

Implementation Planning Process for Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy

2005 – 2011

MFWP Comprehensive Conservation Steering Committee

October 2006

Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CFWCS) is an assessment of all of Montana's fish, wildlife and associated habitats (FWP 2005) <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/cfwcs/swg/default.html>. It describes those Montana species and habitats that are in greatest need of conservation (Tier I). These are the species and habitats that we must enhance or prevent from declining further in order to maintain Montana's rich fish and wildlife heritage as well as to help prevent future listings under the Federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, it directs our attention to a number of areas around Montana that offer some of the greatest opportunities for conservation of a large suite of those species and their habitats. The Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy separates conservation priorities into four components: 1) Focus areas, 2) Community Types, 3) Species, and 4) Inventory. Within each component, priorities of greatest conservation need (Tier I) are identified: 30 of the total 160 terrestrial and aquatic focus areas are identified as Tier I; 7 of the 47 community types are Tier I; 60 of the over 600 species are Tier I; and 8 priority inventory groups are identified as Tier I.

Although all of the priorities identified in the comprehensive strategy are important, a more narrow and practical subset of priorities have been identified where FWP recommends efforts be focused over the next five years to address highest priorities and so that FWP can partner with others effectively and resources can be leveraged. This subset was developed using information obtained a) at a meeting with 30 core partners on January 11, 2006, b) using results of a multiple decision criteria model, c) from the cumulative results of subjective rankings by partners and FWP staff, and d) with input from attendees to public meetings at FWP regions.

The first section of this implementation plan identifies this subset of the original priorities where our efforts should be directed over the next five years and the important factors used to determine the subset. All of these priorities have been organized into bundles according to community type in the attached spreadsheets. Since there is substantial overlap between the sagebrush and grassland community types, they were combined into a single bundle. It should be recognized that these communities are discreet and will undoubtedly have their own unique requirements and or actions. Within each community bundle, Tier I species conservation, habitat conservation, and inventory needs are identified, as well as conservation objectives and strategies. Primary efforts for addressing the needs of these more narrowed priorities over the next five years will include specific objectives:

- For the community types, objectives will include conservation through protection, restoration and research

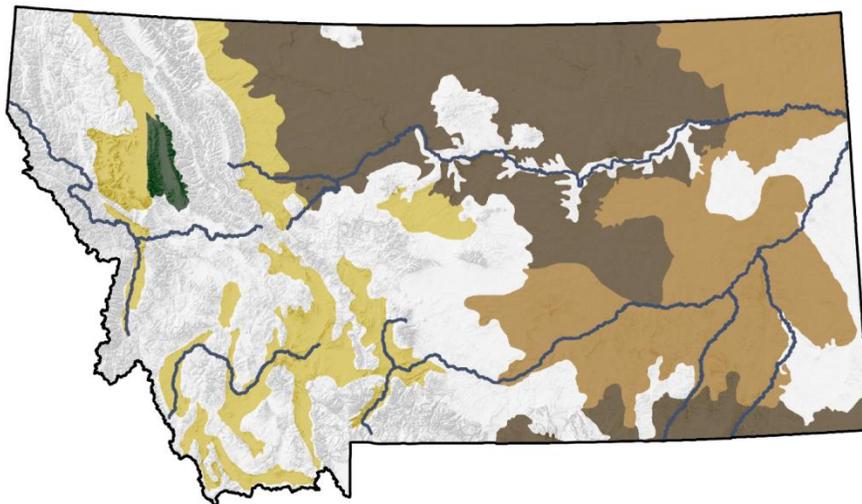
- For specific species, conservation will occur through management, research, monitoring, non-native species control, genetic analysis, and other on the ground and outreach activities.
- For inventory, objectives will include monitoring and survey

The second section of this document describes the process and timeline that will be used by FWP to develop and select projects, implementation objectives for each of the components, and suggested funding and matching opportunities. A key source of funding will be SWG resources that will be applied towards these priorities over the next five years. FWP hopes to leverage those resources with partners and is committed to using as many resources as possible for implementation. FWP encourages partners to also focus on these priorities, and also on addressing conservation issues surrounding the other Tier I species and fish and wildlife community types as well.

