

Montana Department of Transportation  
Statewide Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Term Contract  
Q&A's

1. In order to gauge the level of effort that will be required at Silicon and Schreiber Lake, and since we do not have a previous years report to review, could you please provide an estimate on the number of vegetation transects/plots, stream transects, and photo points that have been established at these two sites? Could you also provide an estimate on the number of woody plantings that will need to be monitored for survival at each site? If the baseline reports from 2015 get posted to MDT's website before the proposal due date, I can get this information from them but wanted to submit the question in case they don't make it to the website.

***MDT is in the process of reviewing the draft monitoring reports, with the goal of posting the initial site monitoring reports on the MDT website after the 1st of the year. However, in the interim, and for the sake of this question:***

**Silicon Mountain:**

***Vegetation Transects: Two (2) transects for wetland areas***

***Stream Transects: Eight (8) Transects for Stream Cross Sections and Riparian areas***

***Photo points: Two (2) for each transect and then approximately seventeen (17) other photo points at various wetland and stream locations***

***Woody Plantings: A total of 350 tree/shrubs were planted within the site***

**Schreiber Lake:**

***Vegetation Transects: Three (3) transects for wetland areas***

***Stream Transects: Eleven (11) Stream Cross-Sections and riparian areas***

***Photo points: Two (2) for each transect and ten (10) wetland photo points***

***Woody Plantings: A total of 750 tree/shrubs were planted within the site***

2. For the WS#9 – Engellant Ranch project, the tentative construction year is 2016 so should we assume for purposes of developing a cost estimate, that the first year for establishing the baseline would be 2017 and full blown monitoring in 2018? No activities in 2016?

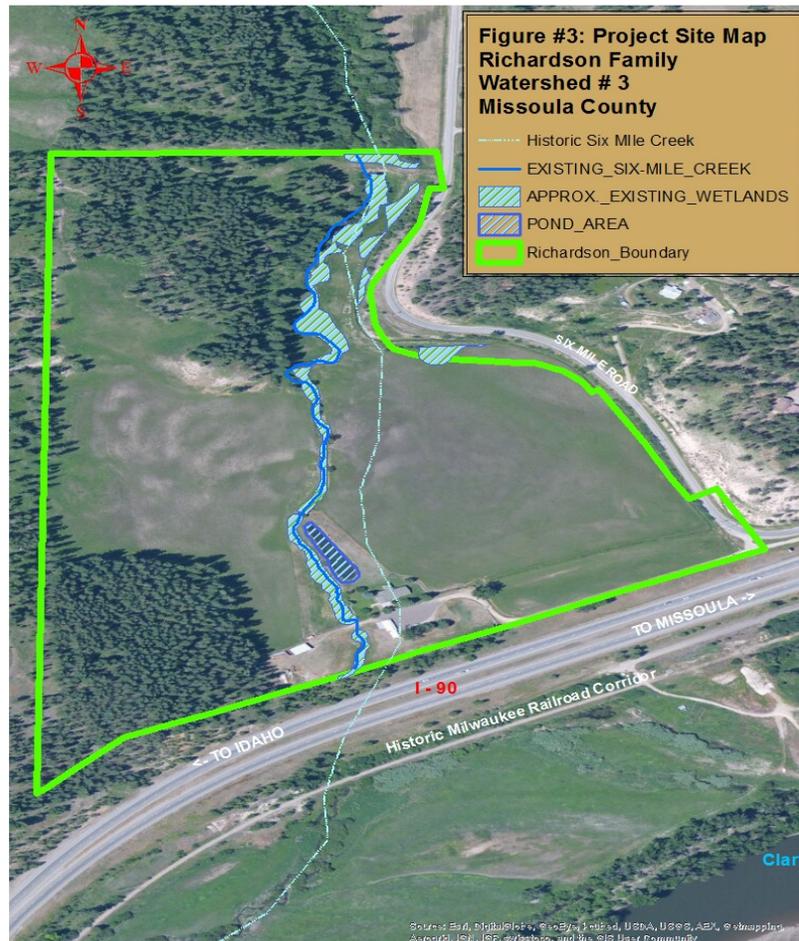
***That is correct.***

3. For the WS#3 – Richardson project, the tentative construction year is 2017 so should we assume for purposes of developing a cost estimate, that the first year for establishing the baseline would be 2018 and full blown monitoring in 2019 (beyond this initial 3-year term)? No activities in 2016 or 2017?

