

*A voluntary, non-regulatory, and
incentive-based guide to choosing
conservation programs*

May 2019

*Brought to you by the
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife
Refuge Community Working Group*

RANGELAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN MONTANA



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<i>CREP</i>	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
<i>CRP</i>	Conservation Reserve Program
<i>CRP-TIP</i>	Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program
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<i>CTA</i>	Conservation Technical Assistance
<i>DNRC</i>	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
<i>DU</i>	Ducks Unlimited
<i>ECP</i>	Emergency Conservation Program
<i>EQIP</i>	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
<i>EWP</i>	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
<i>FSA</i>	Farm Service Agency
<i>FWP</i>	Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
<i>MBWP</i>	Migratory Bird Wetland Program
<i>MRP</i>	Montana Rangelands Partnership
<i>MSGOT</i>	Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team
<i>NRCS</i>	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
<i>SGI</i>	Sage Grouse Initiative
<i>SHA</i>	Safe Harbor Agreement
<i>SWCDM</i>	Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana
<i>TNC</i>	The Nature Conservancy
<i>UGBEP</i>	Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program
<i>USFWS</i>	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<i>WWF</i>	World Wildlife Fund



INTRODUCTION

Montana is known as the “Last Best Place” because of its abundant natural resources. These resources do more than provide beauty for the state; they also provide economic support for many families and rural communities in the state.

This menu of Rangeland Conservation Programs in Montana was first created in 2016 to provide landowners with a list of conservation programs provided through federal, state, local, and private sources to help meet management and conservation objectives on their land. This second edition is updated with new programs and contact information as well as scenarios for landowners exploring different program options. We hope that the options within this booklet will empower you to select the program that best fits your need.

Although great effort was made to ensure the list is complete, it is not exhaustive and will continue to be updated as needed. It is not an endorsement of the programs, nor is it meant to provide all the necessary information to enable landowners to decide between programs. What the Conservation Menu provides is a shopping list of the available programs for different conservation needs, and the contact information for those responsible for the programs. Lastly, this booklet focuses on rangeland conservation programs. Landowners should visit **www.mtconservationmenu.org** for program options across the state and more information on each program.

The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Community Working Group has produced this resource to advocate for voluntary, incentive-based conservation for the enhancement of the rangeland ecosystems of Montana.

PROGRAM SCENARIOS

To help illustrate the various ways producers can utilize rangeland conservation programs to achieve their conservation and management goals, below you'll find two examples that illustrate different paths producers can take.

A Conservation Easement Helps A Family Transition

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PROBLEM: *A ranch family is ready to transition the operation to the next generation. The parents wish to retire and need the value of the ranch to fund their retirement. Their daughter lives and works on the family ranch and wants to own and operate it into the future. Her other siblings living off the ranch do not have that interest. In addition to retiring, the parents want to make a gift to their children from the proceeds of the sale of the ranch. To stay on the ranch, the daughter will have to buy the ranch from the parents at a discounted price. The other children will receive cash.*

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SOLUTION: *The daughter purchases the ranch property and takes out a loan. After consulting with legal and accounting experts and her lending institution, the daughter agrees to sell a conservation easement at full market value, or in this case about one third of the fair market value of the ranch. For the easement to proceed, the lender must subordinate their loan to the easement. The lender agrees to do so because of the financial merits. The owner negotiates the easement with a land trust that allows for the historic ranch production practices on the ranch to continue. The easement does not prescribe grazing or other management, and the land trust only receives the right to enforce the easement. The easement prohibits current and future owners from converting the range to cropland, subdividing the property for residential uses, and other industrial activities that will destroy the rangeland resource.*

Sage Grouse Go Hand-in-hand With Drought Management

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PROBLEM: *A rancher in eastern Montana has had some good moisture years since 2011 but is worried about the reliability of some of the ranch's reservoirs in dry years affecting his ability to use certain pastures. Also, he has been hearing a lot about sage grouse and is worried about potential effects of a future listing by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and how it might affect his ranching operation.*

