# Montana Natural Heritage Program 2006 Activities Report

- Transfer to University July 1, 2006
- Added 21,000 observation records to POD/MBD
- Cleaned & assigned spatial precision to 33,000 observation records
- Completed structural updates to MBD database (still needs a lot of cleaning work on Non-SOC)
- Completed EO processing for ~ ½ SOC (3X previous)
- Updating element article files
- Completed Stream Observation Database (SOD)
- Adding all Heritage photos to Portfolio
- Natural Heritage Information Portal (NHIP) website
- Completed update to SOC List

#### **Heritage Funding Situation**



RIT: \$160,000

DEQ: \$36,000

FWP: \$28,000

GenFund: \$28,000

DNRC: \$20,000

University System: \$18,000

MDT: \$13,000

Current MSL Contract: \$303,000

Goal: \$453,000

(Additional \$150,000 requested)

#### Notes:

- \$10,000 retained by MSL for agency expenses
- Figures represent 41% of all sources to overall NRIS funding of \$742,000
- Reflects \$18,750 reduction from funding level in FY02-03 biennium.

# MTNHP Current Annual Core Funding & Proposed Goals for FY 08-09 Biennium

Current Annual Funding, MTNHP Core Services: *Approx.* \$430,000

Amount Needed for Full Core Funding: \$668,000

Additional Need: \$240,000

#### Supplemental Core Funding

USFS: \$16,000 BPA: \$5,000

BLM: \$55,000

► MT-Dept of Ag: \$7,500

**TNC:** \$10,000

USFWS: \$5,000

MFWP: \$23,000

NatureServe: \$5,000 - \$15,000

Current Suppl \$: about \$125,000

Goal: \$215,000

(Additional needed: about \$90,000)

#### **MOU for Montana Bird Distribution**

- Audubon, Bird Records Committee, FWP, NHP
- Governs collection, management, and dissemination of bird observation information
- Election of Executive Committee
- Develop annual and multi-year action plans and task assignments for MBD partnership products
  - Montana Bird Distribution Database
  - P.D. Skaar's Montana Bird Distribution
  - Montana Bird Distribution Data on Heritage Website
- Signed by all partners February, 2007

# Heritage and FWP MOU on Data Acquisition, Management, and Dissemination

Standard Data Acquisition Roles

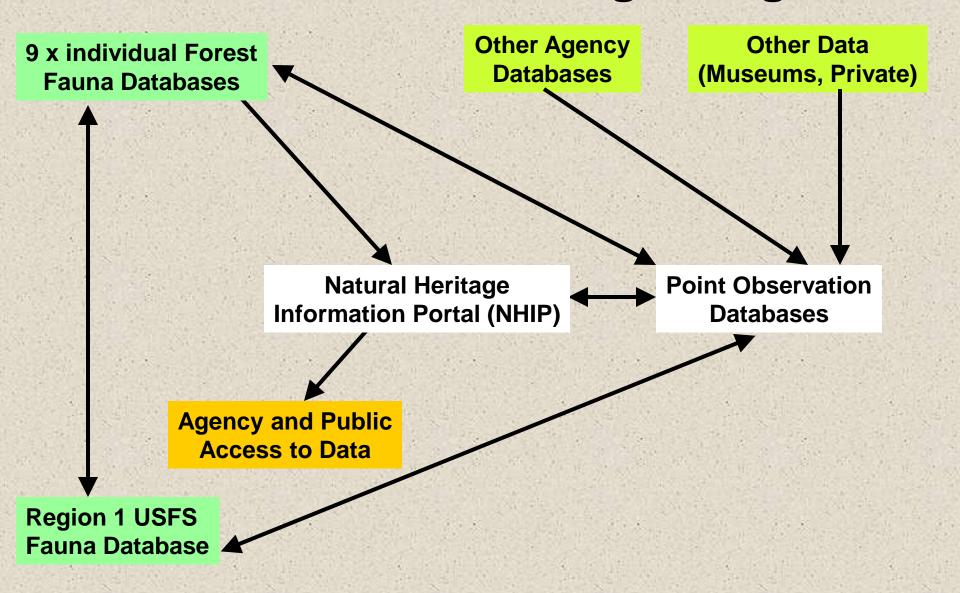
<b>Data Category</b>	Data Subcategory	MFWP Role	MNHP Role	
Monitoring data	Collectors Permits and Managed Game Species	Lead	Ancillary	
	Managed Nongame Species	Lead	Assist	
	Unmanaged Nongame Species	Assist	Lead	
Miscellaneous	MFWP Agency Data	Lead	Assist	
Observations	Other State Agencies	Assist	Lead	
	Federal Agency Data	Assist	Lead	
	Public Data	Assist	Lead	

- Data management roles for about 30 different animal databases
- Roles for data dissemination and tracking requirements on data use
- Structure for coordination of efforts

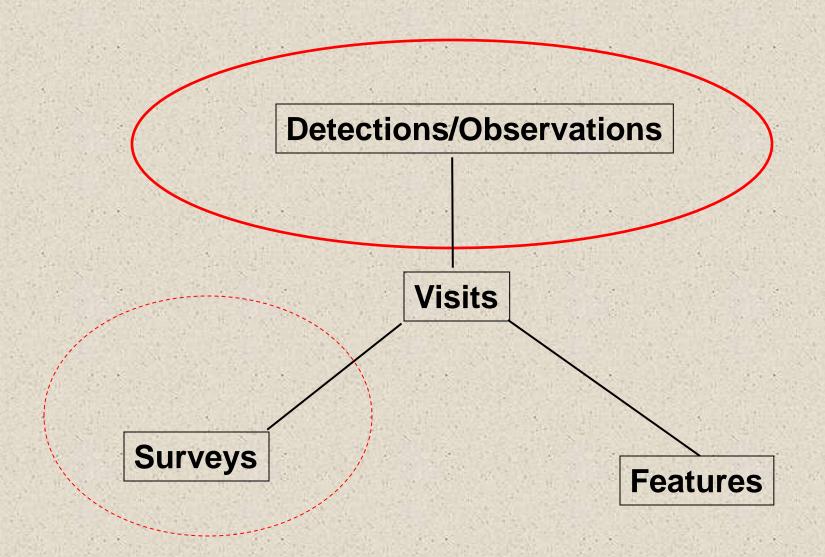
## **Digital Data Exchange Basics**

- Central databases are typically simplistic flat table structures with widely used data fields while monitoring databases have more complex structures and information completely unique to that database
- Exchange on common data fields
- Data fields not held in common can either not be exchanged or can be loaded into memo fields
- Link on data source and unique record ID for that data source to allow for data updates between databases as well as addition of new records
- Exchange data on annual, semiannual, or other appropriate time schedule
- \* Please email <a href="mailto:bmaxell@mt.gov">bmaxell@mt.gov</a> for POD data structure and data entry forms

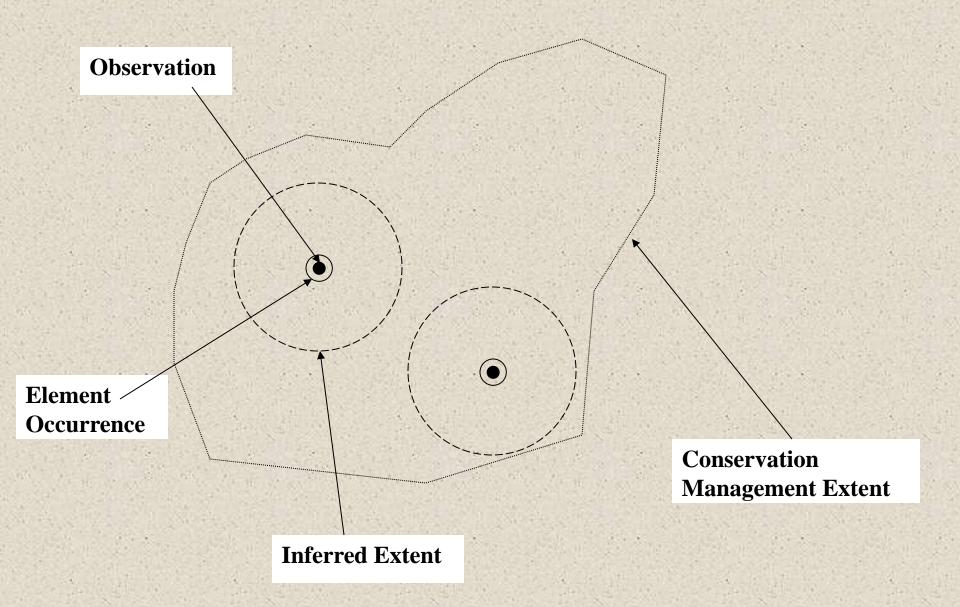
# USFS Fauna and Montana Natural Heritage Program



