

State of the Nongame Wildlife Program

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Fundamental Objectives of the Nongame Program

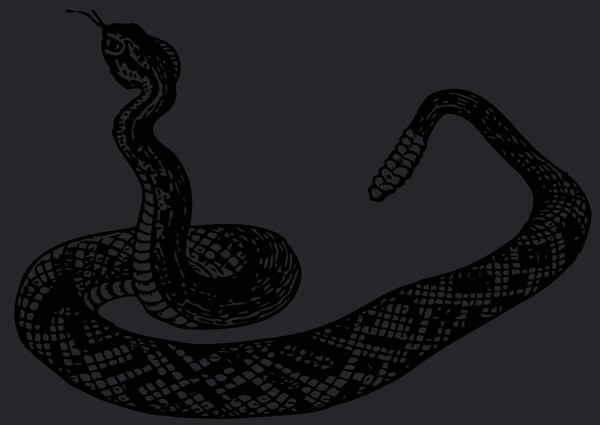
01 Conserve, restore, and enhance habitat for nongame wildlife

02 Maintain nongame species distribution and abundance

03 Minimize the negative impacts of Endangered Species Act listings to landowners, recreationists, and user groups

04 Increase the public's access to nongame wildlife

05 Increase internal and external support and appreciation for nongame wildlife



Nongame Program – close to fully staffed!

Statewide NG Program

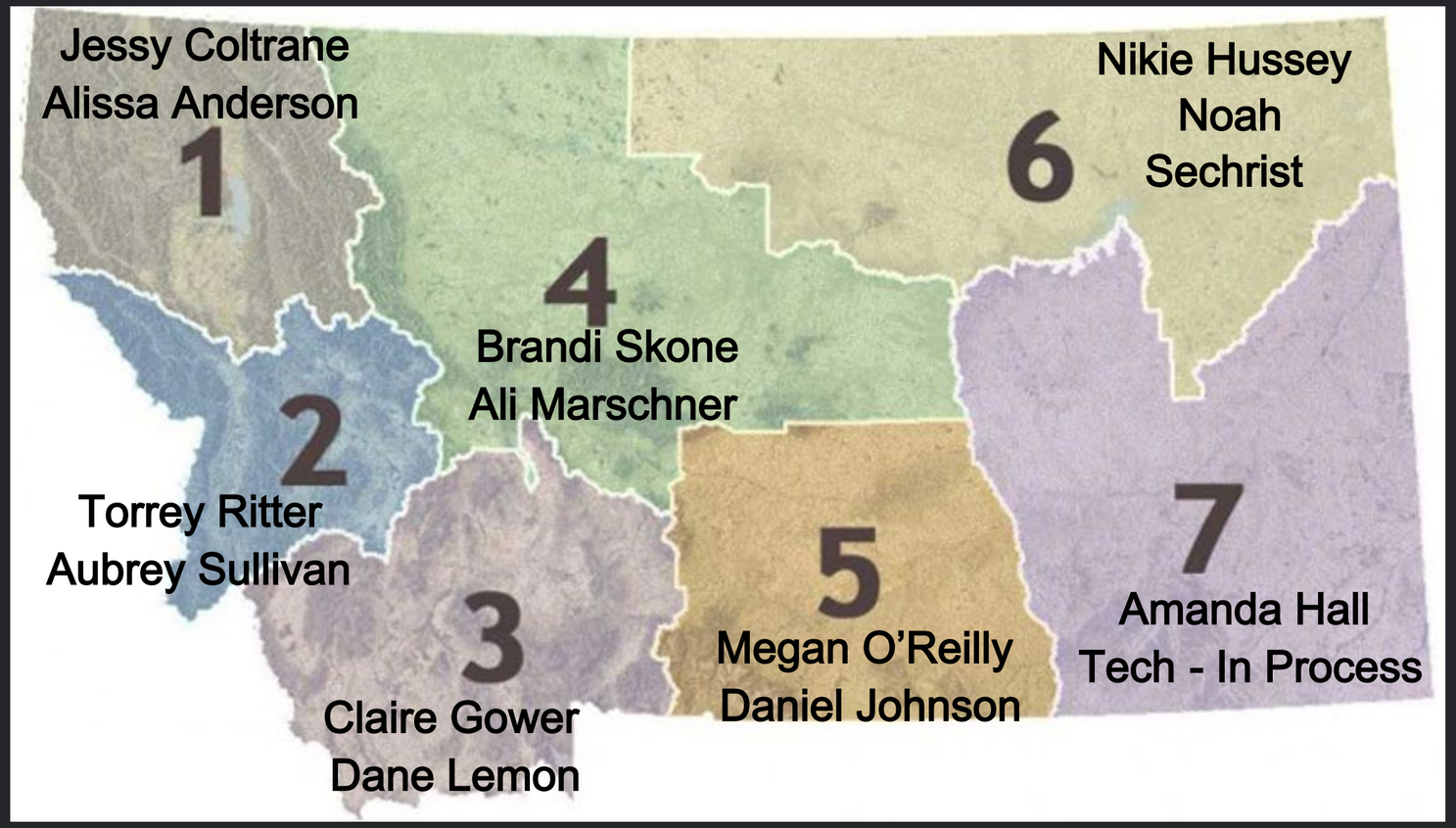
- Kristina Smucker – Nongame Bureau Chief
- Allison Begley – Avian Conservation Program
- Shannon Hilty – Bat Conservation Program
- Kim Szcodronski – SWAP Coordinator
- John Kuntz – Motus Tech
- Sydney Larson – Lead Bat Tech
- Laurel Ainsworth – Wildlife Engagement Coordinator

