

# Information Systems and Services Update - 2025 -

December 11, 2025

## **Braden Burkholder**

Data Systems and Sciences Lead <a href="mailto:bburkholder@mt.gov">bburkholder@mt.gov</a>

## Staff



Braden Burkholder

Dave Ratz





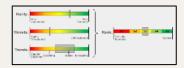
Kyle Kaskie

Scott Blum



## **Core Data**







Range

## Models Species & Overall Diversity







**Species** Occurrences

**Observations** 





**Structured Surveys** 

Taxonomy & Element Information



2025 Stats (% Change)

5,049 (+3.4%)

4,492 (+32%)

2,313 (+65%)

101,201 (+3.8%)

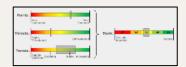
6,125,428 (+15%)

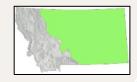
515,424 (+7.7%)

18,100 (+9.1%)

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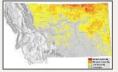


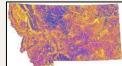




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## Non-Native Species Data

- 1,358 non-native species either present or potentially present
- 1,086,240 observation records (~75% vascular plants)
- 160,568 structured surveys (~75% focused on non-natives)
- 217 non-native invasion risk models
  - updated 47 weed species in 2025
- Non-native data sources:
  - 544 Botanical & 517 Zoological
- iNaturalist data imported monthly (>17,000 non-native records)



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## Montana Natural Heritage Program





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Map Viewer

**Dashboards and Tools** 

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Botany / Plants and Fungi

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White-tailed Ptarmigan Lagopus leucura

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## **Montana Field Guides**

Search Field Guide
Advanced Search



## **Animals**

Multicellular organisms that develop from the fertilization of an egg by a sperm. Heterotrophic obtain food by ingestion.



### Plants

Multicellular organisms that are autotrophic or make complex carbohydrates from basic constituents. Most use photosynthesis.



## <u>Fungi</u> Lichens, Mushrooms, Molds, Yeasts, Chytrids

Multi- or single-celled organisms that have chitin in their cell walls, reproduce by spores, do not photosynthesize, and acquire food primarily by secreting digestive enzymes into their environment. Some fungi, called Lichens, develop symbiotic relationships with green algae and/or cvanobacteria.



### Invasive and Pest Species

Species not native to a specific location, which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy, or human health.



## **Ecological Communities**

Accounts for: (1) natural vegetation communities as described under the National Vegetation Classification scheme at the Group level; (2) aquatic communities occurring in different stream sizes and flow regimes in four geographic regions; and (3) areas recently disturbed by fire and insect outbreaks or that are heavily modified for human land uses.



Welcome to our Montana Field Guides. These guides and this website are a collaborative effort between the Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. These guides provide information on the identification, distribution, status, and ecology of Montana's animals, plants, lichens, and biological communities. You can find individual species or habitats by hierarchical drill downs or simple searches. New features include the ability to view galleries of photos to assist with species identification and the ability to download custom field guides as PDF files.

Select a Field Guide to start browsing or use the Search.



- Map Viewer
- Species Snapshot
- Animal SOC Report
- Plant SOC Report
- Wetlands Information

## Take us with you!

Look for this PDF icon as you
search and browse. Click it to build
a custom PDF with species shown on
that page or for all the species within
that taxonomic level. To create your
own list of species, use the PDF
Creator tool at the bottom of the
Advanced Search page.

Here's some links if you want to download a whole group.

### Mammals

Birds

Reptiles

**Amphibians** 

Fish

Invertebrates

**Butterflies / Moths** 

Dragonflies / Damselflies

Ferns and allies

Conifers

Flowering Plants (Dicots)

Flowering Plants (Monocots)

Bryophytes

Lichens

Ecological Systems

### Search Field Guide **Montana Field Guides** Go **Animals** Welcome to our Montana Field Guides. These guides and this develop from the fertilization of an egg by a sperm. Heterotrophic website are a Search Field Guide between the N Montana Field Guides Gο Advanced Search Plants Heritage Progr Multicellular organisms that are Home - Other Field Guides Wildlife and Pa **Ecological Communities** provide inform identification. **National Vegetation Classification Groups** Fungi Lichens, Mushrooms, and ecology of plants, lichens Alpine communities. that have chitin in their cell walls, species or hab Forest and Woodland photosynthesize, and acquire food drill downs or primarily by secreting digestive Shrubland enzymes into their environment. features include galleries of ph Grassland species identif Sparse and Barren to download c Invasive and Pest Species PDF files. Wetland and Riparian Species not native to a specific location, which has a tendency to Select a Field **Aquatic Communities** spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, or use the Sea Open Water Other Land Cover Recently Disturbed or Modified described under the National Vegetation Classification Human Land Use Flowering Plants (Dicots) regimes in four geographic Flowering Plants (Monocots) Bryophytes outbreaks or that are heavily Lichens