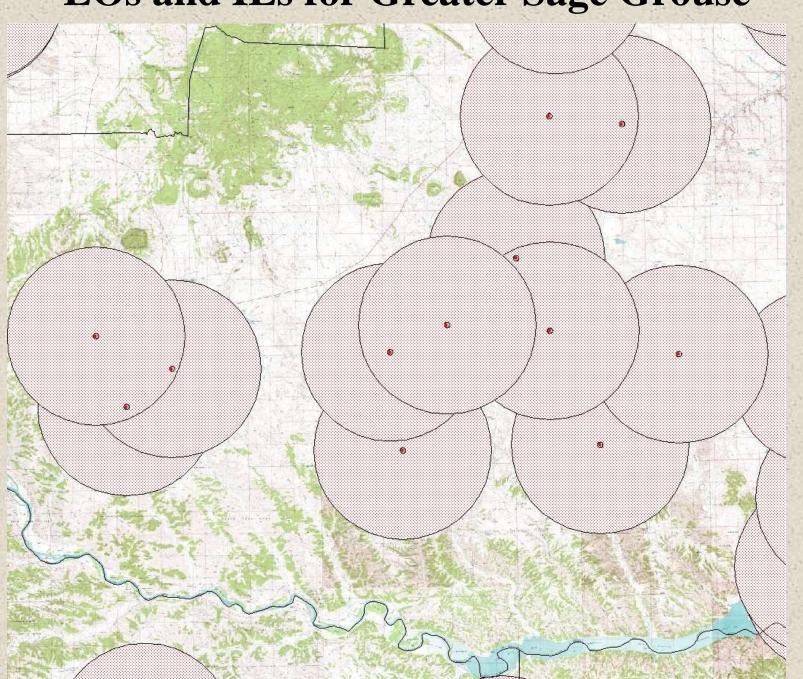
### **Fauna Structure**



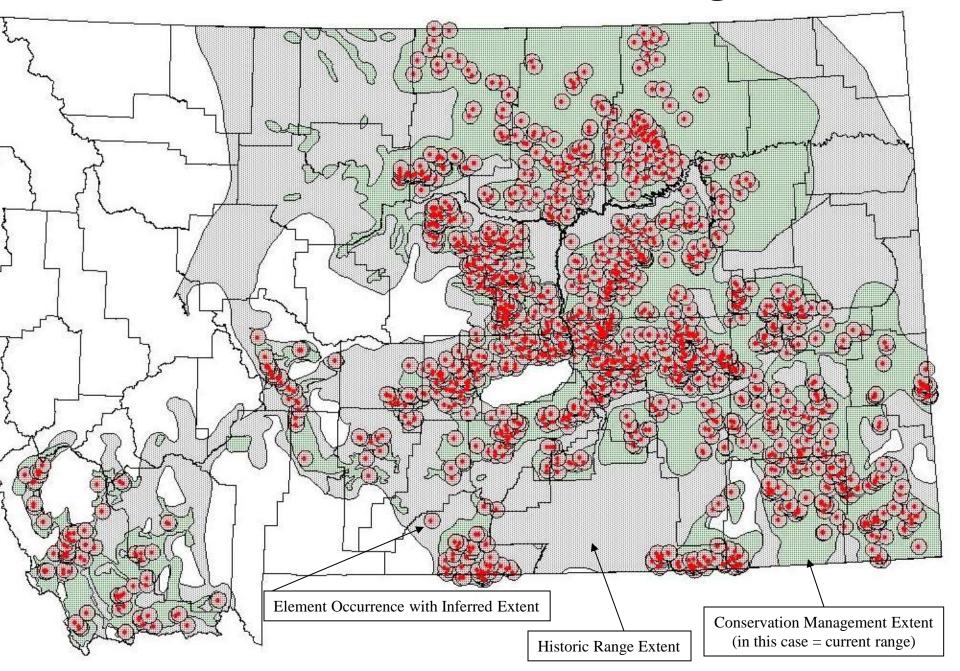
## **Graphic Example**



### **EOs and IEs for Greater Sage Grouse**



#### **Conservation Units For Greater Sage Grouse**



#### 2006 Species of Concern Report Updates

- Dropped 5 previously listed species due to invalid taxonomy
- Moved 1 species to PSOC list because of recent surveys
- Added the following species to the SOC list
  - Idaho Giant Salamander
  - Lake Trout
  - Short-tailed Shrew
  - Western Spotted Skunk

1	fres	hwa	ater	sp	on	qe
					-	3

- 2 slugs
- 1 crayfish
- 8 millipedes
- 6 insects

SPECIES TOTALS BY ANIMAL GR	ROUP
Species of Concern	
Mammals	29
Birds	
Reptiles	
Amphibians	6
Fish	19
Invertebrates	73
Potential Species of Conce	rn
Mammals	8
Birds	18
Fish	8
Invertebrates	56

#### HABITAT ASSOCIATION SUMMARY FOR ALL SPECIES OF CONCERN AND POTENTIAL SPECIES OF CONCERN

Streams/Rivers/Lakes	27%
Wetlands	20%
Sagebrush/Grassland	14%
Conifer Forest	
Riparian Forest	
Other/Generalist	
Alpine	
Rock Outcrop	5%
Caves	

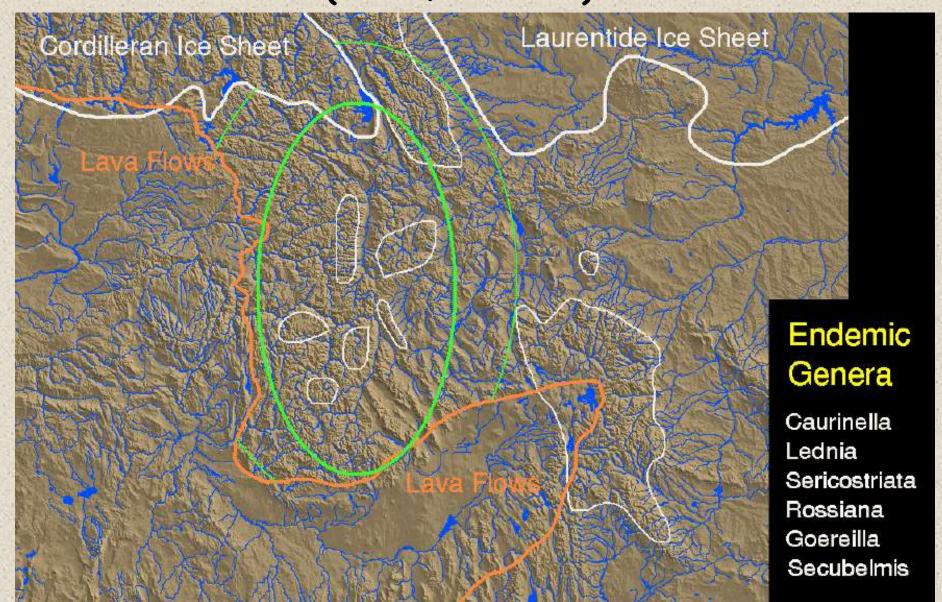
# **2006 Species of Concern Report Updates**

