetland with potential to receive 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 the NA box and proceed to 14H.

i. Rating: Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating.

Sediment, Nutrient, and Toxicant Input Levels within AA	AA receive has potent nutrients, such that of substantia sedimenta toxicants, present.	ial to deliv or compou other funct Ily impaire tion, sourc	er sedime nds at lev ions are n d. Minor es of nutr	nts, els ot ients or	Waterbody is need of TMDL causes" relate toxicants or A has potential nutrients, or o functions are sedimentation or signs of eu	developmer ed to sedime A receives o to deliver hig compounds s substantially n, sources of	nt for "probak nt, nutrients, or surroundin h levels of so such that othe v impaired. M nutrients or	ole or g land use ediments, er ajor	
% Cover of Wetland Vegetation in AA	⊠≥∶	70%	□ <	70%	□ ≥ 70% □ < 70%				
Evidence of Flooding / Ponding in AA	Yes No Yes No				🗌 Yes	🗌 No	🗌 Yes	🗌 No	
AA contains no or restricted outlet	1H								
AA contains unrestricted outlet									

Comments:

14H. SEDIMENT / SHORELINE STABILIZATION

NA (proceed to 14I)

Applies only if AA occurs on or within the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage, or on the shoreline of a standing water body which is subject to wave action.

If 14H does not apply, check the NA box and proceed to 14I.

% Cover of <u>Wetland</u> Streambank or Shoreline by Species with Stability	Duration of Surface Water Adjacent to Rooted Vegetation								
Ratings of ≥6 (see Appendix F).	Permanent / Perennial Seasonal / Intermittent Temporary / Ephem								
□ ≥ 65%									
35-64%									
□ < 35%									

Comments:

14I. PRODUCTION EXPORT / FOOD CHAIN SUPPORT

i. Level of Biological Activity: Synthesis of wildlife and fish habitat rates (select).

General Fish Habitat Rating	General Wildlife Habitat Rating (14Ciii)					
(14Diii)	🗌 E/H	\boxtimes M				
E/H						
M						
🖂 NA		М				

ii. Rating: Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating. Factor A = acreage of vegetated wetland component in the AA; Factor B = level of biological activity rating from above (14li); Factor C = whether or not the AA contains a surface or subsurface outlet; the final three rows pertain to the duration of surface water in the AA, where P/P, S/I, and T/E were previously defined, and A = "absent" [see manual for further definitions of these terms].

Α	A Vegetated Component >5 acres				Vegetated Component 1-5 acres					Vegetated Component <1 acre								
В		ligh	\boxtimes M	oderate		Low	□ F	ligh	□ Mo	oderate	ate 🗌 Low			ligh	🗌 Mo	Moderate Lov		.ow
С	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
P/P																		
S/I			.7M															
T/E/A																		

14I. PRODUCTION EXPORT / FOOD CHAIN SUPPORT (continued)

iii. Modified Rating: Note: Modified score cannot exceed 1.0 or be less than 0.1.

Vegetated Upland Buffer: Area with ≥ 30% plant cover, ≤ 15% noxious weed or ANVS cover, AND that is not subjected to periodic mechanical mowing or clearing (unless for weed control).

Is there an average \geq 50-foot wide vegetated upland buffer around \geq 75% of the AA's perimeter? \boxtimes YES, add 0.1 to score in ii = 0.80 \square NO

iv. Final Score and Rating: <u>.8H</u> Comments: _____

14J. GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE / RECHARGE

Check the appropriate indicators in i and ii below.

i. Discharge Indicators

The AA is a slope wetland.

Springs or seeps 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.
- $\overline{\boxtimes}$ Shallow water table and the site is saturated to the surface.
- Other:

iii. Rating: Use the information from i and ii above and the table below to select the functional point and rating.

	Duration of Saturation at AA Wetlands FROM GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE or						
	WITH WATER THAT IS RECHARGING THE GROUNDWATER SYSTE						
Criteria	P/P	⊠ S/I	🗆 Т	□ None			
Groundwater Discharge or Recharge		.7M					
Insufficient Data/Information							

Comments:

14K. UNIQUENESS

i. Rating: Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating.