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Gο

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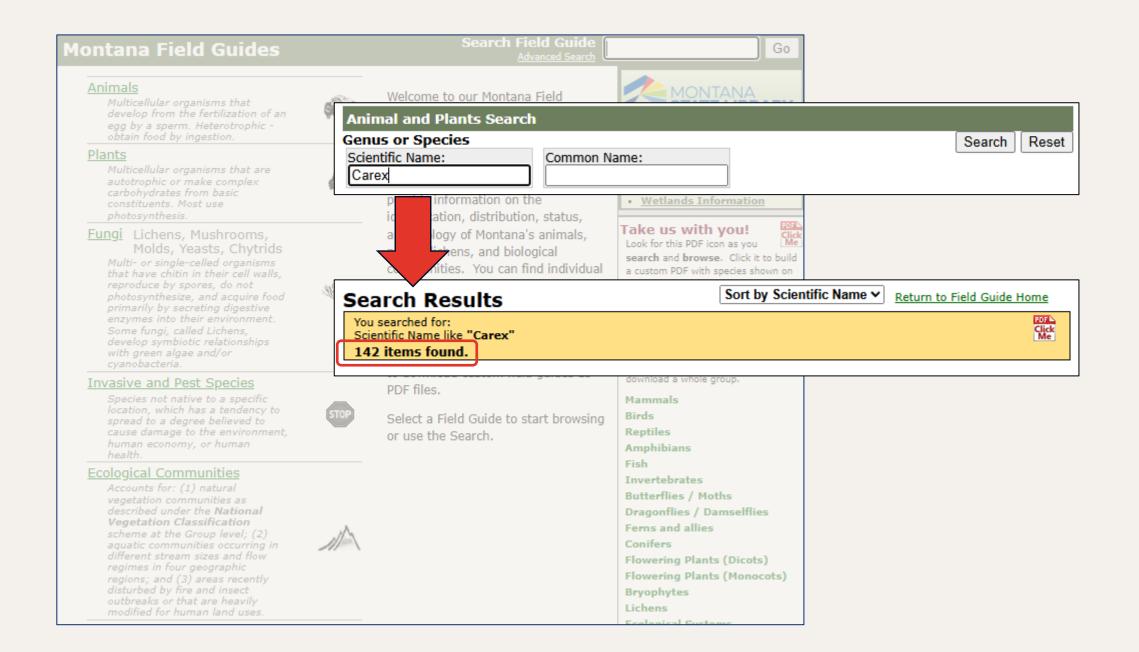
Conifers

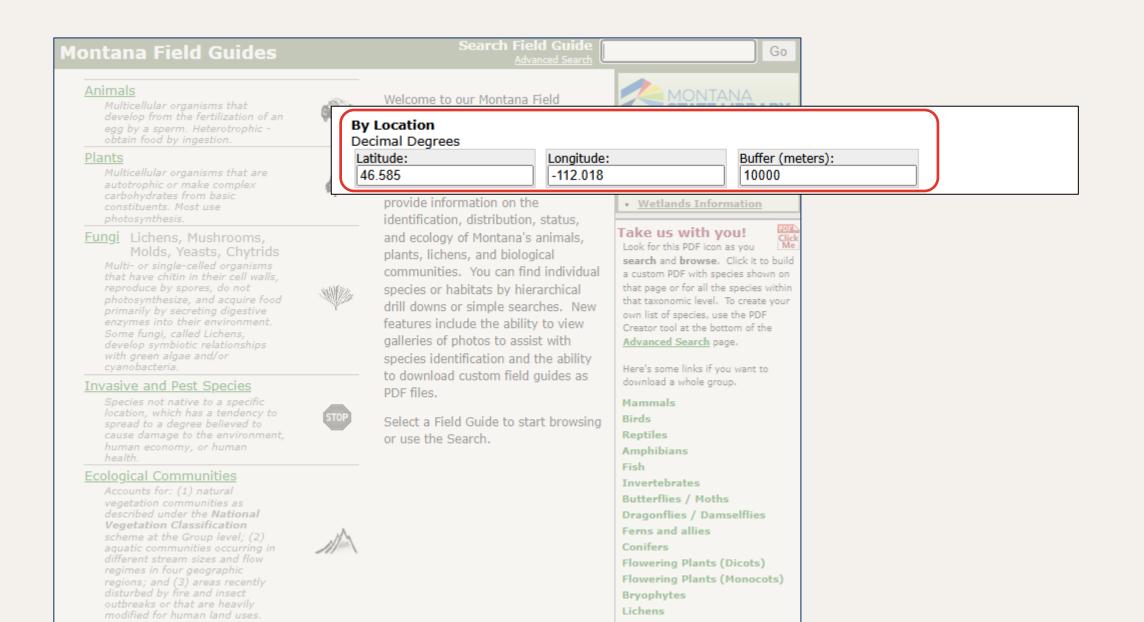
Flowering Plants (Dicots)