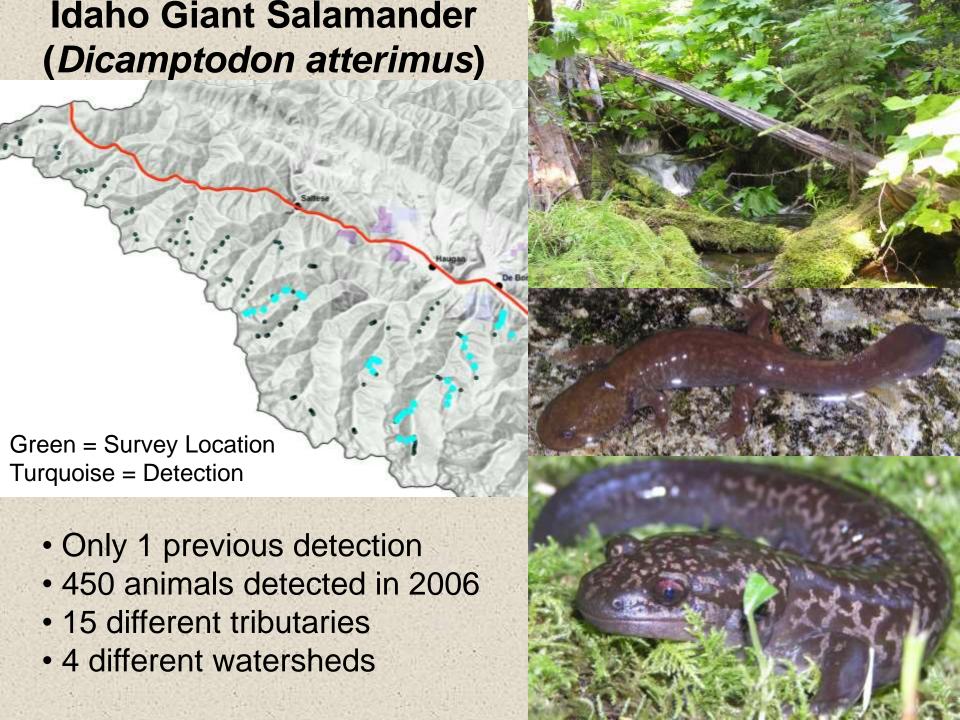
Fish	Invertebrates
Mountain Streams/Rivers/Lakes44% Prairie Streams/Rivers/Lakes56%	Streams/Rivers/Lakes.       29%         Wetlands.       28%         Conifer Forest.       15%         Alpine.       6%         Caves.       6%         Other/Generalist.       5%         Rock Outcrop.       5%         Sagebrush/Grassland.       5%         Riparian Forest.       1%
Reptiles	Amphibians
Rock Outcrop	Wetlands
Mammals	Birds
Sagebrush/Grassland.       38%         Riparian Forest.       16%         Conifer Forest.       11%         Rock Outcrop.       11%         Wetlands.       11%         Alpine.       5%         Other/Generalist.       5%         Caves.       3%	Sagebrush/Grassland

#### Goals for Montana's Nongame Wildlife

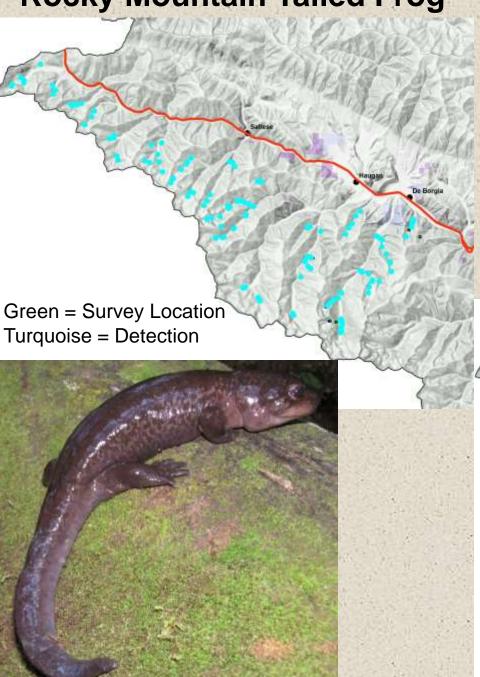
- Assess statewide <u>status</u> and <u>distribution</u>
- Monitor <u>status</u> and <u>distribution</u> statewide over time in conjunction with a variety of covariates that may or may not be affected with management actions
- Eventually want to set a priori management triggers
- How to assess status?
  - population size (abundance estimators)
  - population growth rates
  - viability measured as a probability of persistence over a certain period of time
  - percent of habitat patches occupied
- Tradeoff spatial inference vs. strength of inference

#### Northern Rocky Mountain Refugium (NRMR) (Gustafson 2001)



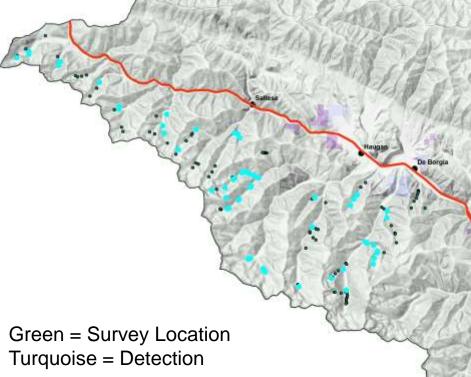


#### **Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog**



- Rocky Mountain Tailed Frogs detected at over 95% of sample locations
- Easily out number and out weigh fish

#### **Westslope Cutthroat Trout**



#### **Globally Rare Land Snails on R1 Forests**

- Selway Forestsnail (Allogona lombardii) (ID) G1
- Dry Land Forestsnail (Allogona ptychophora solida) (ID)? G5T2T3
- Nimapuna Tigersnail (Anguispira nimapuna) (ID) G1
- Chrome Ambershell (Catinella rehderi) (MT, ID?) G1G2Q\*
- Salmon Oregonian (Cryptomastix harfordiana) (ID)? G3G4
- Mission Creek Oregonian (Cryptomastix magnidentata) (ID)? G1
- Oregonian (Cryptomastix mullani blandi) (ID)? G4T1
- · River of No Return Oregonian (Cryptomastix mullani clappi) (ID) G4T1
- Kingston Oregonian (Cryptomastix sanburni) (ID)? G1
- Lake Disc (Discus brunsoni) (MT)? G1
- Marbled Disc (Discus marmorensis) (ID) G1G3
  - Striate Disc (Discus shimekii) (MT, ID?) G5
  - Salmon Coil (Helicodiscus salmonaceus) (ID) G1G2
- Alpine Mountainsnail (*Oreohelix alpina*) (MT) G1
- Bitterroot Mountainsnail (Oreohelix amariradix) (MT) G1G2
- Keeled Mountainsnail (Oreohelix carinifera) (MT) G1
- Carinate Mountainsnail (Oreohelix elrodi) (MT) G1
- · Seven Devils Mountainsnail (Oreohelix hammeri) (ID) G1
- A Land Snail (Hells Canyon) (Oreohelix idahoensis baileyi) (ID) G1G2T1
- · Costate Mountainsnail (Oreohelix idahoensis idahoensis) (ID)? G1G2T1T2
- · Deep Slide Mountainsnail (Oreohelix intersum) (ID)? G1
- Boulder Pile Mountainsnail (Oreohelix jugalis) (ID)? G1
- Berry's Mountainsnail (Oreohelix strigosa berryi) (MT) G5T2
- Striate Mountainsnail (Oreohelix strigosa goniogyra) (ID) G5T1Q
- Whorled Mountainsnail (Oreohelix vortex) (ID)? G1G3
- Lava Rock Mountainsnail (Oreohelix waltoni) (ID)? G1G3
- Gallatin Mountainsnail (Oreohelix yavapai mariae) (MT) G4T1
- Robust Lancetooth (Haplotrema vancouverense) (MT, ID) G5
- Western Flat-whorl (Planogyra clappi) (ID) G3G4
- Humped Coin (Polygyrella polygyrella (MT, ID) G2G3
- Northern Tightcoil (Pristiloma arcticum) (MT, ID?) G3G4\*
- Thinlip Tightcoil (Pristiloma idahoense) (ID) G2G3
- Fir Pinwheel (Radiodiscus abietum) (MT, ID) G3

SUMMARY

- 31 Species G1-G3 so USFS SOC
- 2 Species G5, but S1-S3 so USFS SOI

2006 Report on Heritage Website

#### Globally Rare Land Snails - Examples





Selway Forestsnail (Allogona Iombardii)



Nimapuna Tigersnail (Anguispira nimapuna)



Humped Coin (Polygyrella polygyrella)

#### Globally Rare Slugs on R1 Forests

- Marbled Jumping-slug (Hemphillia danielsi) (MT) G2G3
- Pale Jumping-slug (Hemphillia camelus) (MT, ID) G3G4
- Pygmy Slug (Kootenaia burkei) (MT, ID) G1G2
- Magnum Mantle-slug (Magnipelta mycophaga) (MT, ID) G3
- Reticulate Taildropper (Prophysaon andersoni) (MT, ID) G5
- Blue-gray Taildropper (Prophysaon coeruleum) (ID) G4
- Papillose Taildropper (Prophysaon dubium) (ID) G4
- Smoky Taildropper (Prophysaon humile) (MT, ID) G2
- Lyre Mantleslug (Udosarx lyrata lyrata) (MT, ID) G2T2
- Russell Mantleslug (Udosarx lyrata russelli) (MT)? G2T1
- Sheathed Slug (Zacoleus idahoensis) (MT, ID) G3G4

#### **SUMMARY**

- 8 Species G1-G3 so USFS SOC
- · 3 Species G4-G5, but S1-S3 so USFS SOI

#### Globally Rare Slugs - Examples



Pale Jumping-Slug (Hemphillia camelus)



