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Information Systems and Services Update – 2026 –

October 8, 2026

Braden Burkholder
Data Systems and Sciences Lead
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Staff



Braden Burkholder

Dave Ratz



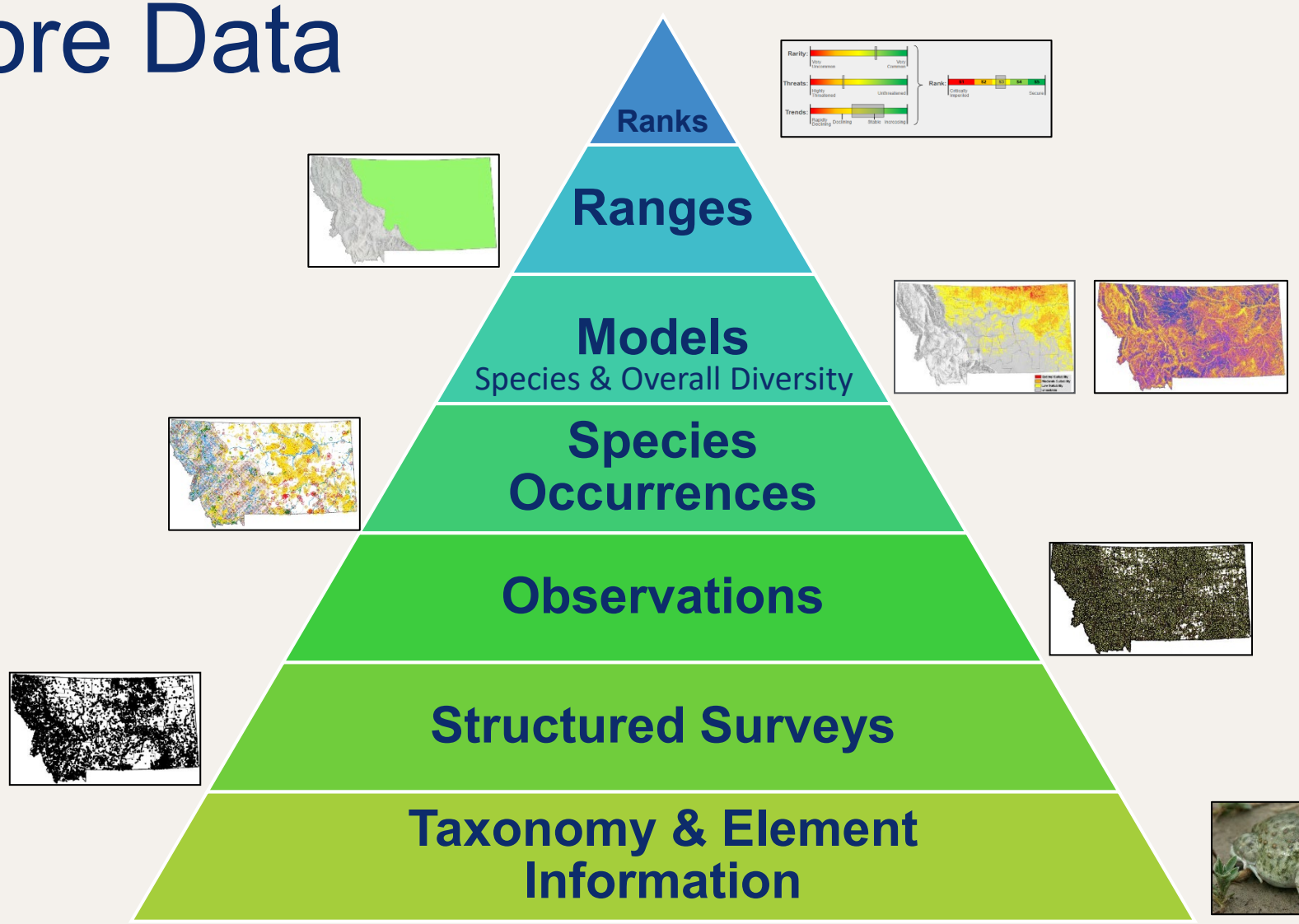


Kyle Kaskie

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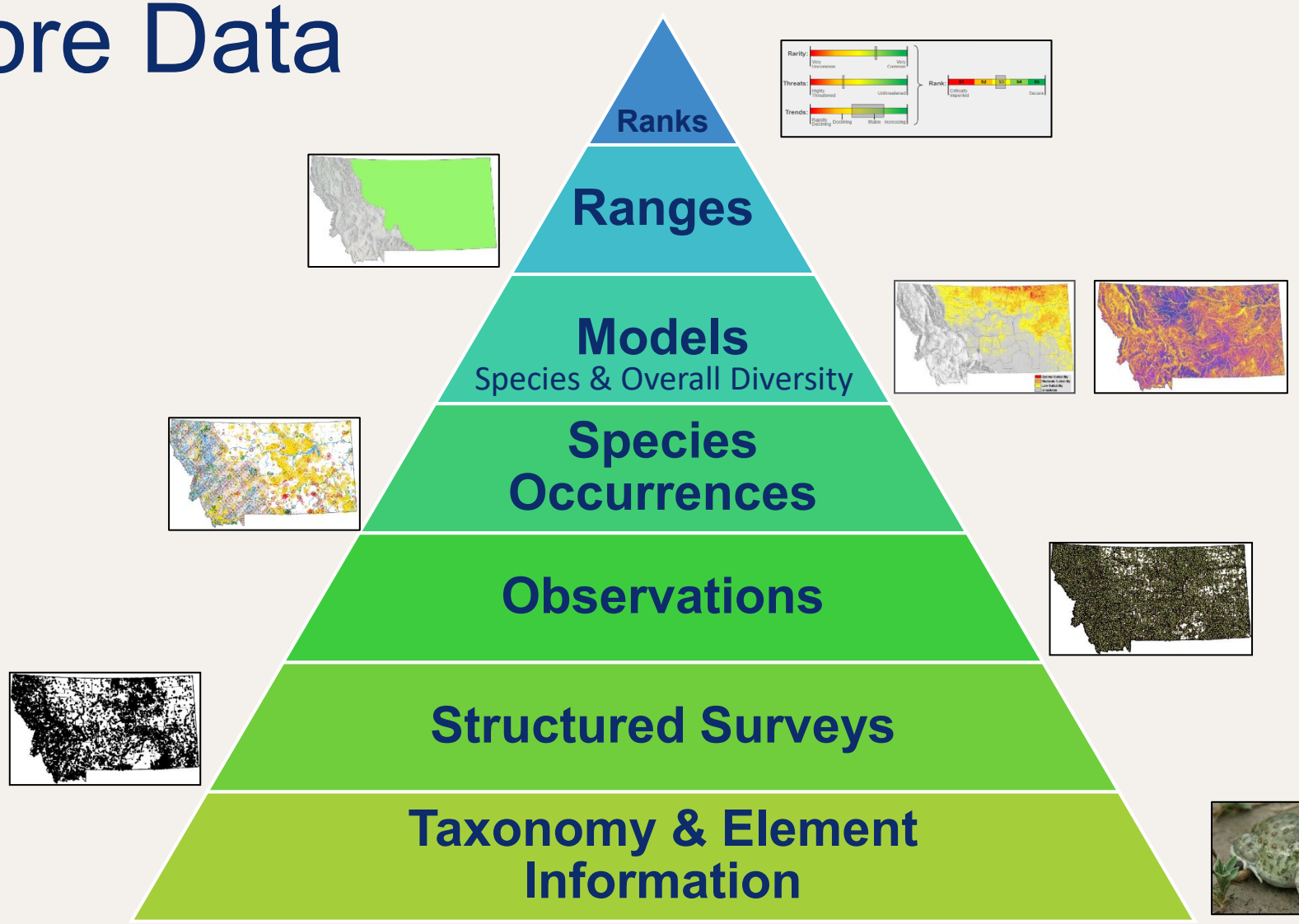


Core Data



2026 Stats (% Change)
5,109 (+1%)
4,904 (+9%)
2,894 (+25%)
113,040 (+12%)
6,503,765 (+6%)
539,574 (+5%)
18,460 (+2%)

Core Data

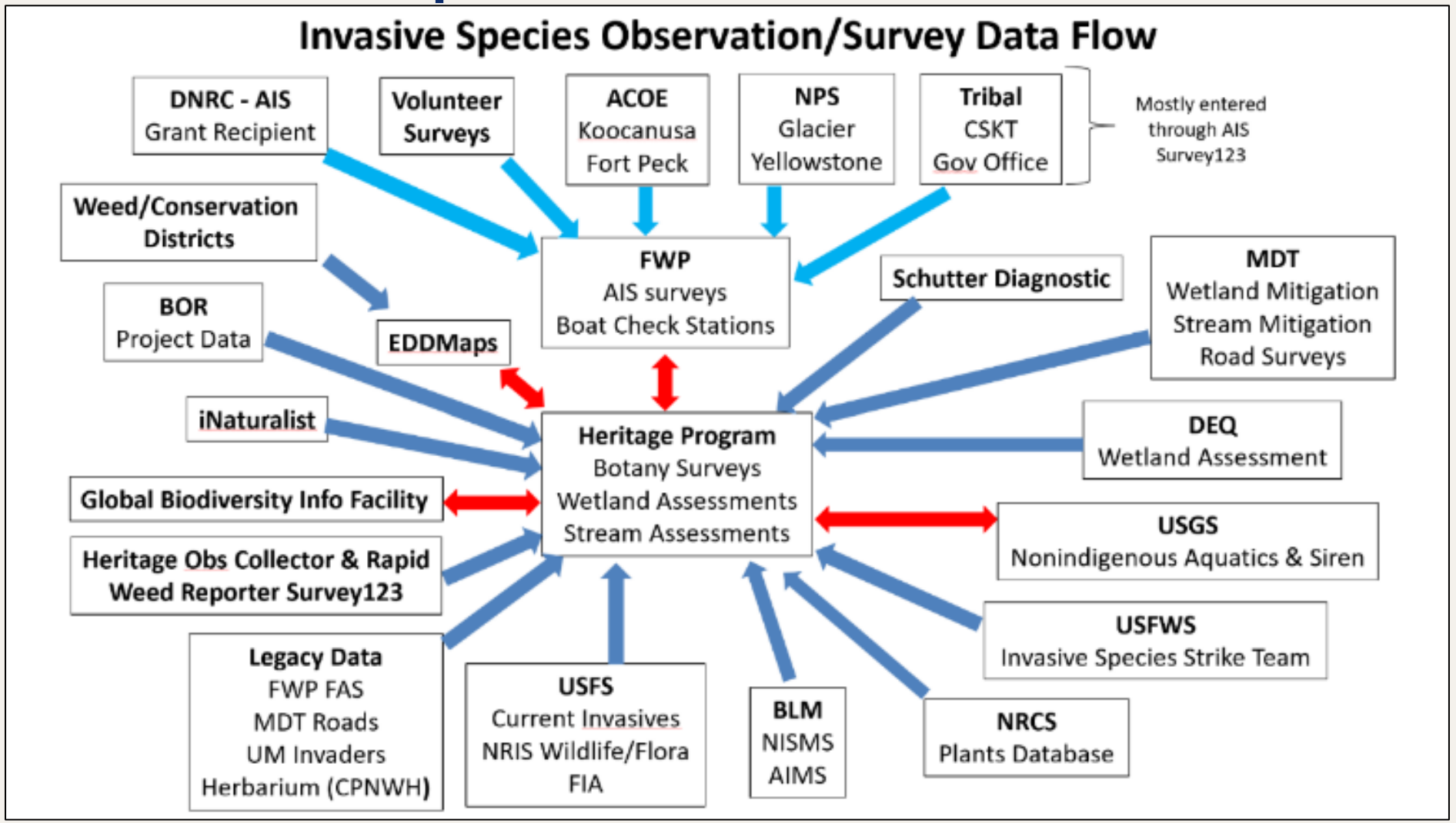


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5,109 (+1%) 393 (8%) updated
4,904 (+9%)
2,894 (+25%)
113,040 (+12%)
6,503,765 (+6%)
539,574 (+5%)
18,460 (+2%)

Non-Native Species Data

- 1,376 non-native species either present or potentially present
- 1,142,253 observation records (~75% vascular plants)
- 170,201 structured surveys (~75% focused on non-natives)
- 356 non-native invasion risk models
  - updated 156 species in 2026
- Non-native data sources:
  - 552 Botanical & 442 Zoological
- iNaturalist data imported monthly
  - >20,500 non-native records

