MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WETLAND MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT: YEAR 2004

Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

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

June 2005

Project No: B43054.00 - 0208

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Cow Coulee wetland mitigation project was constructed in 1997 to provide partial mitigation for existing and projected wetland impacts resulting from Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) projects in Watershed #7 (Missouri-Sun-Smith). At the time of site construction, just over 60 acres of wetland loss were either projected or documented in association with MDT projects within this watershed. Specifically, wetland credits from this project were allocated to offset impacts resulting from the White Sulphur Springs-South project. Constructed in the MDT Butte District, the 9-acre mitigation site is located approximately 1 mile southwest of the Townsend city limits in Broadwater County **(Figure 1)**. The site occurs on private land located west of U.S. Highway 12/287 and just east of the Missouri River.

Design features included minor excavation and placement of a low-level dike to retain surface water. Wetland hydrology is primarily provided by surface water from an irrigation ditch, and is supplemented by groundwater and precipitation. Following construction, the site was seeded with emergent and graminoid seed mixes. Additionally, portions of the site were planted with narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), yellow willow (*Salix lutea*), and a "mesic/upland" shrub mix. The site revegetation plan is included in the 2001 monitoring report.

Approximately 0.07 acre of low-quality wetland occurred at the site prior to project implementation (Robert Peccia & Associates [RPA] and OEA Research [OEA] 1996).

Target wetland communities to be produced at the site included open water/aquatic bed; shallow marsh; shallow marsh/wet meadow; and wet meadow/scrub-shrub (RPA and OEA 1996). Target wetland functions to be provided at the site included habitat diversity, flood control & storage, threatened/endangered species habitat, general wildlife habitat, sediment filtration, nutrient cycling, and uniqueness (RPA and OEA 1996). An estimated 4.5 acres of aquatic habitat was anticipated for this project

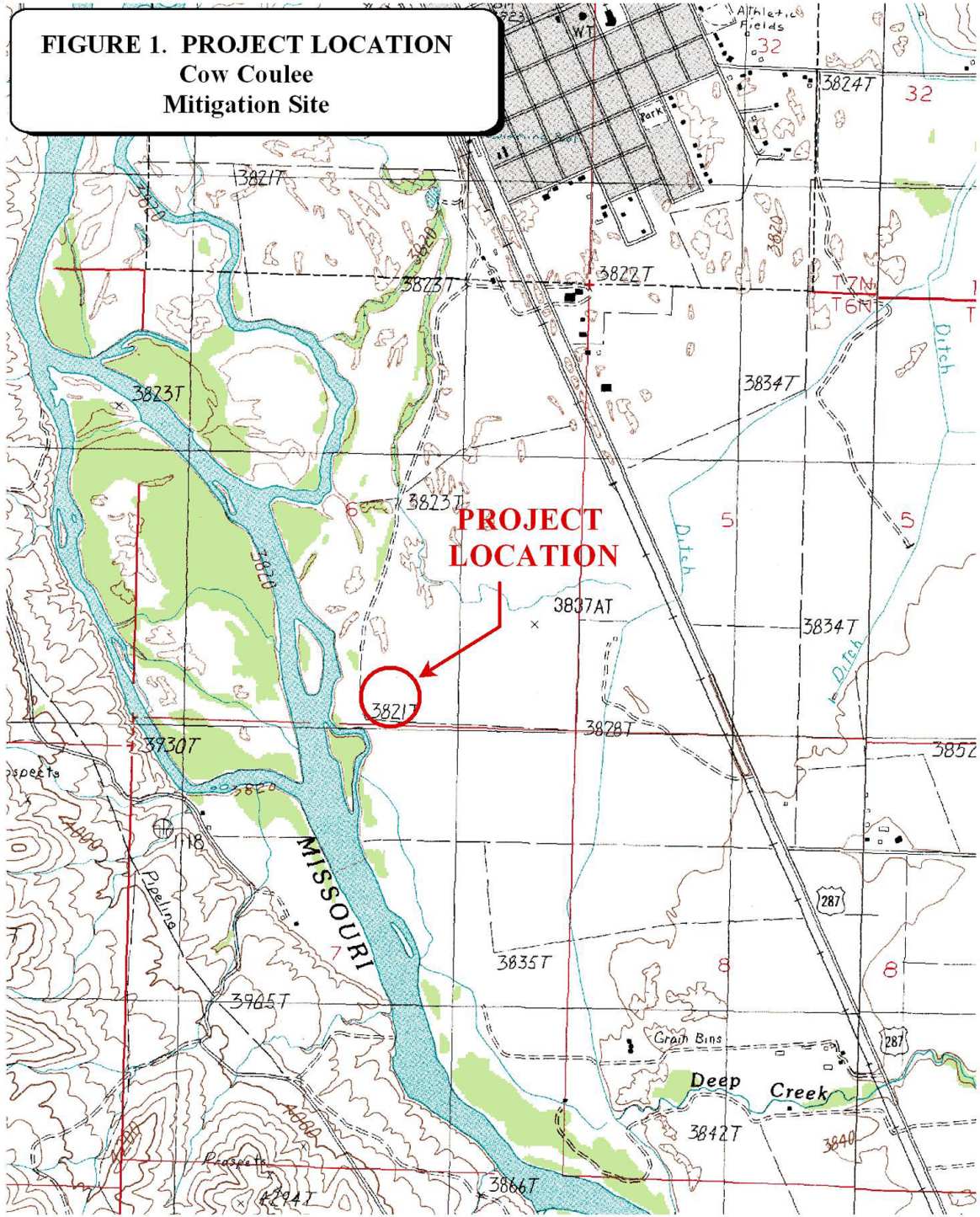
This site was first monitored in 2001, and monitored three times per year annually through 2004. 2004 was to represent the final year of monitoring; however, monitoring will likely be extended until water delivery issues are resolved. The monitoring area is illustrated in **Figure 2 (Appendix A)**.

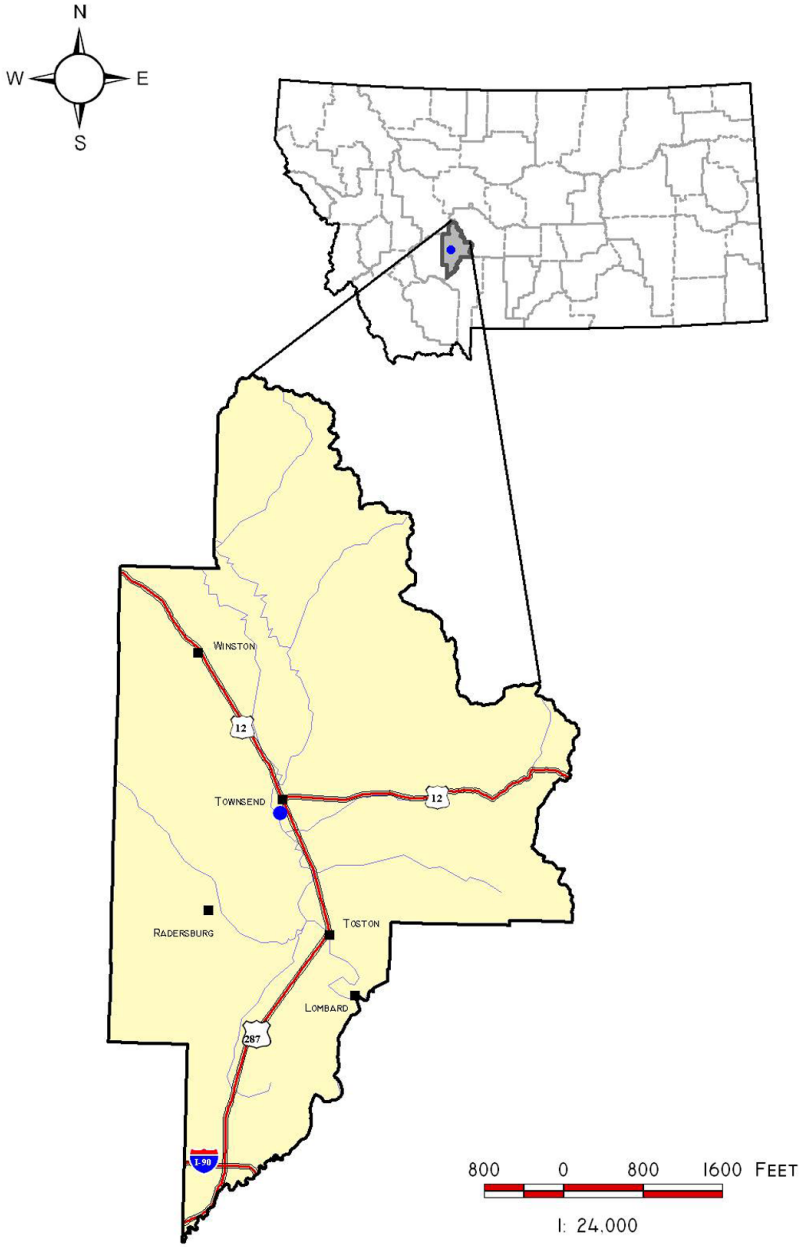
2.0 METHODS

2.1 Monitoring Dates and Activities

The site was visited on June 3rd (spring), August 4th (mid-season), and October 21st (fall) 2004. The primary purpose of the spring visit was to conduct a bird/general wildlife reconnaissance. The late-May to early-June period was selected for the spring visit because monitoring between mid-May and early June is likely to detect migrant as well as early nesting activities for a variety of avian species (Carlson pers. comm.), as well as maximizing the potential for amphibian detection. In Montana, most amphibian larval stages are present by early June (Werner pers. comm.).

FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION
Cow Coulee
Mitigation Site





PROJECT #: 130091.013
DATE: APRIL 2001
LOCATION:
PROJECT MANAGER: B. DUTTON
DRAWN BY: B. NOECKER

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

The mid-season visit was conducted during early August 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 and information conducted/collected included: wetland delineation; wetland/open water aquatic habitat boundary mapping; vegetation community mapping; vegetation transect; soils data; hydrology data; bird and general wildlife use; photograph points; macroinvertebrate sampling; functional assessment; and (non-engineering) examination of the dike structure and riprap along Missouri River side channel.

2.2 Hydrology

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

All additional hydrologic data was recorded on the mitigation site monitoring form **(Appendix B)**. The boundary between wetlands and open water (no rooted vegetation) aquatic habitats was mapped on an aerial photograph and an estimate of the average water depth at this boundary was recorded.

