

# PRICELESS RESOURCES

## A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN MONTANA 2020 – 2030



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## Acknowledgements

Wetlands and riparian areas are priceless resources that benefit Montana's communities, our economy, our environment and add immense value to those of us fortunate enough to live, work, and play in this beautiful state.

We are indebted to the many Montanans in local, state, tribal, and federal governments and in the non-profit and private sectors working to promote and implement wetland and riparian area protection, restoration, and management. We are also indebted to the many landowners who have accepted the responsibility to steward their private land and aquatic resources well.

I am particularly grateful to the many Montana Wetland Council partners who donated their time to help develop and refine this updated STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION 2020 – 2023. I also value and appreciate the involvement and input from more than 160 Montanans who participated in this planning process and developed Strategic Directions that are unique to Montana's strengths and address our challenges and barriers.

Finally, I would like to thank Region 8 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their longstanding grant support for the continued development of a strong wetland program in Montana.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Carpenedo  
DEQ Senior Wetland Specialist  
Montana Wetland Council Chair

## Executive Summary

Montana’s overarching wetland goal is: No overall net loss of the state’s remaining wetland resource base (as of 1989) and an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands in Montana. The Montana Wetland Council also supports a riparian goal to: Maintain, protect, and restore the ecological integrity of riparian areas. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides state leadership to protect wetlands and riparian areas for their water quality, water quantity, habitat, and flood control benefits. DEQ has chosen a collaborative approach involving the Montana Wetland Council (MWC), to develop and help implement the state’s wetland and riparian plan. In 2007, the Montana Wetland Council created a five-year strategic framework to prioritize and direct collective efforts on wetland and riparian area conservation and restoration in pursuit of its goal, PRICELESS RESOURCES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN MONTANA 2008–2012. The original Strategic Framework was updated in 2012 for five years, 2013–2017. This document updates the strategic directions for 10 years, 2020 – 2030.

The Montana Wetland Council is a network of diverse partners that works cooperatively to protect and restore Montana’s wetland and riparian ecosystems. This 10-year update, 2020 – 2030, identifies the strategic directions, goals, objectives, potential actions, indicators, and timeframes that the MWC can take leadership on and encourage partners to implement. Implementation relies heavily upon MWC partners working through coordinated projects, grant funding, and in collaborative groups. As a network, the MWC helps partner organizations and individuals build relationships, foster peer to peer learning, and ensure that people get timely and useful information to make sound decisions and take informed actions on shared wetland and riparian issues. Partners include federal and state agencies, tribal governments, local governments, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and individuals. As currently structured, the MWC has no authority to act, develop policy, or speak on behalf of its partners. Those activities are the role of individual Council partners based on their organization’s mission, authority, or statutory requirements.

## Future Vision

The Montana Wetland Council sees a future where:

- Montanans of all ages understand the value of wetlands and riparian areas and the important benefits they provide our communities, the economy, and environment.
- Montanans have access to information, education, and tools that enable them to act effectively to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands and riparian areas.
- Montana’s aquatic resource professionals are well versed on the variety of topics regarding wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.
- Montana’s wetlands and riparian areas are routinely protected and restored through existing landscape scale conservation initiatives and partnerships.
- Montana has equitable and common-sense regulations that are consistently applied to protect and mitigate wetland and riparian areas for the benefits they provide our communities, economy, and environment.
- Montanans are informed and engaged in local, state, and federal stream, wetland, and riparian area regulatory and permitting decisions.
- Montanans have information on and an understanding of the extent and condition of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana and the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment.
- Montanans have consistent tools and products for prioritizing the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas for the benefits they provide our communities, economy, and the environment.

## History and Context

### National

In 1989, the President of the United States established a goal of “no net loss of wetlands,” adapted from the National Wetlands Policy Forum recommendations. “No net loss” is based on quantity, as measured in acres, and quality, as measured by health. In 2004, President Bush expanded that policy to include a national goal of wetland net gain.

In 1977, Executive Order 11988 on floodplain management was enacted and requires each federal agency to take action to reduce the risk of flood loss; to minimize the impact of floods to human safety, health, and welfare; and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Floodplains are vital components of riparian areas.

Despite laws and policies enacted to protect them, wetlands and riparian areas across the nation continue to be drained, filled, and degraded. In an undisturbed condition, these areas protect and improve drinking water quality; maintain and restore the water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams; filter polluted runoff from our water supply; absorb floodwaters; recharge groundwater; provide fish and wildlife habitat; and offer natural areas for recreation.

### Montana

Montana’s overarching wetland goal is: No overall net loss of the state’s remaining wetland resource base (as of 1989) and an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands in Montana. The Montana Wetland Council also supports a riparian goal: Maintain, protect, and restore the ecological integrity of riparian areas. Sadly, Montana has lost about one third of its original wetland base, mainly as a result of draining and filling. In addition, countless wetland and riparian acres have been lost due to diminished quality, inappropriate land use, and other impacts. Wetlands and riparian areas now comprise less than five percent of Montana’s land base.

In this document, the Montana Wetland Council presents its 10-year Strategic Framework to prioritize and direct collaborative efforts on wetland and riparian area conservation, restoration, and management. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Wetland Program has chosen a collaborative approach involving the Montana Wetland Council, to develop and help implement the state wetland plan and further our wetland and riparian goals. In the Montana context, collaboration is the most effective approach. The DEQ Wetland Program has a 2020 – 2030 Wetland Program Plan that outlines the individual actions presented in this 10-year Strategic Framework they can develop and implement to help reach the states wetland and riparian goals.

