

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS (SWG)

“SWG IS OUR NATION’S CORE PROGRAM FOR PREVENTING WILDLIFE FROM BECOMING ENDANGERED IN EVERY STATE”

SWG IS ABOUT:

- 1) NATIVE SPECIES CONSERVATION**
- 2) GETTING AHEAD OF THE ESA LISTING PROCESS**
- 3) TYING LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**
- 4) ALTERNATIVE WILDLIFE FUNDING**

On November 5, 2001, President Bush signed the “Department of the Interior Appropriations Act 2002”, which created the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. As indicated within this legislation, these grants were established, “...for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished...”. Since its creation, the SWG program has received annual Congressional appropriations that are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The Service apportions these funds, using a legislated formula based on human population and geographic area, to wildlife management agencies within States, Territories and the District of Columbia (States).

Congress stipulated that each State wildlife agency that wished to participate in the SWG program must develop a Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy by October 1, 2005.

If the objective is to address the subject of “biodiversity”, we need to do 3 things:

1. Take a more **PROACTIVE** approach in dealing with species in need of conservation. The current approach is focused on the listing process and the prevention of extinction. It is a **REACTIVE** approach.
2. Address the underlying ecological processes that support all wildlife. In short, focus more on **HABITAT**. If we enhance the support system the fruits of that system will be enhanced.
3. Understand that **SYSTEMATIC** approaches are more effective in conserving biodiversity than **AD-HOC** approaches. One focuses on the big picture the other on a smaller picture.

MONTANA’S SWG PRIORITIES:

Riparian & Wetland Areas
Mountain Streams
Grassland Complexes

Aspen Galleries
Prairie Streams
Sagebrush Country

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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GOOGLE: any conservation or environmental organization or natural resource agency; any State’s Comprehensive Strategy; any subject related to State Wildlife Grants or wildlife habitat management.

TIER I SPECIES

Mussels (1)	Amphibians (3)	Reptiles (5)	Birds (19)	Mammals (15)	Fish (17)
Western Pearlshell	Boreal Toad	Milk Snake	Bald Eagle	American Bison	Arctic Grayling
	Coeur d'Alene Salamander	Smooth Green Snake	Black-backed Woodpecker	Black-footed Ferret	Blue Sucker
	Northern Leopard Frog	Snapping Turtle	Black Tern	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Bull Trout
		Spiny Softshell	Burrowing Owl	Gray Wolf	Burbot
		Western Hognose Snake	Columbia Sharp-tailed Grouse	Great Basin Pocket Mouse	Columbia Basin Redband Trout
			Common Loon	Grizzly Bear	Lake Trout
			Flammulated Owl	Hoary Marmot	Paddlefish
			Greater Sage Grouse	Lynx	Pallid Sturgeon
			Harlequin Duck	Meadow Jumping Mouse	Pearl Dace
			Interior Least Tern	Northern Bog Lemming	Sauger
			Long-billed Curlew	Pallid Bat	Shortnose Gar
			Mountain Plover	Pygmy Rabbit	Sicklefin Chub
			Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Spotted Bat	Sturgeon Chub
			Olive-sided Flycatcher	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Trout-perch
			Piping Plover	White-tailed Prairie Dog	Westslope Cutthroat Trout
			Sedge Wren		White Sturgeon
			Trumpeter Swan		Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
			Whooping Crane		
			Yellow Rail		

Terrestrial and Aquatic Focus Areas in Greatest Need of Conservation (Tier I)

Geographic focus areas in the landscape that contain significant fish and wildlife communities (species and their associated habitats) that are identified as being in greatest need of conservation.

This is a strategy to focus resources and efforts toward geographical areas where they can benefit the largest number of species and communities in need of conservation.