Non-Native Species Data



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Fisher

Pekania pennanti

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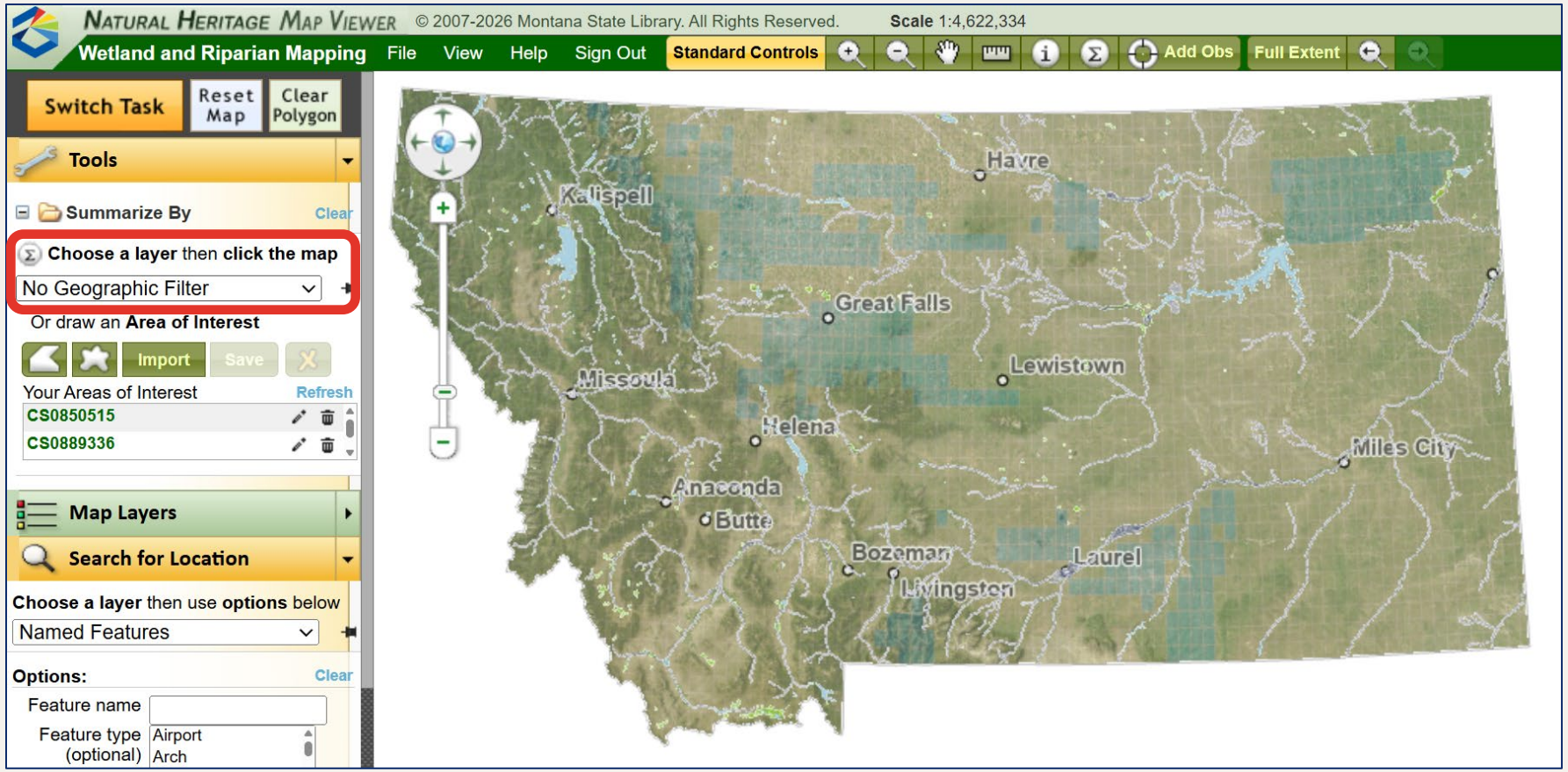
Montana Natural Heritage Program 2025 Annual Partner's Meeting

Montana Beaver Restoration HUB Released

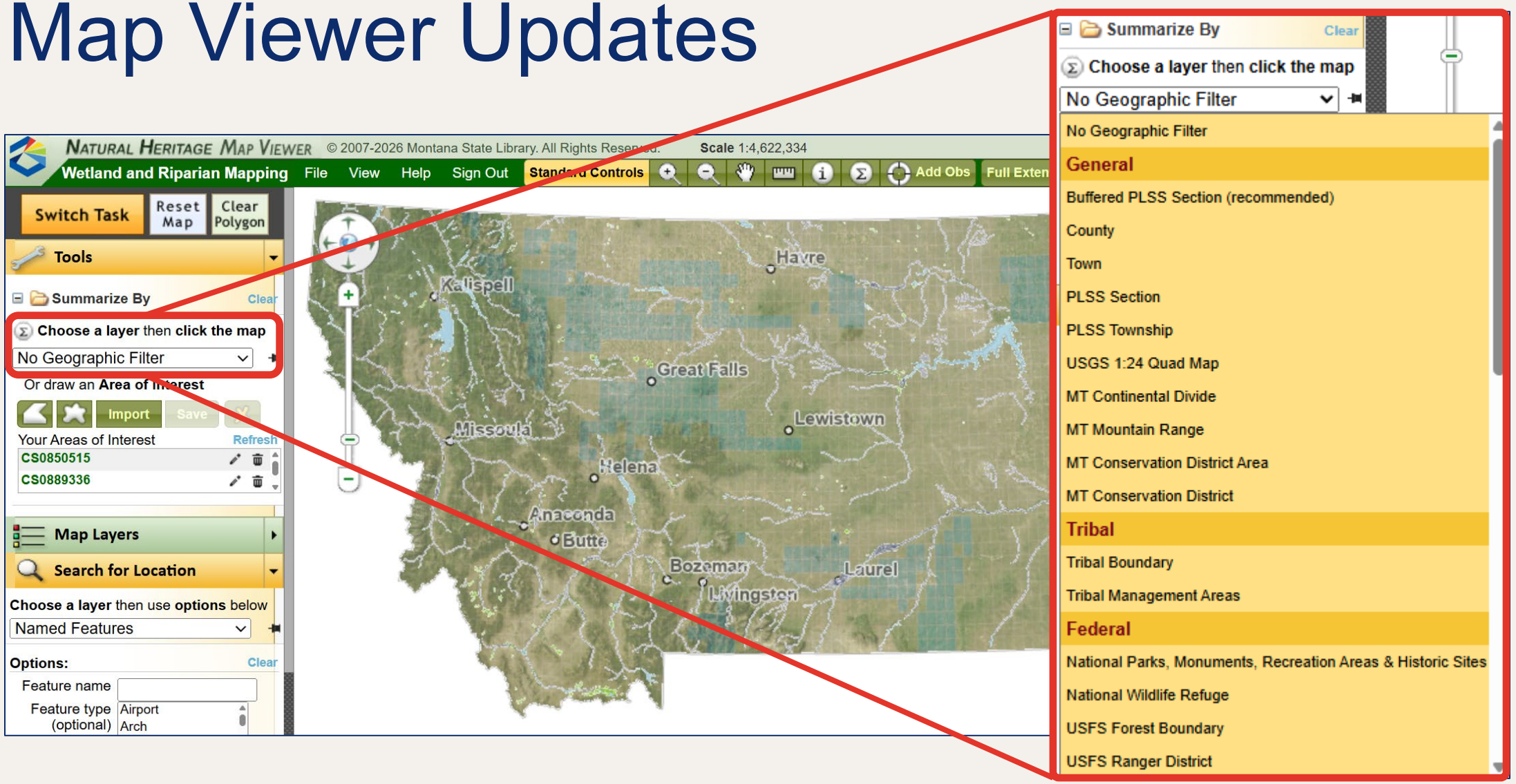
Montana Citizen Botany Pilot Study 2022-2024 results!

Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy

Map Viewer Updates



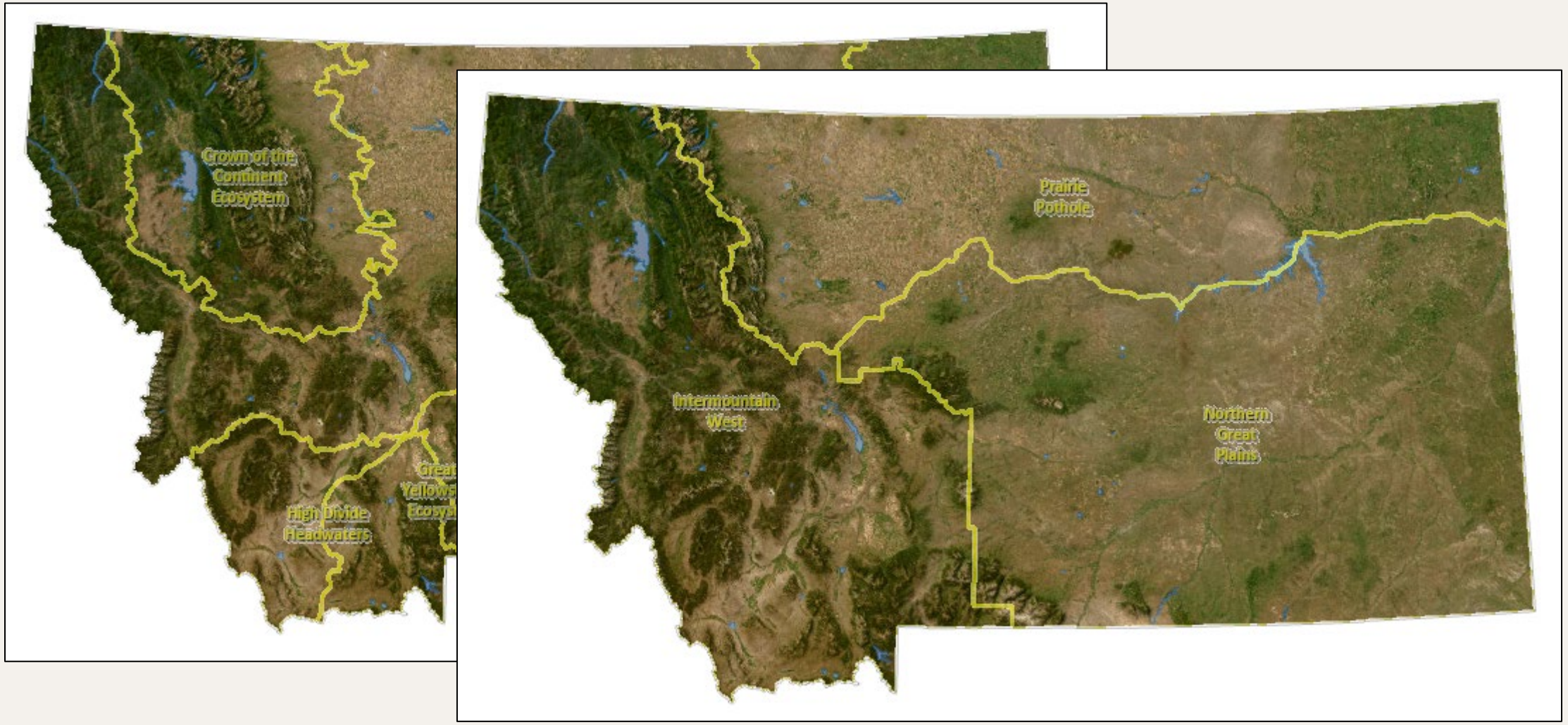
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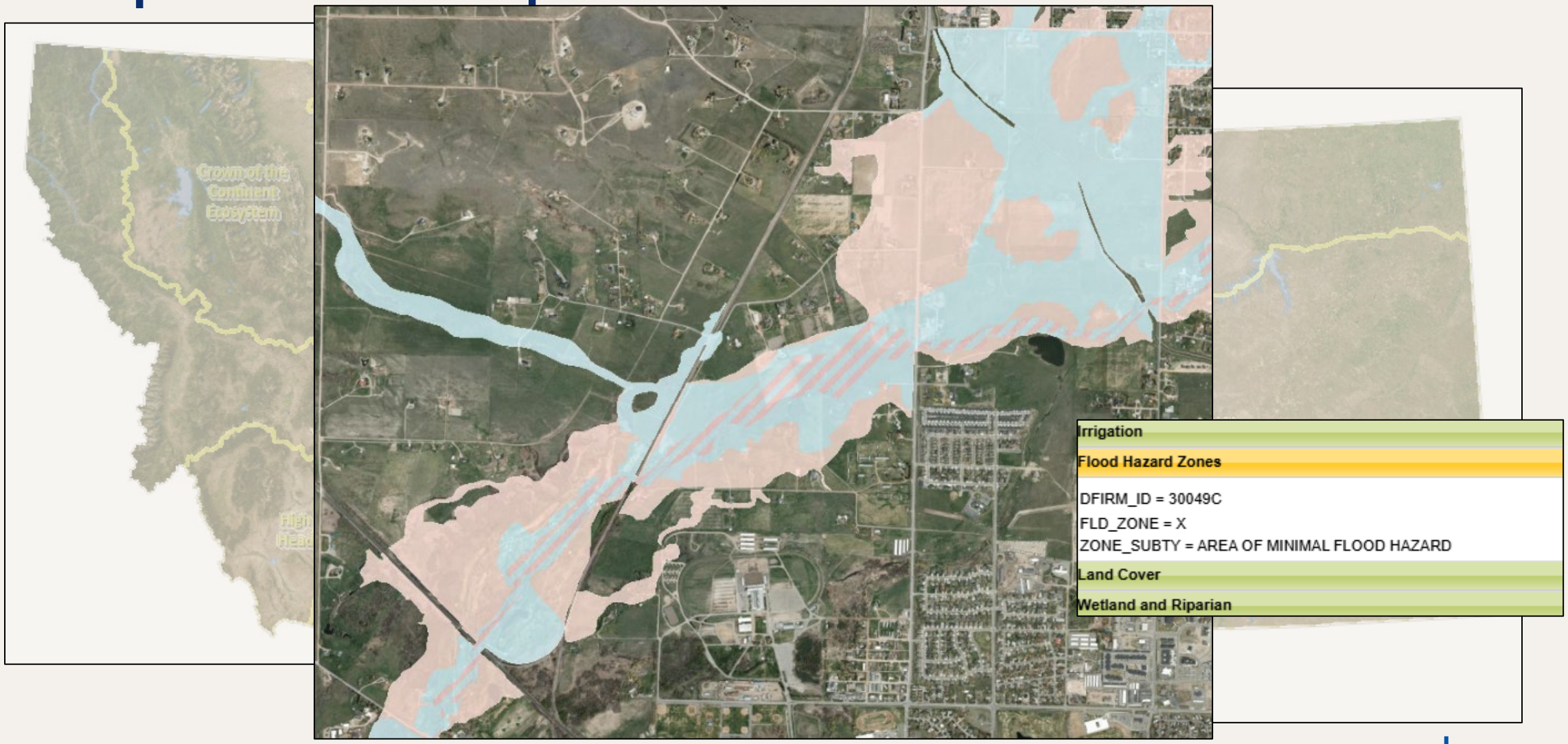
Map Viewer Updates