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SOLUTION: *He visits his local NRCS office to discuss if there are any programs that might be able to help his operation improve water availability and distribution on the ranch. After discussing his concerns, the NRCS planner suggests he applies for the Sage Grouse Initiative, a program within NRCS' EQIP program which allows for a conservation plan that provides predictability on private land in the case of an endangered species listing. After talking with the NRCS planner further, he decides to apply for the program. The planner then initiates the planning process, which includes a whole ranch inventory and identifying forage production and range health. Additionally, resource concerns (e.g. water quality/quantity issues, noxious weeds, etc.) and threats to sage grouse are identified.*

A conservation plan is created including a grazing rotation plan and water developments as well as addressing threats to sage grouse. This might include fence marking near leks, a deferred or rest-rotation grazing system, or wildlife escape ramps in water tanks. After the plan is finished it is ranked. If it ranks high enough and if the rancher would like to enter a contract, it will be funded. The rancher can then install a pipeline and livestock tanks that will allow him to implement a deferred rest rotation grazing system. He now has reliable water sources in all his pastures, and the grazing system provides additional cover in pastures where sage grouse hens are likely nesting.












Once the conservation plan is in place, either with or without NRCS funding, and all threats to sage grouse within the landowner's control are addressed, the rancher receives assurances from USFWS that in the event of a listing no further action would be required by them regarding the practices installed in the plan. USFWS also has a program, Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, to provide similar assurances for other species.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS






Although great effort was made to ensure this list of conservation programs is complete and accurate, it is not exhaustive and details will change over time. It will be updated as needed periodically. This is not an endorsement of the programs, nor is it meant to provide all the necessary information to enable landowners to decide between programs. Please refer to the program contacts to find out more about each program.

Organization	Program	Program Benefits	Eligibility Requirements (i.e. geographic boundary)
Ducks Unlimited (DU)	Conservation Easement Program 	Conservation Easements; Estate Planning	Land must be in Blaine, Phillips, or Sheridan counties.
	Revolving Land Acquisition Program 	Fee-title Acquisition; Grassland Restoration; Ranch Infrastructure; Cover Crops	Land must be in Blaine, Phillips, or Sheridan counties.
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	Conservation Loans	Ranch Infrastructure	A conservation plan must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing.
	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)  (for CRP-Practices from NRCS)	Native Species Plantings; Erosion Control; Cover Crops	Must have owned or operated the land for at least a year. Land must be cropland or marginal pastureland.
	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)  (for CRP-Practices from NRCS)	Native Species Plantings; Grassland Restoration; Erosion Control	Land must be cropland or marginal pastureland. Persons with an existing CRP contract are not eligible for CREP on that land until that contract expires.
	CRP Grasslands  (for CRP-Practices from NRCS)	Native Species Plantings; Grassland Restoration; Erosion Control	Must have owned or operated the land for at least a year. Land currently must be planted to a grass cover.
	Conservation Reserve Program - Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP)	Estate Planning	Only land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract is eligible.
	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) 	Disaster Management; Ranch Infrastructure	FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage.
Local Conservation District	Cost Share 	Ranch Infrastructure; Grassland Restoration; Native Species Plantings; Riparian Fencing/Seeding	Dependent on conservation district.
Montana Community Foundation	Planned Giving	Planned Giving; Estate Planning	Appreciated property owned for over a year.
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)	Rangeland Improvement Loan Program	Ranch Infrastructure	Apply through local Conservation District along with conservation plan.