There are no groundwater monitoring wells at the site. If located within 18 inches of the ground surface (soil pit depth for purposes of delineation), groundwater depths were documented on the routine wetland delineation data form at each data point.

2.3 Vegetation

General dominant species-based vegetation community types (e.g., *Typha latifolia/Scirpus acutus*) were delineated on an aerial photograph during the mid-season visit. 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 site monitoring form **(Appendix B)**.

The 10-foot wide belt transect that was established in 2001 was evaluated for the fourth time **Figure 2 (Appendix A)**. Percent cover was estimated for each vegetative species for each vegetative community encountered within the "belt" using the following values: + (<1%); 1 (1-5%); 2 (6-10%); 3 (11-20%); 4 (21-50%); and 5 (>50%).

The purpose of the transect is to evaluate changes over time, especially the establishment and increase of hydrophytic vegetation. The transect location was marked on the air photo and all data recorded on the mitigation site monitoring form. Transect endpoint locations were recorded with the GPS unit in 2001. Wooden stakes were installed in 2001 to physically mark the transect ends. Photos of the transect were taken from both ends during the mid-season visit.

A comprehensive plant species list for the site was first compiled in 2001 and was updated as new species were encountered. Ultimately, observations from past years will be compared with new data to document vegetation changes over time.

Woody species were planted at this mitigation site by the landowner. The general location of these plantings, along with a list of planted species, was presented in the 2001 monitoring report. The "planted woody vegetation survival" section of the data form **(Appendix B)** was completed relative to these plantings. For each planted woody species located in the field, an estimated percent survival was recorded along with apparent mortality causes.

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 Form (**Appendix B**). The most current NRCS terminology was used to describe hydric soils (USDA 1998).

2.5 Wetland Delineation

A wetland delineation of the mitigation site was conducted during the 2001 mid-season visit according to the 1987 COE of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. The delineated boundaries were verified and changes made if necessary during the 2002, 2003, and 2004 monitoring. 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 1997).

The information was recorded on COE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms (**Appendix B**). The wetland/upland boundary was delineated on the air photo and recorded with a resource grade GPS unit in 2001. Minor changes in wetland boundaries were noted in 2002 and drawn onto project aerial photographs, while no changes were noted in 2003 or 2004. The wetland/upland boundary in combination with the wetland/open water habitat boundary was used to calculate the wetland area developed within the monitoring area.

According to a *Wetland Feasibility Study* completed in July 1996 (Peccia 1996), 0.07 acres of wetland existed on the site prior to project implementation.

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 each site visit. Indirect use indicators, including tracks; scat; burrows; eggshells; skins; bones; etc., were also recorded. These observations were recorded 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 wildlife species list for the entire site was compiled.

2.7 Birds

Bird observations were recorded during each visit. No formal census plots, spot mapping, point counts, or strip transects were conducted. During the May visit, observations were recorded in compliance with the bird survey protocol in **Appendix E**. During the mid-season visit, bird observations were recorded incidental to other monitoring activities. During each visit, observations were categorized by species, activity code, and general habitat association (see field and office data forms in **Appendix B**). A comprehensive bird list was compiled using these observations.

2.8 Macroinvertebrates

A single macroinvertebrate sample was collected during the mid-season site visit during the first three monitoring seasons; however, due to the lack of standing water at this site in 2004, no macroinvertebrate sample was taken. The approximate location of the sample point utilized in 2001-2003 is shown on **Figure 2 (Appendix A)**.

2.9 Functional Assessment

Functional assessment forms were completed for various assessment areas within the monitoring area using the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method. Field data necessary for this assessment were generally collected during the mid-season site visit. The remainder of the functional assessment was completed in the office.

2.10 Photographs

Photographs were taken during the mid-season visit showing the current land use surrounding the site, the upland buffer, the monitored area, macroinvertebrate sampling location, and the vegetation transect. Each photograph point location was recorded with a resource grade GPS during the 2001 monitoring. The approximate location of photo points is shown on **Figure 2**, **Appendix A**. All photographs were taken using a 50 mm lens. A description and compass direction for each photograph was recorded on the wetland monitoring form.

2.11 GPS Data

During the 2001 monitoring season, data were collected with a resource grade GPS unit at the vegetation transect beginning and ending locations, at all photograph locations, and at the macroinvertebrate sampling location. Wetland boundaries were also mapped with a resource grade GPS unit. No new GPS data were collected in 2004.

2.12 Maintenance Needs

The dike structure was examined during the 2004 site visit for obvious signs of breaching, damage, or other problems. This did not constitute an engineering-level structural inspection, but rather a cursory examination. Similarly, the riprapped east bank of the Missouri River side

channel immediately south of the site was examined for signs of erosion and channel migration. Current or future potential problems were documented.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Hydrology

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, Townsend yearly precipitation totals for 2000 (7.93 inches), 2001 (8.96 inches), 2002 (11.58 inches), 2003 (8.44 inches), and 2004 (12.00 inches) were 75, 85, 110, 80 and 114 percent, respectively, of the total annual mean precipitation (10.57 inches) in this area.

The primary source of hydrology for this site is irrigation water, which flows into the mitigation site via a small ditch that enters the monitoring area from the east. A groundwater component contributes to this site, as does precipitation and runoff. The design water level (3,833 ft elevation) contour for the main impoundment is shown on the wetland plan (RPA 1997) in **Appendix D**.

During the June 3rd visit, irrigation water had reached the edge of the monitoring area in the ditch, but was not yet flowing into the site. The main impoundment was approximately 5% full as a result of precipitation and groundwater compared to an estimated 50% at the same time in 2003, 80% in 2002 and 70% in 2001. The main impoundment was completely dry during the August visit, indicating that no irrigation water ever reached the monitoring area during the 2004 season. Water was still being diverted into the ditch during the August visit; however, water was still not making it to the site.

Water delivery to the site via the existing irrigation ditch is recognized by the landowner and MDT as being a primary source of concern for this site. Water being turned into the ditch from the main Montana Ditch took a considerable amount of time (weeks) in previous years to reach the mitigation site, and did not make it at all during 2004, due primarily to high infiltration and physical barriers such as road crossings and in-channel vegetation. The ranch manager also noted extensive muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) damage to the delivery ditch in 2002, which has not been addressed by the landowner. The delay of water delivery to the site is likely affecting vegetation communities and use of the mitigation site by wildlife, especially pair bonding waterfowl.

The lack of water on the site in 2004 resulted in severe stress to wetland vegetation around the periphery of the impoundment and resulted in far less use by wildlife as compared to previous years. The open water area observed in previous years, as shown on **Figure 3**, was reduced to a mud flat in 2004 that was dry to the surface during the August field visit. No standing water was present within the monitoring area during the summer monitoring session.

3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation species identified on the site are presented in **Table 1** and on the attached data form. Four wetland community types were identified and mapped on the mitigation area (**Figure 3**, **Appendix A**). These included Type 1: *Typha latifolia/Scirpus acutus*, Type 2: *Carex rostrata/Juncus balticus,* Type 3: *Scirpus maritimus,* and Type 4: *Hordeum jubatum/Iris missouriensis*. Dominant species within each of these communities are listed on the attached data form (**Appendix B**).

Table 1: ***2001 - 2004 Cow Coulee Vegetation Species List***

Scientific Name[1]	Region 9 (Northwest) Wetland Indicator Status
Achillea millefolium	FACU
Agropyron smithii	--
Agropyron smithii	FACU
Agropyron trachycaulum	FAC
Agrostis alba	FACW
Alopecurus pratensis	FACW
Artemesia spp.	--
Asclepias speciosa	FAC+
Beckmannia syzigachne	OBL
Carex utriculata	OBL
Carex spp.	--
Centaurea maculosa	--
Cirsium arvense	FAC-
Elymus triticoides	FAC
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	FAC+
Hordeum jubatum	FAC-
Iris missouriensis	FACW+
Juncus balticus	OBL
Kochia scoparia	FAC
Marsilea vestita	OBL
Medicago sativa	--
Opuntia fragilis	--
Phalaris arundinacea	FACW
Polygonum spp.	---
Prunus virginiana	FACU
Ribes aureum	FAC+
Rosa woodsii	FACU
Rumex crispus	FACW
Salix exigua	OBL
Scirpus acutus	OBL
Scirpus maritimus	OBL
Shepherdia argentea	--
Sonchus arvensis	FACU+
Spartina gracilis	FACW
Symphoricarpos albus	--
Typha latifolia	OBL

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

Type 1 occurs in the vicinity of the upland island and along the south dike face. Type 2 is the dominant wetland type in the monitoring area. Type 3 consists of a narrow fringe along the

irrigation ditch that feeds the mitigation site. Type 4 occurs in a small depression that lies east of the main impoundment and unlike the other communities, does not receive surface water from the irrigation ditch, but is groundwater fed.

Wetland plant communities were severely stressed within the monitoring area during the 2004 growing season due to the lack of water on the site. Wetlands that had been developing through the first three years of monitoring showed signs of regressing and would likely continue this trend in future years if water delivery to the site is not remedied. Substantial *Polygonum* communities were recorded for the first time in 2004 within several wetland areas and more specifically in those previously unvegetated mud flats that had been open water areas in previous years.

Adjacent upland communities within the monitoring area are comprised primarily of seeded grasslands and dry native shrub and grass communities. Common species include western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), slender wheatgrass *(Agropyron trachycaulum*), creeping wildrye *(Elymus triticoides)*, alfalfa *(Medicago sativa)*, Canada thistle *(Cirsium arvense)*, wood's rose *(Rosa woodsii)*, and snowberry *(Symphoricarpos albus)*. The adjacent Missouri River riparian bottom is comprised of black cottonwood *(Populus trichocarpa)* and willow *(Salix spp.)* communities.

The revegetation plan for this project included the planting of several woody species. The "planted woody vegetation survival" section of the data form **(Appendix B)** was completed relative to these plantings. Overall survival for those species observed was judged to be moderate to high, with some mortality noted as a result of competition from more aggressive species and girdling by small rodents. Drought conditions may have also played a role in plant survival.

Vegetation transect results are detailed in the attached data form and summarized in **Table 2** and **Charts 1** and **2**. No changes have occurred along the vegetation transect over the course of the three years of monitoring.