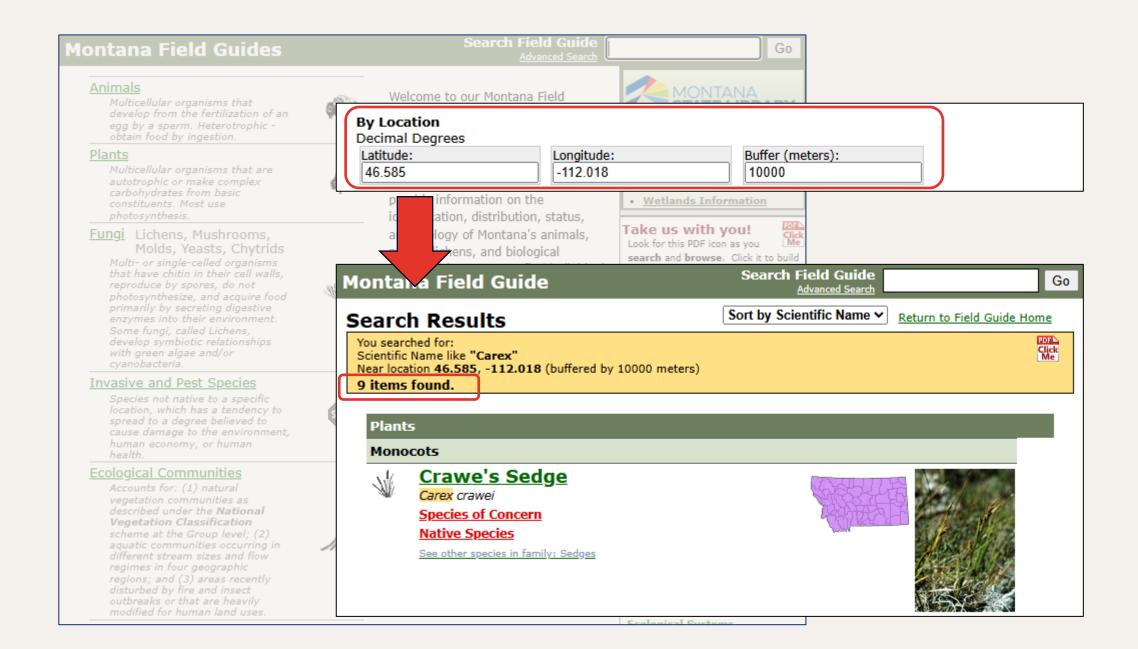
Flowering Plants (Monocots)