I. Narrowing the Priorities in the Strategy

Although efforts will be made to conserve all Tier I species and habitats, a more narrow and practical subset of priorities have been identified where FWP recommends efforts be directed over the next five years. The following subset was developed using information obtained a) at a meeting with 30 core partners on January 11, 2006, b) using results of a multiple decision criteria model, c) from the cumulative results of subjective rankings by partners and FWP staff, and d) with input from attendees to public meetings at FWP regions.

A. Focus Areas: These are geographical areas where the largest number of fish and wildlife communities and species in greatest conservation need are located within Montana. Conserving focus areas is a strategy to target resources and efforts toward geographical areas where they can benefit the largest number of species and communities in need of conservation. Input from staff, partners and the public indicate that effectively implementing conservation actions within Focus Areas will be extremely difficult considering the limited amount of SWG funding that is available. However, projects that occur within Tier I focus areas will be given priority during the project selection process. In addition efforts will be made to incorporate the use of Focus Areas into FWP planning and current programs. (Examples of these types of efforts already under way include 1) using the Focus Areas to help guide the MT Department of Transportation Interagency Working Group efforts to mitigate for highway construction impacts at the eco-regional scale, 2) using the focus areas to help target efforts of the governors voluntary riparian setback initiative, and 3) incorporating the Focus Areas into the Habitat Montana Program.



Tier I focus areas throughout Montana (for more detailed mapping please refer to the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy).

B. Community Types: These are communities of fish and wildlife species and their habitats that are identified as being in greatest need of conservation. Conserving Community Types is a high-leverage strategy to address the conservation concerns of whole ecological communities or species groupings. Implementing conservation strategies at this level will comprehensively benefit many fish and wildlife species.

Information Used to Select Subset

Species Richness of Community Type
Number of Tier I species associated with Community Type
Subjective ranking by partners
Level of threat
Public Input

Priorities (6 in subset)

Riparian and Wetland
Sagebrush
Grassland Complexes
Aspens (one component of the broadleaf forest community type)
Mountain Streams
Prairie Rivers and Streams

C. Species: These are fish and wildlife species that are in greatest need of conservation. These are species whose needs must be specifically addressed, whether through focus areas, community types, or individually.

Information Used to Select Subset

Conservation Capacity
Level of Threat
Sensitivity
Geographic Range
Role in Ecosystem
Subjective Ranking by partners
Public Input

Priorities (16 in subset)

Northern Leopard Frog	Grizzly Bear
Spiny Softshell Turtle	Burbot
Greater Sage Grouse	Westslope and Yellowstone
Mountain Plover	Cutthroat Trout
Burrowing Owl	Arctic Grayling
Trumpeter Swan	Blue Sucker
Prairie Dogs (white and black tail)	Pallid Sturgeon

D. Inventory Groups: These are groups of species targeted for inventory. Conducting inventory on these groups will collect data for groups for which we do not have sufficient occurrence information to determine their level of conservation need.

Information Used to Select Subset

Lack of information
Role in Ecosystem
Subjective ranking by partners
Immediacy of need
Public Input

Priorities (5 in subset)

Mussels Group
Prairie fish Group
Reptiles Group
Bats Group
Shorebirds

II. Implementation Process

The following represents the process FWP will use to implement the CFWCS through 2011. Successes towards addressing conservation needs within these subsets of priorities will be assessed in 2011, and the priorities will be re-evaluated. Partners are encouraged to work with FWP to implement priorities identified in this implementation plan.

