

A black silhouette of a bird, likely a grebe or similar waterfowl, standing in a wetland. The bird is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. It is surrounded by tall, thin reeds or grasses. The background is a lush green field with a dense forest of evergreen trees in the distance under a clear blue sky.

THE STATE OF MONTANA'S WETLANDS

WETLAND COUNCIL UPDATES

MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL



Wetland Council Activities



@ Least 1
Yearly Meeting

- In-person (Spring)
- Remote (Fall)



Newsletters and Announcements



Social Media



Small Project Assistance

- < \$10,000
- 1 year timeframe
- Support MWC Goals



The Montana Wetland Council will be hosting our Spring meeting to discuss and learn about the current regulatory status of wetlands in Montana. At the meeting we will provide a national perspective on WOTUS post-Sackett and discuss how the State, Tribal Nations, and Local Governments can and are filling the gaps left by recent Supreme Court Rulings and Waters of the United States rulemaking.

We will also discuss current and future Wetland Council activities and learn about Trout Unlimited's development of a framework to help understand water rights and when they may be required for wetland and stream restoration projects.

Please join us for this in person meeting in Helena, March 13, 2024. To ensure that we can accommodate everyone, please use the QR Code in next slide to respond with your interest in attending.

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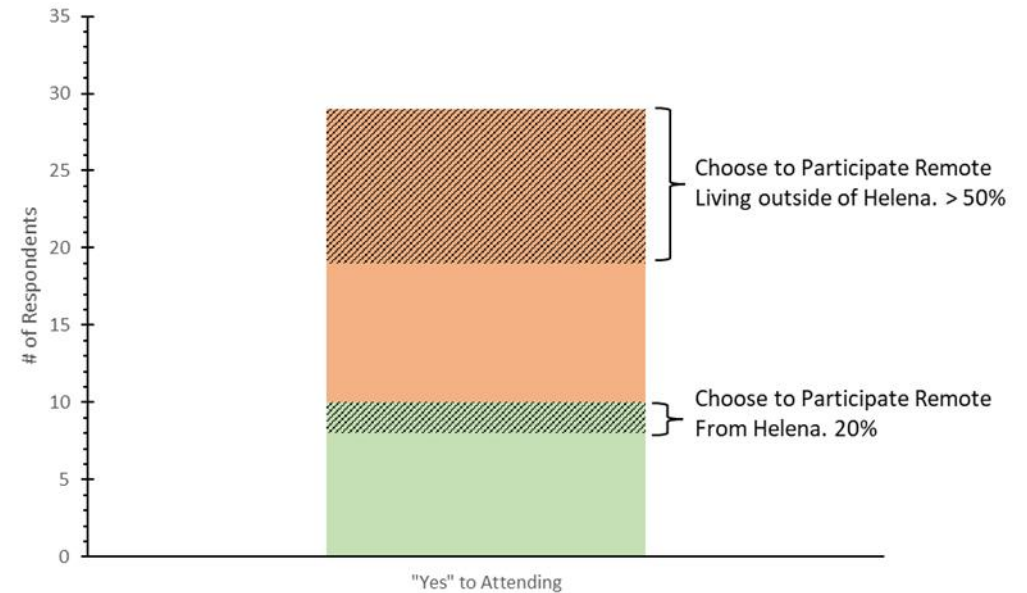


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From: Montana DEQ <montanadeq@announcements.mt.gov>
Subject: Environmental Benefits of Montana's Wetlands



MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL

Yesterday the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision that will have impacts on wetlands. While it's still too early to understand the full impacts in Montana, it's more important than ever to publicly recognize, highlight, and understand the importance of wetlands.

Let's take the opportunity of American Wetlands Month to celebrate how wetlands help support Montana's communities, economy, and the environment - and the champions working to protect and restore them. You can also participate via social media on Instagram @mtwetlandcouncil and on Twitter @MontanaWetland.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs.

In Montana, wetlands and riparian areas comprise approximately 5% of the landscape. Wetlands are vitally important as wildlife habitat, open space, and for water quality and quantity.

- Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks identified 196 wildlife species that depend on wetland habitats for breeding and survival.
- 60% of Montana native species identified as at-risk species rely on wetland and riparian areas for one or more of their life history stages.
- 66% of federally listed endangered and threatened species in Montana rely on wetlands for a critical part of their life cycle.
- Wetlands help filter and clean the water that flows through them, removing pollutants and improving water quality.
- Wetlands help capture and store carbon, increasing climate resiliency.

Help spread the word about the importance of wetlands and the benefits they provide Montana's environment.

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Montana's Wetland Oscar Nomination Party
celebrating
World Wetlands Day - February 2, 2023



Final Nomination:

Best Actor/Actress/Group

Wetlands need **Champions** to speak for them

Nominate someone today

2023 Montana Wetland Stewardship Award



MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL



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DEQ
MONTANA

Wetland Council Strategic Framework

Living Document

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Goal 1: Montanans of all ages understand the value of wetlands and riparian areas and the important benefits they provide our communities, the economy, and environment.

Objective 1.1: Understand what the needs and barriers are for stakeholders (such as landowners, producers, and the public) to participate in wetland and riparian area restoration, protection, mitigation, and other topic areas.

Potential Actions	Potential Partners	Working Group Overlap	Indicators to Measure	Short-term Action (1 – 3 years)	Mid-Term Action (3 – 5 years)	Long-Term Action (5 – 10 years)
1.1.a Create and distribute a survey to stakeholders, with option for follow-up phone interview. Use data from the survey to inform campaign and resource planning. (Be sure to have a section that looks at terms/and public understanding.)	Developing Survey: DEQ; Jamie McEvoy; Rachel Gooen, 5th House Consulting Distribution: Conservation Districts/MACD; MWCC, Watershed Groups,		Survey is designed and distributed. # of people complete the survey. Target all ranges of experience for landowners and producers	X	X	
1.1.b Define common language and terms to be used in all communication and education materials. (This might need to come before the survey.	MARS; Watershed Groups, Heritage Program – EMMA Group/UM;	Most of them	We have and are using common language, and terms.	X		
1.1.c Participate and engage in stakeholders’ meetings to better understand the needs and barriers they face when participating in wetland and riparian area restoration, protection, and mitigation.	MACD, Stockgrowers Assoc; Western Landowners Alliance, Planning Boards; State and Fed agencies		# of meetings attended; # of long-term relationships formed (groups inviting, etc.)	X	X	X