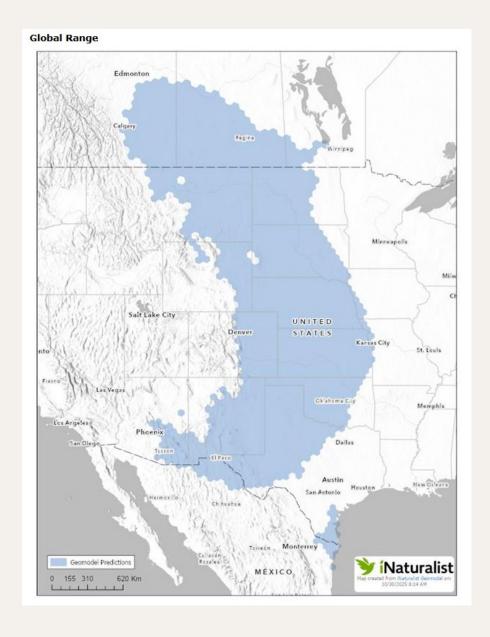
**Bryophytes** 

Lichens

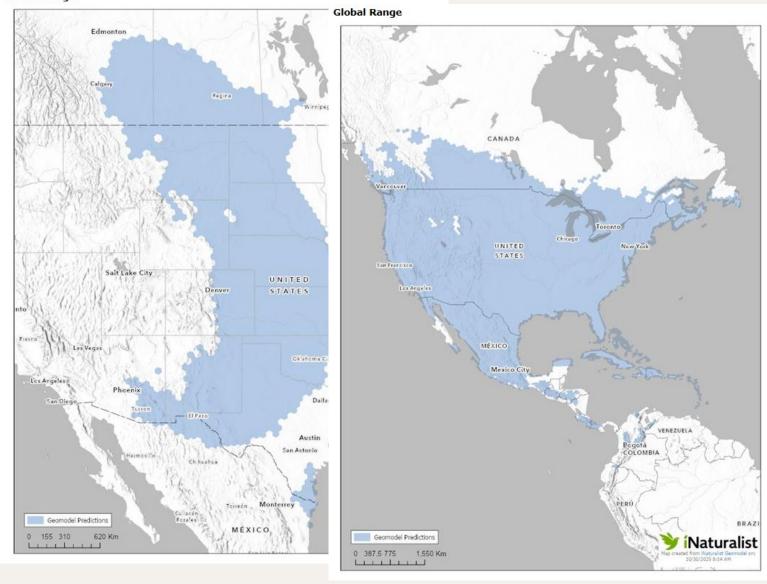




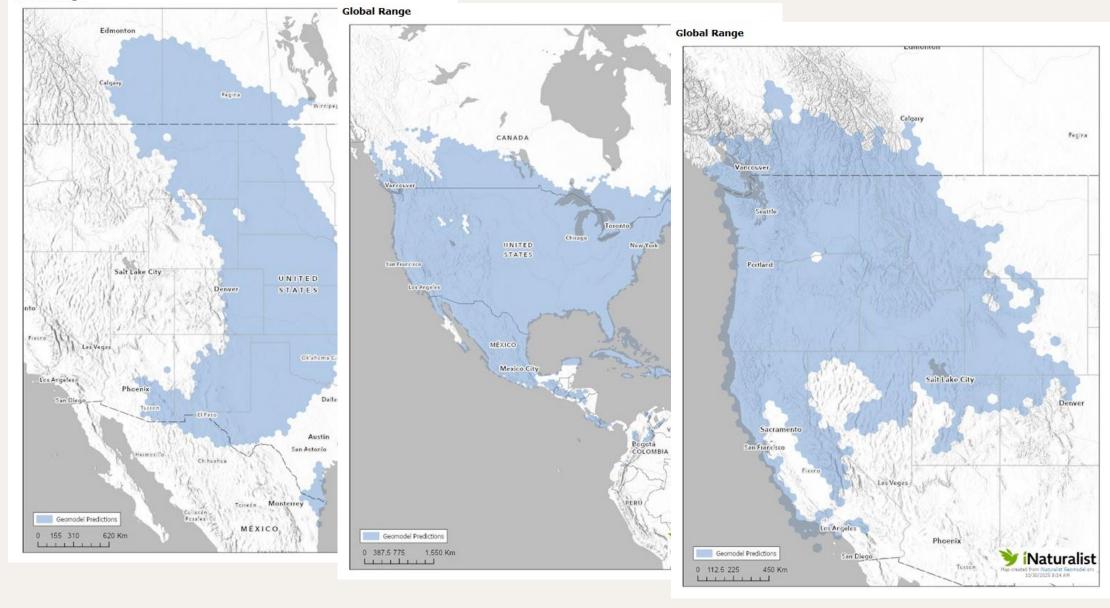




## **Global Range**



## **Global Range**



## Stewardship Responsibility

The following tables summarize: 1) the estimated areas occupied by the species globally and in Montana, and 2) proportions of land stewardship types intersecting the predicted suitable habitat in Montana. Range statistics below correspond to the maps of global and state range maps above. Suitable habitat in Montana is based on the Montana Natural Heritage Program's latest <u>predicted habitat suitability model</u>.

## **General Statistics**

Estimated global range 2,091,345 km<sup>2</sup> (~ 13% in Montana)

Breeding Range in Montana 272,103 km² (~ 72% of Montana)

Predicted area of suitable habitat in Montana 192,728 km² (~ 51% of Montana)

## Stewardship Responsibility for Suitable Habitat in Montana

	Total Suitable	Optimal Suitability		Low Suitability
Federal	32%	<1%	13%	19%
State	6%	<1%	2%	4%
Local	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Conservation Lands/Easements	4%	<1%	2%	2%
Private/Tribal/Unknown	59%	<1%	18%	41%

See the <u>Habitat Suitability for Biodiversity</u> task in Map Viewer for a more detailed look at stewardship responsibilities within a variety of local jurisdictions.



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## Montana Beaver Restoration HUB