In general, projects will be developed by FWP staff and partners at the regional level. Helena staff will provide assistance preparing necessary documentation, administration and coordination. In August, principal staff will invite field staff and partners to begin working together to identify ongoing and new projects that address priorities identified in this implementation plan. Partners and FWP staff will submit ongoing and new project ideas that address one or more of the priorities identified in this implementation plan. Projects that are localized in one FWP region should be developed and submitted through the FWP regional fish or wildlife manager. Projects that involve multiple regions or are more statewide in scope should be submitted to the principal staff for the appropriate fish or wildlife division. Full proposals will not be required during the initial selection process. However, project ideas will need to identify objectives, timelines, funding needs, potential matching sources, non-FWP partner contributions, and be within the framework described below for the objectives of the appropriate component and the strategies identified below that will be supported. All project ideas will need to identify a FWP project lead and may be from one to five years in length. Ideally, these project ideas will directly address conservation concerns and strategies contained in the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy. **Project ideas will be accepted until November 30, 2006.** The projects will be ranked using the selection criteria described below. The projects that are selected will be incorporated into bundles in a way that meets the targeted use of SWG funding. The principal staff will ask for approval from the Steering Committee to proceed with specified project bundles. Upon approval, those who submitted ideas would be notified of acceptance and FWP Principal staff will assist with necessary USFWS Federal Aid documentation.

The Comprehensive Conservation Steering Committee will provide oversight and guidance for the Implementation Plan, implementation process. Each FWP Division will designate a principal staff member that will be responsible for SWG coordination and implementation.

Steering Committee

Chris Smith	Chief of Staff
Larry Peterman	Chief of Field Operations
Ron Aashiem	Communication and Education Division Administrator
Don Childress	Wildlife Division Administrator
Chris Hunter	Fisheries Division Administrator
Pat Gunderson	FWP Region 6 Regional Supervisor

Principal Staff

Ken McDonald	Management Bureau Chief, Fisheries
Jeff Herbert	Assistant Administrator, Wildlife

Heidi Youmans	Non-game Native Species Bureau Chief, Wildlife
Travis Horton	Native Species Coordinator, Fisheries
T.O. Smith	Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Planning Coordinator
Adam Brooks	Federal Aid Coordinator

Beginning in 2007, FWP Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions will receive a pre-determined % of any new SWG funding, including the most recent allocation during federal fiscal year 2006. This percentage will be determined by the Steering Committee based on the overall selection of projects that need funding based on the implementation plan process in 2006, and can be adjusted if necessary. Projects that encourage comprehensive fish and wildlife conservation actions, interdivisional and multidiscipline efforts, and best leverage SWG funding with partners and existing FWP programs will be given priority. A complete list of criteria to be used to score projects is provided below. Principal staff will provide semi annual updates to the Steering Committee and to partners as appropriate. Note: This process assumes that annual Congressional appropriation of State Wildlife Grants will continue at current or increased levels.

Sept. 2006	Request that FWP staff and partners identify and submit proposed ideas for projects
Nov. 30, 2006	Deadline for proposed ideas
Jan. to May 2007	Principal Staff incorporates projects into bundles and balance target allocations and seeks approval from Steering Committee of project recommendations, % of annual SWG allocations to Divisions are determined
June 2007	Submission of Federal Aide Documentation
Post June 2007	Begin Project Implementation
Post June 2007	Solicit additional project proposals for unobligated SWG funds as available.

Selection Criteria

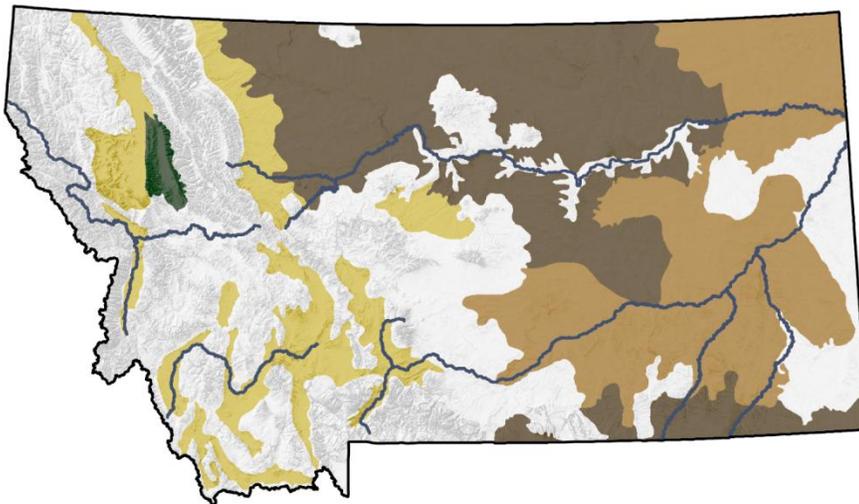
These Criteria will be used by the Steering Committee to determine project selection for inclusion in Implementation Plan. Each project will be scored according to the following criteria:

- 1)_____ Project meets conservation needs for Tier I community type, species, or inventory as identified in the Montana Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- 2)_____ Project meets conservation needs of Tier I community type, species, or inventory identified as near term (3-5 years) priority in the Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan.
- 3)_____ Project occurs within the geographic boundaries of a Tier I Focus Area
- 4)_____ Project encourages comprehensive fish and wildlife conservation actions, such as interdivisional and multidisciplinary efforts
- 5)_____ Project results will directly reduce the immediacy and/or severity of threats to one or more of Montana's Tier I species
- 6)_____ The specific conservation actions identified in the project are currently not being addressed by any existing programs or other funding sources (excluding SWG funding).
- 7)_____ The project budget total is appropriate for the scope of the project.
- 8)_____ Partnerships outside the agency are being used in the project in order to leverage SWG funding.
- 9)_____ Project results will benefit multiple native species or habitats (fish and wildlife communities).
- 10)_____ Project includes adequate performance measures to determine level of success

The average of the Steering Committee's scores will be used to rank projects. Projects will be prioritized and the % of SWG funding allocated to each division will be provided. Division principal staff will work with FWP Regional staff and partners to complete and submit necessary documentation for funding. Divisions will annually coordinate reports for implementation bundles annually and at the end of any specific project.

The following is offered as guidance to be used to develop projects. Projects should fit into the priority subsets identified below and meet as many of the selection criteria as possible.

A. Focus Areas: These are geographical areas where the largest number of fish and wildlife communities and species in greatest conservation need are located within Montana. Conserving focus areas is a strategy to target resources and efforts toward geographical areas where they can benefit the largest number of species and communities in need of conservation. Input from staff, partners and the public indicate that effectively implementing conservation actions within Focus Areas will be extremely difficult considering the limited amount of SWG funding that is available. However, projects that occur within Tier I focus areas will be given priority in the project selection process. In addition efforts will be made to incorporate the use of Focus Areas into FWP planning and current programs. (Examples of these types of current efforts include 1) using the Focus Areas to help guide the MT Department of Transportation Interagency Working Group efforts to mitigate for highway construction impacts at the eco-regional scale, 2) using the focus areas to help target efforts of the governors voluntary riparian setback initiative, 3) incorporating the Focus Areas into the Habitat Montana Program).



Tier I focus areas throughout Montana (for more detailed mapping please refer to the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy).

B. Community Types: These are fish and wildlife species and their associated habitats that are identified as being in greatest need of conservation. Conserving Community Types is a high-leverage strategy to address the conservation concerns of whole ecological communities or species groupings. Implementing conservation strategies at this level will comprehensively benefit many fish and wildlife species. Other plans for conserving community types exist and could contain more detailed objectives specific to individual fish and wildlife communities. FWP encourages the use of these plans and the objectives they contain in conjunction with the following guidelines when developing projects.

Objectives for developing and supporting Priority Community type projects

- Implement projects that include restoration or enhancement (e.g., fencing, vegetation manipulation, grazing management, road management, timber management, stream channel restoration, etc.) within priority Tier I community types.
- Implement projects that include protection, best management practices, providing information on MEPA/NEPA alternatives, projects that encourage land stewardship of priority community types, including landowner incentives, and under certain circumstances, leases, easements or fee title acquisition of land or water resources within priority Tier I community types.
- Implement projects that include research (the collection and use of information that is directly related to making decisions about restoring or protecting priority Tier I community types).

Potential Sources of Funding and Match

- FWP will dedicate at least 50% of all SWG funding to implementing the Community Type Component of the Strategy. The remainder will be allocated to species and inventory component projects.
- FWP will integrate prioritized elements of the CFWS into Habitat Montana projects when and where appropriate.