Terrestrial

Bitterroot/Frenchtown Valleys (406,859 acres)
Central Montana Broad Valleys (2,604,058 acres)
Deerlodge Valley (175,260 acres)
Flathead River Valley (1,586,787 acres)
Little Belt Foothills (839,541 acres)
North Tobacco Root Mountains and Foothills (224,989 acres)
Rocky Mountain Front Foothills (2,018,789 acres)
South Elkhorn Mountains (171,059 acres)
Southwest Montana Intermontane Basins and Valleys (2,077,477 acres)
Upper Yellowstone Valley (178,039 acres)
Mission/Swan Valley and Mountains (679,663 acres)
Missouri Coteau (5,278,913 acres)
Montana Sedimentary Plains (13,828,142 acres)
Bighorn Intermontane Basin (290,287 acres)
Montana Glaciated Plains (17,806,106 acres)
Montana Shale Plains (2,403,965 acres)
Powder River Basin/Breaks/Scoria Hills (2,095,021 acres)
Shale Scablands (417,176 acres)

Aquatic

Big Hole River (153 River Miles)
Bitterroot River (84 River Miles)
Blackfoot River (127 River Miles)
Jefferson River (77 River Miles)
Upper Yellowstone River (272 River Miles)
Lower Clark Fork (149 River Miles)
Middle Clark Fork (119 River Miles)
Lower Missouri River (175 River Miles)
Lower Yellowstone River (278 River Miles)
Powder River (220 River Miles)
Tongue River (221 River Miles)
Middle Missouri River (540 River Miles)