Table 2: ***Vegetation transect data summary.***

Monitoring Year	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**
Transect Length (feet)	532	532	532	532
# Vegetation Community Transitions along Transect	4	4	4	4
# Vegetation Communities along Transect	3	3	3	3
# Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities along Transect	2	2	2	2
Total Vegetative Species	7	16	16	17
Total Hydrophytic Species	5	10	10	11
Total Upland Species	2	6	6	6
Estimated % Total Vegetative Cover	85	85	90	90
% Transect Length Comprised of Hydrophytic Vegetation Communities	51	51	51	51
% Transect Length Comprised of Upland Vegetation Communities	49	49	49	49
% Transect Length Comprised of Unvegetated Open Water	0	0	0	0
% Transect Length Comprised of Bare Substrate	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

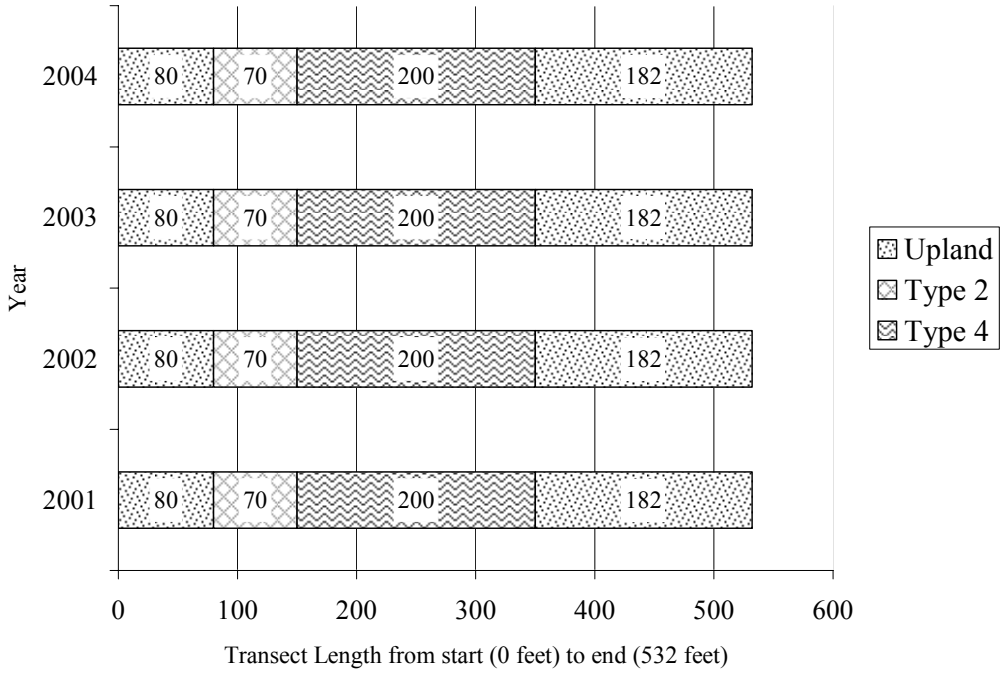
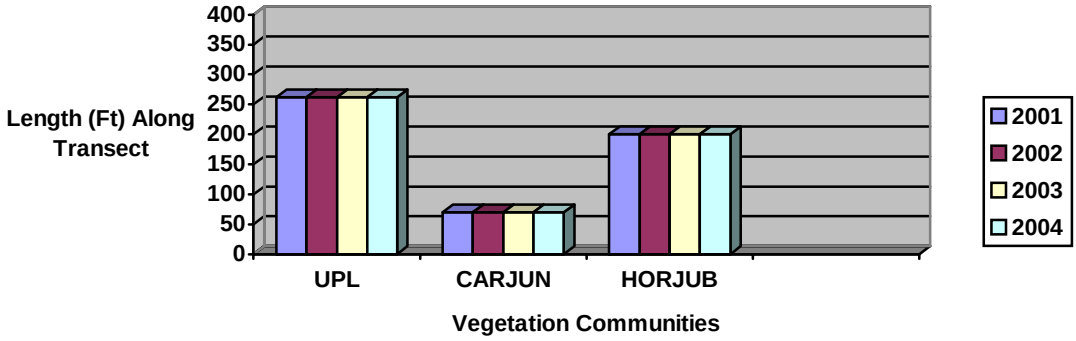


Chart 2: ***Length of vegetation communities along Transect 1.***



3.3 Soils

According to the Broadwater County Area soil survey (Soil Conservation Service 1976), soils at the site consist of Toston silty clay loam and saline Ustic Torriothents. According to the county hydric soils list, Toston silty clay loam can contain hydric inclusions (Villy soils) under "terrace" local landform conditions. Saline Ustic Torriothents are considered non-hydric soils.

Soils across much of the western half of the site were disturbed during construction through excavation of the main impoundment and construction of the low-level dike. Topsoil was salvaged during construction and spread across many of the disturbed areas surrounding the main impoundment. Generally, wetland soils at the site include silt loam and clay loam.

B Horizon soils along wetland portions of vegetation transect consisted of clay loams with a matrix color of 10YR5/1. The soil was not saturated in 2004 and contained large amounts of organic material in the upper 6 inches. Oxidized root channels were also present in the upper 12 inches.

3.4 Wetland Delineation

Delineated wetland boundaries are illustrated on **Figure 3** (**Appendix A**). Completed wetland delineation forms are included in **Appendix B**. Soils, vegetation, and hydrology are discussed in preceding sections. Wetland boundaries were modified slightly in 2002 from the 2001 delineation, however no changes were noted during the 2003 monitoring. Delineation results are as follows:

2004 Cow Coulee Mitigation Area: 1.77 (1.77 in 2003) wetland acres (emergent, aquatic bed)
1.17 (1.17 open water in 2003) acres mud flat

Approximately 1.77 acres of "wetlands" have been created at the site (**Figure 2**, **Appendix A**). Inclusive of open water and mud flat areas in the main impoundment, approximately 2.94 acres of aquatic habitat currently exist on the Cow Coulee wetland mitigation site.

According to a *Wetland Feasibility Study* completed in July, 1996 (Robert Peccia & Associates 1996), 0.07 acres of wet meadow wetland existed on the site prior to project implementation. At this time, 2.87 acres of aquatic habitat has been gained at this site, which is less than the anticipated 4.5 acres noted in project files.

3.5 Wildlife

Wildlife species, or evidence of wildlife, observed on the site during 2004 monitoring efforts are listed in **Table 3**. Specific evidence observed, as well as activity codes pertaining to birds, is provided on the completed monitoring form in **Appendix B**. The site provides habitat for several wildlife species; however, the site is being managed by the landowner primarily for avian species. Electric fence is being used around the perimeter of the site and small mammal traps are being utilized within the monitoring area in an attempt to exclude mammalian predators from utilizing the area. One badger was seen utilizing upland habitat within the monitoring area, with some raccoon, skunk, and deer tracks noted also.

Species documented nesting at the site include Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor* – bird box) and Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides* – bird box). Ten of the thirteen bird boxes on the site were occupied by one of the previously mentioned cavity nesters.

3.6 Macroinvertebrates

During the first three years of monitoring, macroinvertebrates were sampled near the small island located near the edge of the large impoundment (see **Figure 2**). Macroinvertebrate sampling was not conducted in 2004 due to the lack of standing water within the analysis area.

Table 3: ***Fish and wildlife species observed on the Cow Coulee Mitigation Site 2001 -2004.***

FISH	
Minnows – species unknown	
AMPHIBIANS	
Spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*)	
REPTILES	
Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)	
BIRDS	
American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)	Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)	Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)	**Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)**
Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)	Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)	Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)	**Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)**
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)	Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
California Gull (*Larus californicus*)	Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis)*
Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*)	**Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus)***
Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)	**Ring-billed Gull (Larus delawarensis)**
Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)	**Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)**
Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor)*	Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*)
Common Raven (*Corvus corax)*	Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)	Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)	**Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)**
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)	Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)	Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)
Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)	Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)	**Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)**
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)	Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)
MAMMALS	
American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) **Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)** **White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)** **Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)** Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) Mountain cottontail *(Sylvilagus nuttallii)*	

Bolded species were observed during 2004 monitoring. All other species were observed during one or more of the previous monitoring years, but not during 2004.

3.7 Functional Assessment

A completed functional assessment form is presented in **Appendix B**. Functional assessment results in 2004 were virtually unchanged from the 2003 assessment, and are summarized in **Table 4.** The mitigation site rated as a Category III (moderate value) site, primarily due to its small size and low ratings for T&E and sensitive species habitat, uniqueness, and recreation/education potential. The site received a moderate rating for general wildlife habitat,

food chain support, sediment/nutrient/toxicant removal, and sediment/shoreline stabilization. The site received a high rating for surface water storage and groundwater discharge/recharge.

Based on functional assessment results (**Table 4)**, approximately 15.88 functional units have been provided thus far at the Cow Coulee mitigation site.

Table 4: ***Summary of 2004 wetland function/value ratings and functional points*** [1] ***at the Cow Coulee Mitigation Project.***

Function and Value Parameters From the 1999 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method	Wetland Site Rating
Listed/Proposed T&E Species Habitat	Low (0.3)
MNHP Species Habitat	Low (0.1)
General Wildlife Habitat	Mod. (0.5)
General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	NA
Flood Attenuation	NA
Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	High (0.9)
Sediment, Nutrient, Toxicant Removal	Mod (0.7)
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	Mod. (0.6)
Production Export/Food Chain Support	Mod. (0.7)
Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	High (1.0)
Uniqueness	low (0.3)
Recreation/Education Potential	low (0.3)
Actual Points/Possible Points	5.4 / 10
% of Possible Score Achieved	54
Overall Category	III
Total Acreage of Assessed Wetlands and Other Aquatic Habitats within Site Boundaries	**2.94**
Functional Units (acreage x actual points) (fu)	**15.88**

[1] See completed MDT functional assessment forms in Appendix B for further detail.

3.8 Photographs

Representative photographs taken from photo-points are provided in **Appendix C**. A 2004 aerial photograph is also provided in **Appendix C**.

3.9 Maintenance Needs/Recommendations

The dike was in good condition during the mid-season visit, and continues to be colonized by wetland vegetation. Similarly, the water control structure in the dike appeared to be in good condition.

At the request of MDT, a small side channel of the Missouri River, which lies outside the monitoring area, was inspected to determine if lateral migration of the stream bank had occurred since efforts to stabilize the bank had been implemented at the time of project completion. The riprap protection appeared to be working well at preventing further lateral migration of the stream bank and no maintenance appears necessary at this time.

