

# Region 4 Update

Matt Strauch



# 2023 Season Outlook.

- Winter: Above average precipitation and below average temps.
- Spring/Summer: Above average precipitation and temps.
- Lek Surveys & Crow counts down 20% from historical average.



# Contracts

- **134** total Contracts
- **79** Open Fields Contracts
- **27** New Contracts for 2023
  
- Project Acres **23,568**
- Access Acres **122,790**





# Open Fields

- 79 Open Fields Contracts
- 27 New Contracts for 2023
- Average R4 CRP rental rate \$32
- Pondera & Teton Counties \$42
  
- Overall Open Fields habitat looks good
- Much of the forbs (alfalfa, sainfoin, clover) were eaten by grasshoppers.





# Focus Areas

- Public Lands
- Foothill Grassland Native Habitat
- Sagebrush Grasslands
- Agricultural Lands
- Forested Mountains





# Marias River WMA

- 3 field diverse food plot rotation.
- Food Plot species mix. (sorghums, millets, barley, radish, sunflower)
- Poor production due to lack of moisture.
- Weed spraying to take place fall 2023 to combat Russian Thistle & Kochia.
- 2024 plans alter mix to more drought tolerant species.



# Freezout Lake

- 2023 Spring plantings & light disking completed on time.
- Fair-Good spring precipitation.
- End of contract. Monitoring and weed control moving forward.





# Woods Bottom Project

- Crop conversion on BLM land near Loma ,MT
- Invasive grass removal on rangeland by means of cattle and chemicals
- Meeting with BLM, local landowners
- 2023 Grazing, Spray & Seed Subunit 4





# Block Management Projects

- 18 Projects on Block Management.
- 5 New for 2023. 1 HML, 1 Tree/shrub planting, & 3 CRP/Open Fields.



# NRCS TIPS

- Native Grouse Habitat Conservation TIP
- Marias River Livestock Access
- Pondera County Soil Health TIPS
- Little Belt Mountains Ecosystem Restoration TIP