Teaming With Wildlife: Total Funding								
	FY 01 WCRP	FY02 SWG	FY03 SWG	FY04 SWG	FY05 SWG	FY06 SWG	FY07 SWG	FY01-FY07
Total	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 85,000,000	\$ 65,000,000	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 69,120,568	\$ 67,492,201	\$ 67,500,000	\$ 474,112,769
Tribal Grants	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 5,911,726	\$ 5,911,726	\$ 33,823,452
administrative (3%)	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,327,325	\$ 2,798,084	\$ 2,073,614	\$ 2,024,766	\$ 2,024,766	\$ 15,148,555
Total for States	\$ 48,500,000	\$ 77,600,000	\$ 57,672,675	\$ 61,201,916	\$ 61,046,854	\$ 59,555,709	\$ 59,555,709	\$ 425,132,863
Alabama	\$ 753,573	\$ 1,205,716	\$ 896,094	\$ 950,854	\$ 948,445	\$ 925,278	\$ 925,278	\$ 6,605,238
Alaska	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 3,880,000	\$ 2,883,633	\$ 3,060,095	\$ 3,052,342	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 21,256,641
American Samoa	\$ 121,250	\$ 194,000	\$ 144,181	\$ 153,004	\$ 152,617	\$ 148,889	\$ 148,889	\$ 1,062,830
Arizona	\$ 1,148,630	\$ 1,837,803	\$ 1,365,867	\$ 1,449,489	\$ 1,445,817	\$ 1,410,501	\$ 1,410,501	\$ 10,068,608
Arkansas	\$ 566,536	\$ 906,455	\$ 673,685	\$ 714,925	\$ 713,114	\$ 695,695	\$ 695,695	\$ 4,966,106
California	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 3,880,000	\$ 2,883,633	\$ 3,060,095	\$ 3,052,342	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 21,256,641
Colorado	\$ 1,006,751	\$ 1,610,797	\$ 1,197,155	\$ 1,270,452	\$ 1,267,233	\$ 1,236,279	\$ 1,236,279	\$ 8,824,946
Connecticut	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Delaware	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
District of Columbia	\$ 242,500	\$ 388,000	\$ 288,363	\$ 306,009	\$ 305,235	\$ 297,779	\$ 297,779	\$ 2,125,664
Florida	\$ 2,054,361	\$ 3,286,987	\$ 2,442,897	\$ 2,592,298	\$ 2,585,730	\$ 2,522,570	\$ 2,522,570	\$ 18,007,414
Georgia	\$ 1,200,808	\$ 1,921,295	\$ 1,427,913	\$ 1,515,288	\$ 1,511,450	\$ 1,474,530	\$ 1,474,530	\$ 10,525,814
Guam	\$ 121,250	\$ 194,000	\$ 144,181	\$ 153,004	\$ 152,617	\$ 148,889	\$ 148,889	\$ 1,062,830
Hawaii	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Idaho	\$ 571,398	\$ 914,231	\$ 679,467	\$ 721,085	\$ 719,258	\$ 701,689	\$ 701,689	\$ 5,008,816
Illinois	\$ 1,651,820	\$ 2,642,919	\$ 1,964,224	\$ 2,084,443	\$ 2,079,162	\$ 2,028,376	\$ 2,028,376	\$ 14,479,321
Indiana	\$ 852,921	\$ 1,364,676	\$ 1,014,232	\$ 1,076,313	\$ 1,073,586	\$ 1,047,362	\$ 1,047,362	\$ 7,476,452
Iowa	\$ 610,179	\$ 976,284	\$ 725,581	\$ 769,994	\$ 768,043	\$ 749,283	\$ 749,283	\$ 5,348,647
Kansas	\$ 717,720	\$ 1,148,347	\$ 853,460	\$ 905,720	\$ 903,425	\$ 881,358	\$ 881,358	\$ 6,291,388
Kentucky	\$ 651,008	\$ 1,041,613	\$ 774,131	\$ 821,523	\$ 819,442	\$ 799,426	\$ 799,426	\$ 5,706,568
Louisiana	\$ 735,422	\$ 1,176,676	\$ 874,511	\$ 928,044	\$ 925,693	\$ 903,082	\$ 903,082	\$ 6,446,509
Maine	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Maryland	\$ 634,704	\$ 1,015,531	\$ 754,745	\$ 800,932	\$ 798,903	\$ 779,389	\$ 779,389	\$ 5,563,593
Massachusetts	\$ 738,898	\$ 1,182,241	\$ 878,643	\$ 932,424	\$ 930,062	\$ 907,344	\$ 907,344	\$ 6,476,957
Michigan	\$ 1,390,843	\$ 2,225,353	\$ 1,653,890	\$ 1,754,509	\$ 1,750,065	\$ 1,707,317	\$ 1,707,317	\$ 12,189,294