Competitive funding from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants supports the development of Montana’s wetland program. EPA developed the Core Elements Framework as a resource for states and tribes in building their wetland programs and identified four core elements critical to effective, comprehensive wetland programs: voluntary restoration and protection, monitoring and assessment, regulation, and water quality standards. In addition, EPA considers outreach and education and a watershed approach to be inherent components of all water resource programs. PRICELESS RESOURCES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN MONTANA 2020 - 2030 addresses the Montana Wetland Council’s priorities from EPA’s Core Elements Framework.

### Montana Wetland Council

The Montana Wetland Council (MWC) was formed in 1994 following a “Wetland Summit” that brought together a broad cross-section of Montanans. The Montana Wetland Council is a vital and necessary player in assisting DEQ Wetland Program to meet its mission to implement the state’s wetland program. As a result of MWC’s capacity building and a strategic planning outreach process, the MWC has grown into an extensive



networking forum (with a listserv of about 900) that promotes cooperative wetland and riparian areas conservation and restoration in Montana.

The DEQ Senior Wetland Specialist provides consistent leadership and staff support to the MWC, and acts as a point person for wetland issues across the state. DEQ administers EPA Wetland Program Development Grants that support and implement the priorities in this Strategic Framework.

## 2020 - 2030 10-Year Strategic Framework

### Background

The Montana Wetland Council developed the state's first wetland conservation strategy in 1997. In 2007, the State Wetland Program Coordinator recommended evaluating the progress and challenges since the 1997 Montana Conservation Strategy and moving the Council from an informational and educational forum to a more action-oriented network. To do that, MWC embarked on strategic planning to focus and guide future efforts. The resulting five-year strategic plan was published as PRICELESS RESOURCES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN MONTANA 2008–2012. It identifies the work priorities that the Council could best take leadership on. Implementation relied heavily upon Council partners working through coordinated projects, grant funding, and in working groups. Accomplishments from 2008–2012 were tracked and highlighted in Section VI of the 2013–2017 update. In 2019 the Montana Wetland Council embarked on the third update, a 10-year update of the Strategic Framework and strategic directions. The outcome of that collective work is presented here as PRICELESS RESOURCES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREA CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN MONTANA 2020–2030.

### State Wetland Plan and Department of Environmental Quality's Role

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the lead state agency responsible for developing an effective, comprehensive wetland program for Montana, as well as developing the capacity of state and local governments to protect wetland resources. The DEQ Wetland Program provides state leadership to conserve wetlands for the benefits they provide our communities, the economy, and the environment. The DEQ uses grant funding and other resources to accomplish Montana Wetland Program goals. The DEQ has chosen a cooperative network model of partnering to accomplish far more than any single individual or program could alone. Montana Wetland Council partners recognize that in the complex social and legal environment of natural resource protection and management, a network fosters discussion to better evaluate resource protection challenges from diverse perspectives and find common solutions. Montana's model has tremendous strengths and challenges, and requires a flexible, opportunistic approach to wetland conservation and restoration. This Strategic Framework documents the Montana Wetland Council's priorities and is consistent with state goals and EPA's Core Element Framework.

## Montana Wetland Council

### Mission

The Montana Wetland Council is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetland and riparian ecosystems.

### Core Beliefs

Core beliefs provide the foundation for the Montana Wetland Council's mission, vision, and its 10-year strategic framework:

- Wetlands and riparian areas are essential to maintain water quantity and clean water quality in Montana.
- Sound science must be the basis for wetland and riparian management, conservation, restoration, policy decisions, and public education.
- The state of Montana has a responsibility to safeguard its wetlands and riparian ecosystems.



- Healthy wetland and riparian communities sustain healthy human communities.
- Montana’s current landowners, land managers, and the public are the stewards of wetland, riparian, and water resources for future generations.
- An informed and engaged public is essential to wetland and riparian protection and conservation.
- Open, informed communication and cooperation among all interested parties are essential ingredients for sound management of wetland and riparian ecosystems.

### **Structure and Role**

The Montana Wetland Council welcomes participation by all entities with an interest in wetland and riparian protection, restoration, management, regulation, education, science, or other aspects of wetland resources. MWC goal is to meet twice a year and co-administers the biennial Wetland Stewardship Awards ceremony to recognize outstanding wetland/riparian stewardship in Montana.

As a network, the Council helps participating organizations and individuals build relationships, gain knowledge of each other’s work, and ensures that the “right people” get timely and useful information to make sound decisions and take informed action on shared issues. Participants include federal and state agencies, tribal governments, local governments, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.

Within the current structure of this Strategic Framework, the Wetland Council has no authority to act, develop policy, or speak on behalf of MWC partners. Those activities are the role of individual Council participants based on their unique organizational mission, authority, or statutory requirements.

### **Future Vision**

The Montana Wetland Council’s vision for the future sees Montana as a place where wetlands and riparian areas are restored to healthy, fully functioning ecosystems that have long-term protection. Each proposed action has identified measures that will help us meet the goals of our strategic directions and ultimately the overall all goal of a net gain of wetlands by both acreage and function, and riparian areas that are protected and restored to natural functions and processes.

The Montana Wetland Council sees a future where:

- Montanans of all ages understand the value of wetlands and riparian areas and the important benefits they provide our communities, the economy, and environment.
- Montanans have access to information, education, and tools that enable them to act effectively to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands and riparian areas.
- Montana’s aquatic resource professionals are well versed on the variety of topics regarding wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.
- Montana’s wetlands and riparian areas are routinely protected and restored through existing landscape scale conservation initiatives and partnerships.
- Montana has equitable and common-sense regulations that are consistently applied to protect and mitigate wetland and riparian areas for the benefits they provide Montana’s communities, economy, and environment.
- Montanans are informed and engaged in local, state, and federal stream, wetland, and riparian area regulatory and permitting decisions.
- Montanans have information on and an understanding of the extent and condition of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana and the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment.
- Montanans have consistent tools and products for prioritizing the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas for the benefits they provide our communities, economy, and the environment.