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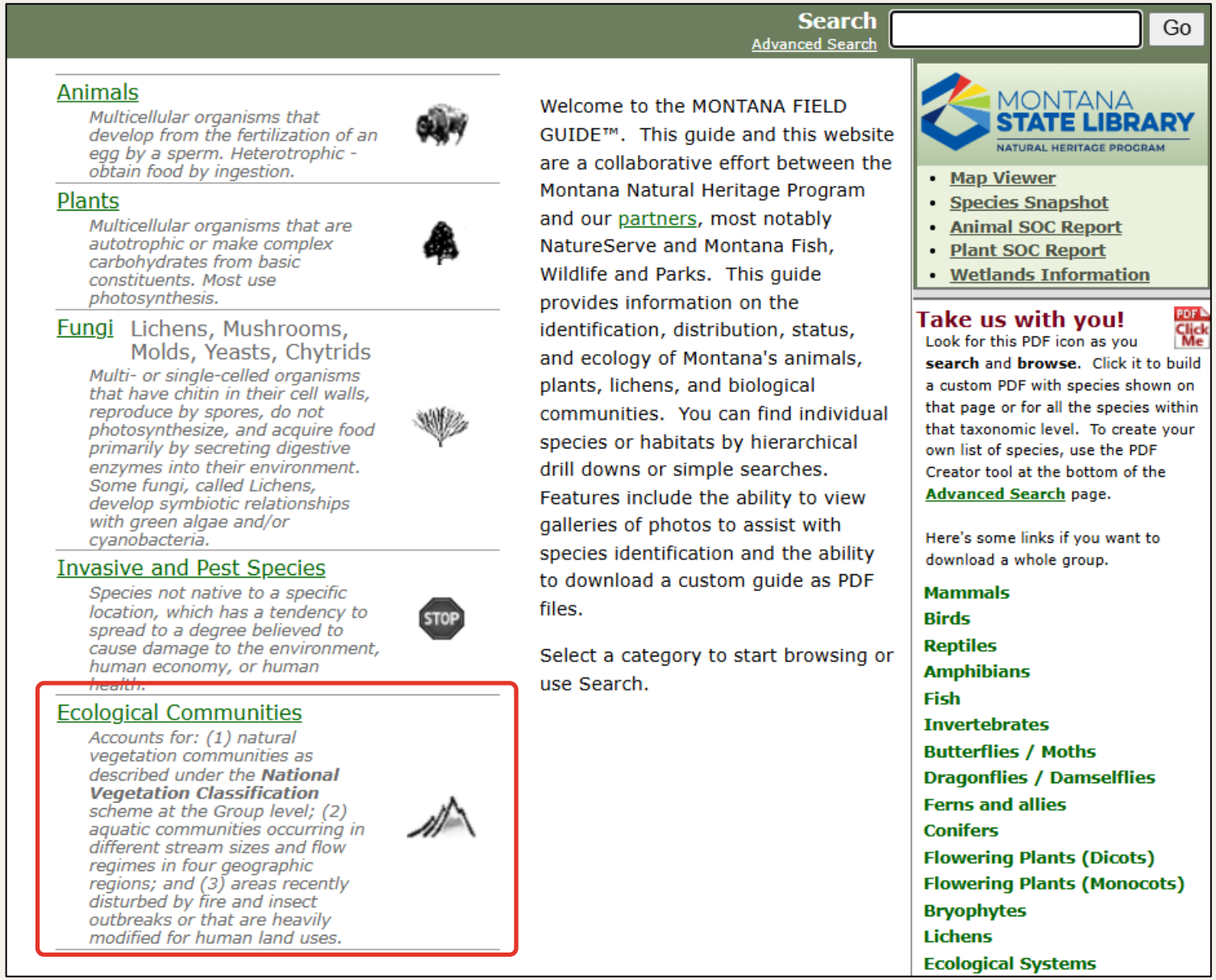
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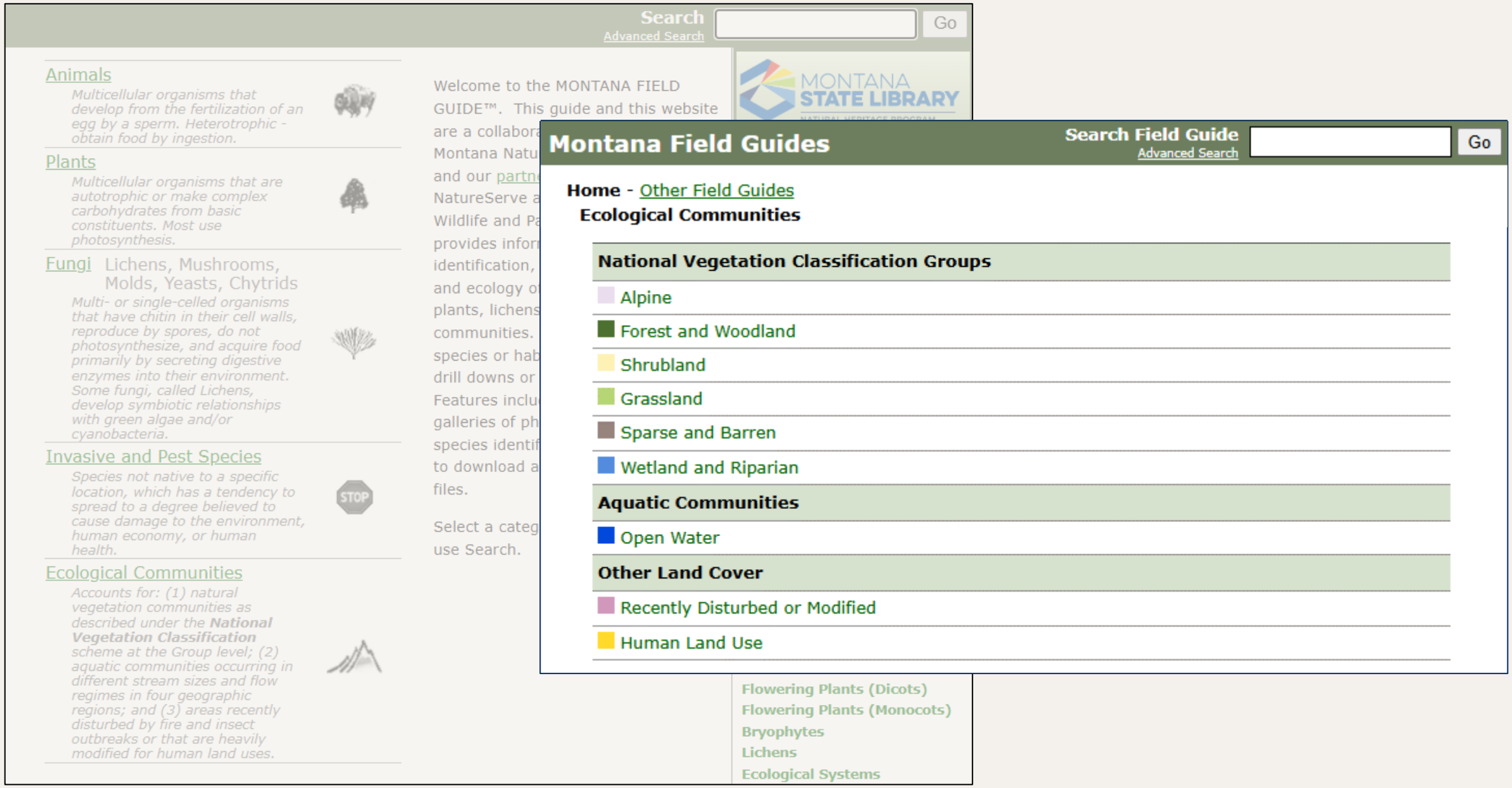