Lyre Mantleslug (Udosarx lyrata lyrata)



Smoky Taildropper (Prophysaon humile)

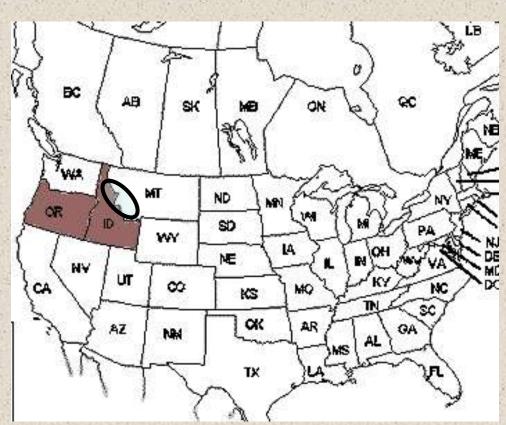


Magnum Mantleslug (Magnipelta mycophaga)

#### Globally Rare Macroinvertebrates

\*61-G3 - 28 species in Montana \*8 species are endemic to the NRM Refugia Area





#### Margaritifera falcata - Species-of-Interest (CFWS T1)

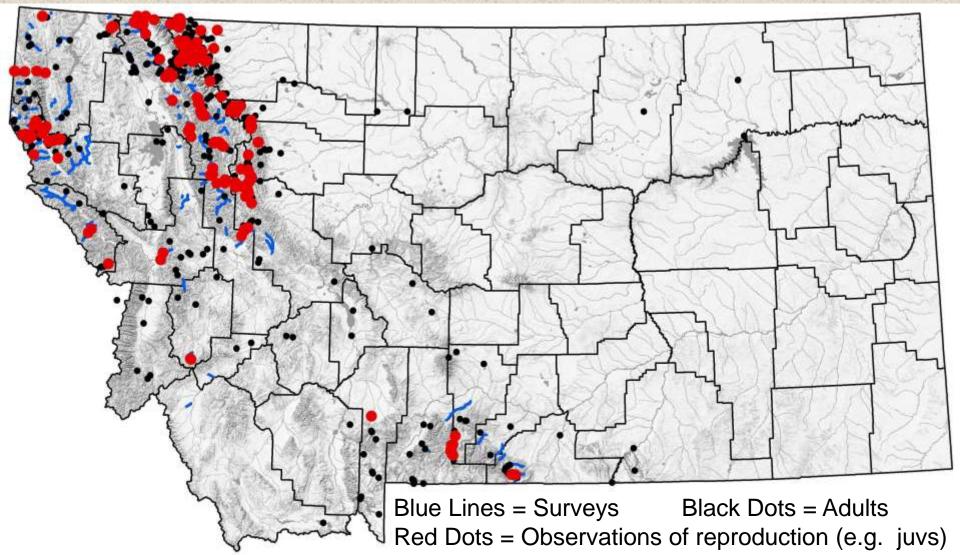


Super abundant in Idaho, huge beds, declining in MT.

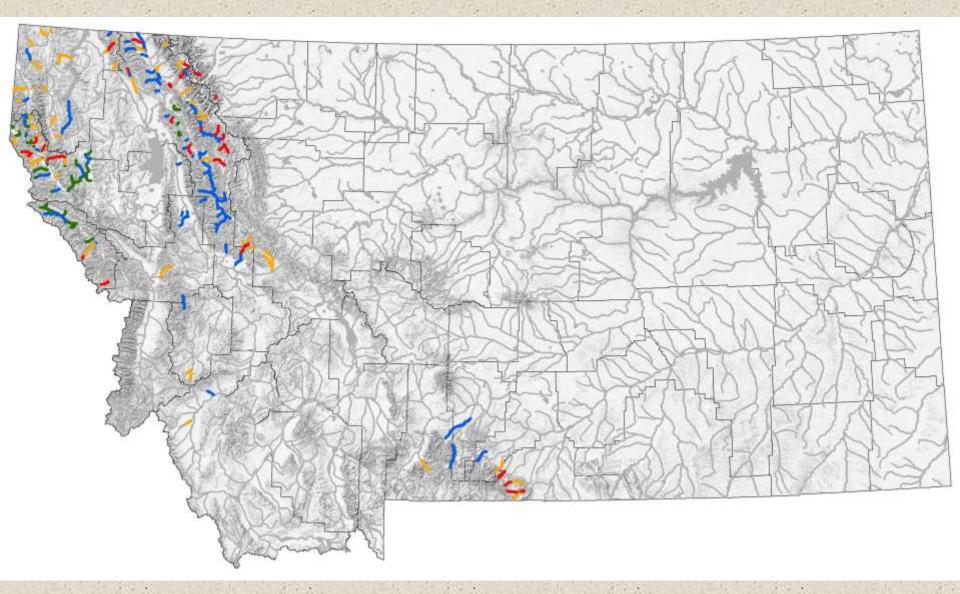
G4, Unranked in Idaho, S2S4 in MT

#### **Summary of Harlequin Duck Surveys**

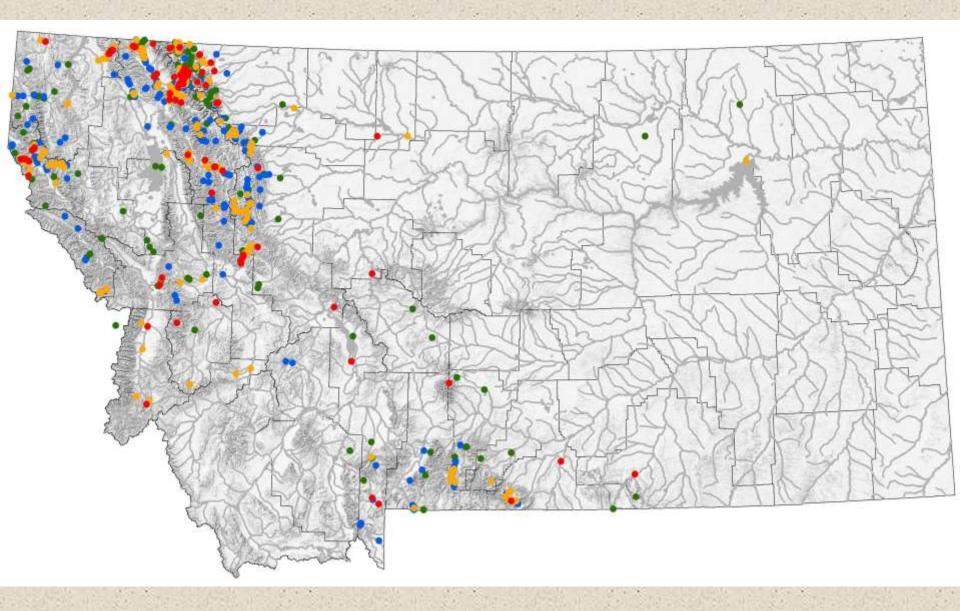
- Created new Stream Observation Database (SOD) for Non-MFish Species
- Contains all MT surveys except GNP, recent East Front, and recent Beartooth
- Tracks both negative and positive survey information