Minnesota	\$ 973,316	\$ 1,557,304	\$ 1,157,397	\$ 1,228,258	\$ 1,225,146	\$ 1,195,221	\$ 1,195,221	\$ 8,531,863
Mississippi	\$ 557,126	\$ 891,399	\$ 662,495	\$ 703,052	\$ 701,271	\$ 684,142	\$ 684,142	\$ 4,883,626
Missouri	\$ 971,961	\$ 1,555,137	\$ 1,155,785	\$ 1,226,536	\$ 1,223,428	\$ 1,193,544	\$ 1,193,544	\$ 8,519,936
Montana	\$ 854,590	\$ 1,367,332	\$ 1,016,216	\$ 1,078,493	\$ 1,075,761	\$ 1,049,485	\$ 1,049,485	\$ 7,491,362
N. Mariana Islands	\$ 121,250	\$ 194,000	\$ 144,181	\$ 153,004	\$ 152,617	\$ 148,889	\$ 148,889	\$ 1,062,830
Nebraska	\$ 585,236	\$ 936,373	\$ 695,921	\$ 738,529	\$ 736,658	\$ 718,665	\$ 718,665	\$ 5,130,046
Nevada	\$ 787,363	\$ 1,259,774	\$ 936,275	\$ 993,612	\$ 991,095	\$ 966,886	\$ 966,886	\$ 6,901,892
New Hampshire	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
New Jersey	\$ 963,013	\$ 1,540,827	\$ 1,145,144	\$ 1,215,376	\$ 1,212,297	\$ 1,182,685	\$ 1,182,685	\$ 8,442,026
New Mexico	\$ 824,391	\$ 1,319,017	\$ 980,305	\$ 1,040,333	\$ 1,037,697	\$ 1,012,350	\$ 1,012,350	\$ 7,226,443
New York	\$ 2,333,978	\$ 3,734,378	\$ 2,775,397	\$ 2,945,190	\$ 2,937,728	\$ 2,865,971	\$ 2,865,971	\$ 20,458,613
North Carolina	\$ 1,153,607	\$ 1,845,774	\$ 1,371,785	\$ 1,455,766	\$ 1,452,078	\$ 1,416,610	\$ 1,416,610	\$ 10,112,229
North Dakota	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Ohio	\$ 1,457,720	\$ 2,332,358	\$ 1,733,414	\$ 1,839,503	\$ 1,834,842	\$ 1,790,024	\$ 1,790,024	\$ 12,777,885
Oklahoma	\$ 737,718	\$ 1,180,347	\$ 877,241	\$ 930,946	\$ 928,587	\$ 905,905	\$ 905,905	\$ 6,466,650
Oregon	\$ 874,020	\$ 1,398,427	\$ 1,039,321	\$ 1,102,960	\$ 1,100,165	\$ 1,073,292	\$ 1,073,292	\$ 7,661,478
Pennsylvania	\$ 1,579,961	\$ 2,527,945	\$ 1,878,775	\$ 1,993,755	\$ 1,988,704	\$ 1,940,127	\$ 1,940,127	\$ 13,849,395
Puerto Rico	\$ 242,500	\$ 388,000	\$ 288,363	\$ 306,009	\$ 305,235	\$ 297,779	\$ 297,779	\$ 2,125,664
Rhode Island	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
South Carolina	\$ 599,985	\$ 959,976	\$ 713,459	\$ 757,142	\$ 755,224	\$ 736,777	\$ 736,777	\$ 5,259,341
South Dakota	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Tennessee	\$ 840,636	\$ 1,345,020	\$ 999,624	\$ 1,060,816	\$ 1,058,128	\$ 1,032,282	\$ 1,032,282	\$ 7,368,789
Texas	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 3,880,000	\$ 2,883,633	\$ 3,060,095	\$ 3,052,342	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 2,977,785	\$ 21,256,641
Utah	\$ 681,257	\$ 1,090,005	\$ 810,101	\$ 859,703	\$ 857,525	\$ 836,579	\$ 836,579	\$ 5,971,748
Vermont	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Virgin Islands	\$ 121,250	\$ 194,000	\$ 144,181	\$ 153,004	\$ 152,617	\$ 148,889	\$ 148,889	\$ 1,062,830
Virginia	\$ 985,074	\$ 1,576,121	\$ 1,171,378	\$ 1,243,105	\$ 1,239,955	\$ 1,209,668	\$ 1,209,668	\$ 8,634,969
Washington	\$ 996,614	\$ 1,594,582	\$ 1,185,101	\$ 1,257,489	\$ 1,254,303	\$ 1,223,665	\$ 1,223,665	\$ 8,735,419
West Virginia	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329
Wisconsin	\$ 876,862	\$ 1,402,979	\$ 1,042,700	\$ 1,106,520	\$ 1,103,717	\$ 1,076,757	\$ 1,076,757	\$ 7,686,292
Wyoming	\$ 485,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 576,727	\$ 612,020	\$ 610,468	\$ 595,557	\$ 595,557	\$ 4,251,329