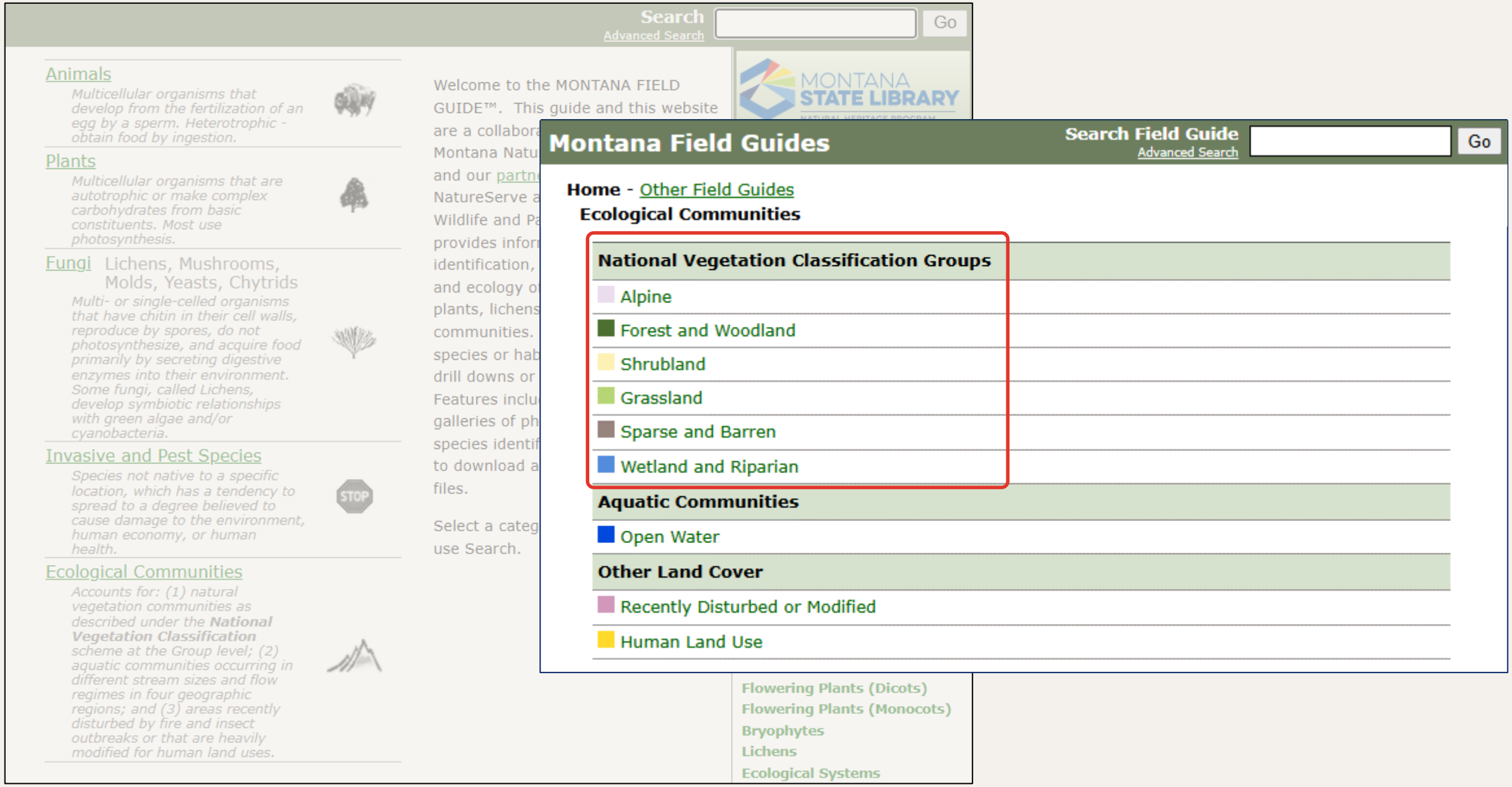
Map Viewer Updates



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Ecological Systems


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Human Land Use
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Human Land Use

Stewardship Responsibility

The following tables summarize: 1) the estimated extent of this natural vegetation community in Montana, and 2) proportions and areas of land stewardship types intersecting this community in Montana. Land cover extent is estimated from the 2025 Montana Land Cover layer.

General Statistics

Estimated Extent of Global Range	586,321 km²	(~23% in Montana)
Estimated Extent of Montana Range	135,920 km²	(~36% of Montana)
Area of Classified Habitat in Montana	4,555 km²	(~1% of Montana)

Stewardship Responsibility in Montana

	Area	*Percent*
Federal	4,345 km²	95%
State	53 km²	1%
Local	<1 km²	<1%
Conservation Lands/Easements	5 km²	<1%
Private/Tribal/Unknown	150 km²	3%

See the Land Cover task in Map Viewer for a more detailed look at land cover distribution within a variety of pre-summarized jurisdictions and managed areas.

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 predicted habitat suitability model.

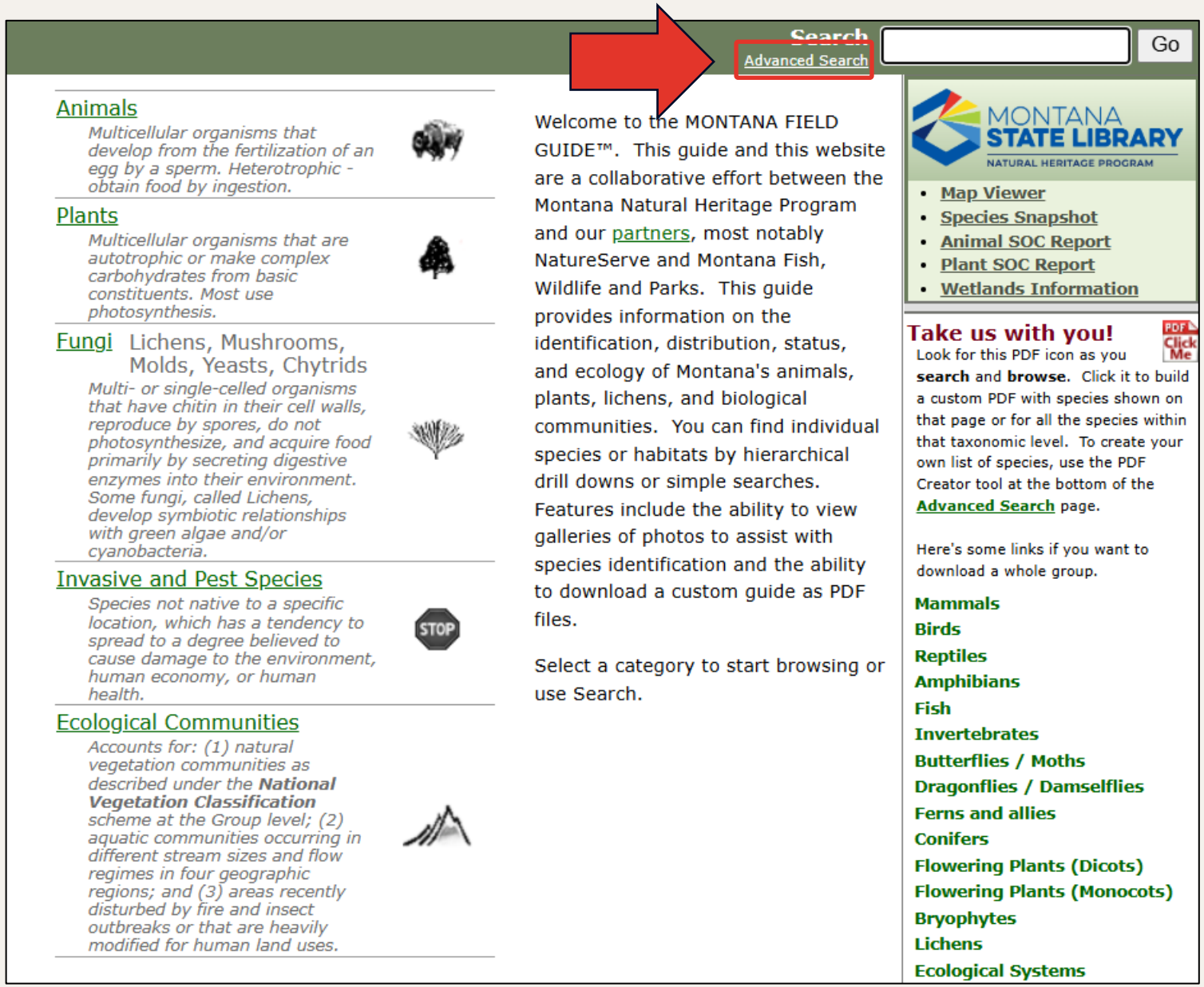
General Statistics

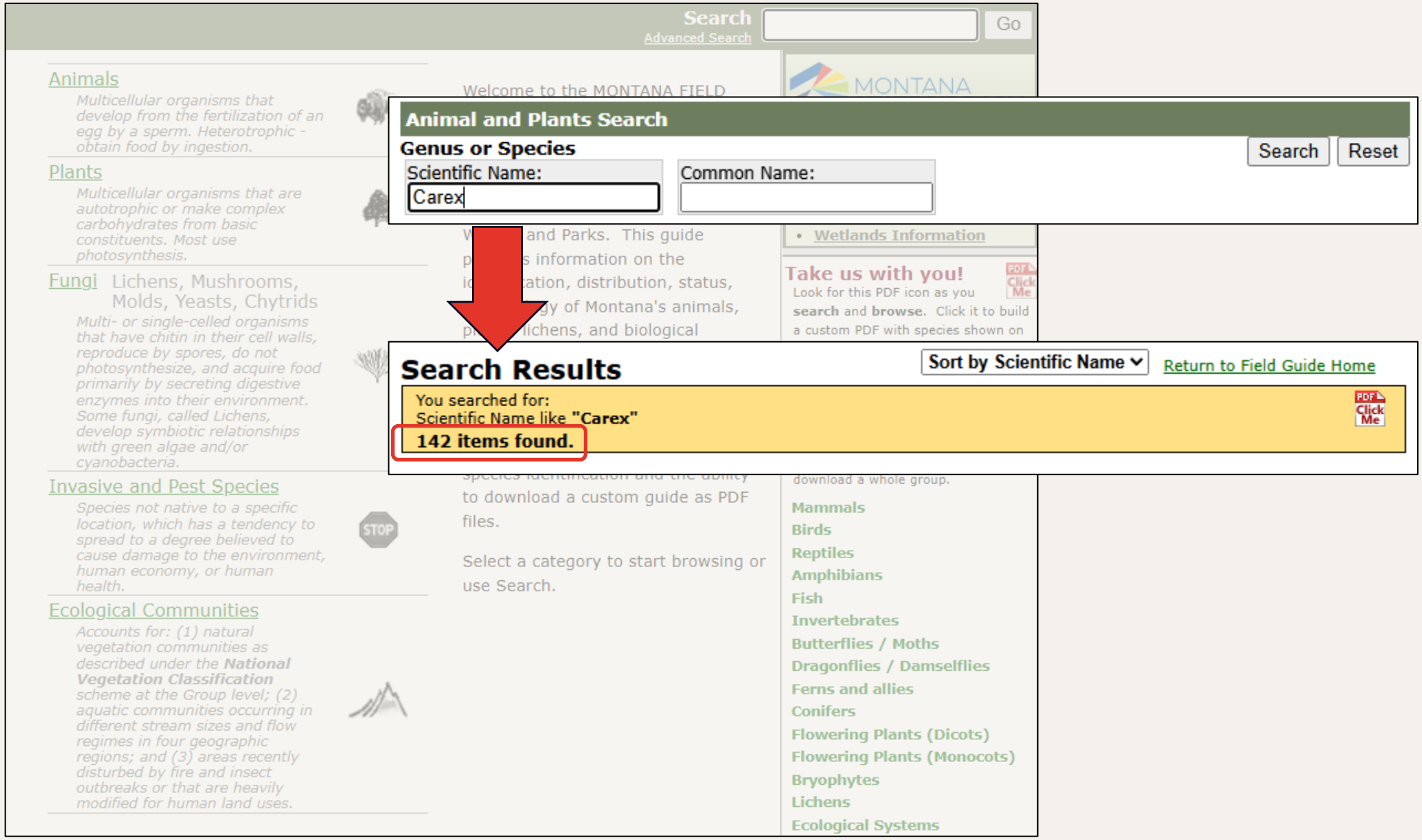
Estimated global range	2,091,345 km^2	(~ 13% in Montana)
Breeding Range in Montana	272,103 km^2	(~ 72% of Montana)
Predicted area of suitable habitat in Montana	192,728 km^2	(~ 51% of Montana)