***That is correct.***

4. In reference to the RFP for the Statewide Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Contract, can you please provide a location for the WS#3 Richardson site?

***The location for the WS#3 Richardson site is approximately 1 mile west of Huson, just north of I-90 and just west of Six Mile Road. Coordinates are 114°21'9.9"W, 47°2'1.5"W.***



5. The recently constructed and contracted mitigation sites, Silicon Mountain and Schrieber Lake, have a greatly increased level of detail and rigor for stream stability assessments (multiple stream cross-section, parallel and perpendicular riparian vegetation transects at each cross-section location, streambank stability assessments, and bank erosion pins). Will this same level of documentation be required in the new contract term for sites (e.g., McGinnis Meadows, Schrieber Meadows) that were originally assessed under less detailed stream monitoring methods?

***No, the parameters that are within Schrieber Lake and Silicon Mountain stream monitoring requirements are the result of new requirements by the Corps and MFWP. The older mitigation sites do not warrant these stream monitoring efforts as they occurred prior to these new requirements.***

6. Based on the aerial photos it appears that a large portion of Schrieber Meadows is inundated, particularly in the southern half. Is a boat needed to conduct monitoring in that area?

***Schrieber Meadows does not need a boat to monitor, although it is recommended that waders be used due to the former stream channel locations at Schrieber Meadows. Schrieber Lake, however, may require a boat/canoe as the southern portion of the site is a lake; however this portion of the mitigation area does not require any monitoring efforts beyond mapping wetland vegetation communities and boundaries.***

7. Based on the level of inundation in the southern half of Schrieber Meadows, does this add any additional level of complexity to completing the stream cross-sections in that area? For example, is any special equipment or are special methods needed? Is additional time needed to complete these cross-sections?

***See question 6. It may require additional time to complete due to finding stream cross-sections, but each stream cross-section can be located by GPS as they are mapped and located. These efforts may require additional time to complete by inexperienced field crews.***

8. For the 3 new sites (Engellant, Richardson, Tunnickliff), how many transects, photo points, should we assume? Are crediting schemes and plan sets available for these sites? This information will greatly improve our cost estimate and reduce the need for assumptions.

***The crediting schemes for Richardson and Engellant have not yet been developed as they are still in the initial design phases. The Engellant site is not slated for construction until either 2016 or 2017, and Richardson is planned for 2017.***

***For the Engellant site - 1 transect, and then 4 to 6 additional photo points, and then the standard MDT monitoring requirements.***

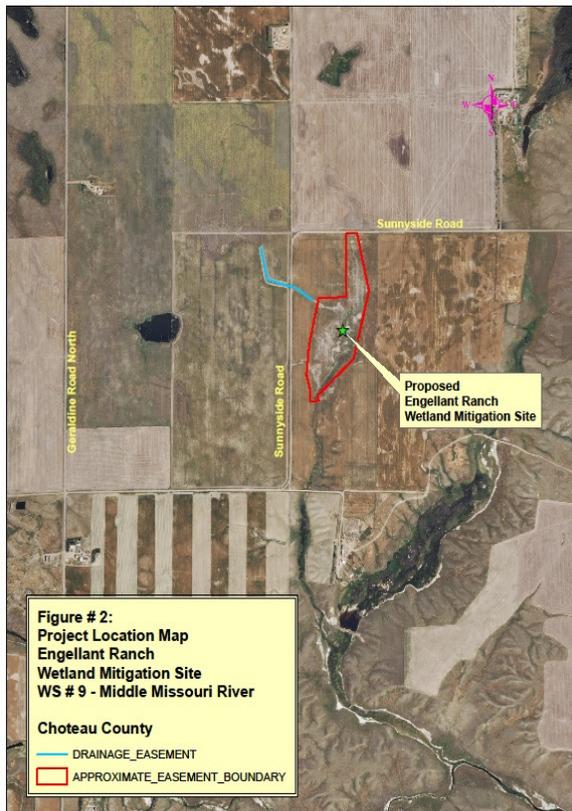
***For the Richardson site, this will involve both stream and wetland monitoring. Although still in design and development of a mitigation plan, we anticipate the following requirements: Stream Monitoring: stream cross-sections every 100 feet along a 2700 foot length of stream; riparian vegetation transects; photo points at transects, Cross-sections and other areas; and a longitudinal stream survey. Wetland Monitoring: 1 to 2 transects; 4 to 6 additional photo points, and then the standard MDT monitoring requirements found in other mitigation monitoring reports.***