As previously mentioned, water delivery is recognized as being a problem at this site. A more efficient delivery system would benefit the project by filling the impoundment sooner in the spring, thus encouraging use by more wildlife species, especially pair bonding waterfowl and

shorebirds. Filling the impoundment to the design elevation earlier in the season might also encourage the establishment of wetland habitat beyond the current limits (particularly to the east), as soil near the existing periphery would be saturated for a longer duration, thus encouraging the establishment of hydrophytic vegetation. This, in turn, could result in the development of additional wetland and result in additional mitigation credit.

Improvements to the water delivery system would need to be discussed with and agreed upon by the landowner, and might ultimately depend on the costs associated with upgrading the system. Land & Water Consulting / PBS&J is currently evaluating the site in order to make site-specific recommendations. Options being explored include:

- Re-grading the existing delivery ditch.
- Lining the ditch with a less permeable substrate (e.g. clay, bentonite, concrete).
- Enlarge and re-set all road culverts crossed by the ditch.
- Pipe the water through losing reaches of the ditch or for the entire length.
- Constructing a new delivery pipeline or ditch.

At this time it appears that a new delivery system taken from a different point of diversion and piped to the site would be the most efficient way in which to deliver water to the mitigation site. This option will be explored further in 2005.

3.10 Current Credit Summary

No specific performance criteria were required to be met at this site in order to document its success. However, the overall intent of the project was to create 4.5 acres of aquatic habitat to include open water, emergent marsh and wet meadow habitat. Based on monitoring results, these goals have been partially achieved. Improving the water delivery system would likely result in eventual additional wetland credit.

As the project stands, approximately 2.94 acres of aquatic habitats have been created, inclusive of all open water (mud flat in 2004) components. Open water areas were a designed habitat feature. Subtracting the 0.07 acre of pre-existing wetland, approximately 2.87 acres of aquatic habitat have been gained at this site. Approximately 15.88 functional units are provided at the site to date.

4.0 REFERENCES

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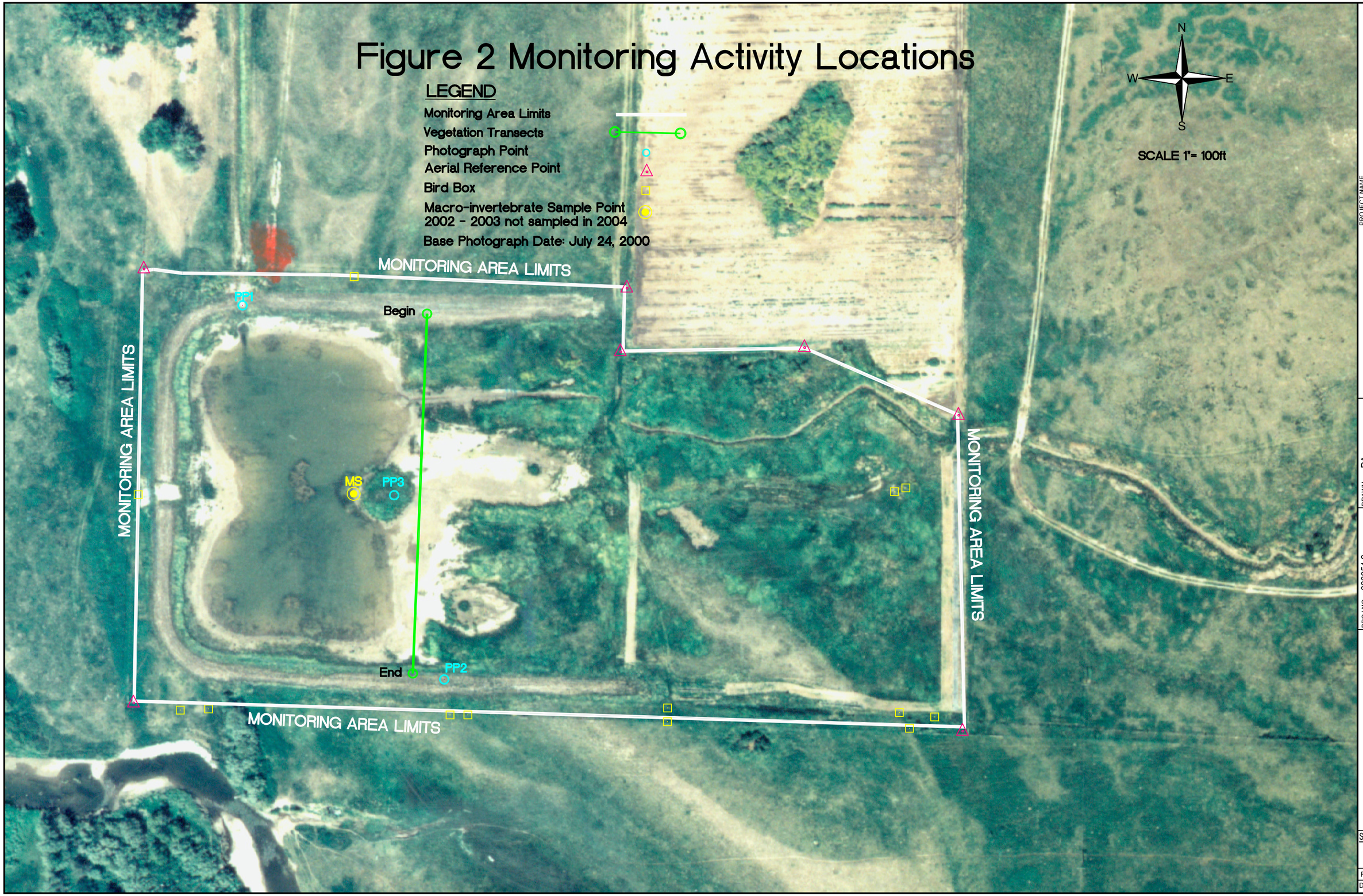
Appendix A

FIGURES 2 & 3

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

Figure 2 Monitoring Activity Locations



PROJECT NAME: MDT Cow Coulee Wetland Mitigation

DRAWING TITLE: Monitoring Activity Locations

DRAWN:	RA
CHECKED:	MT
APPVD:	BD
PROJ MGR:	BD
PROJ NO:	330054.2
FILE NAME:	TASK13BASE.dwg
SCALE:	1"= 100 ft
LOCATION:	Cow Coulee

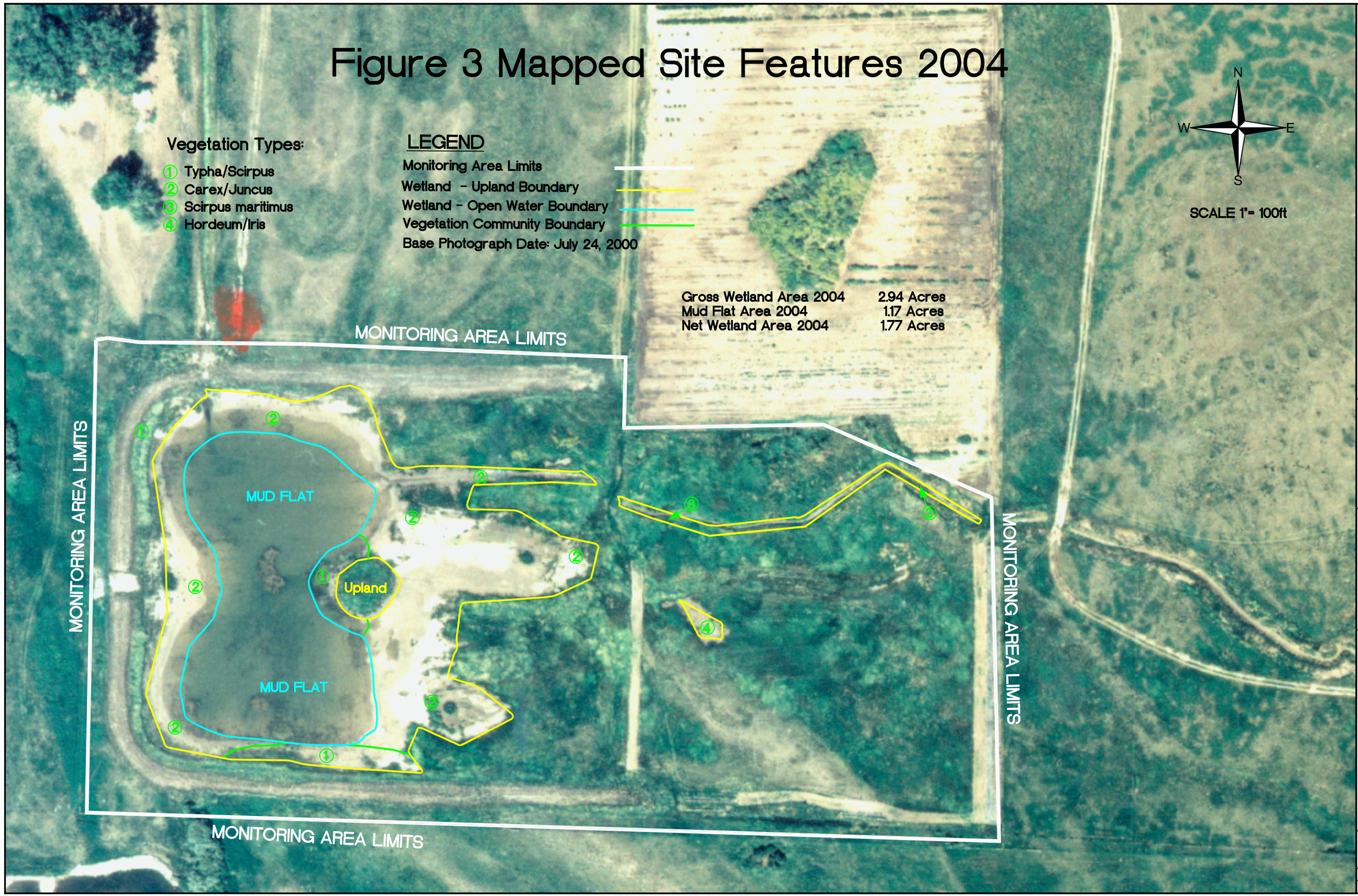
LAND & WATER CONSULTING, INC.
P.O. BOX 8254
Missoula, MT 59807