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

a natural investment

Montana Teaming with Wildlife Supporters

Last Updated: 02/14/07

1. Adventure Cycling Association
2. Allain Photography, LLC
3. Alternative Energy Resources Organization
4. American Fisheries Society-Montana Chapter
5. American Wildlands (National)
6. Anaconda Sportsmen Club
7. Big Sky Upland Bird Association
8. Big Sky Wildcare
9. Billings Rod & Gun Club
10. Bitter Root Land Trust
11. Bitterroot Audubon Society
12. Bitterroot Houndsmen Association
13. Boone and Crockett Club (National)
14. Border Group
15. Buck Creek Guide Service
16. Crazy Creek Products, Inc.
17. Custer Rod & Gun Club
18. Dawson County Rod & Gun Club
19. Deer Lodge River Ranch
20. Fauna West Wildlife Consultants
21. Federation of Fly Fishers
22. Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
23. Five Valleys Audubon Society
24. Five Valleys Land Trust
25. Flathead Audubon Society
26. Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
27. Gallatin Valley Land Trust
28. Gallatin Wildlife Association
29. Great Falls Archery Club
30. Greater Yellowstone Coalition
31. Grounded Eagle Foundation, Inc.
32. Heart of the Rockies
33. Helena Hunters & Anglers
34. Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association
35. Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
36. Holton's of Helena, Ltd.
37. Hyalite Outfitters
38. Images on the Wildside
39. International Assn. for Bear Research & Mgmt (National)
40. Last Chance Audubon Society
41. Laurel Rod & Gun Club
42. Libby Rod & Gun Club
43. Meagher County Sportsmen
44. Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals, The
45. Montana Association of Land Trusts
46. Montana Audubon
47. Montana Bald Eagle Working Group
48. Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
49. Montana Environmental Education Association
50. Montana Falconers Association
51. Montana Game Wardens Association
52. Montana Land Reliance
53. Montana Loon Society
54. Montana Natural History Center
55. Montana River Action
56. Montana Society of American Foresters
57. Montana State Parks & Wildlife Interpretative Assn.
58. Montana Trout, Inc.
59. Montana Wilderness Assoc., Eastern Wildlands Chapter
60. Montana Wildlife Federation
61. National Center for Appropriate Technology
62. National ECO Institute (National)
63. Northern Rockies Natural History
64. Off the Beaten Path
65. Outer Limits Tours
66. Park County Rod & Gun Club
67. Predator Conservation Alliance
68. Prickly Pear Land Trust
69. Public Land & Water Access Assn Inc.
70. Rainy Pass Repair, Inc.
71. Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
72. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (National)
73. Russell County Sportsmen's Association
74. Sacajawea Audubon Society
75. The Conservation Fund-Montana
76. The Nature Conservancy-Montana Chapter
77. The StoneFly Fly Shop LLC
78. The Wildlife Society-Montana Chapter
79. The Wildlife Society-Montana Student Chapter
80. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership - MT
81. Timberline Resources, Inc.
82. Triple-M-Outfitters
83. Trout Unlimited-Bitter Root Chapter
84. Trout Unlimited-Big Blackfoot Chapter
85. Trout Unlimited-Flathead Valley Chapter
86. Trout Unlimited-George Grant Chapter
87. Trout Unlimited-Joe Brooks Chapter
88. Trout Unlimited-Kootenai Valley Trout Club
89. Trout Unlimited-Lewis & Clark Chapter
90. Trout Unlimited-Madison-Gallatin Chapter
91. Trout Unlimited-Magic City Fly Fishers
92. Trout Unlimited-Montana Council
93. Trout Unlimited-Pat Barnes-Missouri River Chapter
94. Trout Unlimited-Snowy Mountain Chapter
95. Trout Unlimited-West Slope Chapter
96. Trust for Public Land-Montana
97. Turner Endangered Species Fund
98. Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society
99. Vital Ground Foundation
100. Walrus and the Carpenter, The
101. Wild Sentry
102. Wild Things Unlimited
103. Wildstock
104. Women's Voices for the Earth
105. Yellowstone Safari Company
106. Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society
107. Zoo Montana

Teaming with Wildlife

A coalition of more than 3,000 groups working together to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**RESTORE FUNDING FOR
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks'
State Wildlife Grant Program**

- *We are asking Senators to reinstate the State Wildlife Grant program funds into HB 820.*
- The Governor's budget proposed a ONE-TIME-ONLY \$1 million dollar, biennial, general fund appropriation for FWP's *State Wildlife Grant program*.
- State funding for this program will be matched by federal dollars on a 1:1 basis.

