

Migratory Bird Wetland Program

*To protect, conserve, and
create wetlands in
Montana...*



*...for the benefit of
wildlife, especially
migratory birds, and
the residents and
visitors of Montana*



**For more information or to
obtain a MBWP Guidance
Document:**

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The Migratory Bird Stamp Act, enacted by the Montana Legislature in 1985, authorizes the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to use funds from migratory bird hunting licenses "...for the protection, conservation, and development of wetlands in Montana." A citizen-based Wetlands Protection Advisory Council provides program oversight.

Program Accomplishments 1985 - 2013

- Restoration, enhancement, or creation of 633 wetlands (5,162 acres)
- Management actions to enhance wetland-associated grasslands on 9,807 acres
- Permanent protection of 3,700 acres of previously unprotected wetland and associated grassland habitat



Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks recently supported a status assessment of wetland projects (red dots) completed through this program.

Wetlands are a declining resource in Montana; approximately one third of our original wetlands have been lost, primarily to draining and filling. Wetlands provide critical ecosystem functions important for our communities and our wildlife, including water purification, flood control, and groundwater recharge. They also provide critical foraging, brood-rearing, and migration habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-associated wildlife. Associated uplands provide important nesting habitat for waterfowl and contribute to the water quality and function of wetlands. The Migratory Bird Wetland Program is dedicated to conserving wetlands and associated uplands to benefit Montana's wildlife, especially migratory birds, and enhance hunting and other compatible recreational opportunities.

To facilitate delivery of the Migratory Bird Wetland Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has created a Guidance Document to help project sponsors navigate the program and identify good quality wetland creation, restoration, and protection opportunities.