KEY Technical Assistance =  Contract or Agreement Required = 

<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Direct Payments</i>	<i>Length of Enrollment</i>
DU's program accepts easements in perpetuity through its affiliate Wetlands America Trust as well as accompanying donations to cover associated costs such as the annual monitoring effort. DU agrees to monitor the property on a yearly basis to ensure ongoing protection of its natural resources.	Yes	One year to perpetuity depending on program 
DU identifies a property for sale with high habitat value but a high risk of conversion. DU purchases it from the willing seller at market value, restores degraded habitat features, and places a conservation easement on the property. Once restored and protected, DU sells it to a conservation buyer.	Yes	One year to perpetuity depending on program 
Conservation Loans provide access to credit for producers who want to implement conservation measures on their land but do not have the up front funds. Loans can be up to \$1,429,000.	Yes	Terms vary, but not to exceed 30 years 
Enrolled producers agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health/quality in exchange for a yearly rental payment.	Yes, annual rental payment and possible incentive payments through FSA. CRP- Practice 50% cost share	10-15 years 
CREP, an offshoot of CRP, targets high-priority conservation concerns identified by a State, and federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns.	Yes, annual rental payment and possible incentive payments through FSA. Cost share for landowners	10-15 years 
CRP Grasslands, an offshoot of CRP, helps landowners and operators protect grassland, emphasizing support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grasslands under the greatest threat of conversion.	Yes, annual rental payment and possible incentive payments through FSA. Cost share for landowners	14-15 years 
CRP-TIP offers assistance for retired/retiring landowners and opportunities for beginning/socially disadvantaged producers. It provides additional payments on land enrolled in expiring CRP contracts if they sell/rent this land to a beginning producer.	Yes, two additional annual rental payments on land enrolled in expiring CRP contracts	One year 
ECP provides funding and assistance to producers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. Limited to \$200,000 per person per disaster.	No, but cost share payments up to 75% of the cost to implement approved restoration practices.	
Many conservation districts provide cost share for landowners looking to make improvements on their operation. Generally, practices must benefit the natural resources in the respective county (e.g. irrigation projects, stock wells, grass seeding, or fencing).	No, but cost share assistance is possible for selected management actions.	Variable 
Producers can donate real estate with various options for reimbursement to Montana Community Foundation. Such a donation has several benefits, including: federal income tax charitable deduction, avoid capital gains tax, etc.	Based on estate donation package chosen	Perpetuity 
DNRC's loan program offers low interest loans (1.5% interest rate, maximum loan of \$75,000) for farmers and ranchers for range improvements and developments.	Yes (repayments as annual installments for a maximum of 10 years)	Loan agreement, title insurance on real estate as security. Maximum of 10 years. 




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Organization	Program	Program Benefits	Eligibility Requirements (i.e. geographic boundary)
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)	General Habitat Programs – Wildlife, Fish and Noxious Weeds 	Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Riparian Fencing/Seeding; Invasive Species Control/ Native Seedings; Native Wetland Restoration; Native Species Plantings; Conifer and Invasive Species Control	Focus on high priority wildlife habitats: wetland/riparian, grasslands, shrub grasslands, mountain foothills.
	Migratory Bird Wetland Program (MBWP) 	Conservation Easements; Conservation Leases (periodically); Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Riparian Fencing/Seeding; Invasive Species Control/Native Seedings; Native Wetland Restoration	Applicable water rights, wetland habitat or connecting uplands, access for hunting.
	Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP) 	Conservation Easements; Conservation Leases (periodically); Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Native Species Plantings; Cover Crops; Conifer and Invasive Species Control	Upland game bird habitat, access to hunting.
Montana Land Reliance	Conservation Easements	Conservation Easements; Estate Planning	
Montana Rangelands Partnership (MRP)	Montana Rangeland Monitoring Program 	Rangeland Monitoring	Land in Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Garfield, Custer, Prairie, McCone, Petroleum, Fergus, and Judith Basin Counties.
	Technical Assistance 	Grazing Management Plans; Rangeland Monitoring	Statewide



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Brief Description	Direct Payments	Length of Enrollment
Landowners can take advantage of a number of FWP programs with the aim of protecting habitat for fish and wildlife.	Dependent on program (cost share for improvements, incentive payments, term leases, conservation easements)	1 to 30 years and perpetuity 
MBWP's provides financial and technical assistance for migratory bird wetland habitat improvement, including vegetation seedings, term leases, and conservation easements.	No	One to 30 years, and perpetuity (long-term enrollments are favorable)
UGBEP's provides up to 75% cost-share for upland game bird habitat improvement including shelterbelts, food plots, reseeding costs, conservation easements, range improvements.	No	1 to 30 years and perpetuity 
Since its establishment, Montana Land Reliance has protected over 1,000,000 acres of private land in Montana. A conservation easement with MLR can conserve private land and can assist in ranch transition while reducing income and estate taxes.	Yes	Perpetuity 
MRP uses monitoring methods to provide ranchers with easy-to-use, efficient monitoring techniques. This program was developed as an interagency effort to create a uniform standard for landowner monitoring.	No	N/A
Two full-time field technicians are employed by MRP to help landowners establish rangeland monitoring programs and develop grazing management plans.	No	N/A