#### Harlequin Duck Surveys by Time Period



#### **Harlequin Duck Observations by Time Period**



Green = pre-1990

Blue = 1990-1994

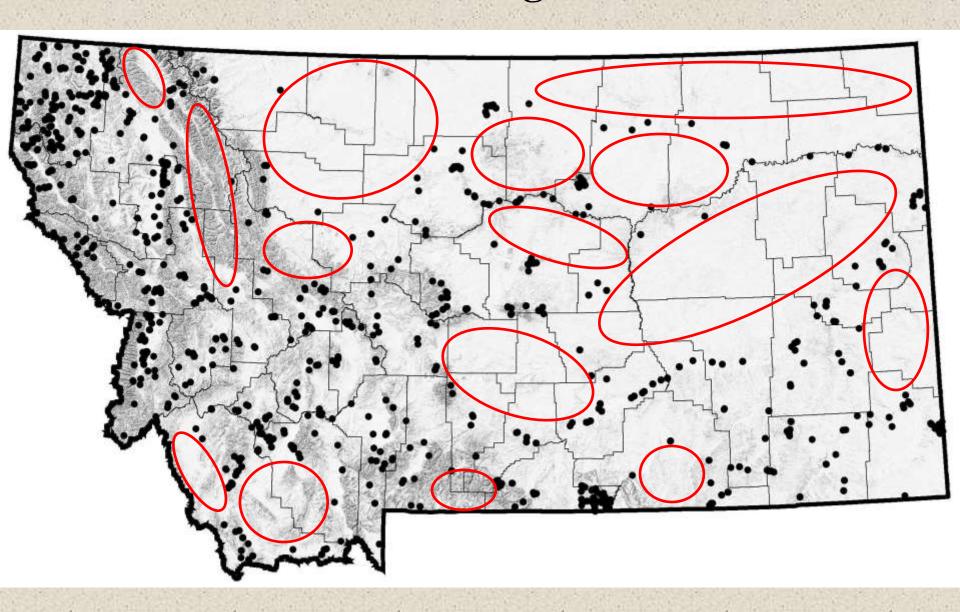
Orange = 1995-1999

Red = 2000-2005

# **Montana Bat Species**

Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	G5/S4		
Yuma Myotis	Myotis yumanensis	G5/S3S4		
<b>Long-eared Myotis</b>	Myotis evotis	G5/S4		
Fringed Myotis	Myotis thysanodes	G4G5/S3	SOC	<b>BLM Sensitive</b>
<b>Long-legged Myotis</b>	Myotis volans	G5/S4		
California Myotis	Myotis californicus	G5/S4		
Western Small-foote	d Myotis Myotis ciliolabrum	G5/S4		
<b>Northern Myotis</b>	Myotis septentrionalis	G4/S2S3	SOC	<b>BLM Sensitive</b>
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris noctivagans	G5/S4		
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	G5/S4		
<b>Eastern Red Bat</b>	Lasiurus borealis	G5/S2S3	SOC	
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus cinereus	G5/S3S4		
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum	G4/S2	SOC	<b>USFS/BLM Sensitive</b>
Townsend's Big-eare	ed Bat Corynorhinus townsendii	G4/S2	SOC	<b>USFS/BLM Sensitive</b>
Pallid Bat	Antrozous pallidus	G5/S2	SOC	<b>USFS/BLM Sensitive</b>

### Montana Bat Data Through 2006 Field Season



#### Bat Species Richness Data by USFS District

page 1

FOREST	DISTRICT	Predicted # of Species	All Data as % of Predicted	
Beaverhead/Deerlodge	Dillon *	10	80%	
on the second	Pintler (Philipsburg/Deer Lodge)	11	73%	
	Jefferson	10	70%	
	Butte *	10	70%	
	Madison	10	20%	
	Wisdom	10	10%	
Bitterroot	Sula *	11	45%	
	Darby	11	45%	
	Stevensville	11	18%	
	West Fork	11	9%	
Custer	Beartooth *	12	100%	
Custer	Ashland	12	75%	
10,244.35,148.03	Sioux	11	73%	
Flathead	Tally Lake *	11	55%	
	Swan Lake *	11	45%	
	Hungry Horse	- 11	18%	
	Spotted Bear	11	9%	
Gallatin	Bozeman *	10	70%	
	Big Timber	11	50%	
	Livingston	11	18%	
	Hebgen Lake	10	10%	

Gardiner

10

4%

### Bat Species Richness Data by USFS District

page 2

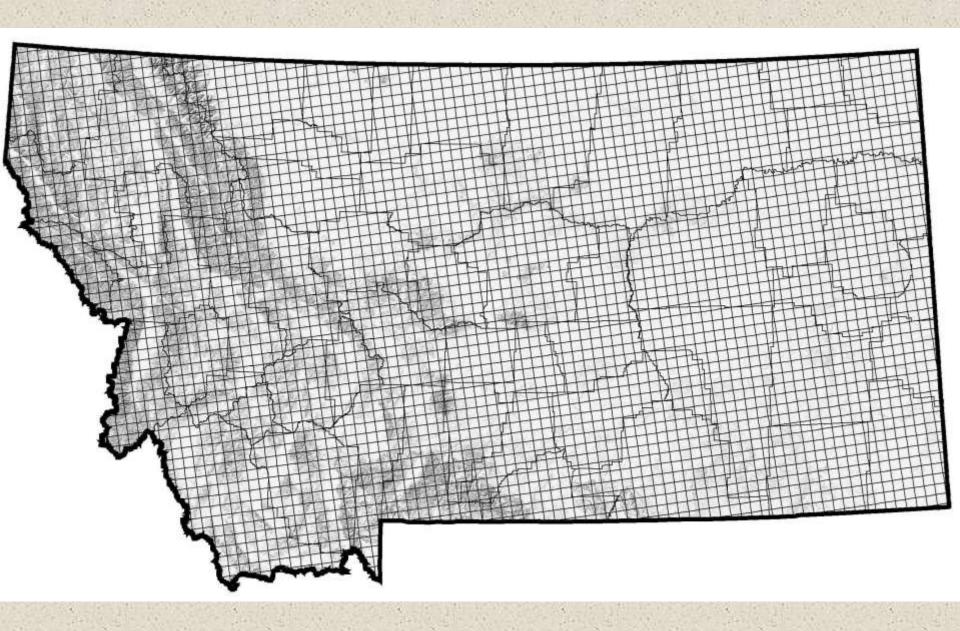
FOREST	DISTRICT	Predicted # of Species	All Data as % of Predicted	
Helena	Townsend *	11	91%	
	Helena *	11	82%	
	Lincoln *	11	55%	

Kootenai	Libby *	11	100%
	Cabinet	11	91%
	Rexford	11	82%
	Fortine *	11	73%
	Three Rivers	11	73%

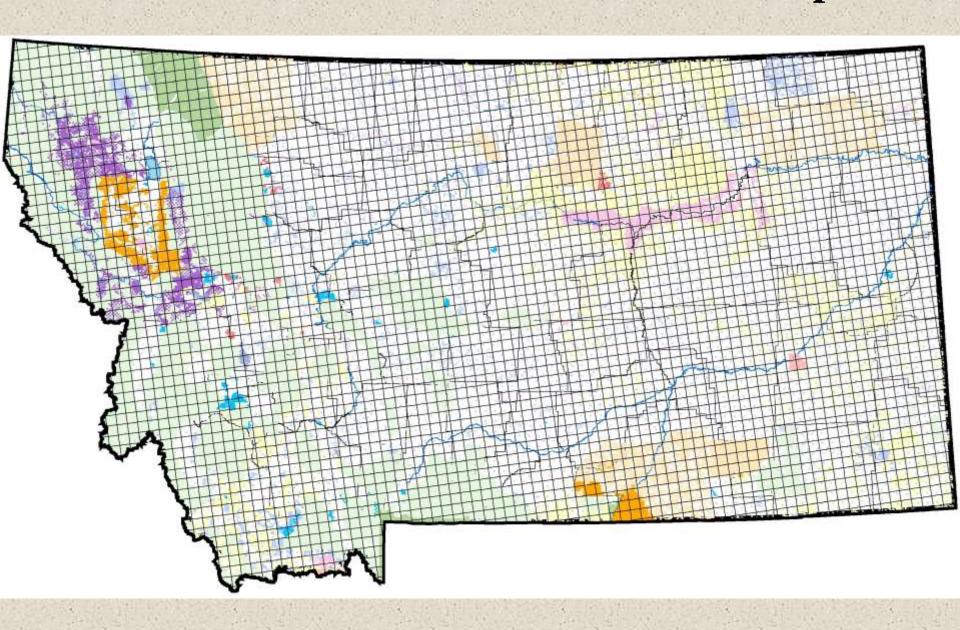
Lewis and Clark	Judith *	10	70%
	Musselshell	10	70%
	Rocky Mountain	10	60%
	White Sulphur Spring	10	30%
	Belt Creek	10	10%