## Guides For Efficient Use BRAT Quick Guide Component Model Dashboard Guide BRAT Tools Overview Video



## **BRAT Component Model Dashboards**







## Montana Beaver Restoration HUB





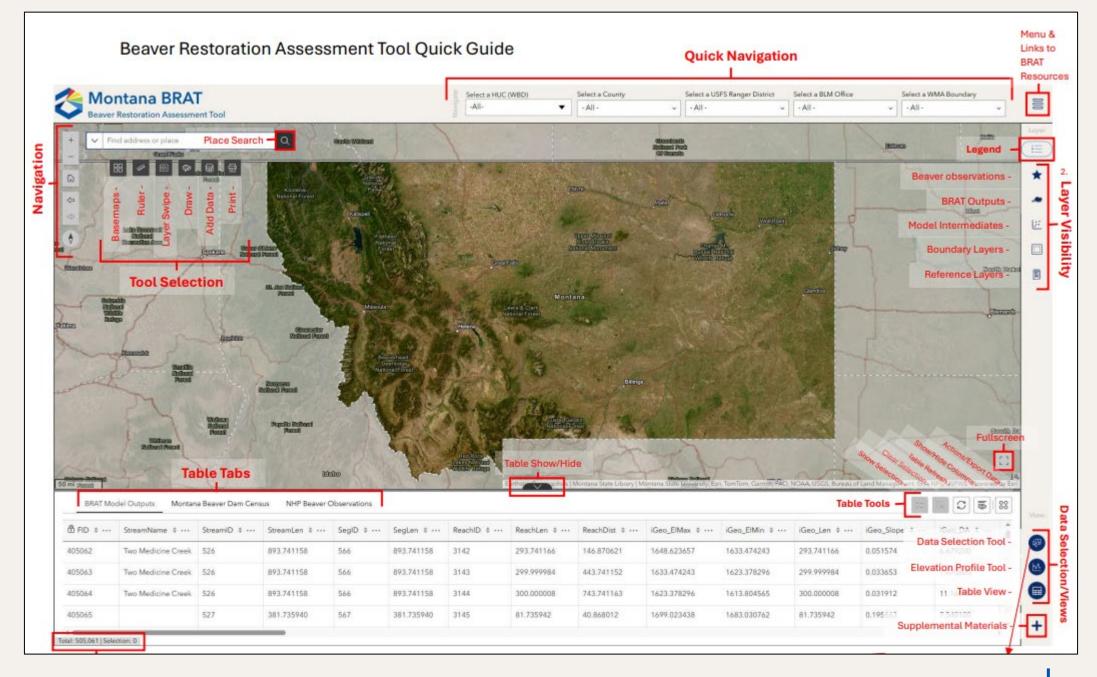


## **BRAT Component Model Dashboards**









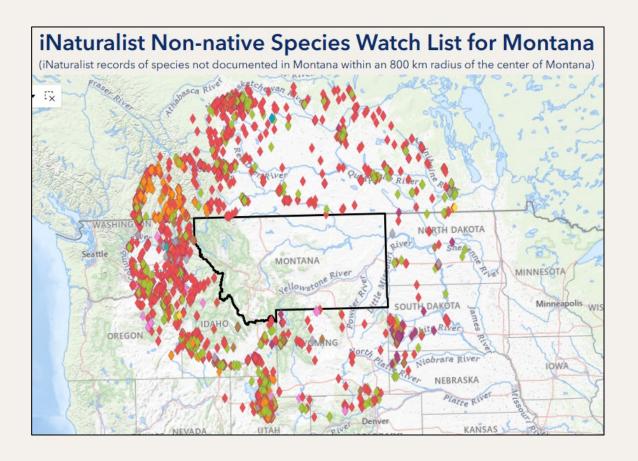
## **Non-native Species**

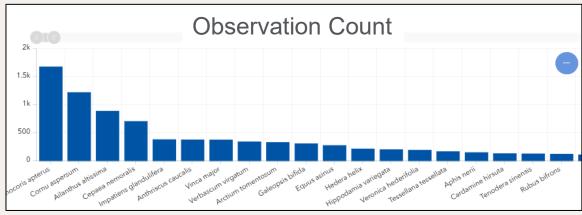


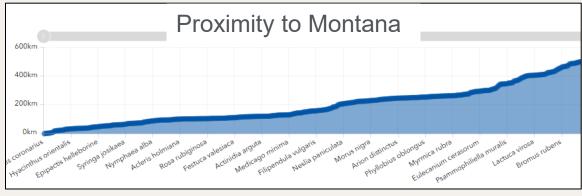












American Bullfrog Eastern Heath Snail Emerald Ash Borer Feral Hog Flowering Rush Rush Skeletonweed Saltceda:

## Impact:

American Bullfrogs are voracious feeders and have been implicated in extirpations of native frogs and turtles and declines in waterfowl production. Tadpoles feed on a variety of algae and bacteria, are commonly coprophagous, and may feed on eggs and smaller tadpoles (Steinwascher 1978, Ehrlich 1979, Kiesecker and Blaustein 1997). Because of their herbivorous nature, larvae can have a significant impact upon benthic algae and have the potential to disturb aquatic community structure. Adults will eat anything smaller than themselves, including ducklings, fish, mice, frogs, small turtles, and may frequently cannibalize smaller individuals (Bury and Whelan 1985, Maxell et al. 2009). In Oklahoma, the diet in ponds was predominantly insects such as Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera (82% by weight) and crayfish (6% by weight). In streams the diet was mostly crayfish (73% by weight) and insects such as Coleoptera (25% by weight).

## **Food Habits and Ecology**

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https://fieldguide.mt.gov



## **Prevention:**

Managing the spread of the American bullfrog involves coordinated efforts across various regions:

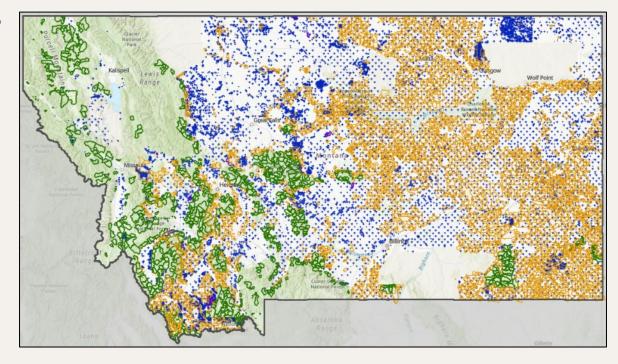
- Monitoring and Reporting: Regular monitoring and early detection are crucial.
   Reporting sightings to local wildlife authorities can help manage and control their populations.
- Habitat Management: Controlling bullfrog populations often involves habitat modification, such as removing artificial water bodies where they breed.
- Public Awareness: Educating the public about the impacts of releasing pet bullfrogs and other non-native species into the wild can help prevent further spread.

## **Grazing Boundary Information**

- Included resources:
  - Taylor Grazing Act District Boundaries
  - Grazing Allotment Boundaries
  - State Grazing Districts
  - Bankhead-Jones Land

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## Survey123 Forms

- Step 3 → Download a MTNHP survey form
  - Open Survey123 app
  - Use the QR scanner button to scan a code below and start downloading (wifi recommended)



- Survey forms currently available (links are for desktop use only):
  - Heritage Observation Collector https://arcg.is/1XSGP90