SHEET NUMBER 2 OF -

REV -

DATE: 3-25-

Figure 3 Mapped Site Features 2004



PROJECT NAME
MDT Cow Coulee Wetland Mitigation

DRAWING TITLE
Mapped Site Features 2004

DRAWN: RA
CHECKED: MT
APPVD: BD
PROJ MGR: BD

PROJ NO: 330054.208
FILE NAME: TASK20BASE.dwg
SCALE: 1"= 100ft
LOCATION: Cow Coulee

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Missoula, MT 59807

SHEET NUMBER
3 OF -

REV -
DATE: 3-29-05

Appendix B

COMPLETED 2004 WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM
COMPLETED 2004 BIRD SURVEY FORMS
COMPLETED 2004 WETLAND DELINEATION FORMS
COMPLETED 2004 FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FORMS

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

LWC / MDT WETLAND MITIGATION SITE MONITORING FORM

Project Name: **Cow Coulee** Project Number: **B43054.00.0208** Assessment Date: **8/4/04**
Location: **one mile SW of Townsend** MDT District: **Butte** Milepost: _____
Legal description: T**6N** R**2E** Section **6** Time of Day: **0900-1200**
Weather Conditions: **Mostly sunny approx. 75 degrees** Person(s) conducting the assessment: **Traxler**
Initial Evaluation Date: **8 / 01 / 01** Visit #: **2** Monitoring Year: **2004 (year 4)**
Size of evaluation area: **9 acres** Land use surrounding wetland: **Agriculture, Missouri River floodplain**

HYDROLOGY

Surface Water Source: **Irrigation ditch, groundwater**
Inundation**:** Present____Absent**X** Average depths: **na** Range of depths: **na**
Assessment area under inundation: **0%**
Depth at emergent vegetation-open water boundary: **na**
If assessment area is not inundated are the soils saturated w/in 12" of surface**:** Yes**X**No_____
Other evidence of hydrology on site (drift lines, erosion, stained vegetation etc.): **Main impoundment did not receive surface irrigation water in 2004 and groundwater levels were below the surface elevation of the pond and adjacent wetland habitat.**

Groundwater
Monitoring wells: Present_____ Absent**X**
Record depth of water below ground surface

Well #	Depth	Well #	Depth	Well #	Depth

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

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: Water delivery via the irrigation ditch is still deficient and in need of repair.

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Community No.: **1** Community Title (main species): **TYP LAT / SCI ACU**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
TYP LAT	>50		
SCI ACU	21-50		
SCI MAR	21-50		
Polygonum sp.	11-20		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS:

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

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
CAR ROS	11-20	SAL EXI	6-10
JUN BAL	11-20	Polygonum sp.	11-20
BEC SYZ	6-10		
SCI MER	6-10		
ELE PAL	11-20		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS:

Community No.: **3** Community Title (main species): **SCI MAR**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
SCI MAR	>50		
ALO PRA	6-10		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS:

Additional Activities Checklist:

X Record and map vegetative communities on air photo

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES (continued)

Community No.: **4** Community Title (main species): **HOR JUB / IRI MIS**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
HOR JUB	21-50		
IRI MIS	11-20		
JUN BAL	6-10		
Polygonum sp.	11-20		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS:

Community No.: **5** Community Title (main species): **Upland**

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover
AGR TRA	21-50		
AGR SMI	21-50		
ELY TRI	11-20		
SYM ALB	6-10		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS:

Community No.:___ Community Title (main species):_____

Dominant Species	% Cover	Dominant Species	% Cover

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: ___

COMPREHENSIVE VEGETATION LIST

Species	Vegetation Community Number(s)	Species	Vegetation Community Number(s)
Achillea millefolium	5		
Agropyron smithii	5		
Agropyron trachycaulum	5		
Agrostis alba	2,4,5		
Alopecurus pratensis	2,3		
Artemesia sp.	5		
Asclepias speciosa	5		
Beckmannia syzigachne	2		
Carex rostrata	2,3		
Carex spp.	2		
Centaurea maculosa	5		
Cirsium arvense	5		
Elymus cinereus	5		
Elymus triticoides	5		
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	5		
Hordeum jubatum	4		
Iris missouriensis	4		
Juncus balticus	2,4		
Kochia scoparia	5		
Marsilea vestita	1,3		
Medicago sativa	5		
Opuntia fragilis	5		
Phalaris arundinacea	3		
Polygonum sp.	1,2,4		
Prunus virginiana	5		
Ribes aureum	5		
Rosa woodsii	5		
Rumex crispus	2,4		
Salix exigua	2		
Scirpus acutus	1		
Scirpus maritimus	1,2,3		
Shepherdia argentea	5		
Sonchus arvensis	5		
Spartina gracilis	2,4		
Symphoricarpos albus	5		
Typha latifolia	1		

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

PLANTED WOODY VEGETATION SURVIVAL

Species	Percent Survival	Mortality Causes
Rosa woodsii	80%	drought, rodents, competition from other species
Prunus virginiana	50%	drought, rodents, competition from other species
Shepherdia argentea	50%	drought, rodents, competition from other species
Ribes aureum	80%	drought, rodents, competition from other species
Symphoricarpos albus	80%	drought, rodents, competition from other species

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: Most of the planted woody vegetation occurs in the upland areas within the monitoring area. Survival varied by species and not all of the plantings were observed, as less field time was spent in the adjacent upland habitat. Mortality appears to be from drought conditions, competition from more aggressive species, and small rodents.

WILDLIFE

BIRDS

(Attach Bird Survey Field Forms)

Were man made nesting structures installed? Yes __**x**__ No____Type: **bluebird**_____ How many? _**13**____
Are the nesting structures being utilized? Yes _**x**__ No ___ Do the nesting structures need repairs? Yes __
No_**x**__

MAMMALS AND HERPTILES

Species	Number Observed	Indirect indication of use			
		Tracks	Scat	Burrows	Other
white-tailed deer	0	yes	yes		
raccoon	0	yes			
meadow vole	0			yes	
striped skunk	0	yes			
cottontail	0		yes		
badger	1			yes	

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST:

__ __Macroinvertebrate sampling (if required)

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: Most bluebird nesting structures were active, with primarily tree swallows and a few bluebirds. Landowner's attempts to exclude large and small mammals through electric fence and live traps continues. One badger was seen onsite near a burrow.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

__X__ One photo for each of the 4 cardinal directions surrounding wetland
__X__ At least one photo showing upland use surrounding wetland – if more than one upland use exists, take additional photos
__X__ At least one photo showing buffer surrounding wetland
__X__ One photo from each end of vegetation transect showing transect
_____ One photo of water delivery system and water control structure

Location	Photo Frame #	Photograph Description	Compass Reading
A		See photo sheets and field notes	
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _____

GPS SURVEYING

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

Checklist:

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

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: ___GPS not used during 2004; minor changes in wetland borders were hand-adjusted using aerial photograph and 2001 delineation.

WETLAND DELINEATION

(Attach Corps of Engineers delineation forms)

At each site conduct the items on the checklist below:
__X___Delineate wetlands according to the 1987 Army Corps manual.
__X__ Delineate wetland-upland boundary on the air photo
__NA_ Survey wetland-upland boundary with a resource grade GPS survey

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: _See attached completed delineation forms.

FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

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

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: __See attached completed functional assessment forms.

MAINTENANCE

Were man-made nesting structures installed at this site? YES _X_ NO____
If yes, do they need to be repaired? YES ____ NO _X__
If yes, describe problems below and indicate if any actions were taken to remedy the problems.

Were man-made structures build or installed to impound water or control water flow into or out of the wetland? YES _X__ NO____
If yes, are the structures working properly and in good working order? YES _X__ NO___
If no, describe the problems below.

COMMENTS/PROBLEMS: The dike and water control structure appear to be in good condition, as does the riprapped side channel of the Missouri River outside the monitoring area.

MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT

Site: Cow Coulee Date: 8/4/04 Examiner: Traxler Transect # 1

Approx. transect length: 532 ft Compass Direction from Start (Upland): 170 degrees

Vegetation type A:	Upland	
Length of transect in this type:	80	feet
Species:		Cover:
SYM ALB		11-20
AGR SMI		21-50
AGR TRA		21-50
ROS WOO		6-10
ASC SPE		1-5
Total Vegetative Cover:		100%

Vegetation type B:	Carex / Juncus (veg type 2)	
Length of transect in this type:	70	feet
Species:		Cover:
CAR ROS (11-20)		1-5
JUN BAL		11-20
ELE PAL		11-20
BEC SYZ		11-20
HOR JUB		6-10
RUM CRI		1-5
Polygonum sp.		6-10
Total Vegetative Cover:		80%

Vegetation type C:	HOR JUB (veg type 4)	
Length of transect in this type:	200	feet
Species:		Cover:
HOR JUB		21-50
ELO PAL (11-20)		6-10
JUN BAL (11-20)		6-10
TYP LAT (1-5)		trace
SCI ACU (1-5)		trace
SCI MER (1-5)		trace
BEC SYZ		1-5
ALO PRA		1-5
Polygonum sp.		6-10
Total Vegetative Cover:		75%

Vegetation type D:	Upland	
Length of transect in this type:	182	feet
Species:		Cover:
AGR SMI		21-50
AGR TRA		21-50
ELY TRI		21-50
Total Vegetative Cover:		100%

MDT WETLAND MONITORING – VEGETATION TRANSECT (back of form)

Cover Estimate
+ = <1%
1 = 1-5%
2 = 6-10%
3 = 11-20%
4 = 21-50%
5 = >50%

Indicator Class:
+ = Obligate
- = Facultative/Wet
0 = Facultative

Source:
P = Planted
V = Volunteer

Percent of perimeter _____ % developing wetland vegetation – excluding dam/berm structures.

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 food depth (in open water), or at a point where water depths or saturation are maximized. Mark this location with another metal fencepost.

Estimate cover within a 10 ft 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.

Notes:

Bolded species are new additions in 2004.
Italicized species had a change in cover estimate in 2004

3/01 rev

BIRD SURVEY – FIELD DATA SHEET

Page__1__of__1_
Date: 6/3/04
Survey Time: 0900

SITE: Cow Coulee

Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat	Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat
American White Pelican	6	FO					
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	F, L	UP				
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	F	UP				
Mourning Dove	2	FO					
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	FO					
Red-winged Blackbird	2	N,BP	MA				
Ring-billed Gull	2	FO					
Song Sparrow	2	L	UP				
Tree Swallow	>20	F,N	MA, UP				
Yellow Warbler	2	FO,L,BD	SS				

Notes: Conditions: Clear - approximately 70 degrees

Water had only made it to the edge of the site and had not begun filling the empoundment – water levels were very low in the main empoundment.