Strategies that will be supported for communities

- Riparian and Wetland
 - Identify riparian areas wetlands that are critically important to wildlife diversity and work toward protection and enhancement
 - Address loss of riparian and wetland areas associated with residential development through riparian setbacks
 - Support the use of conservation easements to protect priority riparian and wetland areas
 - Develop statewide best management principals for Montana's riparian and wetland areas

- Assist with development of up-to-date comprehensive wetland and riparian GIS coverage
- Sagebrush and Grassland Complexes
 - Monitor energy leasing and development decisions and regulations applying to geophysical exploration
 - Work with corporations, landowners and other agencies to reduce impacts of energy exploration and development
 - Conduct research to determine impacts from energy development and extraction activities
 - Work with the public and other agencies to establish sustainable recreation management practices, including designations of lands open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicle use
 - Protect healthy or critical sagebrush through conservation easements or by work with private landowners through landowner incentives
 - Cooperate with government and private conservation programs/activities that encourage and support private land stewardship
 - Promote grazing plans that encourage a mosaic of sagebrush, native grasses, and forbs
 - Create a stable native seed source for sage restoration after fires
 - Promote further development of county ordinances that help guide future residential and commercial development in sagebrush habitat
 - Identify and prioritize key wildlife linkage areas, and work with other state and federal agencies, conservation groups, and landowners to restore wildlife connectivity
- Aspens (one component of the broadleaf forest community type)
 - Place easements on lands and implement resource management for aspen galleries
 - Promote incentives and education for private landowners to protect aspen galleries
 - Work with other agencies, organizations and private land owners to develop best management principals for aspen galleries
 - Work with local governments to support growth and development plans that recognize the importance of aspen galleries
- Mountain Streams
 - Encourage and support sustainable land management practices in riparian areas
 - Modify riparian management practices such that riparian vegetation is allowed to recover
 - Develop statewide riparian best management principals
 - Acquire conservation easements and promote cooperative efforts to address impacts resulting from human population growth and development in stream and riparian areas

- o Work with Department of Transportation to mitigate for impacts of new and existing roads and highways
- o Implement various water conservation or flow management practices that restore essential habitats and simulate the natural hydrograph
- o Protect instream flow reservations
- o Increase installation of stockwater wells in place of irrigation ditches
- o Increase instream flows through water leasing and water conservation measures
- o Screen or modify irrigation diversions or other water intakes in a manner that prevents entrainment of fishes
- o Restore stream channels, streambanks and riparian areas to a condition that simulates their natural form and function
- o Promote programs to help control exotic species and promote natural habitats that support native species
- Prairie Rivers and Streams
 - o Support government and private conservation activities that encourage and support sustainable land management practices
 - o Support all management practices that maintain riparian vegetation and streambank and channel stability in excellent condition
 - o Implement various water conservation or flow management practices that restore essential habitats and simulate the natural hydrograph
 - o Protect instream flow reservations
 - o Increase installation of stockwater wells in place of irrigation ditches
 - o Increase instream flows through water leasing and water conservation measures
 - o Screen or modify irrigation diversions or other water intakes in a manner that prevents entrainment of fishes
 - o Increase research and scientific studies on impacts of coal bed methane on prairie stream environments in both Montana and Wyoming
 - o Promote programs to help control exotic species and promote natural habitats that support native species
 - o Promote protection of native species through habitat protection and enhancement, controlling and in some cases removing non-native species, and restoring or introducing native fishes into suitable waters
 - o Where appropriate, maintain or restore connectivity between prairie streams and lower order tributaries and mainstem rivers.

C. Species: These are fish and wildlife species that are in greatest need of conservation. These are species whose needs must be specifically addressed, whether through focus areas, community types, or individually. Other plans for conserving species exist and could contain more detailed objectives specific to individual fish and wildlife species. FWP encourages the use of these plans and the objectives they contain in conjunction with the following guidelines when developing projects.