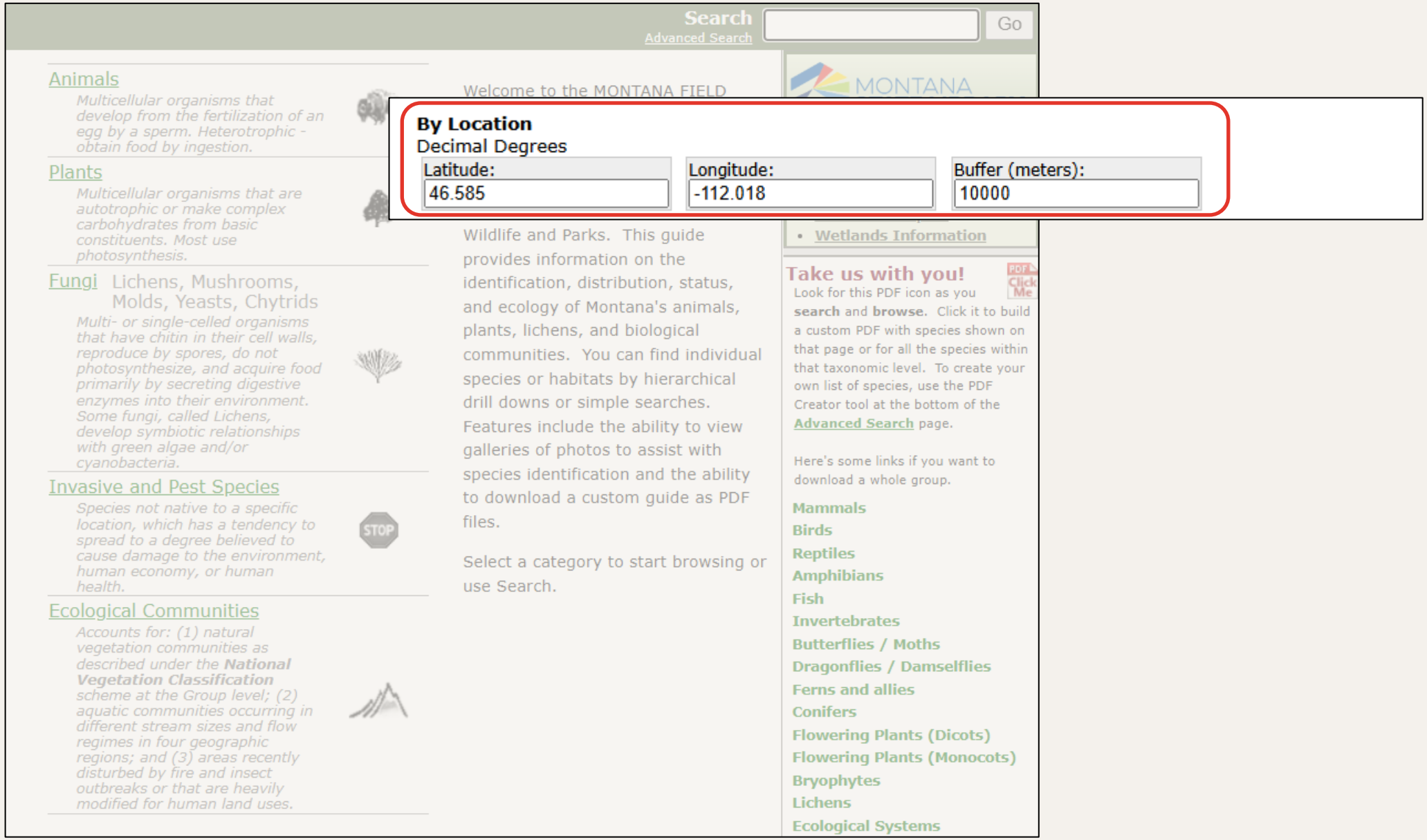
Stewardship Responsibility for Suitable Habitat in Montana

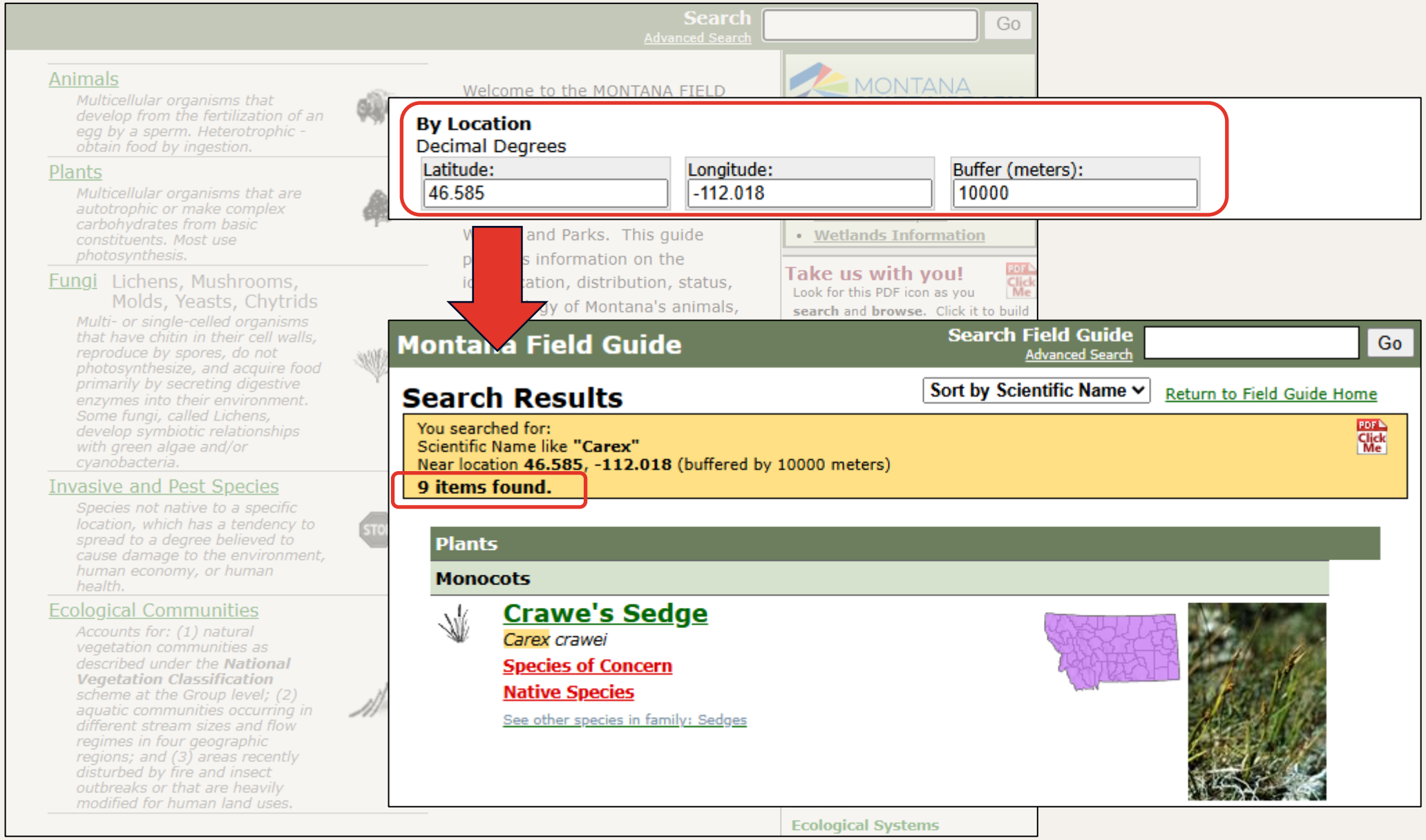
	Total Suitable	Optimal Suitability	Moderate Suitability	Low Suitability
Federal	32%	<1%	13%	19%
State	6%	<1%	2%	4%
Local	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Conservation Lands/Easements	4%	<1%	2%	2%
Private/Tribal/Unknown	59%	<1%	18%	41%

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


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Pekania pennanti

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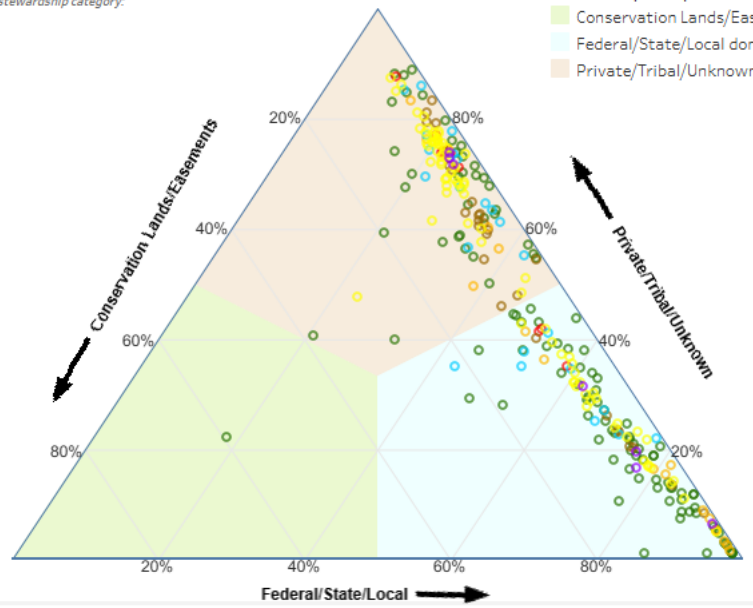
Stewardship of Montana's Native Species

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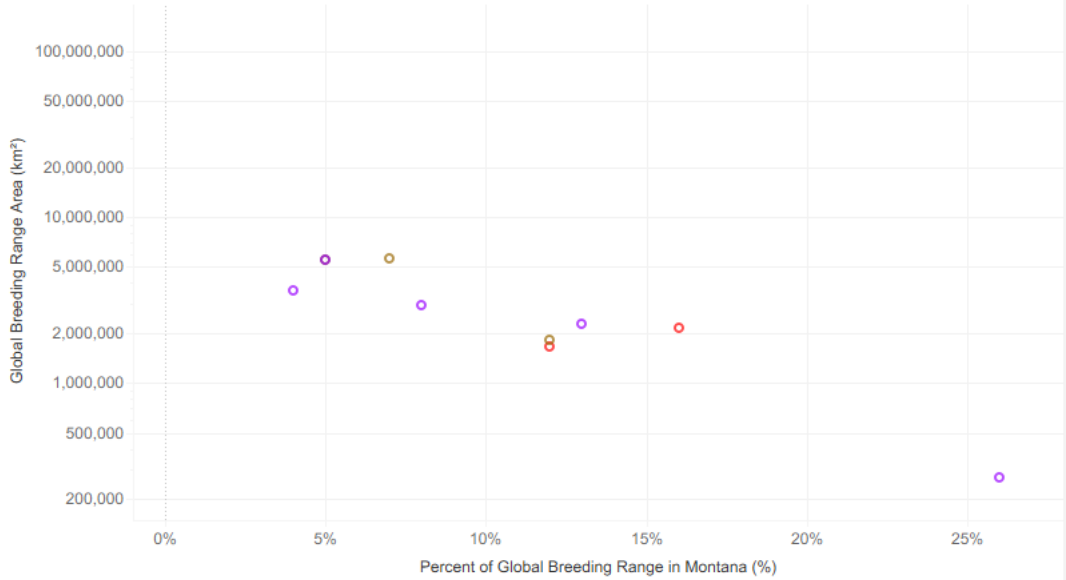
*See range and information sources for these stewardships for individual species in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ accounts.

Stewardship Responsibility for Suitable Habitat in Montana

Percentage of suitable habitat by stewardship category:



Montana's Share of Global Breeding Range



Breeding Range vs. Predicted Suitable Habitat



Species with Incomplete Range Information: Some species are excluded from the graph above or table below because global range area or Montana breeding-range data are unavailable. This information will be added as staff time is available. Please let us know if you have a species of particular interest and we will prioritize it mtnhp@mt.gov.

Species	Global Range Area (km²)	Breeding Range In MT (%)
Boreal Owl		2%
Brewer's Sparrow		12%
Brown Creeper		4%
Bruneau Mariposa Lily		
Bull Trout		5%
Bur Oak		
Burrowing Owl		2%
Canada Lynx		1%
Carinate Mountainsnail		100%
Caspian Tern		0%
Cassin's Finch		11%
Cassin's Vireo		8%
Cedar Sculpin		
Chestnut-collared Longspur		32%
Chimney Swift		1%

Species Group

- Amphibians
- Birds
- Fish
- Invertebrates
- Mammals
- Reptiles
- Vascular Plants