Deer and raccoon tracks noted on site.

Most bird boxes being used by Tree Swallows – no bluebirds seen.

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

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

BIRD SURVEY – FIELD DATA SHEET

Page **1** of **1**
Date: 8/4/04
Survey Time: 0800

SITE: Cow Coulee

Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat	Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat
Mourning Dove	2	FO					
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	L	UP				
Song Sparrow	2	L	UP				

Notes: Warm – mid-80's. Overcast and Windy.
hen pheasant with one young observed.

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

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

BIRD SURVEY – FIELD DATA SHEET

Page 1 of 1
Date: 10/21/04
Survey Time: 0800

SITE: Cow Coulee

Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat	Bird Species	#	Behavior	Habitat
American White Pelican	3	FO					
Canada Goose	2	FO					
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	L	UP				

Notes: Approximately 35 degrees and overcast

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

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

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

Project/Site: Cow Coulee Mitigation Site	**Project No:** Task 013	**Date:** 4-Aug-2004	
Applicant/Owner: Montana Department of Transportation		**County:** Broadwater	
Investigators: Traxler		**State:** Montana	
		Plot ID: 1	

Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site? (Yes) No	**Community ID:** EM
Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation:)? Yes (No)	**Transect ID:**
Is the area a potential Problem Area? Yes (No)	**Field Location:**
(If needed, explain on the reverse side)	east of small island

VEGETATION (USFWS Region No. 9)

Dominant Plant Species(Latin/Common)	Stratum	Indicator	Plant Species(Latin/Common)	Stratum	Indicator
Hordeum jubatum	Herb	FAC+	*Rumex crispus*	Herb	FACW
Barley,Fox-Tail			Dock,Curly		
Carex rostrata	Herb	OBL	*Marsilea vestita*	Herb	OBL
Sedge,Beaked			Fern,Hairy Water		
Juncus balticus	Herb	OBL			
Rush,Baltic					

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW or FAC: (excluding FAC-) 5/5 = 100.00%

FAC Neutral: 4/4 = 100.00%

Numeric Index: 8/5 = 1.60

Remarks:
Taken along vegetation transect

HYDROLOGY

NO **Recorded Data(Describe in Remarks):**
- N/A **Stream, Lake or Tide Gauge**
- N/A **Aerial Photographs**
- N/A **Other**

YES **No Recorded Data**

Field Observations

Depth of Surface Water:	N/A *(in.)*
Depth to Free Water in Pit:	+/- 0 *(in.)*
Depth to Saturated Soil:	= 12 *(in.)*

Wetland Hydrology Indicators

Primary Indicators
- NO **Inundated**
- YES **Saturated in Upper 12 Inches**
- NO **Water Marks**
- YES **Drift Lines**
- NO **Sediment Deposits**
- YES **Drainage Patterns in Wetlands**

Secondary Indicators
- YES **Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches**
- NO **Water-Stained Leaves**
- NO **Local Soil Survey Data**
- YES **FAC-Neutral Test**
- NO **Other(Explain in Remarks)**

Remarks:
Water levels extremely low compared to previous years. No standing water on site at time of survey.

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

Project/Site: Cow Coulee Mitigation Site	**Project No:** Task 013	**Date:** 4-Aug-2004	
Applicant/Owner: Montana Department of Transportation		**County:** Broadwater	
Investigators: Traxler		**State:** Montana	
		Plot ID: 1	

SOILS

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): Ustic torriothents
Map Symbol: Ut **Drainage Class:** unknown **Mapped Hydric Inclusion?** no
Taxonomy (Subgroup): **Field Observations Confirm Mapped Type?** Yes (No)
Profile Description

Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Abundance/Contrast		Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc
4	A	10R3/1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Silt loam
16	B	10R5/1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Clay loam

Hydric Soil Indicators:
- NO **Histosol**
- NO **Histic Epipedon**
- NO **Sulfidic Odor**
- NO **Aquic Moisture Regime**
- YES **Reducing Conditions**
- YES **Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors**
- NO **Concretions**
- NO **High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils**
- NO **Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils**
- NO **Listed on Local Hydric Soils List**
- NO **Listed on National Hydric Soils List**
- NO **Other (Explain in Remarks)**

Remarks:

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? (Yes) No	Is the Sampling Point within the Wetland? (Yes) No	
Wetland Hydrology Present? (Yes) No		
Hydric Soils Present? (Yes) No		

Remarks:

MDT MONTANA WETLAND ASSESSMENT FORM (revised May 25, 1999)

1. Project Name: Cow Coulee Mitigation Site **2. Project #:** B43054/00.0208 **Control #:** _____

3. Evaluation Date: 8/4/2004 **4. Evaluator(s):** Traxler **5. Wetland / Site #(s):** _____

6. Wetland Location(s) i. T: 6 N **R:** 2 E **S:** 6 **T:** __ N **R:** __ E **S:** _____

ii. Approx. Stationing / Mileposts: _____

iii. Watershed: 10030101 **GPS Reference No. (if applies):** _____

Other Location Information: Roger's property ~ 1 mile SW of Townsend

7. A. Evaluating Agency LWC/MDT

8. Wetland Size (total acres): _____ (visually estimated)
3 (measured, e.g. GPS)

B. Purpose of Evaluation:
- ☐ Wetlands potentially affected by MDT project
- ☐ Mitigation wetlands; pre-construction
- ☒ Mitigation wetlands; post-construction
- ☐ Other

9. Assessment Area (total acres): _____ (visually estimated)
3 (measured, e.g. GPS)

10. CLASSIFICATION OF WETLAND AND AQUATIC HABITATS IN AA

HGM CLASS [1]	SYSTEM [2]	SUBSYSTEM [2]	CLASS [2]	WATER REGIME [2]	*MODIFIER* [2]	% OF AA
Depression	Palustrine	None	Emergent Wetland	Seasonally Flooded	Excavated/Impounded	40
Depression	Palustrine	---	Aquatic Bed	Semipermanently Flooded	Excavated/Impounded	10
Depression	Palustrine	---	Unconsolidated Bottom	Semipermanently Flooded	Excavated/Impounded	50
---	---	---	---	---	---	

[1] = Smith et al. 1995. [2] = Cowardin et al. 1979.

11. ESTIMATED RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (of similarly classified sites within the same Major Montana Watershed Basin)
Common **Comments:** _____

12. GENERAL CONDITION OF AA

i. Regarding Disturbance: (Use matrix below to select appropriate response.)

Conditions Within AA	Predominant Conditions Adjacent (within 500 Feet) To AA		
	Land managed in predominantly natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or buildings.	Land not cultivated, but moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged or has been subject to minor clearing; contains few roads or buildings.	Land cultivated or heavily grazed or logged; subject to substantial fill placement, grading, clearing, or hydrological alteration; high road or building density.
AA occurs and is managed in predominantly a natural state; is not grazed, hayed, logged, or otherwise converted; does not contain roads or occupied buildings.	---	---	---
AA not cultivated, but moderately grazed or hayed or selectively logged or has been subject to relatively minor clearing, or fill placement, or hydrological alteration; contains few roads or buildings.	---	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.	---	---	---

Comments: (types of disturbance, intensity, season, etc.) Dike, 2-truck roads, grazing adjacent.

ii. Prominent weedy, alien, & introduced species: _____

iii. Briefly describe AA and surrounding land use / habitat: Low level dike constructed of excavated material from AA. Irrigation water feeds the site from the east. Project is adjacent to Missouri River, surrounding habitat is grassland, cultivated fields and riparian. Site contains open water, emergent marsh, and aquatic bed habitat.

13. STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY (Based on 'Class' column of #10 above.)

Number of 'Cowardin' Vegetated Classes Present in AA	≥3 Vegetated Classes or ≥ 2 if one class is forested	2 Vegetated Classes or 1 if forested	≤ 1 Vegetated Class
Select Rating	---	Moderate	---

Comments: _____

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	Bald eagle
No usable habitat	☐ D ☐ S	

ii. RATING **(BASED ON THE STRONGEST HABITAT CHOSEN IN 14A(I) ABOVE, FIND THE CORRESPONDING RATING OF HIGH (H), MODERATE (M), OR LOW (L) FOR THIS FUNCTION.**

HIGHEST HABITAT LEVEL	DOC/PRIMARY	SUS/PRIMARY	DOC/SECONDARY	SUS/SECONDARY	DOC/INCIDENTAL	SUS/INCIDENTAL	NONE
FUNCTIONAL POINT AND RATING	---	---	---	---	---	.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	_____
Incidental habitat **(list species)**	☐ D ☒ S	Northern leopard frog, American white pelican
No usable habitat	☐ D ☐ S	_____

iii. RATING **(BASED ON THE STRONGEST HABITAT CHOSEN IN 14B(I) ABOVE, FIND THE CORRESPONDING RATING OF HIGH (H), MODERATE (M), OR LOW (L) FOR THIS FUNCTION.**

HIGHEST HABITAT LEVEL:	DOC/PRIMARY	SUS/PRIMARY	DOC/SECONDARY	SUS/SECONDARY	DOC/INCIDENTAL	SUS/INCIDENTAL	NONE
FUNCTIONAL POINT AND RATING	---	---	---	---	---	.1 (L)	---

IF DOCUMENTED, LIST THE SOURCE **(E.G., OBSERVATIONS, RECORDS, ETC.)**: _____

14C. General Wildlife Habitat Rating

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

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

☐ **Low** (based on any of the following)
- ☐ few or no wildlife observations during peak use periods
- ☐ little to no wildlife sign
- ☐ sparse adjacent upland food sources
- ☐ interviews with local biologists with knowledge of AA

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

II. WILDLIFE HABITAT FEATURES **(WORKING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, SELECT APPROPRIATE AA ATTRIBUTES TO DETERMINE THE EXCEPTIONAL (E), HIGH (H), MODERATE (M), OR LOW (L) RATING. STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY IS FROM #13. FOR CLASS COVER TO BE CONSIDERED EVENLY DISTRIBUTED, VEGETATED CLASSES MUST BE WITHIN 20% OF EACH OTHER IN TERMS OF THEIR PERCENT COMPOSITION IN THE AA (SEE #10). DURATION OF SURFACE WATER: P/P = PERMANENT/PERENNIAL; S/I = SEASONAL/INTERMITTENT; T/E = TEMPORARY/EPHEMERAL; A= ABSENT.**

Structural Diversity (from #13)	☐High								☒Moderate								☐Low			
Class Cover Distribution (all vegetated classes)	☐Even				☐Uneven				☐Even				☒Uneven				☐Even			
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)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moderate disturbance at AA (see #12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	M	--	--	--	--	--	--
High disturbance at AA (see #12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Evidence of Wildlife Use from 14C(i)	**Wildlife Habitat Features Rating** from 14C(ii)			
	☐ Exceptional	☐ High	☒ Moderate	☐ Low
Substantial	--	--	--	--
Moderate	--	--	.5 (M)	--
Low	--	--	--	--

Comments: Bird boxes receiving substantial use by swallows & bluebirds, some waterfowl nesting. Small mammalian predators being trapped out by landowner.