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Organization	Program	Program Benefits	Eligibility Requirements (i.e. geographic boundary)
Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT)	Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program	Conservation Easements; Conservation Leases; Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Grassland Restoration; Native Species Plantings; Conifer and Invasive Species Control	Eligible land in Sage Grouse habitat, and core and connectivity areas.
Montana State University Extension	Extension Economics	Estate Planning	Publications available on MSU-Extension Economics website.
	Range Management	Grazing Management Plans; Rangeland Monitoring; Ranch Infrastructure; Grassland Restoration; Native Species Planning; Conifer and Invasives Species Control; Riparian Fencing/Planting	Research available on MSU- Extension Range website.
Northern Great Plains Joint Venture	Migratory Bird Habitat 	Grassland Restoration; Ranch Infrastructure	Landowners must be located in southeastern Montana (25 counties south of the Missouri River)
Pheasants Forever	Donated Easements	Conservation Easements; Cover Crops; Estate Planning	Easements must contain significant and unique wildlife habitat values and be large enough to be considered self-contained habitat.
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM)	Ranching for Rivers 	Riparian Fencing/Planting	Must be within the geographic area of a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan.
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Conservation Easements  <i>For easement landowners</i>	Conservation Easements; Estate Planning	Counties in central Montana, along the Rocky Mountain Front, and in the Southwestern portion of the state.
	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) - Grassland Birds, Greater Sage Grouse  <i>As part of enrollment</i>	Landowner Assurances	Sage grouse habitat across Montana. For grassland birds, primarily in Blaine, Phillips, Valley, and Sheridan counties.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)  <i>As part of enrollment</i>	Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Riparian Fencing/Seeding; Invasive Species Control/ Native Seedings; Native Wetland Restoration; Conifer and Invasive Species Control; Native Species Plantings	7 Conservation Focal Areas in Montana
	Refuges/Realty	Conservation Easements; Fee-title Acquisition; Estate Planning	Beaverhead, Missoula, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Pondera, Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (cont.)	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)  <i>Through NRCS or partners biologists</i>	Conservation Easements	Owned cropland, grassland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forestland.
	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) 	Grazing Management Plans; Riparian Fencing/Planting; Invasive Species Control/Native Seedings; Erosion Control; Conifer and Invasive Species Control; Native Species Plantings; Cover Crops	Landowners must own land and be in compliance with contract.

KEY Technical Assistance =  Contract or Agreement Required = 

<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Direct Payments</i>	<i>Length of Enrollment</i>
MSGOT incentivizes voluntary conservation measures to maintain, enhance, restore Sage Grouse habitat and populations. It does this through conservation easements, funding for projects such as fence marking, grassland restoration, and reduction of conifers.	Payments to organization or agency, not individual landowner	15 years to perpetuity 
Extension Economics provides resources on estate planning, ranch transition, and farm management.	No	N/A
The Extension Range Management program provides scientific, objective, and research based information that promotes an understanding of range management.	No	N/A
The NGPIV primarily provides technical assistance and financial assistance for the restoration, enhancement or protection of grassland and shrub-steppe on private, working lands.	Yes	1-2 years 
Pheasants Forever protects habitat by helping passionate donors who want to leave a legacy for future generations, through fee-title acquisition, by establishing conservation easements, and by establishing long-term conservation stewardship support.	No	N/A
Ranching for Rivers provides landowners throughout Montana with the needed resources to voluntarily construct fences and/or other infrastructure (crossings, water gaps, off-stream water, etc.) that enable them to better manage riparian resources.	No, but provides up to 50% cost share	One year plus 
For more than four decades, TNC has been using conservation easements to protect landscapes from development. A conservation easement with TNC can conserve private land and can assist in ranch transition while reducing income and estate taxes.	Purchased and donated easements	Perpetuity 
USFWS and TNC developed a CCAA for greater sage grouse and four declining grassland songbirds. Participating landowners voluntarily agree to address threats on property enrolled and receive assurances that no additional conservation measures or resource use restrictions would be required should any of the species be listed under ESA.	No, but cost-share is possible for select management actions.	Through 2038, but landowners can leave agreement at any time  <i>Voluntary agreement; management plan required</i>
The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners who are willing to partner on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of our Federal Trust Species. Locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with private landowners and other partners to plan, implement, and monitor their projects.	No	10-30 years  <i>Voluntary agreement with minimum habitat retention of 10 years</i>
USFWS has an active conservation easement acquisition program in several focus areas within the State of Montana. The easements are designed to maintain working lands, support rural economies, and protect wildlife resources for future generations.	Yes	Perpetuity
ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits through conservation easements on wetlands, grasslands, or croplands.	Yes	30 years to perpetuity 
NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance to producers and design a CSP plan to help landowners meet their goals.	Yes, but cost share funding is available	Dependent on contract, 3-5 years 