Montana Status

- (•) Display All
- ( ) Not Listed
- ( ) SOPC
- ( ) SOC
- ( ) SSS

SWAP Status

- ( ) Display All
- ( ) Not Listed
- (•) SGCN
- ( ) SGIN

Species Global Rank

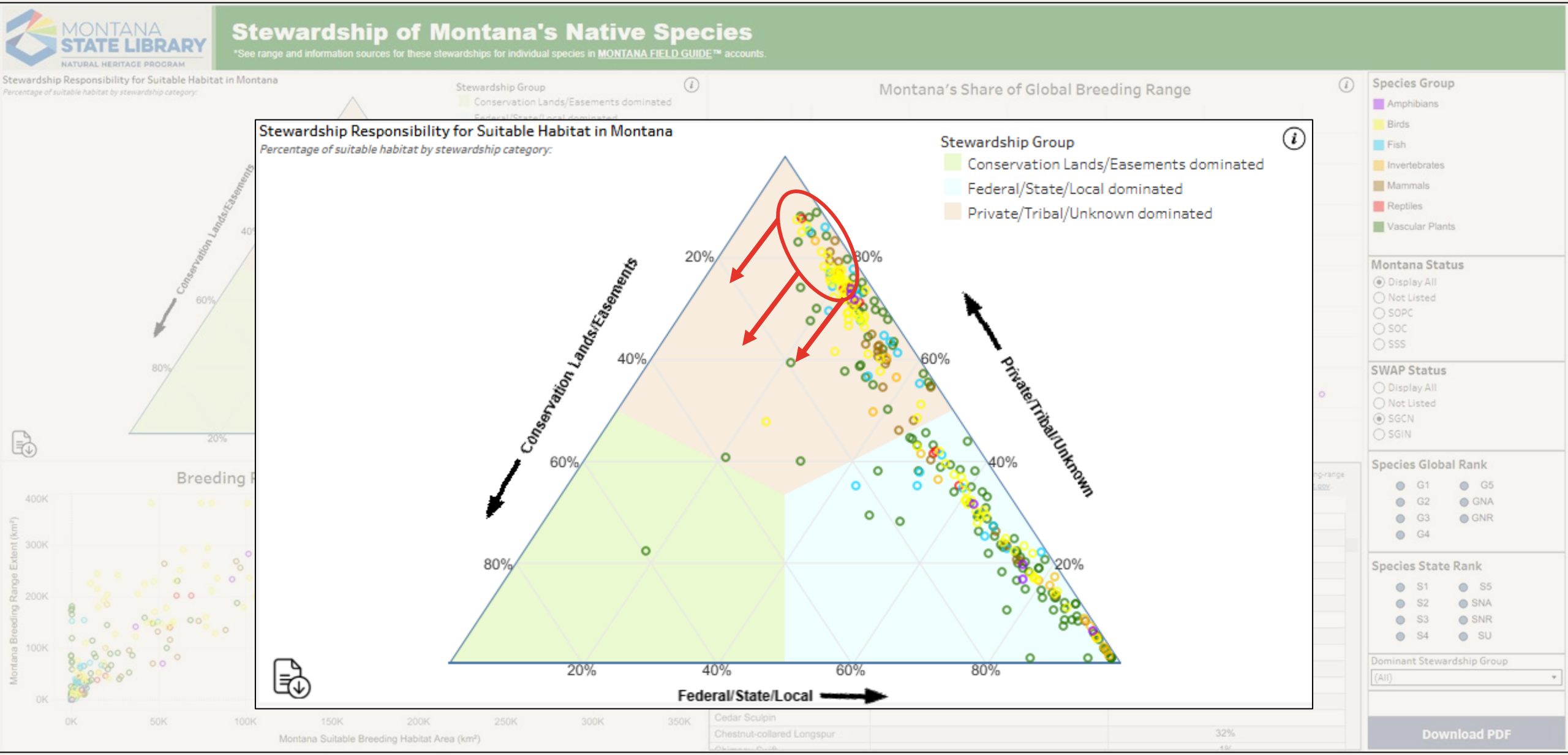
- G1
- G2
- G3
- G4
- G5
- GNA
- GNR

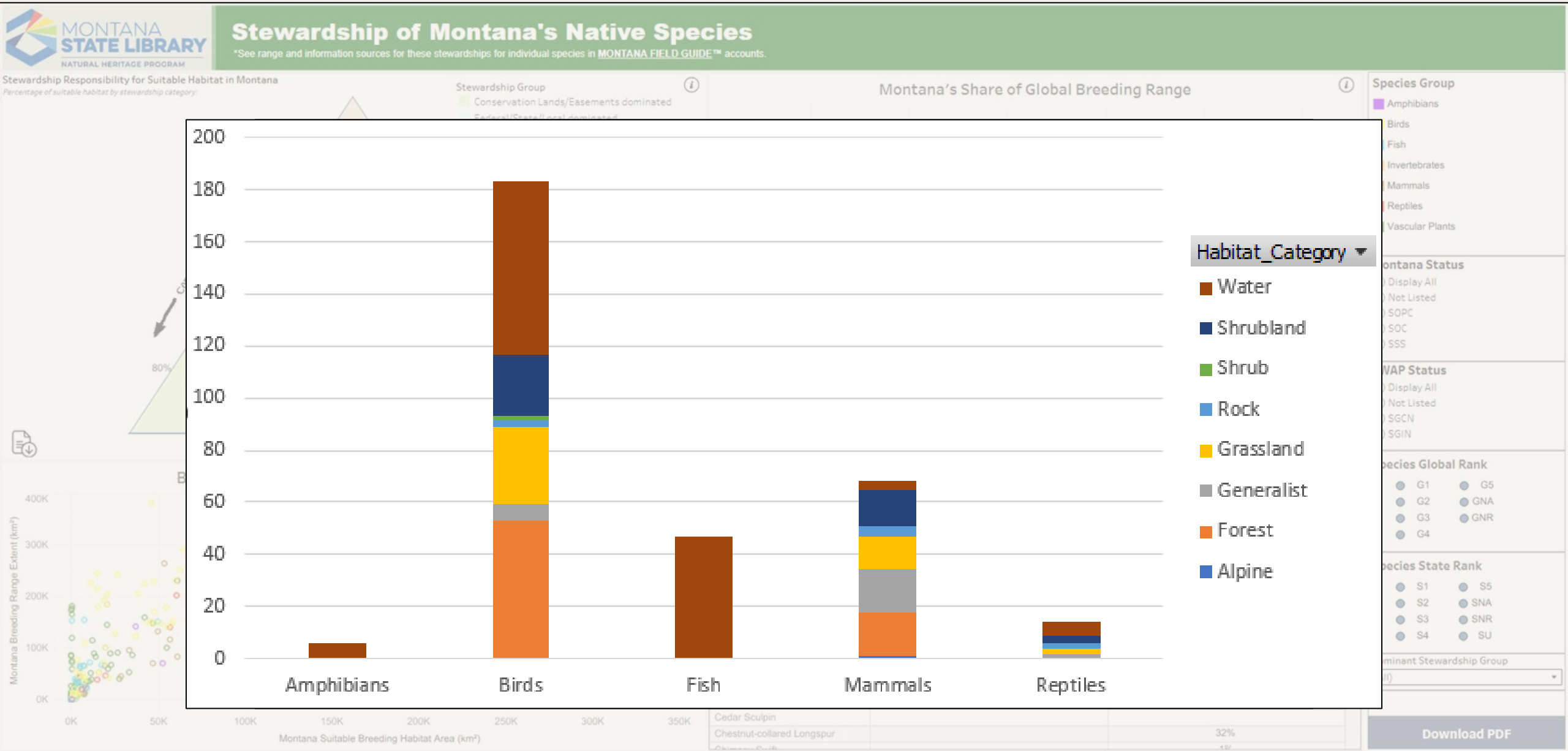
Species State Rank

- S1
- S2
- S3
- S4
- S5
- SNA
- SNR
- SU

Dominant Stewardship Group: (All)

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Stewardship of Montana's Native Species
*See range and information sources for these stewardships for individual species in MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™ accounts.
Stewardship Responsibility for Suitable Habitat in Montana
Percentage of suitable habitat by stewardship category:
Stewardship Group
Conservation Lands/Easements dominated
Federal/State/Local dominated
Private/Tribal/Unknown dominated
Conservation Lands/Easements
Private/Tribal/Unknown
Federal/State/Local
20%
40%
60%
80%
Montana's Share of Global Breeding Range
Species Group
Amphibians
Birds
Fish
Invertebrates
Mammals
Reptiles
Vascular Plants
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G1
G2
G3
G4
G5
GNA
GNR
Species State Rank
S1
S2
S3
S4
S5
SNA
SNR
SU
Dominant Stewardship Group
(All)
Download PDF
Montana Breeding Range Extent (km²)
Montana Suitable Breeding Habitat Area (km²)
Cedar Sculpin
Chestnut-collared Longspur
32%


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Birds
Fish
Invertebrates
Mammals
Reptiles
Vascular Plants
Habitat_Category
Water
Shrubland
Shrub
Rock
Grassland
Generalist
Forest
Alpine
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Amphibians
Birds
Fish
Mammals
Reptiles
Montana Breeding Range Extent (km²)
Montana Suitable Breeding Habitat Area (km²)
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Montana Natural Heritage Program

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Explore Data

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- Map Viewer
- Dashboards and Tools

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- Submit Request
- Data Use Terms and Conditions

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- MTNHP Forms
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- Zoology / Animals
- Botany / Plants and Fungi
- Ecology / Wetlands and Land Cover

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- Partners

A Species of Concern



Fisher

Pekania pennanti

New to this website?

Take An In-Depth Video Tour!

- Guide to Publicly Available Resources
- Invasive Species Manager Guide
- Biologist / Resource Manager Guide

Announcements

Montana Natural Heritage Program 2025 Annual Partner's Meeting

Montana Beaver Restoration HUB Released

Montana Citizen Botany Pilot Study 2022-2024 results!

Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy

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)

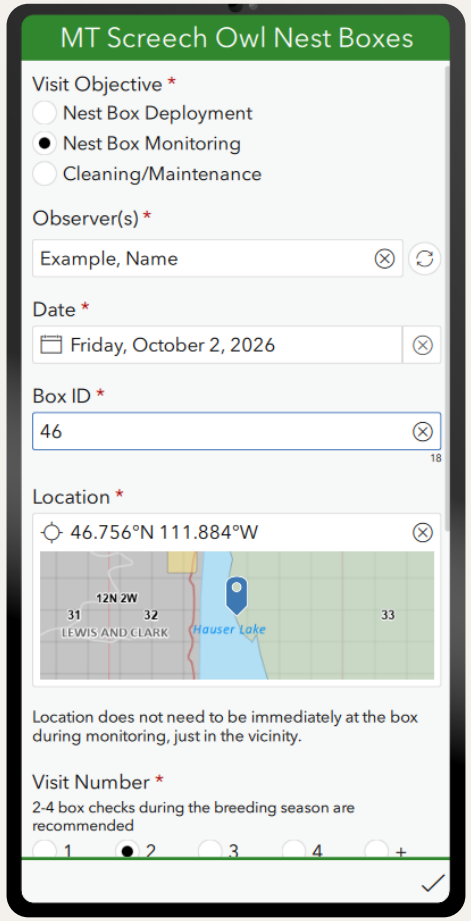


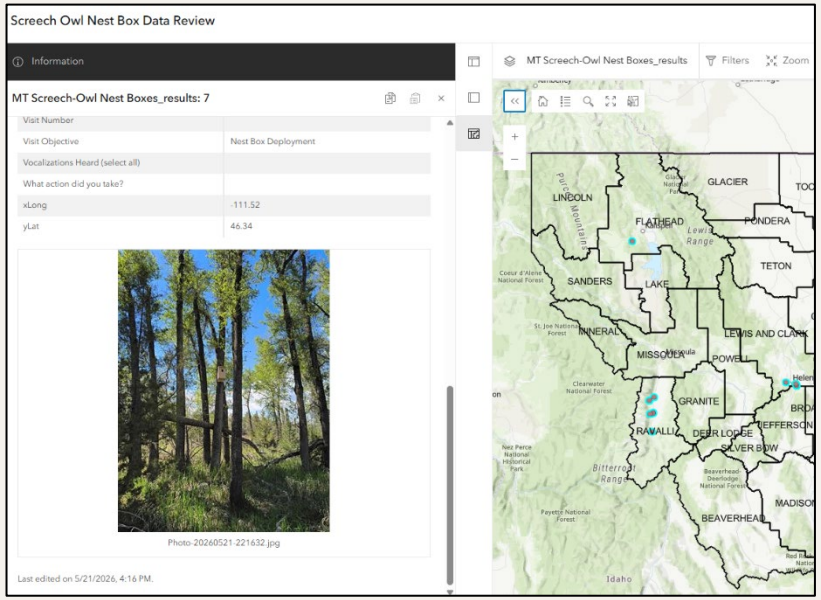
  - Survey forms currently available (links are for desktop use only):
    - Heritage Observation Collector
      https://arcg.is/1XSGP90
    - Rapid Weed Reporter
      https://arcg.is/14fv4n0

