

Montana Migratory Game Bird Habitat Program
Advisory Council and Summary Information
April 2012

2-15-3405. Appointment of wetlands protection advisory council. (1) The director of fish, wildlife, and parks shall appoint an advisory council pursuant to [2-15-122](#) to review proposals developed by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks that involve the use of money received by the department under [87-2-411](#) for the protection, conservation, and development of wetlands in Montana. (2) Members must be appointed to the advisory council who represent Montana migratory game bird hunters, nonconsumptive users of wildlife, and the agricultural industry.

87-2-411. Migratory game bird licenses -- fees -- disposition of proceeds. (1) The fee for a resident to purchase the migratory game bird license is \$6.50. The fee for a nonresident to purchase the migratory game bird license is \$50. (2) Money received from the sale of migratory game bird licenses must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund for the use of the department and may be expended only for the protection, conservation, and development of wetlands in Montana.

Wetlands Protection Advisory Council – the Council currently is made up of 5 members, representing the three different interest groups identified in statute (2-15-3405, MCA):

- Jim Moreland, Billings. Migratory game bird hunter
- Tammy Crone, Bozeman. Non-consumptive user of wildlife
- Steve Laufenberg, Bozeman. Migratory game bird hunter
- Henry Gordon, Chinook. Agricultural industry
- Gary Moses, Kalispell. Migratory game bird hunter

Overview – Revenues raised from the Montana Migratory Game Bird license have been invested in numerous wetland conservation, enhancement, and restoration projects across Montana. Projects have been completed on private and public lands to provide wetland and associated upland habitats for a host of wildlife species. The majority of projects completed to date have involved outside contributions of cash and other resources to substantially expand the program’s positive impact on Montana’s wetland habitats. To better document program accomplishments and status of individual projects, FWP has been inventorying and evaluating historical projects funded with program revenues – some dating back to the late 1980s, shortly after the program’s beginning. In 2010, FWP hired a contracting firm to visit a sampling of approximately 500 wetland sites where Program funds were used. Each wetland is evaluated using a standard process to determine condition of infrastructure, wetland qualities, condition of surrounding uplands, and anecdotal wildlife use. A searchable database has been developed to store project data, including information from field evaluations. A program summary report is scheduled to be available for distribution by spring 2013.

Accomplishments – A preliminary summary of accomplishments follows. With additional electronic and paper files to be reviewed, FWP anticipates the list of accomplishments will continue to expand.

- 631 wetlands restored, repaired or created, 5,072 wetland acres
- 3 grazing systems totaling 3,430 acres
- 60 upland cover seedings totaling 6,377 acres
- 4 land projects totaling 2,600 acres

Recent and anticipated accomplishments include:

- 130-acre wetland repair in Carter County (2011).
- 150-acre shallow reservoir repair in Valley County (2011).
- Three-celled shallow impoundment totaling 89-acres at Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area, Lake County (2010).
- 3-year field evaluation of past wetland projects underway, scheduled to be completed in 2012
- Little Doney Lake Wetlands Conservation land project, totaling 1,103 acres, Powell County (2009).
- Wetland Managers training workshop 2011. Organized for FWP and other partners to develop water management plans to achieve wetland habitat productivity on state and federal wildlife areas.
- Two-celled wetland project on Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management area totaling 20 acres, scheduled for completion in 2012.
- Additional wetland repair projects are planned in association with 2011 flood damage (2012-13).