

## Joint Meeting



Thursday January 23, 2014, 8:45 am - 4:00 pm  
Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Ave., Helena

---

**8:45 a.m. Gather for Coffee and Conversation with Colleagues.**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Round-Robin Introductions.**

*Lynda Saul, Wetland Council Chair*

*Laura Andersen, Montana Watershed Coordination Council*

**9:30 a.m. MWCC Annual General Meeting: MWCC Organizational Updates.**

*Laura Andersen, Montana Watershed Coordination Council*

2013 was a year of growth at MWCC. The Board of Directors will provide updates on major milestones since the last Annual General Meeting as well as the vision for 2014 and beyond.

**10:40 a.m. Break**

### Landscape Conservation Planning

*Helping local groups engage and deliver conservation and restoration*

**11:00 a.m. Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan – using it to advance wetland and watershed conservation and restoration.**

*Deb O'Neill, MFWP, Fish and Wildlife Plan Coordinator*

The focus of the Montana SWAP is Community Types of Greatest Conservation Need (unlike most fish and wildlife agency plans which are species driven). Several community types immediately rose to the top – all rivers and streams, floodplain and riparian, wetlands, and open water. Current impacts and future threats were assessed for these communities, and actions to minimize or mitigate these threats were identified. Deb will walk us through this part of the plan to demonstrate how the SWAP may help further conservation and restoration of these valuable habitats. Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan is in a 30-day public review period which ends February 9, 2014. Access the plan at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/>.

**11:30 a.m. Bringing Large Landscape Conservation into Local Focus.**

*Gary Tabor, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Executive Director*

The CLLC connects private, public and tribal land managers to address large scale conservation challenges such as habitat fragmentation and climate change. The Center provides technical assistance to communities that seek collaborative strategies to address science and policy needs, resourcing, capacity building and cooperative governance design. CLLC also co-directs the Roundtable of the Crown of the Continent with the University of Montana. The Roundtable brings many of the major land management stakeholders in Montana, Alberta and British Columbia together to address aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, watershed management, restoration forestry, wildlife corridor conservation, and climate adaptation.

**Noon Catered lunch**

- 1:00 p.m. Watershed Restoration Plans – restoring water quality and integrating wetland restoration to support multiple watershed goals.**  
*Robert Ray, DEQ Water Quality Protection Bureau, Section Supervisor*  
*Steve Carpenedo, DEQ Wetland Program, Wetland Environmental Science Specialist*  
Although Watershed Restoration Plans, under the Clean Water Act, have an emphasis on improving water quality, the activities that bring about those changes happen on the landscape. The planning process itself can be supported by several state initiatives including the Big Sky Watershed Corps and DNRC planning grants and has the potential to address natural resource protection and restoration at varying scales and with additional priorities.
- 1:30 p.m. Joint Venture’s Landscape Conservation Planning.**  
*Ali Duvall, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Assistant Coordinator*  
Joint Ventures (JVs) work to conserve priority bird habitats through partnership-driven, science-based projects and programs. What is the purpose of JVs? How do JVs set conservation priorities? What types of information and resources might be available from JVs to help local groups deliver conservation and restoration?
- 2:00 p.m. Break**
- 2:15 p.m. Wetland and Riparian Conservation Planning and Coordination – building upon the Summit.**  
*Greg Neudecker, USFWS MT Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program State Coordinator*  
*Catherine Wightman, MFWP Habitat and Farm Bill Coordinator*  
At the Wetland and Riparian Summit in October 2013, the Wetland Council explored priorities for collaborative coordination on wetland and riparian conservation and identified next steps. Two working groups have since met to explore opportunities for conservation planning and how coordination could be structured (including funding and policy). We will propose approaches to meet the needs for collaborative coordination and increase the effectiveness of delivering multi-function and multi-scale conservation and restoration.
- 3:30 p.m. Discussion and Next Steps.**  
We’ll build on the presentations to develop next steps that the Wetland Council and the Watershed Coordination Council can take to strengthen partnerships and enhance conservation and restoration.
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn**
- 

**Montana Wetland Council: Next Meeting March 26 in Missoula will focus on Forested Wetlands.**

*(Meeting is in conjunction with Northwest Scientific Association 85th Annual Conference March 27-28).*

The Montana Wetland Council is an active network of diverse interests who work cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana’s wetland and riparian ecosystems by implementing Montana’s Wetland Plan. The Council meets three times per year and everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, (406) 444-6652 or [lsaul@mt.gov](mailto:lsaul@mt.gov) or visit our website: <http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/wetlands/wetlandscouncil.mcp>

**Montana Watershed Coordination Council: Get involved with MWCC...**

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council is a statewide network organized to advance voluntary local watershed work. MWCC serves as a forum that links local watershed groups with resources and assistance to help enhance, conserve, and protect natural resources. For additional information contact Kristin Sewak, MWCC’s new Executive Director, at [info@mtwatersheds.org](mailto:info@mtwatersheds.org) or visit our website: <http://mtwatersheds.org/>.

---

Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Ave., Helena