Objectives for developing and supporting species specific projects

- Implement projects for population monitoring, including important vital rates
- Implement projects for research directly related to conservation activities
- Implement projects for evaluation and monitoring of conservation actions
- Implement projects for removal of nonnative species
- Implement projects for reintroduction and transplanting of species
- Implement projects for disease monitoring and control
- Implement projects for genetic analysis
- Implement projects for outreach activities directly associated with a conservation projects

Potential Sources of Funding/Match

- FWP dedicate no more than 50% of SWG funding to implementing the combined projects for the Species and Inventory Components of the Strategy
- General fund appropriations if available
- Non-game Tax Check Off dollars

Strategies that will be supported for species

- Northern Leopard Frog
 - Protect the two remaining breeding populations west of the Continental Divide in Montana
 - Survey western Montana to locate additional populations
 - Monitor historical breeding sites and populations
 - Support habitat conservation and improvement projects
 - Protect breeding sites from livestock impacts
- Spiny Softshell Turtle
 - Determine distribution, habitat use, and important habitat characteristics
 - Consider preparing a management plan for the spiny softshell or include it into other comprehensive taxonomic plans
 - Conserve major river habitat in Montana – including natural flow regimes and riparian habitat
 - Protect nest sites from human disturbance
 - Thoroughly document observations and incidental take

- Greater Sage Grouse
 - Promote conservation of intact sagebrush grassland landscapes through incentives and easements
 - Utilize local working groups, organizations, and agency partnerships to promote and expand greater sage-grouse conservation, guided by the Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan
 - Avoid use of rangeland herbicides and prescribed fire
 - Develop and implement a habitat monitoring system to determine landscape-level trends in sagebrush grasslands
 - Support livestock grazing management that maintains or improves native rangeland integrity and provides standing herbaceous cover, important for nesting and brood rearing
- Mountain Plover
 - Cooperate with resource users in order to support sustainable domestic livestock practices that promote mountain plover habitat
 - Control shrub and noxious weed encroachment at known and potential breeding sites
 - Protect existing native grassland from conversion to cropland
 - Continue management and potential enhancement to prairie dog colonies
- Burrowing Owl
 - Continue maintenance, monitoring, and surveying of burrowing mammals and their colonies
 - Use conservation easements and other conservation practices that recover or protect native prairie grassland areas
 - Research the impacts such as road building and water retention pond construction as they relate gas and oil development activities
 - Continue monitoring residual levels of contaminants
 - Increase education and information to increase awareness of importance of nesting sites and reducing disturbance
- Trumpeter Swan
 - Protect known nesting habitat and manage nesting habitat in a manner compatible with increasing swan production and connectivity between populations
 - Support wetland restoration programs
 - Continue surveys and monitoring of populations
 - Relocate power lines underground in areas adjacent to nesting and brood rearing locations
 - Support restoration/establishment of local breeding flocks where appropriate.
- WhiteTail Prairie Dog
 - Institute a landowner incentive program and a prairie dog control program designed to manage prairie dog acreage, rather than eradicate prairie dogs

- Assist in funding research projects targeting effects of disease on prairie ecosystems, particularly sylvatic plague (*Yersinia pestis*)
- Translocate white-tailed prairie dogs from colonies potentially impacted by highway reconstruction or other significant land use changes to formerly occupied sites on public lands. Reintroduce white-tailed prairie dogs to sites that were formerly occupied until the early 1990s
- Black Tail Prairie Dog
 - Institute a landowner incentive program and a prairie dog control program designed to manage prairie dog acreage, rather than eradicate prairie dogs
 - Develop regional prairie dog distribution and abundance goals
 - Identify and support or conduct research projects designed to form solutions to short-term and long-term biological and social problems related to black-tailed prairie dog communities and their management
 - Identify isolated prairie dog colonies and apply management measures necessary to maintain current distribution
 - Continue prairie dog inventory and monitoring efforts
 - Assist in funding research projects targeting effects of disease on prairie ecosystems, particularly sylvatic plague (*Yersinia pestis*)
 - Develop and implement a prairie dog ecosystem education program
- Grizzly Bear
 - Support proactive management including public outreach, utilizing Montana citizens
 - Reduce human-caused mortality, including vehicles and trains
 - Continue interagency management efforts
 - Protect critical habitats through easements and other methods
 - Support ongoing research projects, including genetic analysis projects
- Burbot
 - Evaluate angler exploitation rates and determine sustainability of wild populations
 - Increase surveys to gain basic population characteristics (e.g., population sizes, age structure, and condition)
 - Work with managing authorities to encourage flow management from reservoirs that more closely mimic a natural hydrograph in rivers below dams.
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout
 - Support conservation of habitat, including better natural resource use practices
 - Implement the conservation agreement for cutthroat trout in Montana.
 - Educate the public on the values and habitat needs of westslope cutthroat trout