## 10-Year Strategic Directions

### Overview

The Montana Wetland Council is committed to participatory planning and relies on participation from a broad spectrum of wetland and riparian players involved in the process. IN 2019 the MWC conducted 23 key informant interviews from a diverse set of professionals working in natural resources, agriculture, government, non-profit conservation, the private sector, regulatory sector, and academia. Responses collected from the key informant interviews were then used to develop questions and topics of interest for a MWC partner's wide survey. Responses from 154 individuals were then used as the basis for the updated 10-year strategic directions and guide a two day long Montana Wetland Council strategic planning meeting involving 35 MWC partners. Our goal was to learn about the challenges, barriers, opportunities and needs for wetland and riparian conservation, restoration, and management in Montana, and determine how the MWC could best contribute to and guide this important work over the next 10 years.

As a result of the strategic planning and other outreach efforts, 900 individuals now participate on the MWC's listserv or social media accounts, representing the following categories: consultants, federal agencies, local government, state agencies, tribal governments, universities, and others. "Other" is the largest and most diverse category that includes agriculture and irrigation interests, builders, biology-based and environment-based conservation groups, land trusts, mining and other industries, real estate development, recreation/sportsmen, water/wetland education organizations, and wood products. "Local government" includes conservation district representatives, county commissioners, floodplain administrators, mayors, mosquito control districts, land-use planners, water quality protection districts, and others.

### Focused Action

This document defines the Montana Wetland Council's focus for the next ten years. The Strategic Planning team worked hard to limit the scope to areas where the MWC could be most effective and take leadership. In order to realize our ambitious aims, MWC's partners must actively implement the actions outlined in this Strategic Framework.

The following four strategic directions highlight where the Montana Wetland Council will focus leadership, energy, activity, and resources over the next ten years in order to achieve our vision for the future.

- Strategic Direction # 1: Communication and Education
- Strategic Direction #2: Landscape Conservation
- Strategic Direction #3: Regulatory
- Strategic Direction #4: Science Needs



**Strategic Direction #1: 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.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
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.	Developing Survey: DEQ; Consultants, Universities Distribution: Conservation Districts/MACD; MWCC, Watershed Groups,	- Survey is designed and distributed. - # of people completed the survey. - # of targeted groups reached	X	X	
1.1.b Define common language and terms to be used in all communication and education materials.	MFP, Watershed Groups, MTNHP, O’CONNOR CENTER	- Resource documenting common language	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 - # of collaborative projects developed	X	X	X
1.1.d Create standardized key words to be used for wetland and riparian documents on resource websites, social media tagging. Making searches easier and more efficient.	MWC partners	- Resource documenting key words	X		



Objective 1.2: Provided targeted communication and education to key groups. Each key group will understand the attributes of wetland and riparian areas, their benefits, and what constitutes wetland and riparian areas.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.2.a Develop and sustain a Communication and Education committee that facilitates Montana Wetland Council outreach efforts.	Interested MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # members actively serving on committee</li> <li>- List of experience and expertise on committee</li> <li>- # of outreach efforts facilitated</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
1.2.b Create and sustain a speaker bureau of MWC partners who can appropriately address different topics and audiences.	Professional Societies and Trade organizations; Universities; Agencies; NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Topics and audiences identified</li> <li>- # of MWC Speakers available</li> <li>- List of speakers by topic and audience expertise</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
1.2.c Develop a standard survey template for use by all MWC partners for collecting feedback from participants of meetings, events, etc. Including links to relevant resources.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey developed</li> <li>- # of respondents taking survey</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Landowners</b>					
1.2.d Create informational campaign and materials targeting landowners, developers, and realtors highlighting the importance of protecting and restoring Montana’s aquatic resources.	Professional Societies and Trade organizations; Universities; Agencies; NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of campaigns implemented</li> <li>- # of materials developed and distributed</li> <li>- Success measures (i.e. click rate, likes, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
1.2.e Update existing material to inform the new generation of farmers and ranchers about wetland and riparian areas function, benefits, and best practices in conservation.	Conservation Districts, MACD, Stockgrowers Assoc, Western Landowners Alliance; BLM/USFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of products updated; partners are actively engaged, BMPs implemented</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		



1.2.f Collaborate with agencies and organizations to provide educational opportunities and resources at trade shows and conferences.	Professional Societies and Trade organizations; Universities; Agencies; NGOs	- # of collaborating partners - # of conferences or trade shows reached	X	X	X
<b>K-16 Educators and Students</b>					
1.2.g Support and participate in water festivals across Montana, specifically focusing on family and youth (K-9) friendly events.	Watershed Groups; Conservation Districts; DNRC and FWP AIS Programs; water recreation associations	- # events attended - # people reached	X	X	X
1.2.h Develop aquatic resources science education materials on the importance of wetland and riparian area protection and restoration for grades 10-16.	Clark Fork Watershed Education Program; MT OPI – Science specialist; Tribal Colleges; Universities	- # of academic relationships formed - # of students reached	X		
1.2.i Work with teaching staff at the Montana University System to conduct guest lectures at advanced high school classes and university courses on the importance of wetlands and policies to protect them.		- # of teaching staff/students reached - # of teaching staff on speaker’s bureau - # of lectures conducted		X	X
1.2.j Provide opportunities for college students as part of their studies to work on and present viable solutions to challenges MWC partners routinely encounter.	Tribal Colleges; Universities; Colleges	- # of classes participating - # of relevant student projects	X	X	X
<b>Public and Communities</b>					
1.2.k Create an informational campaign educating the public regarding the effects of development on wetland and riparian areas.	DEQ NPS; MWCC	- Website created - # materials created - # of radio and TV PSAs	X		
1.2.l Provide educational activities to increase the public and community group’s awareness and understanding of the importance of wetlands and riparian areas in community planning and effective watersheds.	Watershed Groups; CDs; Local libraries (speaking series); DEQ NPS	- # of activities participated in	X	X	X