Example of a new Survey123 form

- Screech-Owl Nest Box Form







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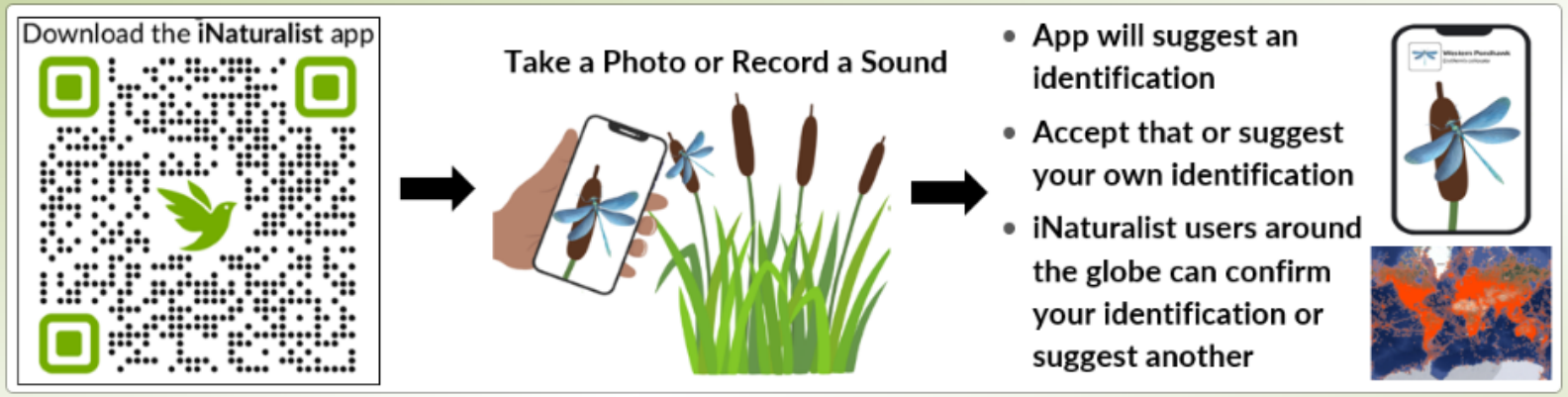
- Home
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  - Citizen Science
  - Report Invasives
- Resources
- About Us

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

iNaturalist

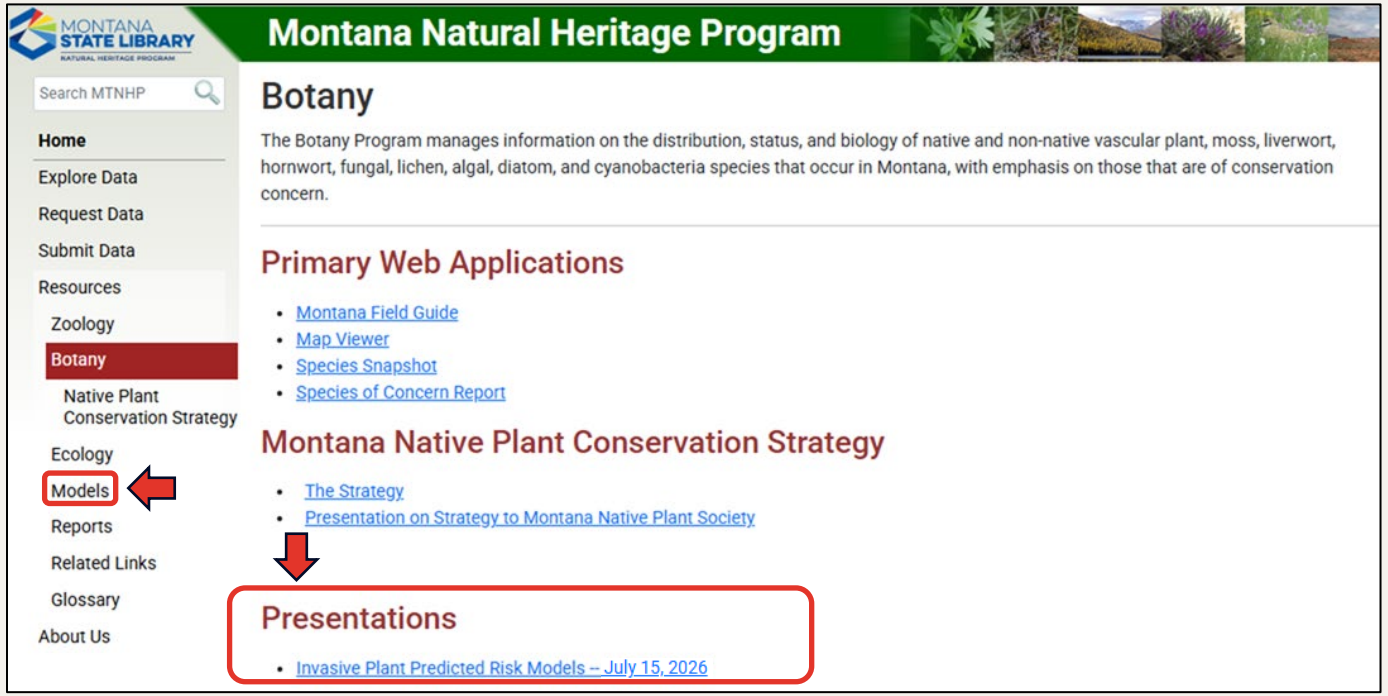


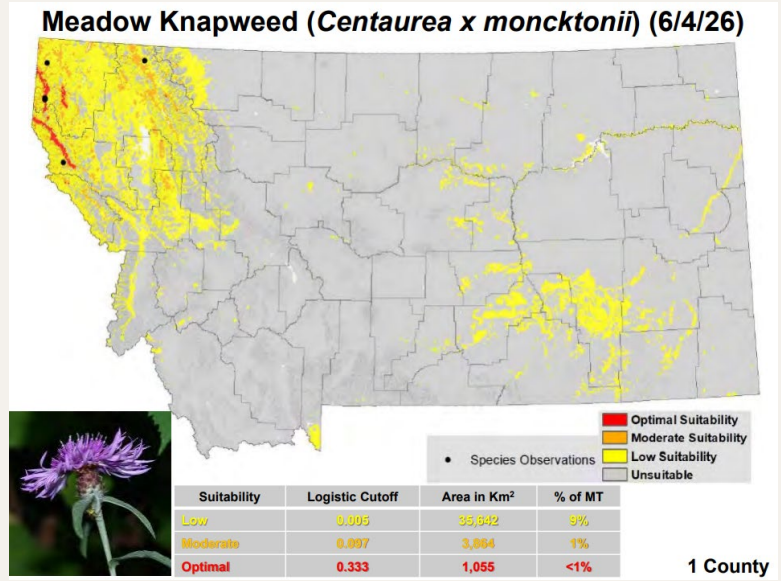
iNaturalist is a widely used global platform that allows users to report observations of any species using photos or sound recordings. The application includes algorithms that suggest species identifications, which users can accept or provide their own identification. Members of the iNaturalist community, including global experts for specific species groups, can then verify or refine these identifications. The following resources were created to help users get started with iNaturalist:

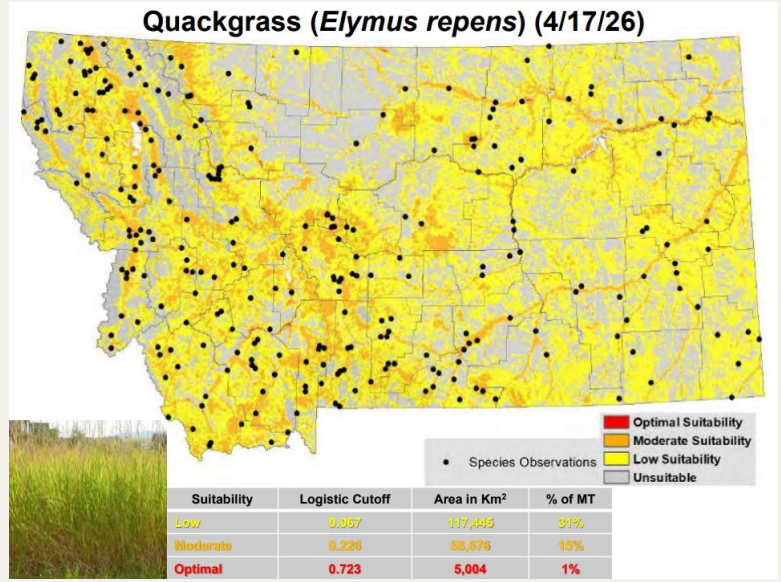
- **How to Use - Videos**
- **How to Use - Presentation**
- **Business Cards - Print and Share**

Non-native plant models

- Risk of Invasion/Suitable Habitat







Listed Invasives in Neighboring Jurisdictions

Common Name	MT	ID	B.C.	AB	SK	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	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

Listed Invasives in Neighboring Jurisdictions

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

- https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/PlantIndustry/WeedPest/WeedandPestInfo

Wyoming

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

Notable Listing Status Changes in Surrounding States and Provinces in 2026:

(1) Alberta and Saskatchewan made numerous updates to their lists

(2) Idaho moved Flowering-rush to Containment, Scotch Broom relatives to Prohibited Genera, and Meadow Knapweed to Control

(3) Wyoming added Palmer's Amaranth as Noxious

(4) B.C. added Field Pepper-grass and Clasping Pepper-grass as Regional Noxious

MTNHP Alert Emails

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-

Palmer's Amaranth



Rush Skeletonweed



Yellow Floating Heart



European Common Reed



Cutleaf Teasel



Policeman's Helmet



Roman Snail



MTNHP Alert Emails

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	Canada Lynx	Miltenberger, Alexander	2025-04-20	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.

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 https://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/**

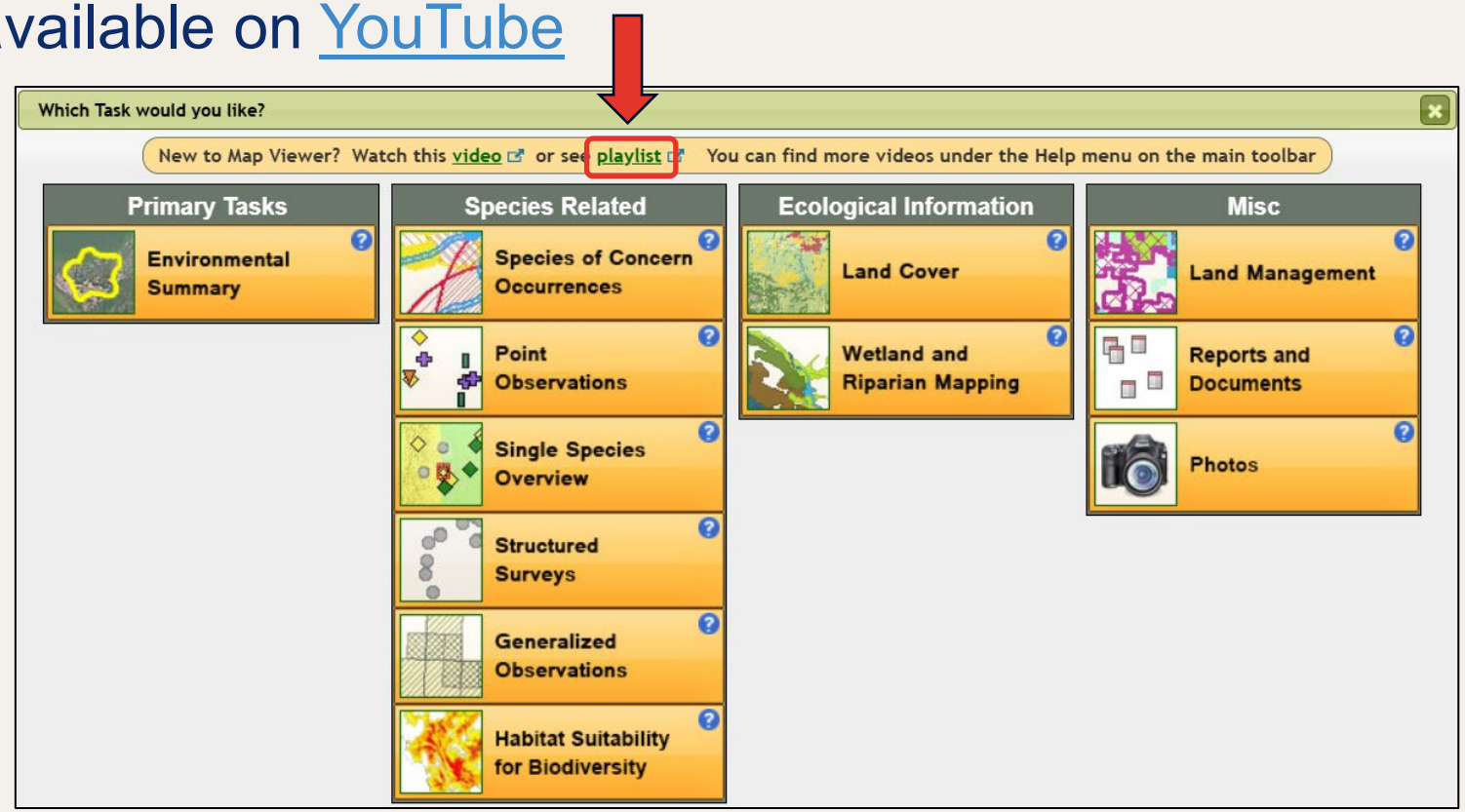
345 records in this report This report runs every First of Quarter morning

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

- Reach out to sign up for alert emails: bburkholder@mt.gov

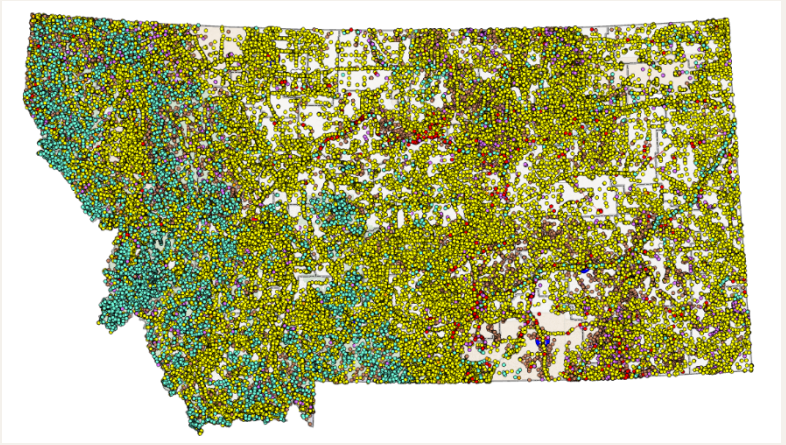
Reminders!