KEY *Technical Assistance* =  *Contract or Agreement Required* = 

Organization	Program	Program Benefits	Eligibility Requirements (i.e. geographic boundary)
(cont.) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) 	Grazing Management Plans; Ranch Infrastructure; Riparian Fencing/Planting; Invasive Species Control/ Native Seedlings; Native Wetland Restoration; Erosion Control; Conifer and Invasive Species Control; Native Species Plantings; Cover Crops	None
	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) 	Disaster Management	Landowners can apply for assistance through a local sponsor, or a legal subdivision of state or tribal government.
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 	Grazing Management Plan; Ranch Infrastructure; Riparian Fencing/Planting; Invasive Species Control/ Native Seedlings; Native Wetland Restoration; Erosion Control; Conifer and Invasive Species Control; Native Species Plantings; Cover Crops	Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.
	Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) 	Special Initiative; Landowner Assurances	Priority is given to ranchers within sage grouse core areas, but any ranch in sage grouse range is eligible for assistance.
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Grassland Bird Surveys 	Rangeland Monitoring	Priority is given to ranchers in Blaine, Phillips, and Valley counties, but any rancher in eastern Montana is eligible for surveys.



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KEY Technical Assistance =  Contract or Agreement Required = 

Brief Description	Direct Payments	Length of Enrollment
The CTA program provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. Most technical assistance leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan.	No	N/A
The EWP Program provides technical and financial assistance to reduce post-flood and fire damage. The measures are intended to reduce threats to life or property, retard runoff, restore capacity of waterways, prevent flooding and/or soil erosion and reduce damage from sediment and debris.	No, but NRCS can cost-share up to 75% of the cost for eligible projects	
EQIP provides producers with financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices.	Yes	One year 
SGL certifies conservation projects in sage grouse core areas with a dual goal of sustaining rangelands and sage grouse. It provides regulatory relief from potential ESA listing for sage grouse through a management plan that demonstrates risks are managed.	No, but cost share assistance is possible for selected management actions.	Variable 
WWF surveys bird populations on ranches across the Northern Great Plains. The bird data allows WWF to track bird abundance and identify how many species are supported by typical ranching operations. Once landowners have information on which birds occur on their land, some have used the data to enter into CCAAs with USFWS and TNC.	No	N/A