Lolo	Superior *	11	82%
	Missoula	11	55%
	Plains/Thompson Falls	11	45%

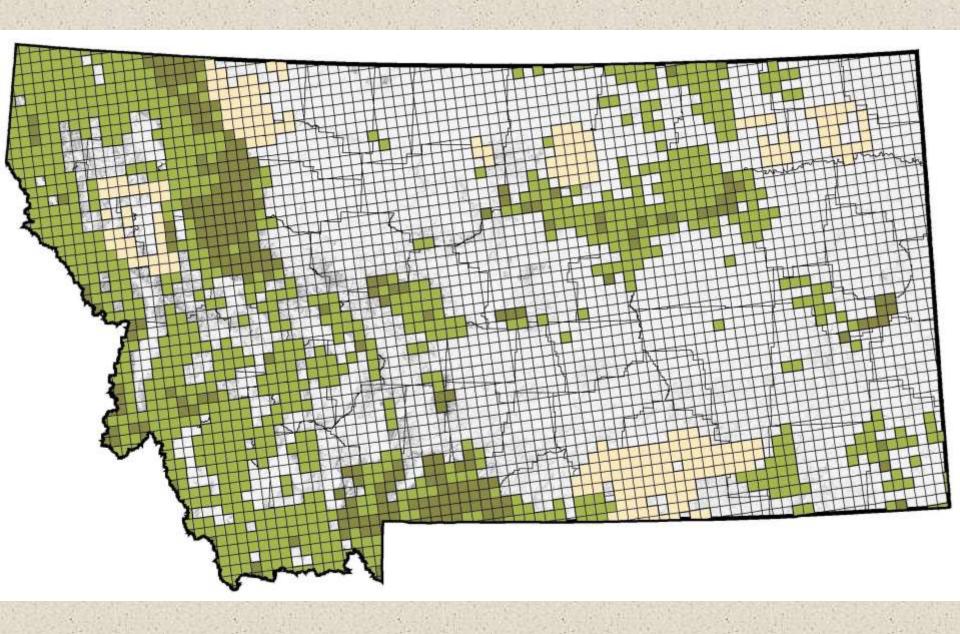
### **USFS** Wildlife Grid



## USFS Wildlife Grid – Land Ownership

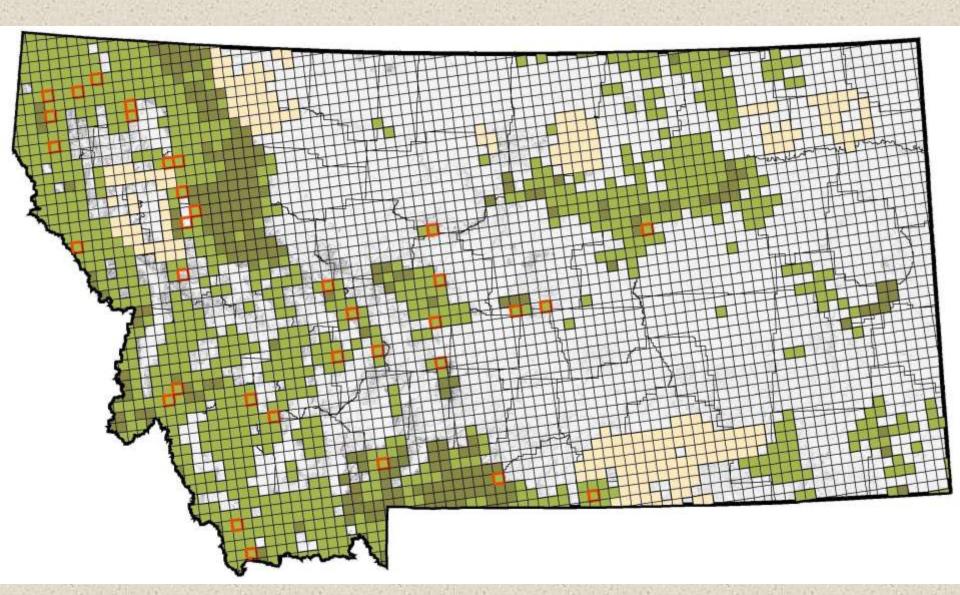


## **Montana Bat Sampling Scheme**

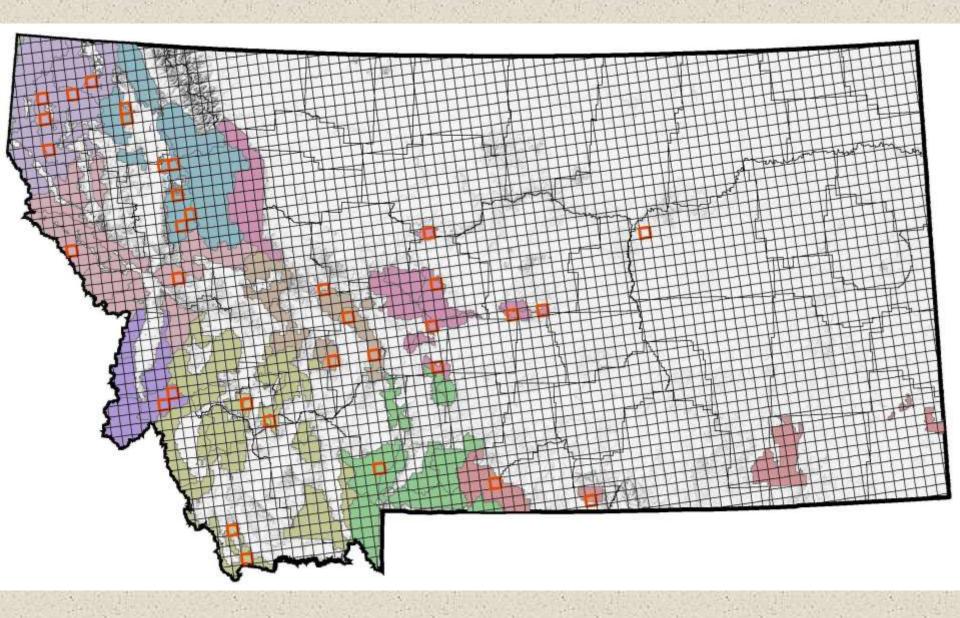


#### **Grid Cells With Multiple Surveys**

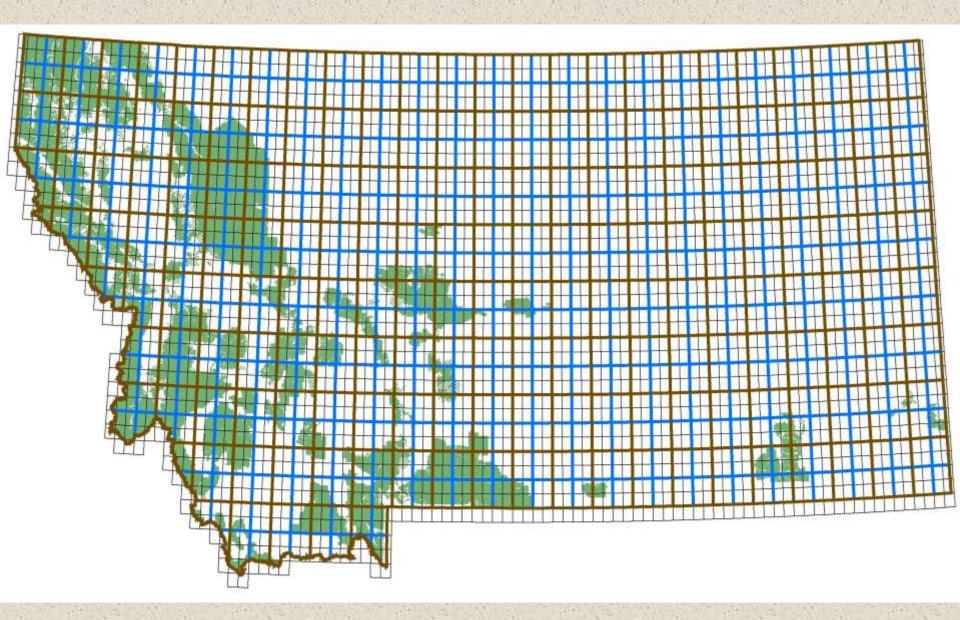
(Calculate Detection Probability and Site Occupancy Rates?)



#### Grid Cells With Multiple Surveys by Forest



#### **Nested Latilong Grid Cells for Montana**



# Multiple Survey Data by USFS District

FÓREST	DISTRICT	Predicted Number of Species	All Data as % of Predicted	Multiple Surveys as % of Predicted
Custer	Beartooth	12	100%	92%
Helena	Townsend	11	91%	91%
Kootenai	Libby	11	100%	73%
Lewis and Clark	Judith	10	70%	70%
Helena	Helena	ii .	82%	64%
Beaverhead/Deerlodge	Butte	10	70%	60%
Beaverhead/Deerlodge	Dillon	10	80%	60%
Gallatin	Bozeman	10	70%	60%
Flathead	Tally Lake	11	55%	55%
Lolo	Superior	и	82%	55%
Flathead	Swan Lake	11	45%	45%
Bitterroot	Sula	11	45%	36%
Helena	Lincoln	- 11	55%	27%
Kootenai	Fortine	11	73%	27%

## Number of Cells Per Forest

FOREST	Cell Count	# of Cells with Multiple Surveys	% of Total
Beaverhead-Deerlodge	151	4	3%
Bitterroot	60	2	3%
Custer	50	3	6%
Flathead	104	6	6%
Gallatin	86	1	1%
Helena	43	5	12%
Kootenai	114	5	4%
Lewis and Clark	79	6	8%
Lolo	95	1	1%
TOTAL	782	33	4%

#### **Detection Rates for Acoustic versus Mist Netting Surveys**

	OVERALL PERCENT DETECTION RATE		
SPECIES	ACOUSTIC	MIST-NET	
Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus)	76.9	14.5	
Western Long-eared Myotis (Myotis evotis)	58.9	32.2	
Fringed Myotis (Myotis thysanodes)	15.3	4.8	
Long-legged Myotis (Myotis volans)	17.9	32.2	
California Myotis (Myotis californicus)	5.1	8.0	
Western Small-footed Myotis (Myotis ciliolabrum)	33.3	8.0	
Silver-haired Bat (Lasionycteris noctivagans)	30.7	28.9	
Big Brown Bat (Eptesicus fuscus)	33.3	18.8	
Hoary Bat (Lasiurus cinereus)	71.7	18.8	
Spotted Bat (Euderma maculatum)	7.6	0.0	

Overall percent capture rate for species during acoustic versus mist-netting surveys on eight Region 1 National Forests in Montana, 2 July – 28 September, 2006.