Habitat Bureau

- Nongame & Wetland Habitat Biologist**
- Heather Harris – Grassland/Wetland Coordinator

Research Unit

- Hannah Specht – Nongame Biometrician



2026 Achievements

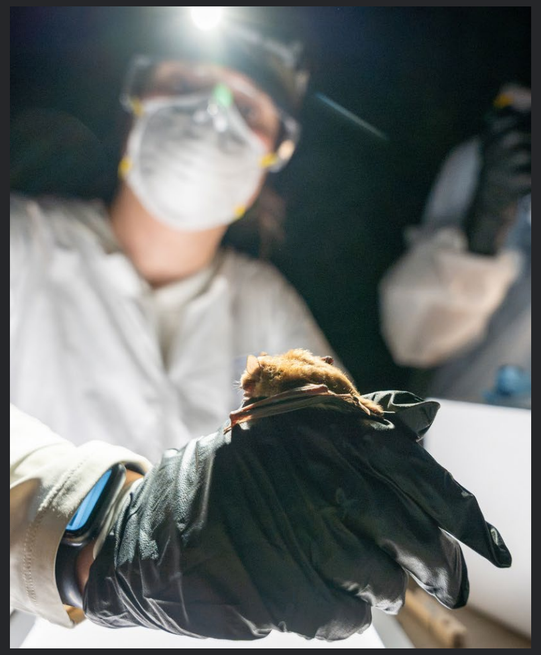
Conservation Planning

- SWAP approved by USFWS on April 29th
- Universal support for SWAP implementation at Wildlife Division Meeting
- SWAP tools in progress

SGCN Conservation & Management

- Bat Vaccination at Libby Dam – 888 MYLU and YUMA, collaborative, HISTORIC
- N. Leopard Frog Transplant and Recovery on October Wildlife Commission agenda
- Beaver Transplant Program approved by Wildlife Commission in June







2026 Achievements

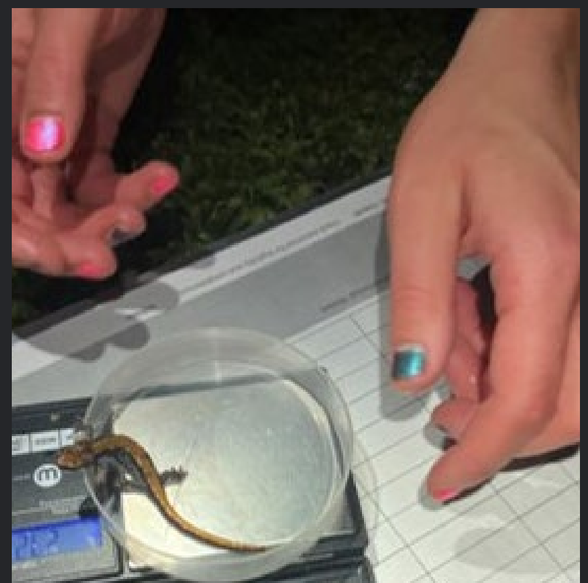
Survey & Inventory

- Pygmy Rabbit – 3rd and final year – grad student occupancy modeling (SSA??)
- Pinyon Jay – 3rd year surveys (SSA)
- Harlequin Ducks – we persevered in a flood year?
- Bat Conservation Program - wrapped up 2019 - 2026 Monitoring Effort

Research

- Impacts of Bat Fungal Disease Immunogen to Bat Populations
- First Motus tagging project – Wilson’s Phalarope
- Coeur d’Alene Salamander Landscape Genetics
- BluBat Tag - Proof of Concept







2026 Achievements

Outreach and Wildlife Viewing

- 4th season of bird banding at Spring Meadow State Park
- Osprey Camera went live
- Gates of the Mountains Bat Tour - new lottery; Director attend a tour with us
- Bat Week events all over the state
- Developed a priority list for the new Wildlife Engagement Coordinator



FY 2027 Nongame Work

Approved by Fish and Wildlife Commission 19 August 2026

Funding	Objective
$980 ,079	**Species and Habitat Restoration and Conservation :** e.g., disease monitoring and management, population augmentation, habitat enhancement in community types of greatest conservation need to keep the maximum number of species from declining and therefore prevent the need for listing, landowner incentive programs to keep working lands available for wildlife .
$953 ,000	**Inventory and Monitoring :** SGCN and SGIN as determined through a formal ranking process with a primary objective of preventing the need for ESA listing and minimizing the impact of ESA listings on private landowners, industry, and recreationists .
$243 ,000	**Research and Data Analysis :** provide information needed to conserve, restore, and enhance populations and habitat for species of greatest conservation need and other nongame wildlife . Continue establishing Motus network . Fund 3 graduate research projects .
$70 ,000	**Internship Program :** provides professional development opportunities for undergraduate students in wildlife biology and related degree programs while increasing capacity of nongame program biologists .
$ 225,000	**Nongame Wildlife Outreach :** work across divisions with staff from Wildlife, Parks and Outdoor Recreation, CommEd, and Fisheries to collaborate on outreach that targets SGCN and the habitats they depend on . We will create and enhance existing opportunities for the public to view wildlife and become engaged in the conservation and management of nongame wildlife .
$2,471,079	**Total FY27 appropriation (nongame checkoff + marijuana tax)**

Requests for MTNHP from the NG team

Can we come up with a long -term storage plan for non-bat data collected via ARUs?

- Concerns about what happens when staff leave, longevity, data loss, metadata, etc.

Training for new staff on MTNHP products?



Thank you!!!!