<p>1.2.m Create informational campaigns and materials targeting community planners and local governments highlighting the importance of protecting and restoring Montana’s aquatic resources.</p>	<p>Montana Chamber of Commerce; Montana League of Cities and Towns; Montana Association of Counties; Montana Association of Planners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of campaigns implemented</li> <li>- # of materials developed and distributed</li> <li>- Success measures (i.e. click rate, likes, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>		
<p>1.2.n Deliver targeted outreach on the importance of protecting and restoring wetlands and riparian areas at venues determined to be ideal to effectively reach their members.</p>	<p>Montana Chamber of Commerce; Montana League of Cities and Towns; Montana Association of Counties; Montana Association of Planners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of partner organizations</li> <li>- # of avenues identified</li> <li>- # of venues presented at</li> </ul>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p>Legislators</p>					
<p>1.2.o Create a publication highlighting Montana’s on-the-ground efforts to protect and restore high quality wetlands and riparian areas, focusing on the stakeholders and community groups that contributed to the work.</p>	<p>DEQ; MWCC; MACD; personal stories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publication produced</li> <li>- # distributed</li> <li>- # of venues distributed at</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>		
<p>1.2.p Provide resources that demonstrate the importance of policies for protecting and restoring aquatic resources for the benefits they provide Montana’s communities, the economy, and the environment.</p>	<p>Legislative staff; DNRC; FWP; DEQ; NGO’s; MWCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of resources created</li> <li>- # of conversations legislators</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	

**Goal 2: Montanans have access to information, education, and tools that enable them to act effectively to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands and riparian areas.**

Objective 2.1: Enhance and publicize wetland and riparian area information available through easily accessible electronic and hard copy resources.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.1.a Create a Montana Wetland Council website as a portal for wetland and riparian area information in Montana.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website created</li> <li>- # page views</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
2.1.b All documents, maps, or resources created and posted on state government websites can be found easily through the page search bar or through the MT.gov search bar. See 1.1.d	ITSD; Agencies; O’CONNOR CENTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of agencies using consistent tags for searching</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>	
2.1.c Distribute and promote the use of informational materials and tools developed by MWC and its partners over the past five years as resources for target audiences interested and/or engaged in wetland and riparian area conservation planning and projects.	Watershed Groups; CDs; MWCC; MACD; Joint Ventures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of venues tools promoted at</li> <li>- # of downloads/views of tools and materials</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
2.1.d All wetland and riparian resources and documents on the MWC website and associated state government pages are easily searchable with standardized key words.	ITSD; Agencies; O’CONNOR CENTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MWC website complies</li> <li>- # of agencies using consistent tags for searching</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
2.1.e Promote newly released documents, informational materials, and tools in collaborating organization newsletters and websites.	All MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of newsletter incorporating documents, etc.</li> <li>- Available of MWC website</li> <li>- # of downloads/views of tools and materials</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>



Objective 2.2: Create a Montana Wetland Council presence on social media platforms.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.2.a Create a Montana Wetland Council presence on social media platforms to increase our visibility and the work MWC’s partners accomplish.		- # posts/year - # shares/year - # likes/year	X		
2.2.b Create standard tags for Montana Wetland Council social media posts.		- List of standardized tags created/used	X		
2.2.c Partner with member’s organizations to post MWC meeting and resources information highlighting the science and importance of wetland and riparian areas.	All MWC partners	- # of MWC posts/year by MWC member organizations - # of times MWC tagged	X	X	
2.2.d Research and explore new models and case studies in “community-based social marketing strategies” geared toward behavior change.	Communication professionals; Consulting companies; Universities		X	X	

Objective 2.3: Actively participate in community events to increase the awareness of the information, educational opportunities, and tools available to the public allowing them to act effectively to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands and riparian areas.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.3.a Create “Awareness event materials” to be used at informal talks. Material includes published and posted resources, key talking points about wetlands.	All MWC partners	- # of materials created	X		
2.3.b MWC will present relevant wetland information at two new-to-MWC events a year. The events will be areas that wetland professionals normally would not attend.	All MWC partners	- (Y/N) presented at two new to MWC venues - # of events presented at - # of surveys received	X	X	X



2.3.c Participate in local watershed group/Conservation District meetings to maintain a voice for the protection of wetlands and riparian areas.	All MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # meetings attended</li> <li>- # of follow-ups</li> </ul>	X	X	X
2.3.d Support and participate in community events and deliver general informational talks to adults about the importance of wetlands and riparian areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of community events supported</li> <li>- # of events participated in</li> </ul>	X	X	X

**Goal 3: Montana’s aquatic resource professionals are well versed on the variety of topics regarding wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.**

Objective 3.1: Provide and sponsor opportunities for Montana’s aquatic resource professionals to expand their knowledge base regarding aquatic resources sciences, restoration, mitigation, and regulations.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
3.1.a Host informative Montana Wetland Council meetings that focus on addressing gaps in knowledge of Montana’s aquatic resource professionals.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # informational meetings# of participants attending</li> </ul>	X	X	X
3.1.b Distribute outreach materials that promote the continued professional development of MWC’s partners.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of different outreach materials distributed</li> </ul>	X	X	X
3.1.c Develop and sponsor professional development courses and opportunities in Montana.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of courses developed/ conducted</li> <li>- # attending courses</li> </ul>	X	X	X
3.1.d Provide training opportunities at professional conferences geared toward supporting the work of those conference attendees.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of trainings provided</li> <li>- # of participants attending</li> </ul>	X	X	X