***For the WS # 14 – JTX Tunnickliff site: this site does have a wetland credit scheme available, and MDT is looking at 1 to 2 transects, and at least 6 to 7 additional photo points, and then the standard MDT monitoring requirements.***

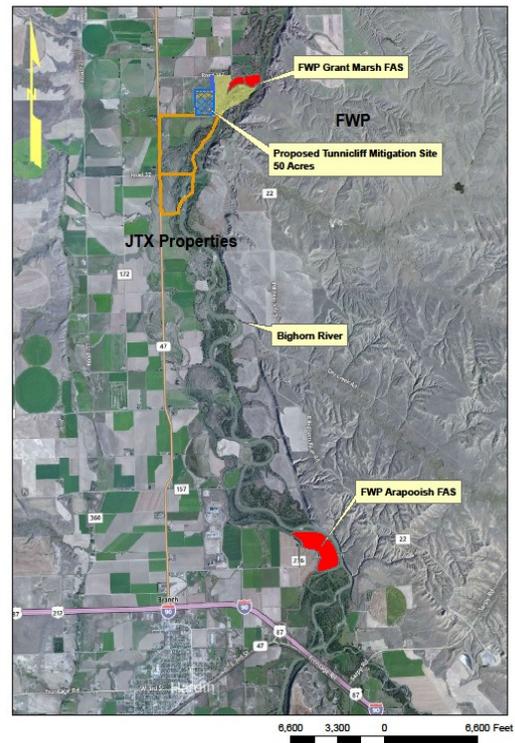
9. Thank you for providing location information for the Richardson site. Can you also please provide location information for the Tunnickliff and Engellant sites?

**The Engellant site is still being processed and is located approximately 5.2 miles northeast of the town of Geraldine, Section 8 of Township 22 North, Range 12 East, M.P.M., Choteau County.**

**The proposed Watershed #14 JTX-Tunnicliff Wetland Mitigation project is located approximately 7 miles north of the City of Hardin to the east of MT Highway 47 (P-48) and south of Grant Marsh Loop Road, within Sections 10 (S ½) and 15 (N ½) of Township 1 North, Range 33 East. The center point of the property is located at Latitude 45° 50' 22.7" (45.83963) and Longitude -107° 35' 56.3" (-107.59896).**



PROPOSED TUNNICLIFF MITIGATION SITE PROPERTY



- It is our understanding that in the past the Forsyth sites included Forsyth-West, Forsyth-Middle, Forsyth-East, and Treasure County Stateline. The RFP indicates that only 3 sites are included, so which of the 4 Forsyth sites will not be monitored going forward?

***This is an error; it should remain at 4 sites.***

- The RFP says to use "Standard U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional Routine or Intermediate ACOE Wetland data collection forms...." For planning/budgeting purposes, can you tell me if "intermediate" data collection will be required at any site, or if "routine" will be sufficient?

***Currently, the Corps has only required the Routine data forms for use within all of our existing wetland mitigation sites. However, it may be required for future monitoring efforts within newer mitigation sites when those new sites come on line later in this contract.***

12. The existing reports have fewer 3-parameter data points than is customary per ACOE protocol, even in some of the baseline delineations I've reviewed. For planning/budgeting purposes, shall we plan to continue similar level of effort regarding wetland data point collection?

***Data points are at the discretion of the monitoring teams in order to document and support their wetland delineations within the sites.***

13. The acreage of Schrieber Meadows when I recreated the polygon on Google Earth is about 63 acres, but on the last page of the RFP it says it is 120 acres. Can you confirm which acreage is closer to the actual?

***The total area of the MDT owned Schrieber Meadows property is approximately 120 acres in size. The wetland mitigation area, including the US Forest Service property is approximately 65 acres.***

14. The wildlife task (#5) in the scope of work says "Amphibians and/or reptiles encountered during fieldwork and macroinvertebrate sampling efforts will be identified and recorded. No detailed trapping or sampling is required for this effort." Is macroinvertebrate sampling required as part of the baseline or monitoring work?

***Macroinvertebrate sampling is not a part of this contract; this is an error in the RFP.***

15. Is the selected consultant able use the digital (e.g., Microsoft Word) versions of the previous years' reports and the digital (ARC GIS) GIS data?

***This information will be provided to the consultants who are selected for this contract. It should also be noted that MDT would like see some effort of original work within these reports and not simply cutting and pasting from previous reports.***