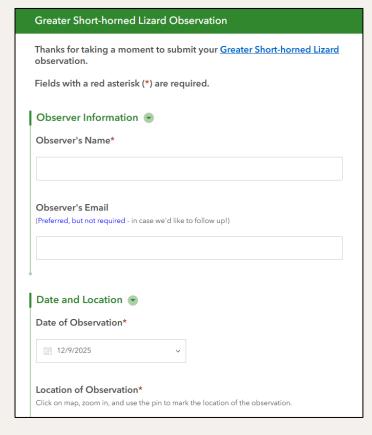
 Rapid Weed Reporter https://arcg.is/14fv4n0



## Example of a new Survey123 form

Greater Short-horned Lizard









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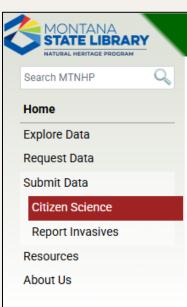
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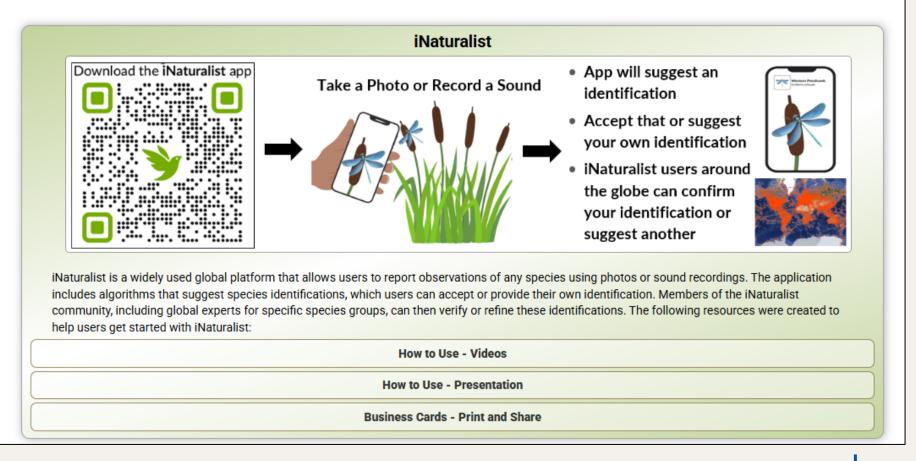


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## Citizen Science in Montana

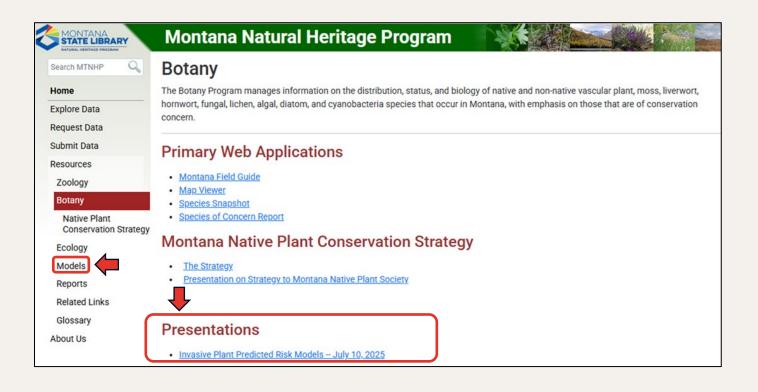
Data collected through a variety of citizen science efforts are being centralized by the Montana Natural Heritage Program. Below are listings of citizen science initiatives that offer opportunities to learn about species and habitats in Montana and to contribute valuable data. This information plays a critical role in helping natural resource managers conserve and protect Montana's native species and habitats, as well as manage non-native species that threaten the state's native flora and fauna.

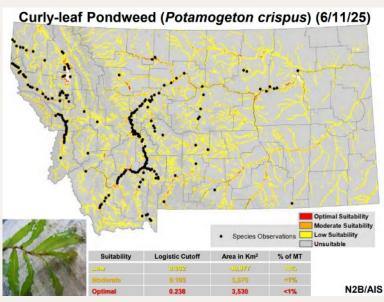
## **Reporting Applications**

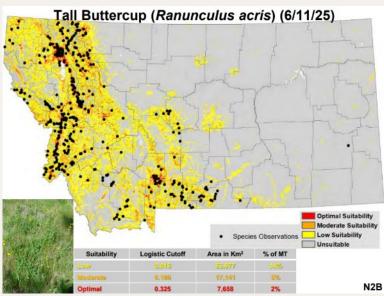


## Non-native plant models

Risk of Invasion/Suitable Habitat







## Listed Invasives in Neighboring Jurisdictions

Common Name	MT	ID	B.C.	AB	sĸ	ND	SD	WY
American Water-lily	AIS							
Blueweed	N1B	Control	Regional Noxious	Noxious			Watch	
Bohemian Knotweed	N1B	Control	Noxious	Prohibited Noxious				
Brazilian Waterweed	R3	EDRR						
Brittleleaf Naiad	AIS							
Canada Thistle	N2B	Containment	Noxious	Noxious	Noxious	Noxious	Noxious	Noxious
Cheatgrass	R3			Noxious	Noxious			
Common Buckthorn	N2A			Prohibited Noxious	Noxious			
Common Hound's-tongue	mmon Hound's-tongue N2B Containment Noxious Noxious		Prohibited	Noxious		Noxious		
Common St. John's-wort	N2B		Invasive of Concern	Prohibited Noxious				Noxious
Common Tansy	N2B		Regional Noxious	Noxious	Noxious			Noxious
Common Water Hyacinth	AIS	EDRR						
Curly-leaf Pondweed	N2B/AIS	Containment			Prohibited			
Dalmatian Toadflax	N2B	Containment	Noxious	Noxious	Prohibited	Noxious		Noxious
Diffuse Knapweed	N2B	Containment	Noxious	Prohibited Noxious	Prohibited	Noxious		Noxious
Dyer's Woad	N1A	Control		Prohibited Noxious			Watch	Noxious