Objective 3.2: Water professionals and collaborating agency personnel will increase their skills in communicating the science about the importance of wetland and riparian areas to the public.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
3.2.a Develop and distribute key talking points in plain language on wetland and riparian function and value from existing resources and literature.	All MWC partners	- Resource Developed - Use statistics	X		
3.2.b Distribute information about online and social media resources that focus on effectively communicating science, and wetlands in particular.	All MWC partners	- # of newsletters/posts with effectively communicating wetland science	X	X	X
3.2.c Host annual webinars on science communication, focusing on wetlands and riparian areas.	All MWC partners	- # of webinars year	X	X	X

Objective 3.3: Provide support and assistance to local governments, watershed groups, and others to develop and implement effective communication and education strategies to protect and restore Montana’s aquatic resources.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
3.3.a Make mapping and rating for critical wetland areas easily accessible to Professionals for use as part of projects and funding proposals.	O’Conner Center, Montana Natural Heritage Program, USFWS NWI			X	
3.3.b Integrate wetland and riparian mapping and information into floodplain program and Disaster and Emergency Services trainings, assistance, local ordinances, and mitigation projects.	DES, DNRC, DEQ			X	
3.3.c Participate in local governments, watershed groups, and other organizations’ planning and outreach efforts to better incorporate the importance of protecting and restoring Montana’s aquatic resources.	MACD, MWCC, MACO, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana League of Cities and Towns,		X	X	X





**Strategic Direction #2: Landscape Conservation**

**Goal 1: Wetlands and riparian areas in high priority areas are routinely protected and restored through existing landscape scale conservation initiatives and partnerships.**

Objective 1.1: Identify wetlands, wetland complexes, and riparian areas that are most valuable, vulnerable, and important for connectivity.

<i>Potential Actions</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Indicators to Measure</i>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.1.a Update and provide access to wetland priority analysis maps and tools for all partners.	DEQ, MTNHP, O’Connor center	- Update completed - Access available - Uses statistics	<b>X</b>		
1.1.b Provide access to Joint Venture prioritization planning tools (maps & models).	PPJV, IWJV	- Access available - Updates incorporated	<b>X</b>		
1.1.c Identify and incorporate planning and prioritization tools developed by partner organizations to support wetland protection and restoration.	Agencies, NGO	- # of tools identified - # of tools incorporated into wetland prioritization	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
1.1.d Identify funding and expertise to develop new products, as needed, for prioritizing wetland and riparian areas protection and restoration.	Agencies, NGO	- Projects initiated or completed - Identified needs met		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

Objective 1.2: Support and strengthen wetland, wetland complex, and riparian area conservation, stewardship, and connectivity by providing wetland expertise to existing partnerships, collaborations, and conservation initiatives,

<i>Potential Actions</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Indicators to Measure</i>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.2.a Identify existing conservation collaboratives and initiatives.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures	- # of connection to different collaboratives on wetland council webpage	<b>X</b>		



1.2.b Identify opportunities to bring wetland values into existing conservation plans and priorities.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures	- # of Planning documents identified - Outreach tools identified	X		
1.2.c Engage in local conservation partnerships, initiative, and watershed meetings.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures	- # of meetings attended	X	X	X
1.2.d Support comprehensive planning to support ecosystem health at the watershed level for wetlands, riparian areas, and associated floodplains and uplands.	Agencies, NGO,	- Planning documents supporting ecosystem health	X	X	X
1.2.e Encourage agencies to direct wetland funding to support priorities identified by collaboratives and initiatives.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures	- Amount spent on wetland conservation/year	X	X	X
1.2.f Support and assist in delivering (working lands) agriculture-focused wetland conservation program, projects, and incentives.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures, private landowners	- # of Wetland acres on private working lands/year	X	X	X
1.2.g Work cooperatively with agencies that manage public lands, resources, and infrastructure under their authority to support and strengthen wetland and riparian area conservation and stewardship.	Agencies, NGO	- # of Wetland acres on public lands - Documenting improvements in condition/functions?	X	X	X
1.2.h Coordinate with wildlife-oriented agencies and conservation organizations to incorporate wetlands and riparian ecological considerations into restoration, protection, and management decisions.	State and federal agencies	- # of Wetland acres conserved for wildlife values	X	X	X
1.2.i Support tribal government efforts to protect, restore, and manage ecologically and/or culturally significant wetlands and riparian areas.	Tribal nations, Agencies, NGO	- # of Wetland acres conserved on tribal lands	X	X	X



Objective 1.3: Build and maintain strong landowner relationships.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.3.a Strengthen outreach to landowners on importance of wetlands.	NGO, producer groups, landowners	- # of Outreach tools - # of engagement opportunities	X	X	X
1.3.b Identify and engage non-traditional partners on wetland and riparian area protection and restoration.	Private landowners, tribes	- # of partners identified and engaged.	X	X	X
1.3.c Enhance cooperation between the agricultural and conservation communities.	NRCS, NGO, state agencies, producer groups	- # of collaborative meetings	X	X	X
1.3.d Promote and provide opportunities to incorporate wetland and riparian areas protection into working lands conservation.	Private landowners, tribes, agencies, NGOs, Joint Ventures	- # of landowner contacts	X	X	X
1.3.e Provide conservation easement and lease opportunities for interested landowners.	State and federal agencies, NGOs, Land Trusts, landowners	- # of agreements implemented - # of acres conserved		X	X