KEY Technical Assistance =  Contract or Agreement Required = 

CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTACTS

Organization	Program	Contacts	Email	Phone
Ducks Unlimited (DU)	Conservation Easement Program	Bob Sanders	rsanders@ducks.org	(406) 492-2002
	Revolving Land Acquisition Program	Bob Sanders	rsanders@ducks.org	(406) 492-2002
	Technical Assistance	Abby Dresser	adresser@ducks.org	(406) 544-6445
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	Conservation Loans	Contact your local FSA office. For office locations, visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/montana/index		
	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)			
	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)			
	CRP Grasslands			
	Conservation Reserve Program - Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP)			
	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)			
Local Conservation Districts	Cost Share	Contact your local Conservation District office. For office locations, visit: https://macdnet.org/		
Montana Community Foundation	Planned Giving	Amy Sullivan	amy@mtcf.org	(406) 541-7406
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)	Rangeland Improvement Loan Program	Bill Herbolich	bherbolich@mt.gov	(406) 444-6668
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)	General Habitat Programs – Wildlife, Fish and Noxious Weeds	Rick Northrup - <i>Statewide</i>	rnorthrup@mt.gov	(406) 444-5633
		Catherine Wightman	cwrightman@mt.gov	(406) 444-3377
		Kelvin Johnson	kelvinj@mt.gov	(406) 228-3727
	Migratory Bird Wetland Program (MBWP)	Catherine Wightman	cwrightman@mt.gov	(406) 444-3377
	Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP)	Debbie Hohler - <i>Statewide</i>	dhohler@mt.gov	(406) 444-5674
		Ken Plourde - <i>Plentywood</i>	kenneth.plourde@mt.gov	(406) 474-2244
		Jake Doggett - <i>Conrad</i>	jdoggett@mt.gov	(406) 271-2670
Montana Land Reliance	Conservation Easements	Brad Hansen - <i>Eastern Montana</i>	brad@mtlandreliance.org	(406) 443-7027
		Mark Schiltz - <i>Western Montana</i>	mark@mtlandreliance.org	(406) 443-7027
		Jessie Wiese - <i>Southwest Montana</i>	jessie@mtlandreliance.org	(406) 443-7027
Montana Rangelands Partnership (MRP)	Montana Rangeland Monitoring Program	Stacey Barta	sbarta@mt.gov	(406) 444-6619
	Technical Assistance	Stacey Barta	sbarta@mt.gov	(406) 444-6619
Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT)	Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program	Carolyn Sime	csime2@mt.gov	(406) 444-0554
Montana State University Extension	Extension Economics	Marsha Goetting	goetting@montana.edu	(406) 994-5695
	Range Management	Jeff Mosley	jmosley@montana.edu	(406) 994-5601
Northern Great Plains Joint Venture	Migratory Bird Habitat	Dan Casey	dcasey@ducks.org	(406) 702-1944
Pheasants Forever	Donated Easements	Aaron Clausen - <i>South Central</i>	aclausen@pheasantsforever.org	(605) 280-9212
		Hunter VanDonsel - <i>North Central</i>	hvandonsel@pheasantsforever.org	(406) 461-3827
		Heather Brower - <i>North East</i>	hbrower@pheasantsforever.org	(406) 487-2872 ext 102
		Erin Fairbank - <i>Central</i>	efairbank@pheasantsforever.org	(406) 278-7611

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Contacts</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM)	Ranching for Rivers	SWCDM Office	mail@macdnet.org	(406) 443-5711
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Conservation Easements	Brian Martin	bmartin@tnc.org	(406) 443-6733
	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) - Grassland Birds, Greater Sage Grouse	Kelsey Molloy - <i>Grassland birds</i>	kelsey.molloy@tnc.org	(406) 654-5517
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)	Greg Neudecker - <i>Statewide</i>	greg_neudecker@fws.gov	(406) 793-7400
		Jim Magee - <i>Dillon</i>	james_magee@fws.gov	(406) 683-3893
		Adam Braddock - <i>Dillon</i>	adam_braddock@fws.gov	(406) 683-3893
		Levi Morgan - <i>Lewistown</i>	levi_morgan@fws.gov	(406) 403-9297
		Loren Ruport - <i>Malta</i>	loren_ruport@fws.gov	(406) 671-7927
		Marisa Sather - <i>Glasgow</i>	marisa_sather@fws.gov	(406) 403-4678
		Dean Vaughan - <i>Bison Range</i>	dean_vaughan@fws.gov	(406) 644-2211
		Luke Lamar - <i>Swan Valley</i>	luke@svconnections.org	(406) 754-3137
	Refuges/Realty	David Allen	david_allen@fws.gov	(406) 449-5202 ext 208
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Contact your local NRCS office. For office locations, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mt/home/		
	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)			
	Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)			
	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)			
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)			
	Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI)	Steve Becker	steve.becker@mt.usda.gov	(406) 587-6828
		Heather Nenninger - <i>Forsyth</i>	hnenninger@macdnet.org	(406) 351-8020
		Martin Townsend - <i>Malta</i>	martin.townsend@macdnet.org	(406) 654-1334 ext 119
		Hayden Nelson - <i>Roundup</i>	hayden.nelson@macdnet.org	(406) 323-2013
		Jalyn Klauzer - <i>Ekalaka</i>	jalyn.klauzer@macdnet.org	(406) 775-6355 ext 112
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Grassland Bird Surveys	Kevin Ellison	kevin.ellison@wwfus.org	(406) 582-0236 ext 113



Front and Back Cover Photo: © WWF-US / Jeff Nelson

*This booklet is a collaborative product of the
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Community Working Group.
More information on the Working Group and its goals can be found at <http://www.cmrcwg.org/>.*

*For questions or comments on the conservation menu, please contact the Coordinator of the
Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, at mrcdc@macdnet.org or at 406-454-0056.*

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