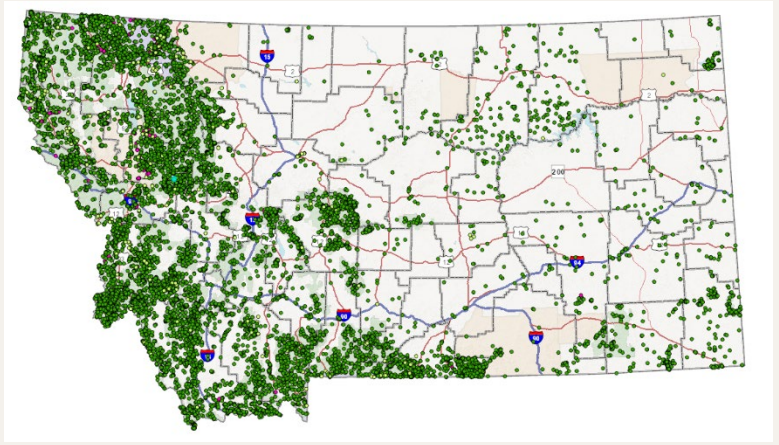
- Training on any MTNHP tools available upon request
  - MANY training videos available on YouTube
- Map Viewer agency-level access

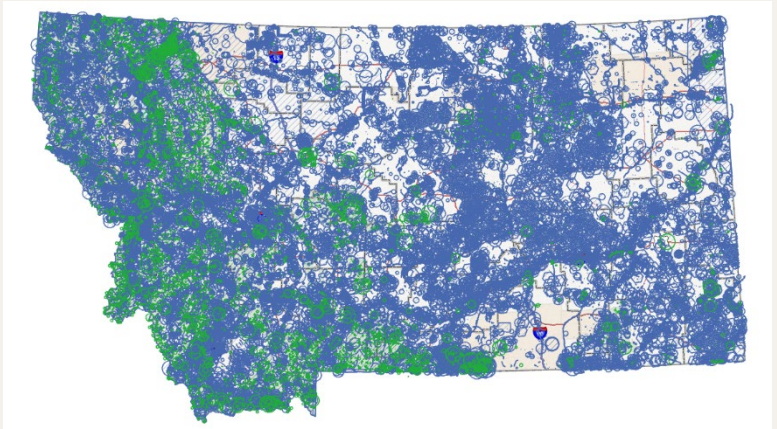


Reminders!

- Spatial Data Web Services
  - Observations
  - SOs



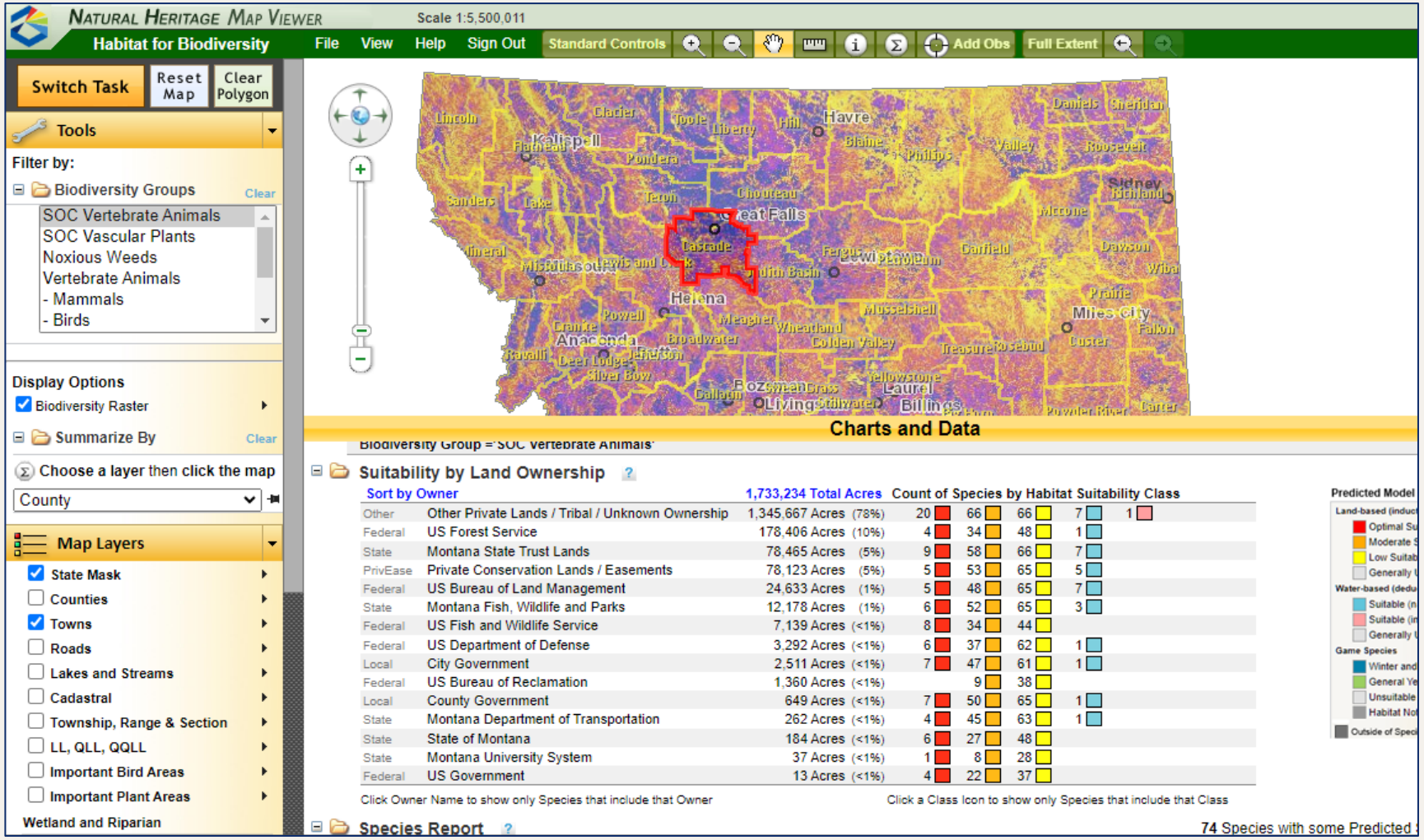




- Updated monthly
- Email bburkholder@mt.gov for agency access (ArcGIS Online account required)

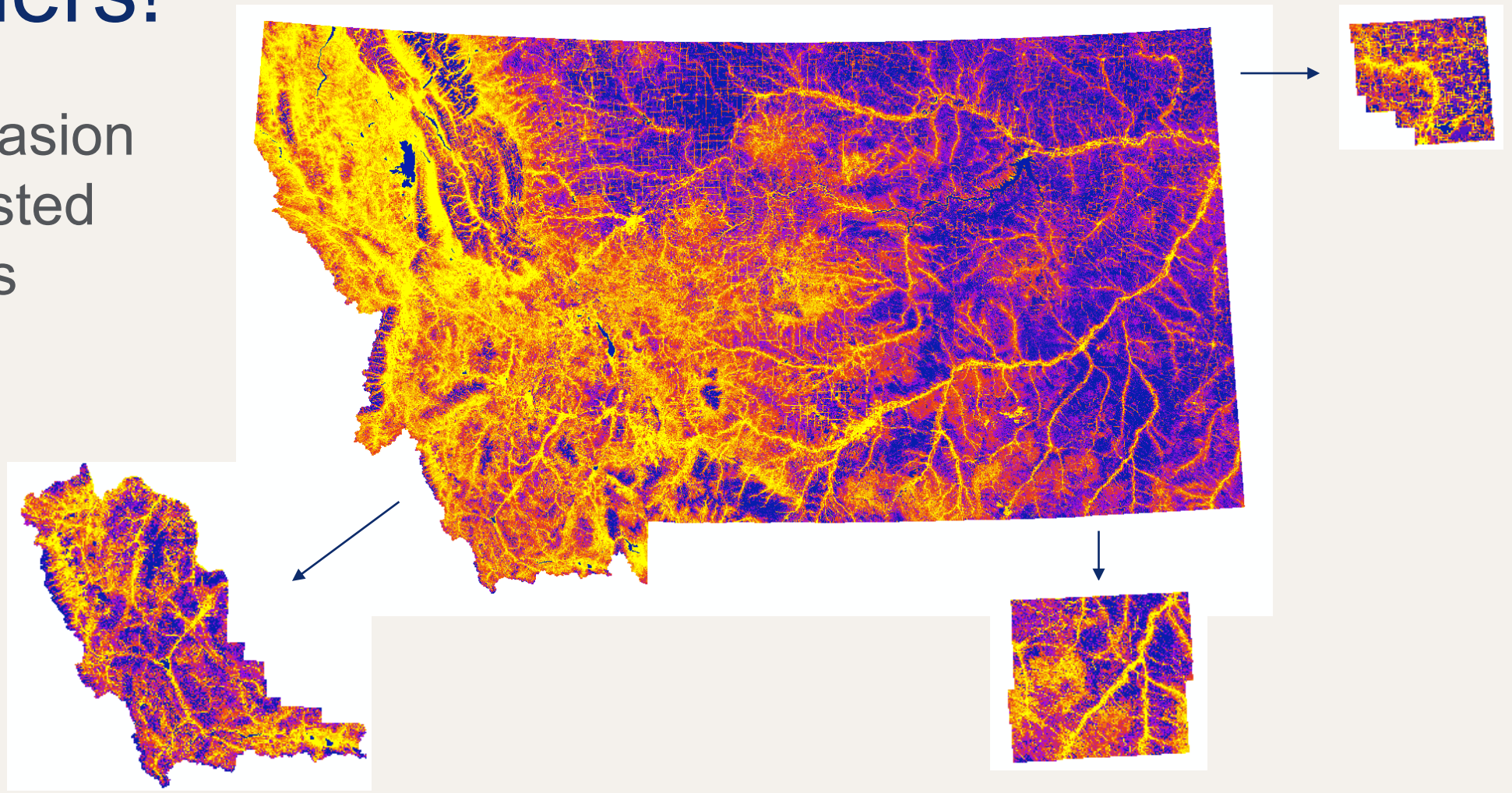
Reminders!

Biodiversity Task and Products



Reminders!

Cumulative Invasion Risk of State-listed Noxious Weeds



Goals for 2027

- Transition data system to the AWS cloud
  - A new MONTANA FIELD GUIDE™
  - Fully modernized Map Viewer deployment
- Add Adaptive Capacity and CCVI rank factors to databases and publish reports on websites
- Integrate invertebrate information products
- Develop Aquatic Communities information

Goals for 2027

- Release Ecological Sites of Interest in ESRs
- Further develop SWAP implementation tools with FWP
- Continue to update habitat suitability modeling process
  - Run models for remaining vascular plants and many invertebrates
  - Release updated Biodiversity layers
- Import and curate priority data from our partners



Braden Burkholder

bburkholder@mt.gov