Objective 1.4: Strengthen incentives and funding for wetland and riparian conservation.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.4.a Leverage existing agency funding through developing partnerships in high priority areas.	Federal and state agencies	- \$ leveraged for wetland conservation	X	X	X
1.4.b Encourage agencies to direct wetland funding to support priorities identified by conservation collaboratives and initiatives.	Agencies, NGO, Joint Ventures	- \$ spent on wetland conservation in priority areas	X	X	X



1.4.c	Cost-share on infrastructure to protect sensitive aquatic resources, e.g., fencing riparian areas.	State and federal agencies, NGO	- # of contracts - # of acres affected - # of partners	X	X	X
1.4.d	Cost-share on re-planting of native vegetation associated with aquatic resources.	State and federal agencies, NGO	- # of contracts - # of acres restored - # of partners	X	X	X
1.4.e	Identify and engage non-traditional funding partners and sources.	Industry, cities/counties, Foundations, tribes	- # and diversity of new partners		X	X
1.4.f	Generate funding for Channel Migration Zone Conservation Easements.	Agencies, NGO	- # of miles of riparian areas enrolled		X	X
1.4.g	Research and identify innovative ways to provide incentives to local landowners for wetland restoration and protection activities.	Agencies, NGO, foundations, industry, Joint Ventures	- # of new opportunities and incentives			X
1.4.h	Research and implement a dedicated statewide grant based funding program focusing on the protection of aquatic resources.	State agencies	- New program implemented - \$ distributed/yearly			X

**Strategic Direction #3: Regulatory**

**Goal 1: Equitable and common-sense regulations that are consistently applied to protect and mitigate wetland and riparian areas for the benefits they provide Montana’s communities, economy, and environment.**

Objective 1.1: Work collaboratively to increase the efficiency and equity of the regulatory process for permitting projects.

<i>Potential Actions</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>	<i>Indicators to Measure</i>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.1.a Develop working group that facilitates discussions between regulators and the regulated community to help identify issues and build consensus on solutions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working group developed</li> <li>- List of problems and solutions</li> <li>- # of times the met.</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
1.1.b Investigate current application of federal and state regulations as they pertain to wetlands and other aquatic resources in Montana to identify inequities and environmental injustices.	All MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of updates on new rules or regulations.</li> <li>- Inequities and environmental injustices identified, and proposed solutions</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>		
1.1.c Evaluate the current regulatory monitoring requirements at different agencies and evaluate how they could be more consistently applied.			<b>X</b>		
1.1.d Support the development of guidance to better protect and mitigate vulnerable wetlands and riparian areas.	All MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of Montana specific recommendations provided to federal, state, and local permit agencies</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>	
1.1.e Work with the regulators to develop practical solutions to regulatory hurdles frequently encountered in Montana. (For example, assist/support USACE regional general permits)	All MWC partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of common regulatory issues identified and potential solutions.</li> <li>- # of meetings with regulators</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>	



<p>1.1.f Promote the clear, concise, and repeatable evaluation of common core indicators applicable to assessing all aquatic restoration projects.</p>	<p>Federal and State Permitting Agencies/Private Consultants/Wetland Banks/In-Lieu Fee Program (MARS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common core indicator recommendations presented to the Wetland Council.</li> <li>- # of assessment methods incorporating common core indicators.</li> </ul>			<p><b>X</b></p>
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Objective 1.2: Regulations are consistently applied, complied with, and enforced to protect Montana’s wetlands and riparian areas.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
<p>1.2.a Support compliance with existing regulations through peer to peer communication and learning.</p>	<p>All MWC partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of stream and wetland permitting workshops</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>		
<p>1.2.b Partner with local governments to implement practices that ensure projects within their jurisdiction are complying with all applicable regulations.</p>	<p>All MWC partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of partnerships working with local governments</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p>1.2.c Develop recommendations on how local permitting regulators can use local ordinances and code to protect sensitive aquatic resources and support and maintain the beneficial uses of Montana’s waters.</p>	<p>All MWC partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations</li> <li>- # of local governments incorporating recommendations</li> </ul>		<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p>1.2.d Promote and support the development of mitigation sites in and around Montana’s rapidly urbanizing areas to reduce the spatial loss of the benefits wetlands provide our communities.</p>	<p>All MWC partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of mitigation acres in rapidly urbanizing areas.</li> <li>- # of educational materials promoting local mitigation.</li> </ul>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p>1.2.e Develop and promote industry based BMPs that go beyond mandated rules to ensure the continued responsible stewardship of Montana’s wetlands and riparian areas.</p>	<p>All MWC partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Industry based guidance documents</li> <li>- Landowner/developer guidance documents</li> </ul>			<p><b>X</b></p>



**Goal 2: An informed and engaged public, regulators, and private sector concerning local, state, and federal stream and wetland permitting.**

Objective 2.1: Build partnerships and agency support for educational outreach opportunities and professional development.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.1.a Build a coalition of interested parties to support and conduct outreach opportunities.	All MWC partners	- # of individuals in coalition - # of outreach activities supported/conducted	X		
2.1.b Update or develop outreach materials for specific target audiences within diverse professional organizations and the private sector.	All MWC partners	- # of stream and wetland permitting workshops - # of updated publications	X		
2.1.c Support professional development opportunities regarding stream and wetland permitting.	All MWC partners	- # of workshops/seminars related to stream and wetland permitting	X		
2.1.d Provide updates on changes made to regulations and rules governing wetlands and other aquatic resources as they occur, and what effect they have on aquatic resources in Montana		- # of updates provided/year - # of different formats updates provided	X	X	
2.1.e Develop easily accessible web-based application for accessing stream and wetland regulatory information.	All MWC partners	- Web-based application developed and supported. - Web use statistics		X	X