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

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

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

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

ii. **Modified Habitat Quality:** Is fish use of the AA precluded or significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, other man-made structure or activity **or** is the waterbody included on the 'MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development' with 'Probable Impaired Uses' listed as cold or warm water fishery or aquatic life support**?**
☐ **Y** ☐ **N** If yes, reduce the rating from 14D(i) by one level and check the modified habitat quality rating: ☐ E ☐ H ☐ M ☐ L

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

Types of Fish Known or Suspected Within AA	**Modified Habitat Quality** from 14D(ii)			
	☐ Exceptional	☐ High	☐ Moderate	☐ 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 flooded from in-channel or overbank flow, check NA above.

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

Estimated wetland area in AA subject to periodic flooding	☐ ≥ 10 acres			☐ <10, >2 acres			☐ ≤2 acres		
% of flooded wetland classified as forested, scrub/shrub, or both	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%	75%	25-75%	<25%
AA contains **no outlet or restricted outlet**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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:** _____

14F. SHORT AND LONG TERM SURFACE WATER STORAGE ☐ **NA** (proceed to 14G)
Applies to wetlands that flood or pond from overbank or in-channel flow, precipitation, upland surface flow, or groundwater flow.
If no wetlands in the AA are subject to flooding or ponding, check NA above.

i. Rating (Working from top to bottom, use the matrix below to arrive at the functional point and rating of high (H), moderate (M), or low (L) for this function.)
Abbreviations: P/P = permanent/perennial; S/I = seasonal/intermittent; T/E = temporary/ephemeral.

Estimated maximum acre feet of water contained in wetlands within the AA that are subject to periodic flooding or ponding.	☒ >5 acre feet			☐ <5, >1 acre 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**	--	.9 (H)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wetlands in AA flood or pond **< 5 out of 10 years**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: AA receives seasonal irrigation water and high groundwater.

14G. SEDIMENT/NUTRIENT/TOXICANT RETENTION AND REMOVAL ☐ **NA** (proceed to 14H)
Applies to wetlands with potential to receive excess sediments, nutrients, or toxicants through influx of surface or ground water or direct input.
If no wetlands in the AA are subject to such input, check NA above.

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

Sediment, Nutrient, and Toxicant Input Levels Within AA	AA receives or surrounding land use has potential to deliver low to moderate levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are not substantially impaired. Minor sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.				Waterbody on MDEQ list of waterbodies in need of TMDL development for "probable causes" related to sediment, nutrients, or toxicants **or** AA receives or surrounding land use has potential to deliver high levels of sediments, nutrients, or compounds such that other functions are substantially impaired. Major sedimentation, sources of nutrients or toxicants, or signs of eutrophication present.			
% cover of wetland vegetation in AA	☐ ≥ 70%		☐ < 70%		☐ ≥ 70%		☐ < 70%	
Evidence of flooding or ponding in AA	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Yes	☐ No
AA contains **no or restricted outlet**	--	--	.7 (M)	--	--	--	--	--
AA contains **unrestricted outlet**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments: _____

14H. SEDIMENT/SHORELINE STABILIZATION ☐ **NA** (proceed to 14I)

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

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

% Cover of wetland streambank or shoreline by species with deep, binding rootmasses.	***Duration of Surface Water Adjacent to Rooted Vegetation***		
	☐Permanent / Perennial	☒Seasonal / Intermittent	☐Temporary / Ephemeral
≥ 65 %	--	--	--
35-64 %	--	.6 (M)	--
< 35 %	--	--	--

Comments: No shrub communities due to grazing, heavy trampling in some areas.

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	☐ Vegetated component >5 acres						☒ Vegetated component 1-5 acres						☐ Vegetated component <1 acre					
B	☐ High		☐ Moderate		☐ Low		☐ High		☒ Moderate		☐ Low		☐ High		☐ Moderate		☐ Low	
C	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N	☐Y	☐N
P/P	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S/I	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.7M	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T/E/A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

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

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

ii. ☐ **Recharge Indicators**
- ☐ Permeable substrate presents without underlying impeding layer.
- ☐ Wetland contains inlet but not outlet.
- ☐ Other

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

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

Comments:

14K. UNIQUENESS

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

Replacement Potential	AA contains fen, bog, warm springs or mature (>80 yr-old) forested wetland or plant association listed as "S1" by the MTNHP.			AA does not contain previously cited rare types and structural diversity (#13) is high or contains plant association listed as "S2" by the MTNHP.			AA does not contain previously cited rare types or associations and structural diversity (#13) is low-moderate.		
Estimated Relative Abundance from #11	☐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

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)		
	☐ Low	☒ Moderate	☐ High
Public ownership	--	--	--
Private ownership	--	.3(L)	--

Comments: Site is used by landowner for bird watching. Private land with no public 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	L	0.30	1	
B. MT Natural Heritage Program Species Habitat	L	0.10	1	
C. General Wildlife Habitat	M	0.50	1	
D. General Fish/Aquatic Habitat	N/A	0.00	--	
E. Flood Attenuation	N/A	0.00	--	
F. Short and Long Term Surface Water Storage	H	.9	1	
G. Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Removal	M	0.70	1	
H. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	M	0.60	1	
I. Production Export/Food Chain Support	M	0.70	1	
J. Groundwater Discharge/Recharge	H	1.00	1	
K. Uniqueness	L	0.30	1	
L. Recreation/Education Potential	L	0.30	1	
	Totals:	5.40	10.00	
	Percent of Total Possible Points:		**54%** (Actual / Possible) x 100 [rd to nearest whole #]	

Category I Wetland: (Must satisfy **one** of the following criteria. If not proceed 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 total Possible Points is > 80%.

Category II Wetland: (Criteria for Category I not satisfied **and** meets any **one** of the following Category II criteria. If not satisfied, proceed to Category IV.)
- ☐ Score of 1 functional point for Species Rated S1, S2, or S3 by the MT Natural Heritage Program; **or**
- ☐ Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Wildlife Habitat; **or**
- ☐ Score of .9 or 1 functional point for General Fish/Aquatic 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 total possible points is > 65%.

☒ **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 satisfied, proceed to Category III.)
- ☐ "Low" rating for Uniqueness; **and**
- ☐ "Low" rating for Production Export / Food Chain Support; **and**
- ☐ Percent of total possible points is < 30%.

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

☐ **I** ☐ **II** ☒ **III** ☐ **IV**

Appendix C

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS
2001 - 2004 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

PBSJ

LAND & WATER

2004 COW COULEE

Photo point 1: 185 degrees south
Photo taken while standing on top of outlet control structure.

Photo point 1: 145 degrees southeast
Photo taken while standing on top of outlet control structure.

Photo point 1: 90 degrees east
Photo taken while standing on top of outlet control structure.

Photo point 2: 80 degrees east

Photo point 2: 338 degrees northwest

Photo point 2: 290 degrees west

2004 COW COULEE

Photo point 3: 284 degrees northwest
Photo taken from middle of Island.

Photo point 3: 200 degrees southwest
Photo taken from middle of Island.

Photo point 3: 116 degrees east
Photo taken from middle of Island.

Photo point 3: 66 degrees northeast
Photo taken from middle of Island.

Vegetation Transect Start: 170 degrees South

Vegetation Transect End: 350 degrees North

2004 COW COULEE

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS 2001-2004

Cow Coulee - July 18, 2001

Cow Coulee – July 22, 2002

Cow Coulee – July 27, 2003

Cow Coulee – July 24, 2004

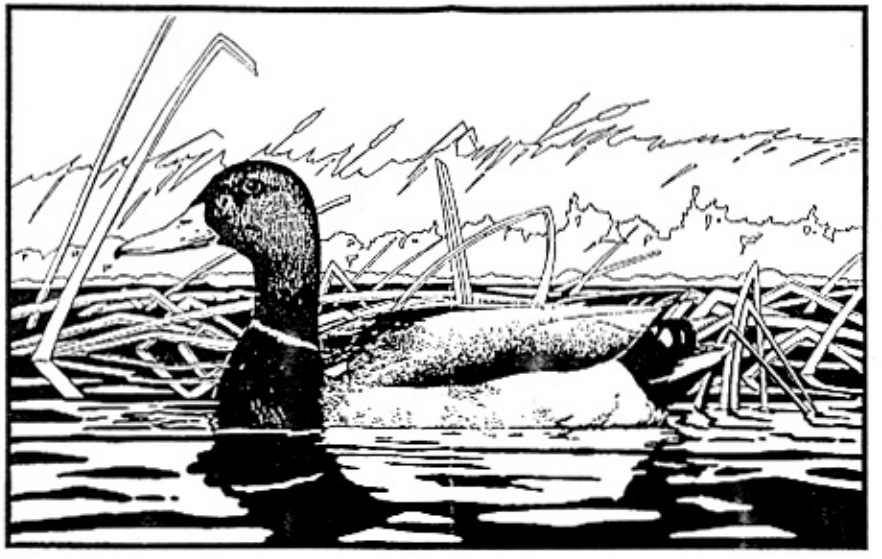
Appendix D

COW COULEE WETLAND PLAN

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

Cow Coulee
Wetland Mitigation Project

Townsend, Montana
MDT Project No. STPX 0002 (300)