Thirty-nine acoustic surveys and 62 mist-netting surveys were conducted across 74 sites.

## **Next Steps**

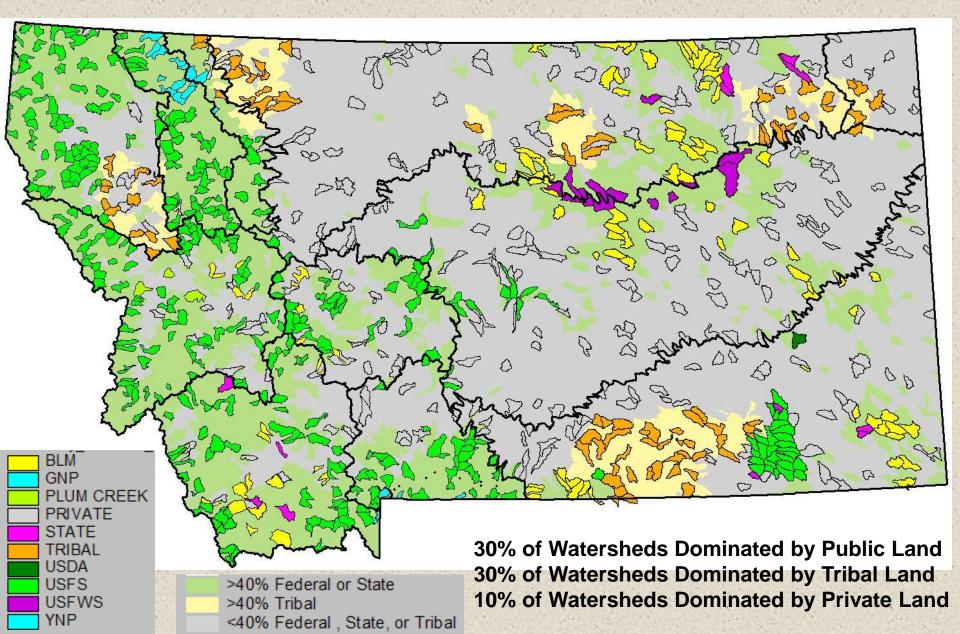
- Calculate detection probabilities with existing data
- Examine confidence intervals and determine sample size needed for future grid cell surveys
- Fill in data holes
- Targeted surveys for USFS SOC species
- Targeted surveys of roost sites for management of roost habitat (e.g., bridge surveys MDT project)
- Extend grid sampling (probably latilong based grid) across Montana with all partners (BLM, FWP/SWG)

## Yuma Myotis Data...????

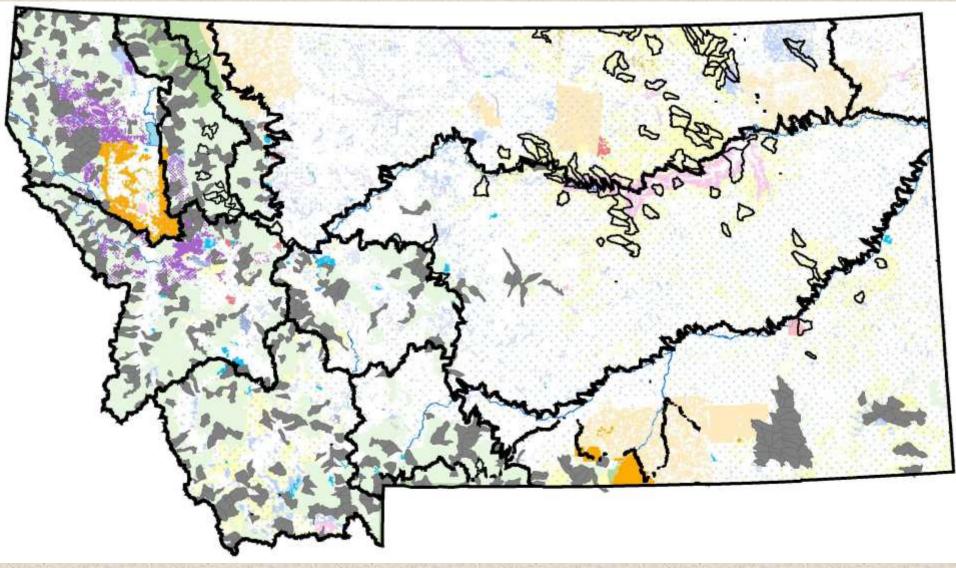


### Montana Amphibian Inventory Sampling Scheme

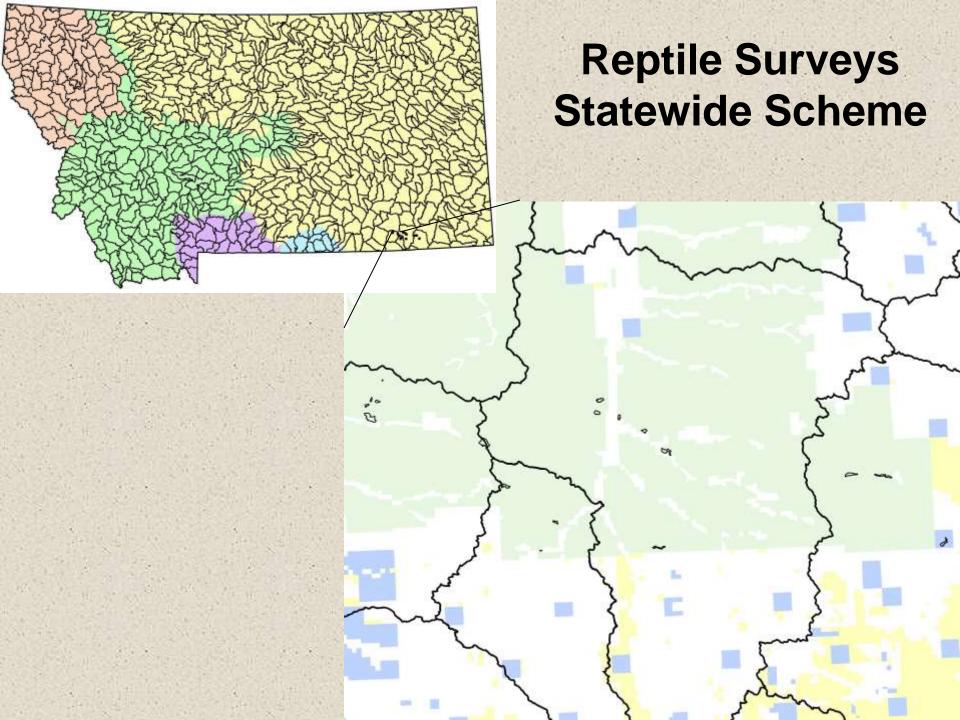
Geographic Strata - Ownership Strata - Randomly Selected Watersheds



## **Montana Amphibian Inventory Status**



- 8,000 standing water bodies surveyed
- 7,500 species records
- Rapid wetland assessment
- Wetland photos posted on NHIP
- 2 years of surveys remain in NE Montana Non-target observations (pika, h-marmot)