## Strategic Direction #4: Science Needs

**Goal 1: Montanans have information on and an understanding of the extent and condition of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana and the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment.**

Objective 1.1: Develop data products and assessment methods that support the understanding of the current extent and condition of, and threats to, wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.1.a Update and maintain the wetland and riparian areas data layer as one of the 14 official Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework layers, focusing on rapidly developing urban and ex-urban areas.	MTNHP, O'Connor Center, BLM, USFS,	- # of USGS Quads updated - \$ funding provided for Wetland framework layer/yearly	X	X	X
1.1.b Integrate LLWW and other value added attributes into the statewide NWI dataset	MTNHP, O'Connor Center	- # of USGS Quads with LLWW mapping/yearly	X	X	
1.1.c Integrate current Land use/Land cover maps into the statewide NWI dataset	JV's, MNTHP, O'Connor Center, BLM, DEQ	- # of USGS Quads with LC/LU yearly - Percent of State completed	X	X	
1.1.d Improve wetland mapping through the incorporation of floodplain maps and other ancillary data.		- # of USGS Quads incorporating floodplain maps/yearly	X	X	
1.1.e Support the development and consistent use of common core indicators in monitoring protocols developed for the state of Montana.	MTNHP, BLM, FS, DEQ, USACE, MDT, Private Consultants, Universities	- # of protocols using common core indicators - # of acres monitored		X	X
1.1.f Develop a landscape level assessment for identifying the benefits and ecological services of wetlands	MTNHP, BLM, USFS, DEQ, USACE, MDT, Universities	- # of protocols using common core indicators - # of acres monitored - Status and trends reports			X



1.1.g Improve wetland mapping through the incorporation of floodplain maps and other ancillary data.		- # of USGS Quads incorporating floodplain maps/yearly			
1.1.h Identify and conduct research on wetland resistance and resilience from landscape scale stressors, such as climate change, human population dynamics, and land use and their impacts to wetlands and aquatic resources.	Universities, O’Conner Center, agencies, NGO	- # of projects ongoing - # of Scientific papers published - # of presentations provided	X	X	X
1.1.i Compile, synthesize, and publish existing science-based information on the anticipated effects of climate change on Montana’s wetlands and riparian areas.	MT Climate Assessment, Universities, State and Federal Agencies	- # of Scientific papers published - # of presentations provided		X	X
1.1.j Acquire and provide access to statewide LiDAR datasets.	State Agencies	- Percent of State completed/yearly	X	X	X
1.1.k Compile, synthesize, and publish existing science-based information on the benefits passive low impact restoration projects conducted in Montana.		- # of projects ongoing - # of Scientific papers published - # of presentations provided	X	X	X

Objective 1.2 Disseminate products that support the understanding of the current extent and condition of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana and the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
1.2.a Promote and publicize the use of informative restoration tools based on the body of monitoring and assessment data that has been collected in Montana.	DEQ, O’Connor Center, BLM, MDT, Universities, USFS, USACE	- # of publications/outreach material published - # of people reached through promotions		X	X



1.2.b Support the continued and expanded use of low tech process based restoration techniques to restore Montana’s aquatic resources.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # and types of projects implemented</li> <li>- Effectiveness evaluated and published</li> </ul>	X	X	
1.2.c Publish in an accessible format a Montana status and trends report to identify and protect vulnerable wetlands and riparian areas.	MTNHP, DEQ, MDT, USACE, consultants, MARS, Watershed Groups, MT Water Center, IoE’s Climate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of permits issued by type</li> <li>- # of acres of mitigation required</li> <li>- DEQ Water Quality Integrate Reports</li> <li>- Monitoring by partners.</li> </ul>		X	X
1.2.d Continue to promote and provide the wetland and riparian areas data layer as one of the 14 official Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework layers.	DEQ, O’Connor Center, MTNHP, State Library, Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding secured/year</li> <li>- Use statistics</li> </ul>	X	X	X
1.2.e Provide and support targeted trainings and outreach programs for proper use of the data products and assessment methods that support the understanding of the current extent and condition of, and threats to, wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.	DEQ, O’Connor Center, MTNHP, State Library, Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of training provided</li> <li>- # of outreach programs</li> </ul>	X	X	X

**Goal 2: Consistent tools and products for prioritizing the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana for the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment are developed, used, and improved.**

Objective 2.1: Develop products and tools to focus collaborative restoration and protection efforts.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.1.a Develop and publish a priority restoration and protection map for wetland and riparian areas in Montana.	MNTHP, JV’s, DEQ, DU, USFS, BLM, O’Connor Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of watersheds with priority maps</li> <li>- # of acres identified as priority</li> </ul>	X	X	



2.1.b Integrate climate models into priority restoration and protection maps, status and trends reporting, and vulnerability assessments.	NOAA, MTNHP, Universities, NPS, DNRC, USFS, BLM, MT Climate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate models used.</li> <li>- Areas identified as vulnerable to climate change</li> </ul>	X	X	
2.1.c Develop informative restoration tools based on the body of monitoring and assessment data collected in Montana.	MTNHP, O'Connor Center, BLM, MDT, Universities, USFS, USACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of restoration tools developed</li> <li>- # of project implementing tools.</li> </ul>		X	X
2.1.d Develop and promote the use of tools that can help inform the economic benefits wetlands provide our communities.	Universities, NGOs, Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of tools developed</li> <li>- Use statistics of tools</li> </ul>			X
2.1.e Evaluation of incentive based wetland and riparian area restoration and protection measures employed by other states, tribes, or local.	Consultants, Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation completed and reported upon</li> </ul>	X		

Objective 2.2: Promote the use and improvement of products and tools developed for prioritizing the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas in Montana for the benefits they provide to our communities, economy, and the environment.