Replacement Potential	AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland OR plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP			cited ra diversi contair	es not contain are types ANI ty (#13) is hig ns plant asso is "S2" by the	Distructural gh OR ciation	AA does not contain previously cited rare types OR associations AND structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate			
Estimated Relative Abundance (#11)	Rare Common Abundant		□ Rare	Common	☐ Abundant	□ Rare	🛛 Common	☐ Abundant		
Low Disturbance at AA (#12i)										
Moderate Disturbance at AA (#12i)								.3L		
High Disturbance at AA (#12i)										

Comments:

14L. RECREATION / EDUCATION POTENTIAL X NA (proceed to Overall Summary and Rating page)

Affords 'bonus' points if AA provides a recreational or educational opportunity.

i. Is the AA a known or potential recreational or educational site?
YES, go to ii.
NO, check the NA box.

ii. Check categories that apply to the AA: Educational/Scientific Study Consumptive Recreational Non-consumptive recreational Other:

iii. Rating: Use the matrix below to select the functional point and rating.

Known or Potential Recreational or Educational Area	Known	Potential
Public ownership or public easement with general public access (no permission required)		
Private ownership with general public access (no permission required)		
Private or public ownership without general public access, or requiring permission for public access		
Commenter		

Comments:

15. GENERAL SITE NOTES:

ii. Recharge Indicators

- Permeable substrate present without underlying impeding layer.
 Wetland contains inlet but no outlet.
 - Stream is a known 'losing' stream. Discharge volume decreases.
 Other: _____

Function & Value Variables	Rating – Actual Functional Points	Possible Functional Points	Functional Units: Actual Points x Estimated AA Acreage	Indicate the Four Most Prominent Functions with an Asterisk				
A. Listed / Proposed T&E Species Habitat	low 0.00	1.00						
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	low 0.00	1.00						
C. General Wildlife Habitat	mod 0.70	1.00						
D. General Fish Habitat	NA	NA						
E. Flood Attenuation	high 0.90	1.00						
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	high 0.90	1.00						
G. Sediment / Nutrient / Toxicant Removal	high 1.00	1.00						
H. Sediment / Shoreline Stabilization	NA	NA						
I. Production Export / Food Chain Support	high 0.80	1.00						
J. Groundwater Discharge / Recharge	mod 0.70	1.00						
K. Uniqueness	low 0.30	1.00						
L. Recreation / Education Potential (bonus point)	NA							
Total Points	5.3	9.0	Total	Functional Units				
Percent of Possible Score 59% (round to nearest whole number)								

 Category I Wetland: (must satisfy one of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category II) Score of 1 functional point for Listed/Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species; or Score of 1 functional point for Uniqueness; or Score of 1 functional point for Flood Attenuation and answer to Question 14E.ii is "yes"; or Percent of possible score > 80% (round to nearest whole #).
Category II Wetland: (Criteria for Category I not satisfied and meets any one of the following criteria; otherwise go to Category IV) Score of 1 functional point for MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat; or Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; or Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish Habitat; or "High" to "Exceptional" ratings for both General Wildlife Habitat and General Fish/Aquatic Habitat; or Score of .9 functional point for Uniqueness; or Percent of possible score > 65% (round to nearest whole #).
Category III Wetland: (Criteria for Categories I, II, or IV not satisfied)
Category IV Wetland: (Criteria for Categories I or II are not satisfied and all of the following criteria are met; if not go to Category III "Low" rating for Uniqueness; and Vegetated wetland component < 1 acre (do not include upland vegetated buffer); and Percent of possible score < 35% (round to nearest whole #).

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

Appendix C

2008 SITE 2 REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Meriwether-East Glacier County, Montana

MERIWETHER-EAST WETLAND MITIGATION SITE 2-2008



Photo 1: Photo-Point 1. Panoramic view facing northwest from the east end of Site 2.



Photo 2: View is northeast from the start of Transect 1.



Photo 3: View is southwest from the end of Transect 1.



Photo 4: View is northeast of the Type 5/6 wetland habitat from Transect 1.

* Cover Photo from the 2007 and 2008 reports were taken from the same location.

Appendix D

SITE PLAN

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Meriwether-East Glacier County, Montana