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### Alberta

- https://www.alberta.ca/provincially-regulated-weeds.aspx#jumplinks-2
- https://open.alberta.ca/publications/distribution-of-regulated-weeds-in-alberta

## **British Columbia**

https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Field-Guide-to-Noxious-Weeds-12th-WEB.pdf

## Idaho

- https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/plants
- https://content-hub.uidaho.edu/api/public/content/310aea9f9bcc411ca9c56d8abc934f76?v=cbb20de3

### Montana

• https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Noxious-Weeds-Pages/Noxious-Weed-Education

## North Dakota

https://www.ndda.nd.gov/divisions/plant-industries/noxious-weeds

## Saskatchewan

https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/75172

## South Dakota

• <a href="https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/PlantIndustry/WeedPest/WeedandPestInfo">https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/PlantIndustry/WeedPest/WeedandPestInfo</a>

## Wyoming

https://wyoweed.org/identify-weeds/

## Agency Audit Reports

## New Weeds Observations >2km from Existing Obs

These noxious weed observations were added to the MTNHP database in the last week and are >2km from all previous observations (if mapped precisely). Actual observation dates may be before this period. See these and other records in https://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/

6 records in this report This report runs every Sun morning

Field_Guide_Link	S_Com_Name	MT_Status	Obs_ID	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Distance_fromOldObs_km	Date_Added	Date_Ob
PDAST26010	Rush Skeleton- weed	N1B	2461171	US-2, Libby	48.21854	- 115.46775	3.59	2025-10-01	2025-09-
PDAST4W090	Orange Hawk- weed	N2A	2460901	Red Meadow Dr, Polebridge	48.77528	- 114.53658	8.86	2025-10-01	2025-08-





Rush Skeletonweed



Escargot

37

## Agency Audit Reports

## **New Furbearer Observations**

These furbearer observations were added to the MTNHP database in the last quarter. Actual observation dates may be before this period. See these and other records in https://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/

23 records in this report This report runs every First of Quarter morning

Obs_ID	ELCODE	Species	Observer	Obs_Date_Start	Obs_Date_End	Species_Obs_Data	Total_Number	Location
57763771	AMAJH03010	<u>Canada</u> <u>Lynx</u>	Miltenberger, Alexander	2025-04-20		Walked within 20 feet from Alex - sent FWP (Nate Kluge) a great video verifying the detec- tion.	1	Near bridge over Camas Creek in Glacier National Parks.

 Reach out to sign up for audit reports <u>bburkholder@mt.gov</u>

## New Animal SOC Observations - by FWP Region

These animal Species of Concern (SOC) observations were added to the MTNHP database in the last quarter. Observations are organized by FWP Region. Actual observation dates may be before this period. See these and other records in <a href="https://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/">https://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/</a>

345 records in this report This report runs every First of Quarter morning

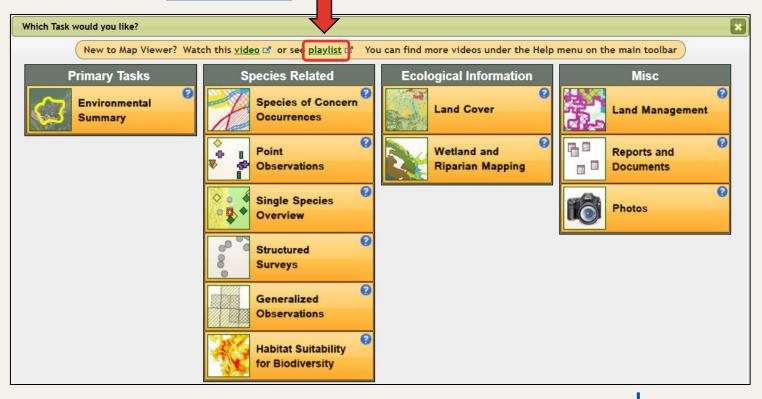
FWP_Region	ELCODE	Species	MT_Status	FWP_SWAP	Num_Obs_Last_Quarter
1	AAAAD12270	Coeur d'Alene Salamander	SOC	SGCN	1
1	AAABA01020	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	PSOC	SGCN	9
1	AAABB01030	Western Toad	SOC	SGCN	94

## Reminders!

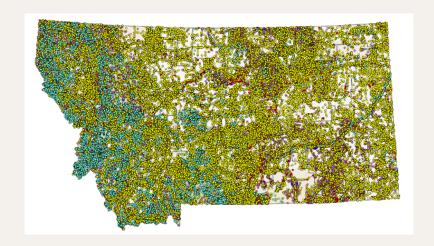
Training on any MTNHP tools available upon request