<b>Potential Actions</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Indicators to Measure</b>	<b>Short-term Action</b>	<b>Mid-Term Action</b>	<b>Long-Term Action</b>
2.2.a Educate and tech transfer for professionals on the use of tools and materials.	MWCC, Watershed groups, MT Water Forum, MT AWRA, BLM, FS, DEQ, DNRC, MDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of trainings provided</li> <li>- # of people trained</li> <li>- # of projects incorporating data</li> <li>- # of page uses pre/post trainings</li> </ul>	X	X	X
2.2.b Promote consistent use of common core indicators in monitoring protocols developed for the state of Montana	MTNHP, BLM, FS, DEQ, USACE, MDT, Private Consultants, Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of protocols used</li> <li>- # of acres monitored</li> <li>- Status and trends</li> </ul>		X	X



<p>2.2.c Collect and disseminate materials and user-inputted data from a central repository to support and update priority restoration and protection maps.</p>	<p>MWCC, Watershed Groups, MT AWRA, BLM, FS, DEQ, DNRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed web portal</li> <li>- Protocol for QA/QC on contributed material</li> <li>- # of community contributions</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p>2.2.d Promote trainings and use of materials (priority maps, vulnerable wetlands) to inform wetlands and riparian areas permit decisions and identification of mitigation sites that are priority for restoration and protection.</p>	<p>MTNHP, DEQ, MDT, USACE, Consultants, MARS, Watershed Groups, Mitigation Bankers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of permits issued by type</li> <li>- # of acres of mitigation required</li> <li>- DEQ Water Quality Integrate Reports</li> <li>- # of identified priority sites restored or protected</li> <li>- Use statistics</li> <li>- Requests for materials</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p>2.2.e Provide trainings on using developed tools and materials to identify priority voluntary restoration sites</p>	<p>MWCC, Watershed Groups, NGOs, FWP, DEQ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of identified priority sites restored or protected</li> <li>- Use statistics</li> <li>- Requests for materials</li> </ul>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p>2.2.f Provide trainings for Local Governments to use the tools and materials developed to inform local land use planning decisions.</p>	<p>Local governments, Conservation Districts, DEQ, FWP, Montana Association of Counties,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of active aquatic protection local ordinances</li> <li>- # or 310 issuances by project type</li> <li>- Use statistics</li> </ul>		<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>
<p>2.2.g Promote the incorporation of Status and trends reporting into federal, tribal, state, and local government planning documents to prioritize the protection and restoration of vulnerable wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.</p>	<p>Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Agencies, NGOs, Public, Watershed Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of permits issued by type</li> <li>- # of acres of mitigation required</li> <li>- DEQ Water Quality Integrate Reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>

## Definitions

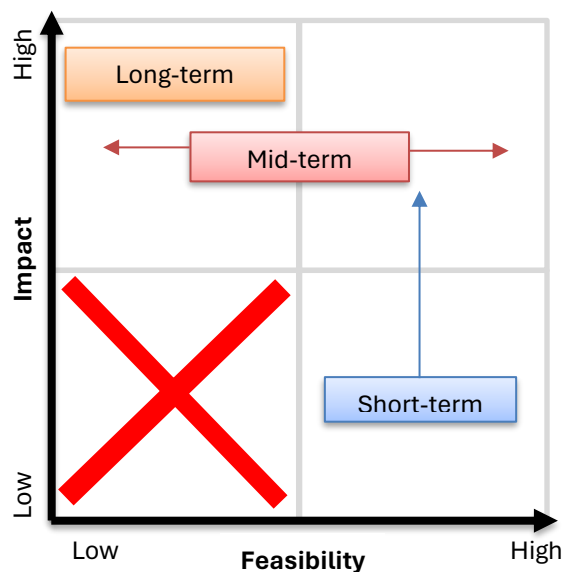
**Goal:** The goals are what we hope to accomplish at the end of 10 years. These aren't actions but lofty goals we would like to see at the end of our 10 year time period. For example (Regulatory – Goal 2: An informed and engaged public, regulators, and private sector concerning local, state, and federal stream and wetland permitting)

**Objective:** The objectives outline the strategies or steps to accomplish those goals. Each objective needs to be measurable and time bound. **Specific, Measurable, Actionable or Assignable, Realistic or Relevant, and Time-bound**

**Potential Actions:** These are examples of stepwise actions *potential* partners can take to help accomplish the objectives, and ultimately the goal(s).

**Potential Partners:** General ideas on who could work on a *potential* action i.e. State Gov Agencies, NGOs, other Wetland Council working groups, etc.

**Indicators to measure:** These are the *potential* measures to record/track in a project that will help us demonstrate progress toward accomplishing the objective (and ultimately the goal), these should be simple and applicable to the *potential* action.



**Short-Term Action:** Short-term actions are those that will generally have a lower impact but are highly feasibility to accomplish in 1 – 3 years (see the impact and feasibility chart). Short-term actions are generally the first steps that mid-term and long-term actions are built off of.

**Mid-Term Action:** Mid-term actions are those that will have a higher impact and are currently low to highly feasible (see the impact and feasibility chart). They can be feasibly accomplished in 3 - 5 years, building off short-term actions.

**Long-Term Action:** Long-term actions are those that will have a high impact but are currently not feasible to accomplish (see the impact and feasibility chart). They can be feasibly accomplished in 5 - 10 years, building off short and mid-term actions.

**Completed Action (not included in this document):** This is for accounting purposes that won't be shown in the strategic framework but will be kept in working group documents as a living document to keep track of work we know has been done and we can use to demonstrate progress moving forward and inform future planning efforts.