Designed by
Robert Peccia & Associates
Helena, Montana
March, 1997

Project Location - Townsend, Montana

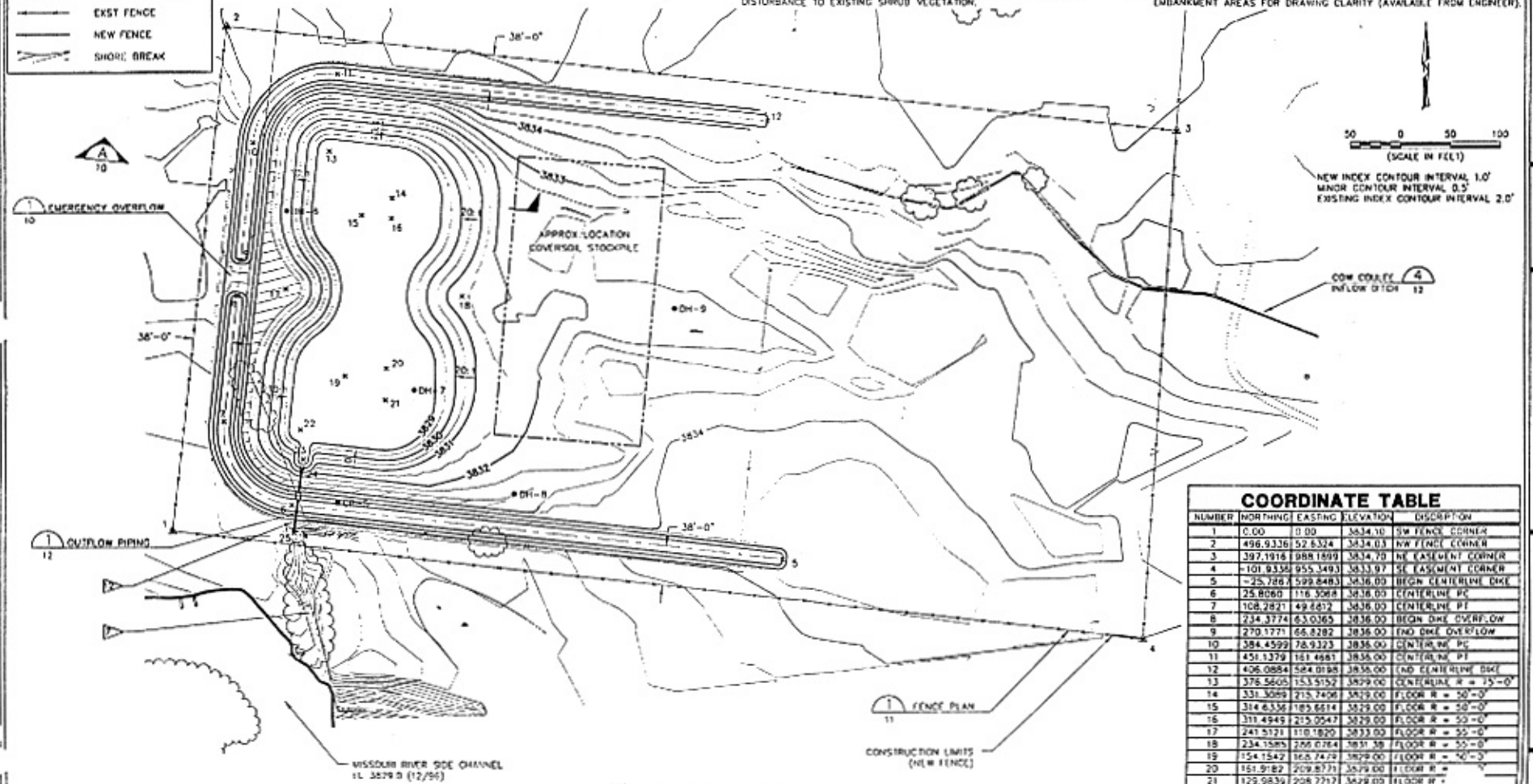
Sheet Index

LEGEND

- NEW INDEX CONTOUR
- EXST INDEX CONTOUR
- CONTOUR
- CP-5 CONTROL POINT
- 2 COORDINATE LOCATION
- 1 SURVEY CONTROL
- SHRUBS
- DITCH CENTERLINE
- EXST FENCE
- NEW FENCE
- SHORE BREAK

CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

1. REMOVE EXISTING FENCE AS NECESSARY FOR CONSTRUCTION (WITHIN 100' OF WETLAND DIKE). RELOCATE AND INSTALL FENCE WHERE SHOWN, SEE DETAIL 1, SHEET 11. AT CONTRACTORS DISCRETION MAY INSTALL TEMPORARY FENCE UNTIL PROJECT IS COMPLETED. BEWARE OF LIVESTOCK IN AREA.
2. PREPARE SITE FOR EARTHWORK. CLEAR & GRUB AREAS TO BE DISTURBED BY DIKE CONSTRUCTION AND WETLAND EXCAVATION. SALVAGE AND STOCKPILE COVERSOIL FROM ALL AREAS TO BE DISTURBED BY DIKE CONSTRUCTION AND WETLAND EXCAVATION.
3. CONDUCT SITE DEWATERING AS NEEDED FOR EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENT. ABANDON MONITORING WELLS ● DH-6,DH-8, AND DH-9.
4. EXCAVATE WETLAND BASIN AS SHOWN. USE CUT MATERIAL FOR DIKE CONSTRUCTION. MINIMUM COMPACTION IS 95% OF MAXIMUM DRY DENSITY (STANDARD PROCTOR). PLACE EXCESS CUT MATERIAL IN SDR, STOCKPILE AREA (SEE SHEET 4). CONSTRUCT DIKES AND WETLAND BASIN ABOUT 1 FOOT LOWER THAN ELEVATION SHOWN UNTIL COVERSOIL PLACEMENT.
5. DURING WETLAND BASIN EXCAVATION DO NOT EXCAVATE INTO GRAVELLY MATERIAL. IF GRAVELLY MATERIAL IS ENCOUNTERED CONTACT FIELD ENGINEER BEFORE PROCEEDING. IF ENCOUNTERED, GRAVELLY MATERIAL SHALL BE STOCKPILED SEPARATELY AT THE SDR, STOCKPILE AREA.
6. INSTALL WETLAND OUTLET PIPING AND EMERGENCY SPILLWAY.
7. CLEAR & GRADE OUTFLOW DITCH TO RIVER SIDE CHANNEL. PROVIDE POSITIVE DRAINAGE (≥0.01%), MAXIMUM SIDE SLOPE 2:1. MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE TO EXISTING SHRUB VEGETATION.
8. PLACE SALVAGED COVERSOIL AT ABOUT 1 FOOT THICKNESS TO ATTAIN LINES AND GRADES SHOWN ON DIKES AND BASIN EXCAVATION AREAS.
9. PLACE SALVAGED WETLAND COVERSOIL AT ABOUT 1 FOOT THICKNESS IN THE EXCAVATED WETLAND BASIN AREA BETWEEN ELEVATIONS 3833 AND 3831 (SEE SHEET 4 AND 9).
10. FERTILIZE, SEED AND MULCH ALL CONSTRUCTION DISTURBED AREAS, INCLUDING ACCESS ROAD, TRANSPLANT VEGETATION, SEE REVEGETATION PLAN IN DETAIL 1, SHEET 9.
11. ELEVATIONS: DIKE TOP ● 3836.0; DESIGN WATER LEVEL 3833.0; EMERGENCY OVERFLOW 3834.0.
12. DISCONTINUE GRANULAR PIPE BEDDING 10' FROM EACH END OF PIPE.
13. EXISTING CONTOURS ARE OMITTED FROM WETLAND EXCAVATION & EMBANKMENT AREAS FOR DRAWING CLARITY (AVAILABLE FROM ENGINEER).



WETLAND PLAN

SCALE: 1"=50'-0"

COORDINATE TABLE

NUMBER	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEVATION	DISCRIPTION
1	0.00	0.00	3834.10	SW FENCE CORNER
2	496.9336	52.6324	3834.03	NW FENCE CORNER
3	397.1916	988.1899	3834.70	NE EASEMENT CORNER
4	-101.9336	955.3493	3833.97	SE EASEMENT CORNER
5	-25.7864	599.8483	3836.00	BEGIN CENTERLINE DIKE
6	25.8060	116.3068	3836.00	CENTERLINE PC
7	108.2821	49.6612	3836.00	CENTERLINE PT
8	234.3774	63.0365	3836.00	BEGIN DIKE OVERFLOW
9	270.1771	66.8282	3836.00	END DIKE OVERFLOW
10	384.4599	78.9323	3836.00	CENTERLINE PC
11	451.1379	181.4681	3836.00	CENTERLINE PT
12	406.0884	584.0185	3836.00	END CENTERLINE DIKE
13	376.5605	153.5152	3829.00	CENTERLINE R = 75'-0"
14	331.3089	215.7406	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
15	314.6336	185.6614	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
16	311.4949	215.0547	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
17	241.5121	110.1820	3833.00	FLOOR R = 55'-0"
18	234.1585	256.0764	3831.38	FLOOR R = 55'-0"
19	154.1542	165.7479	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
20	151.9182	209.8771	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
21	129.9839	208.7712	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
22	100.3827	124.2640	3829.00	CENTERLINE R = 75'-0"
23	70.6368	127.2293	3829.00	FLOOR R = 50'-0"
24	61.5430	176.1115	3830.00	BEGIN OUTFLOW PIPING

R. MORTON — DESIGNED BY
G. LESOSKI — DRAWN BY
K. JENSEN, P.E. — CHECKED BY
MARCH 1997 — DATE
95-56 — PROJECT NO
CCTC004 — FILE NO

PROJECT TITLE: ROGERS' WETLANDS COW COULEE

SHEET TITLE: COW COULEE WETLAND PLAN

SHEET 8

Appendix E

BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL
GPS PROTOCOL

MDT Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
Cow Coulee
Townsend, Montana

PBSJ

LAND & WATER

BIRD SURVEY PROTOCOL

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

Species Use within the Mitigation Wetland: Survey Method

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

Sites that can be circumambulated or walked throughout.

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

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

Sites that cannot be circumambulated.

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

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

Species Use within the Mitigation Wetland: Data Recording

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

1. Bird Species List

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

2. Bird Density

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

3. Bird Behavior

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

4. Bird Species Habitat Use

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

GPS MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTO REFERENCING PROCEDURE

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

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

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

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