LAND OWNERSHIP: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDT)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is in the process of developing a cooperative aquatic mitigation (wetlands/streams) project within a 16-acre parcel of US Forest Service (USFS) and a 147-acre MDT owned property and known as the Schrieber Meadows site located adjacent to US Highway 2 about 21 miles southeast of the town of Libby in Lincoln County. A small pilot project was completed by MDT due to the nature of the peat to identify if construction of a new stream channel and wetlands within the site would affect stability of US Highway 2. The pilot project was constructed in 2007 and included the excavation of several shallow depressional wetland cells within the peat. It appears that these cells are developing into high quality seasonal and permanent depressional wetlands as planned, with no adverse impacts to US 2, therefore a more extensive wetland and stream restoration is scheduled for construction in the fall of 2011. Once complete, this restoration project is anticipated to provide approximately 20 acres of mitigation credits to mitigate transportation projects in the watershed.
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