- Increase limits of non-native fish in cutthroat trout conservation areas
- Remove non-native fish where appropriate
- Continue to conserve genetically pure populations and conservation populations
- Increase populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout
- Reintroduce westslope cutthroat trout
- Reduce limits on westslope cutthroat trout where harvest may be negatively impacting important conservation populations.
- Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
 - Implement the conservation agreement for cutthroat trout in Montana.
 - Support conservation of habitat, including better natural resource use practices
 - Remove non-native fish where appropriate
 - Continue field surveys and monitoring
 - Continue to conserve genetically pure populations and conservation populations
 - Continue harvest management of non-native trout
 - Decrease stocking of non-indigenous Yellowstone cutthroat trout to decrease genetic homogenization
 - Decrease stocking of non-native trout
 - Reduce impacts of irrigation developments
 - Remove or modify barriers in a manner that restores beneficial fish passage
 - Work with new stabilization projects to reduce impacts and support efforts to restore existing rip-rap areas to natural condition
- Arctic Grayling
 - Implement the restoration plan for fluvial Arctic grayling in Montana.
 - Support implementation of the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for Arctic Grayling in the upper Big Hole River.
 - Support riparian rehabilitation projects on the Big Hole River
 - Ensure non-native fish are not detrimentally impacting grayling through regulation, stocking restrictions, and removal (if necessary and appropriate).
 - Support management of grazing to maintain riparian vegetation and streambank and channel stability in excellent condition
 - Work with irrigators to improve irrigation efficiency and improve streamflows.
- Blue Sucker
 - Determine important spawning and rearing habitat, and ensure that habitat is accessible and protected.
 - Consider preparing a management plan for the blue sucker or include it into other comprehensive taxonomic plans

- Regulate water regimes to be more closely tied to natural water regimes
- Protect natural minimum instream flow reservations
- Continue conservation of habitats by managing grazing in riparian areas
- Pallid Sturgeon
 - Provide passage around barriers that restrict access to historically used spawning and rearing areas (e.g, Intake Diversion on the Yellowstone River, diversions on the Tongue River)
 - Provide flow regime emulating a natural hydrograph from Fort Peck Dam to encourage dynamic habitat formation, natural sediment transport, and access to flood plain and side channel development,
 - Manage flows in the Missouri River above Fort Peck Dam to mimic a more natural hydrograph through operations of Canyon Ferry and Tiber Dams
 - Ensure adequate flows in the Yellowstone River to support spawning and rearing, access to important tributaries, and maintenance of important habitat characteristics such as cottonwood regeneration.
 - Implement the recovery plan and recovery priorities for pallid sturgeon as identified by the Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon workgroup.

D. Inventory Groups: These are groups of species targeted for inventory. Conducting inventory on these groups will collect data for groups for which we do not have sufficient occurrence information to determine their level of conservation need. Other plans for conducting inventory of groups of fish and wildlife exist and could contain more detailed objectives specific to these groups. FWP encourages the use of these plans and the objectives they contain in conjunction with the following guidelines when developing projects.

Objectives for developing and supporting inventory projects

- Implement projects to inventory or monitor activities to determine the presence or absence, distribution, and status of species and species assemblages especially related to needed planning documents

Potential Sources of Funding/Match

- FWP dedicate no more than 50% of SWG funding to implementing the combined projects for the Inventory and Species Components of the Strategy
- General fund appropriations if available
- Non-game Tax Check Off dollars

Inventory will be supported for the following groups

Mussels Group, Prairie fish Group, Reptiles Group, Bats Group, Shorebirds