MANY training videos available on <u>YouTube</u>

 Map Viewer agency-level access

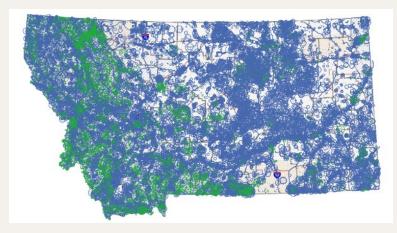


## Spatial Data Web Services

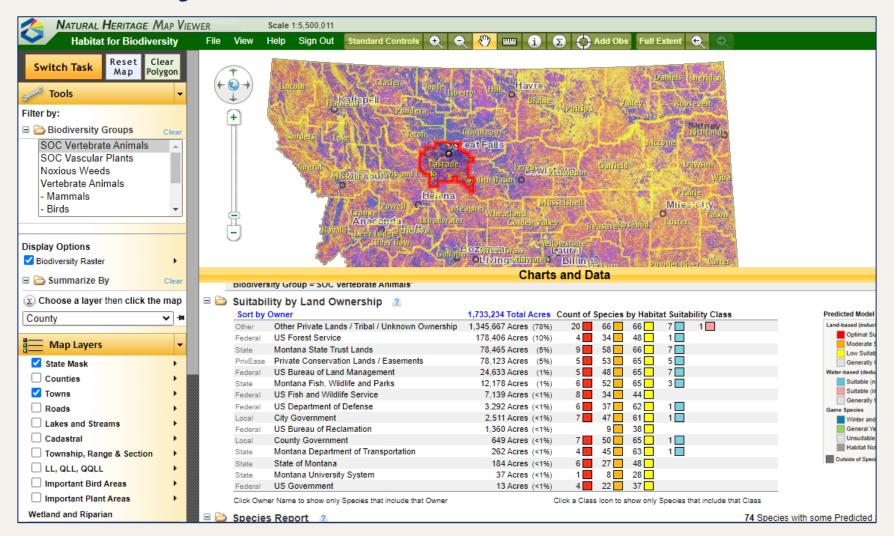




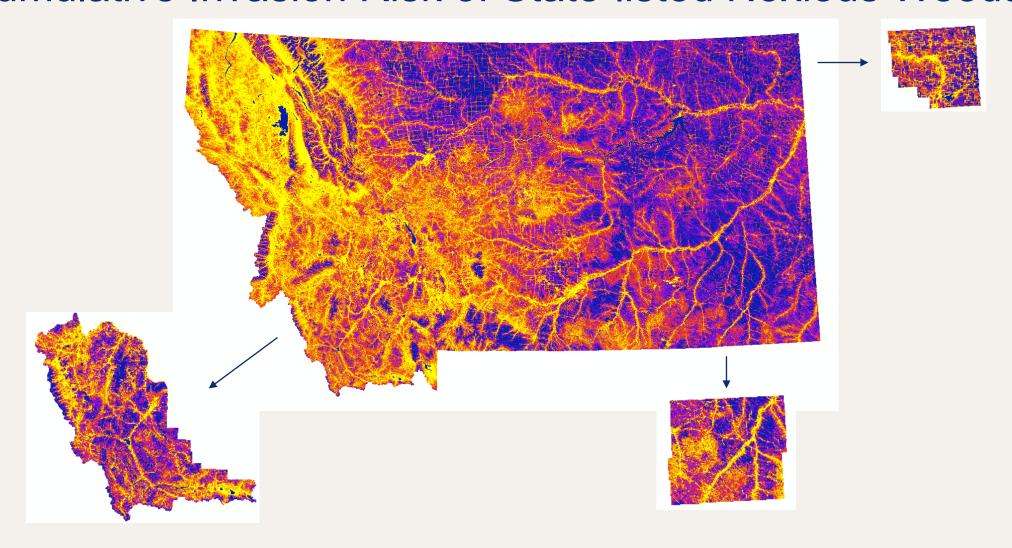
- Updated monthly
- Email <u>bburkholder@mt.gov</u> for agency access (AGOL account required)



## **Biodiversity Task and Products**



## Cumulative Invasion Risk of State-listed Noxious Weeds

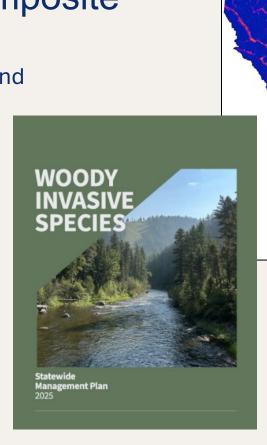


## Non-Native Species Data

 Woody Invasive Composite Risk Map

 Russian Olive, Salt Cedar, and Common Buckthorn

https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/ montana-invasivespecies/WoodyInvasives



invasion

Lower

## Goals for 2026

- Launch new Field Guide in AWS
- Update Map Viewer
  - Modernize codebase
  - Incorporate new Land Cover and Wetland and Riparian Mapping
- Develop SWAP implementation tools with FWP
- Predicted habitat suitability modeling
  - Complete model process update
  - Crown of the Continent initiative
  - Release updated Biodiversity layers
- Add Adaptive Capacity and CCVI rank factors to databases
- Transition data system to the AWS environment



## **Braden Burkholder**

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