The State Wildlife Grants program is the nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. It provides essential financial resources for all fifty states to implement on-the-ground conservation projects aimed at keeping wildlife and their habitat from disappearing. Consequently, it allows the state of Montana to prevent fish and wildlife species from being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The projects that will be funded with these funds include 3 large landscape-habitat initiatives, 4 sensitive species projects, 3 survey & inventory projects, a wildlife monitoring project on the Yellowstone River, and a sagebrush leasing program:

FISH

CUTTHROAT TROUT RESTORATION IN NORTH-

CENTRAL MONTANA: Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) in the upper Missouri River basin currently occupy less than 2% of their historic habitat. Since 2001, FWP and the U.S. Forest Service have been working cooperatively to restore WCT populations in the mountain streams in Cascade, Fergus, Pondera, Teton, and Lewis & Clark Counties.



CUTTHROAT TROUT RESTORATION IN SOUTH-WEST MONTANA: Westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) in south-west Montana currently occupy less than 5% of their historic range. Restoration efforts will focus on securing and restoring existing WCT populations through removal of competing nonnative species, placing barriers to prevent reinvasion by nonnative species, and relocating fish or eggs from threatened populations to suitable or secure habitats.

FLUVIAL ARCTIC GRAYLING RESTORATION: In the lower 48 states, the rare river dwelling (fluvial) form of Arctic grayling was reduced to only one population—in the Big Hole River. This project implements candidate conservation agreements that assure that if the grayling becomes protected under the Endangered Species Act, landowners participating in this program will not be subject to additional regulations. It is focused on riparian restoration efforts on the Big Hole River that directly benefit this rare species of fish, including improving bank stability, pool improvement, streamside plant diversity, silt control (water quality), noxious weed control, and riparian fencing.

PRAIRIE FISH SURVEY: Montana has 4,200 prairie streams totaling about 18,000 miles, with the majority of these warm-water streams in the eastern half of Montana. This project will complete FWP survey and inventory work on these streams for fish. These surveys provide baseline information so FWP can respond to development proposals and listing challenges.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER SURVEY: The Lower Yellowstone River represents some of the most pristine large-river habitat in North America. This cooperative project will monitor the

distribution and habitat of rare fish such as the burbot and pallid sturgeon, as well as rare birds such as interior least terns, bald eagles, and piping plovers.

WILDLIFE

PRAIRIE BIRD MONITORING: This project is focused on two rare prairie bird species: the Mountain Plover and Burrowing Owl. Today they suffer from change and loss of habitat. This project will develop a Montana, habitat based, distribution map and accurate, standardized, monitoring techniques for these two species.



FRESHWATER MUSSEL SURVEY: Freshwater mussels are the most imperiled wildlife in North America., with over two-thirds of species identified as threatened, endangered, extinct, or of special concern. FWP is mandated by law to protect these species. This project will map the distribution and status of freshwater mussels throughout Montana.

MONTANA REPTILE & BAT SURVEY: This project will complete an ongoing baseline assessment of the status and distribution of these two wildlife groups, many of which are rare. The project will also establish sampling techniques that will be used for long-term monitoring and coordination.

HABITAT

UPPER BIG HOLE: The Big Hole River is one of Montana's richest wildlife environments, and home to several rare species: 3 species of fish, 6 birds, and 4 mammals. This partnership project, which includes the Big Hole Watershed Committee and about 40 landowners, will work on native willow and grass restoration, strategic riparian fencing, silt control, setback management, and a conservation easement.

MILK RIVER: The Milk River has rich native flora and over 20 rare species of wildlife. It is well connected to prairie streams and sagebrush uplands. This partnership project will use best management practices, rest-rotation grazing, wetland enhancement projects, noxious weed control, strategic riparian fencing, and conservation easements to protect rare wildlife in this prairie system.

WESTSIDE LAND USE PLANNING: MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks will work with western Montana counties to develop some wildlife conservation strategies that can be used in land use planning decisions. This coordinated FWP/county effort includes mapping critical wildlife areas and a review of suburban wildlife management.

SAGEBRUSH HABITAT LEASING: Ninety-two species of wildlife regularly use Montana's sagebrush habitat, many of which are rare species. At least half of Montana's sagebrush-lands are privately owned. This cooperative project is designed to protect the best of these lands with 30 year leases on privately owned land.

