The Rock Creek Ranch wetland mitigation site was developed and constructed by PBS&J Consulting and the landowner in the fall of 2004. The site is situated approximately 3 miles east of the town of Hinsdale, to the north of US Highway 2 in Valley County. The Montana Department of Transportation purchased 50 wetland credit acres from the site with the option to acquire additional wetland credits in the future for wetland impacts by transportation projects within Watershed # 11 – Milk River Basin. This MDT project was a part of a much larger cooperative wetland restoration project involving Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Wetland Reserve Program to restore approximately 1,500 acres of wetlands on the Rock Creek Ranch. This site is protected by an MDT Wetland Conservation Easement.

The mitigation site is a mix of emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation communities, intermixed with meandering open water areas to diversify habitat for wetland vegetation, waterfowl and other wildlife species. A Montana state listed sensitive plant species of concern by the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Scarlet Ammannia (Ammannia robusta) has
been observed as occurring within the site. This rare plant species has only been observed from 3 historical records in Garfield and Phillips County, thus making this site an important habitat for the plant.

Ammannia robusta – Univ. Cal-Berkley photo

WETLAND VEGETATION

Dominant wetland vegetation

*Five community types were observed*

**Type 1**- Broad-leaf cattail/Narrow-leaf plantain (*Typha latifolia* / *Alisma gramanium*)

**Type 2**- Curly dock/ Foxtail barley (*Rumex crispus* / *Hordeum jubatum*)

**Type 3**- Eastern cottonwood/ willow (*Populus deltoides* / *Salix spp.*)

**Type 4**- Meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*)

**Type 5**- Curly dock/ Broad-leaf cattail (*Rumex crispus* / *Typha latifolia*)
# WETLAND INHABITANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISH</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMPHIBIAN</td>
<td>Northern Leopard Frog (<em>Rana pipiens</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western Chorus Frog (<em>Pseudacris triseriata</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPTILE</td>
<td>Plains Garter Snake (<em>Thamnophis radix</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painted Turtle (<em>Chrysemys picta</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bolded species were observed in 2009.**

## BIRD

- **American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*)
- **American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
- **American Coot** (*Fulica americana*)
- **American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
- **American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
- **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- **Bank Swallow** (*Riparia riparia*)
- **Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*)
- **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*)
- **Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*)
- **Brewer’s Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)
- **Brown-headed Cowbird** (*Molothrus ater*)
- **Bullock’s Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*)
- **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*)
- **Common Snake** (*Gallinago gallinago*)
- **Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*)
- **Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)
- **Eastern Kingbird** (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
- **European Shoveling** (*Sarna vulgaris*)
- **Caddis** (*Anas strepera*)
- **Golden Eagle** (*aquila chrysaetos*)
- **Hairy Woodpecker** (*Picoides villosus*)
- **Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*)
- **Long-billed Curlew** (*Numenius americanus*)
- **Long-billed Dowitcher** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)
- **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- **Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*)
- **Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus palustris*)

**MOURNING DUCK** (*Zonotis subranea*)

- **Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*)
- **Northern Hoot-tail** (*Asio otus*)
- **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
- **Northern Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)
- **Redhead** (*Aythya americana*)
- **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
- **Red-winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
- **Ring-necked Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*)
- **Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)
- **Sandy Hill Crane** (*Grus Canadensis*)
- **Savannah Sparrow** (*Passercula sandwichensis*)
- **Sempatala Sandpiper** (*Calidris pusilla*)
- **Sora** (*Porzana carolina*)
- **Swainson’s Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- **Tree Sparrow** (*Melospiza georgiana*)
- **Townsend’s Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendii*)
- **Tree Swallow** (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
- **Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*)
- **Vesper Sparrow** (*Poecetes gramineus*)
- **Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*)
- **Western Sandpiper** (*Calidris mauri*)
- **Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludovici*ia*)
- **Willet** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)
- **Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*)
- **Wilson’s Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
- **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)
- **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata*)

## MAMMAL

- **Coyote** (*Canis latrans*)
- **Deer** (*Odocoileus sp.*)
- **Long-tailed Wren** (*Muzelle frenata*)
- **Mink** (*Mustela viverrin*)

**RACCOON** (*Procyon lotor*)

- **Richardson’s Ground Squirrel** (*Spermophilus richardsoni*)
- **White-tailed Jack Rabbit** (*Lepus townsendii*)

**Bolded species were observed in 2009.**

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Long-billed Dowitcher  
Sandhill Crane
Rock Creek Ranch

Click the icon below for complete monitoring reports for this site (2005 to 2010)

Montana Department of Transportation
Wetland Mitigation Site