## **Inventory Highlights Through Fall 2006**

- Surveys of 520 watersheds and >8,200 sites
- 8,230 new species locality records
- Established new state high elevation records for 12 species
- Extended known geographic ranges for 10 species
- Statistically valid assessment of status for majority of amphibian species
- Produced 9 reports, data used in book projects, and nearing completion of amphibian and reptile conservation plans for Montana.
- 5 multiple day training workshops given to agency biologists and numerous presentations at meetings
- Extensive bibliographic database for access to primary literature
- Fencing off rare upland wetlands from cattle trampling on the Custer and Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forests
- Beaver reintroduction for lentic breeding site creation on Custer and Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forests
- Protection of amphibian populations from fish stocking on Bitterroot and Gallatin Forests
- ID of distribution of amphibian disease (chytrid) and need to decontaminate equipment
- Protection of remaining breeding populations of rare species (e.g., Western Toad)
- Proactive management of lentic wetlands in Forest Management Plans
- Heightened awareness of needs of amphibians and lentic wetlands by USFS and other agency personnel

Ex. Information on Apparent Occupancy and Breeding Rates for Regional Status				
Species	Number and Percent of Watersheds That Were Occupied <sup>3</sup> (N = 21)	Number and Percent of Watersheds Where Breeding Was Detected <sup>3</sup> (N = 19)	Number and Percent of Sites Containing Water That Were Occupied <sup>4</sup> (N = 205)	Number and Percent of Sites Containing Water Where Breeding Was Detected <sup>4</sup> (N = 205)
	15	15	59	59
Long-Toed Salamander	71%	79%	29%	29%
(Ambystoma macrodactylum)	(95% CI = 55% - 88%)	(95% CI = 63% - 95%)	(95% CI = 23% - 35%)	(95% CI = 23% - 35%)
	5	4	10	6
Rocky Mountain Tailed	24%	21%	4.9%	3%
Frog <sup>5</sup>	(95%  CI = 8% - 40%)	(95%  CI = 5% - 37%)	(95% CI = 1.9% - 7.8%)	(95%  CI = 0.6% - 5.2%)
(Ascaphus montanus)				
	8	2	8	3
Western Toad	38%	10.5%	3.9%	1.5%
(Bufo boreas)	(95%  CI = 20% - 56%)	(95%  CI = 0% - 23%)	(95% CI = 1.3% - 6.6%)	(95% CI = 0% - 3.1%)

10.5%

(95% CI = 0% - 23%)

15

79%

(95% CI = 63% - 95%)

NA

NA

NA

2

1%

(95% CI = 0% - 2.3%)

52

25%

(95% CI = 19% - 31%)

NA

NA

NA

2

1%

(95% CI = 0% - 2.3%)

96

47%

(95% CI = 40% - 54%)

27

13%

(95% CI = 9% - 18%)

33

16%

(95% CI =11% - 21%)

39

19%

(95% CI = 14% - 24%)

2

9.5%

(95% CI = 0% - 20%)

18

86%

(95% CI = 73% - 99%)

11

52%

(95% CI = 34% - 71%)

33%

(95% CI = 16% - 51%)

13

68%

(95% CI = 51% - 86%)

Pacific Treefrog 6

(Pseudacris regilla)

**Columbia Spotted Frog** 

(Rana luteiventris)

Terrestrial Gartersnake 7

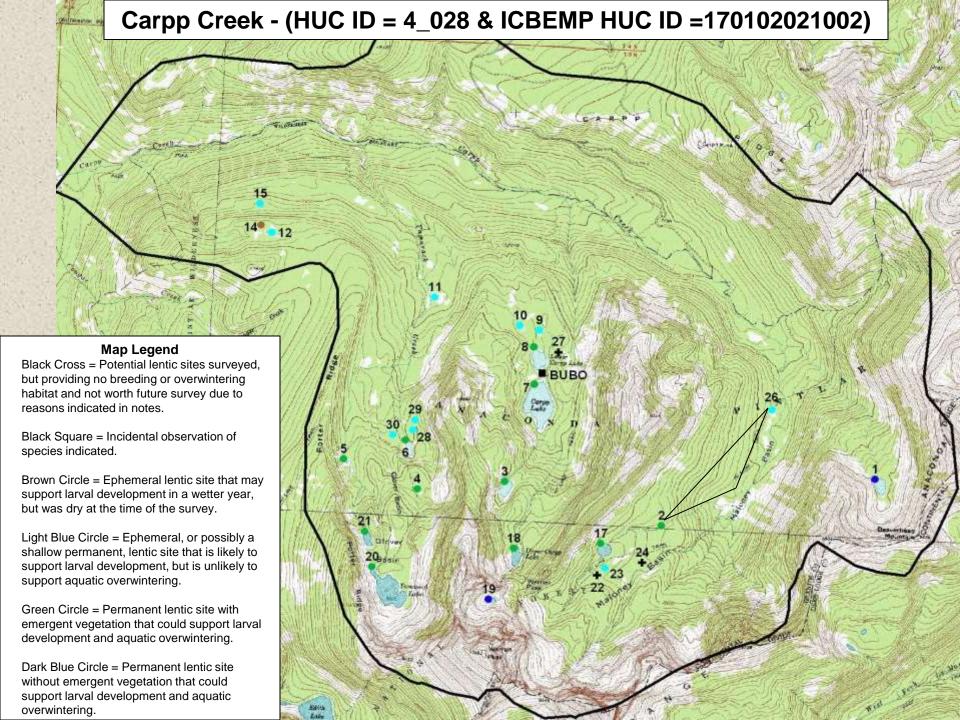
(Thamnophis elegans)

Common Gartersnake 7

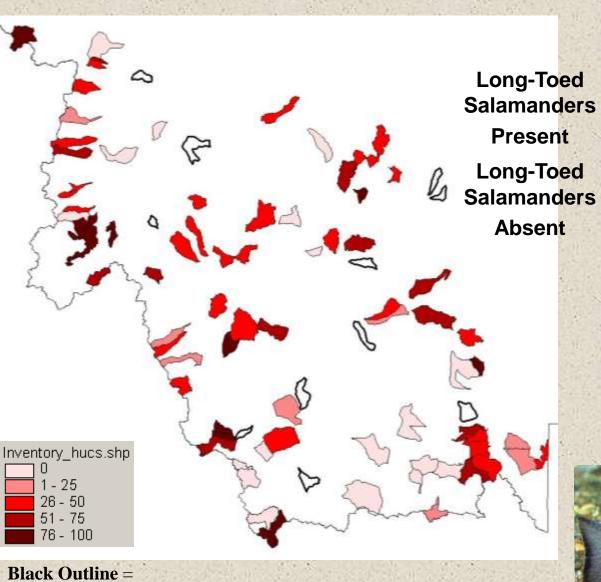
(Thamnophis sirtalis)

Non-indigenous 7

**Salmonid Fishes** 



#### Regional Fish Stocking and Impacts on Fish

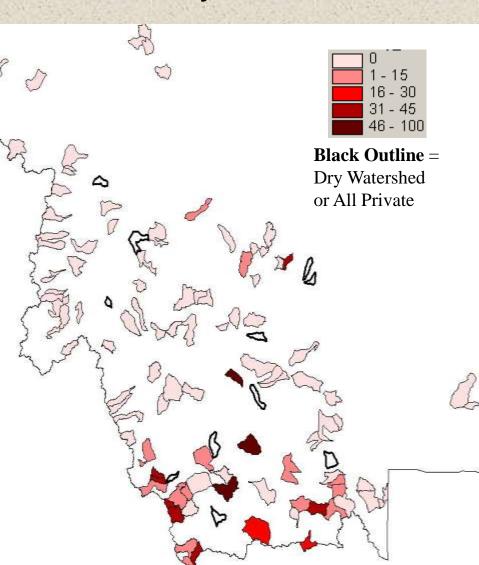


Dry Watershed or All Private

Fish Detected	Fish Not Detected
8	92
97	350



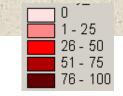
# Percent of Lentic Sites Capable of Supporting Amphibian Reproduction Heavily Impacted by Cattle





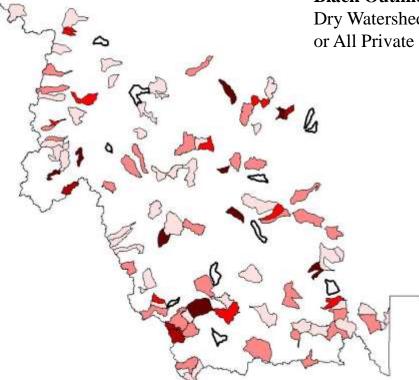


#### **Percent of Lentic Sites Capable of Supporting Amphibian Reproduction** with Water Dammed or Diverted



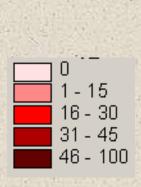
**Black Outline** = Dry Watershed



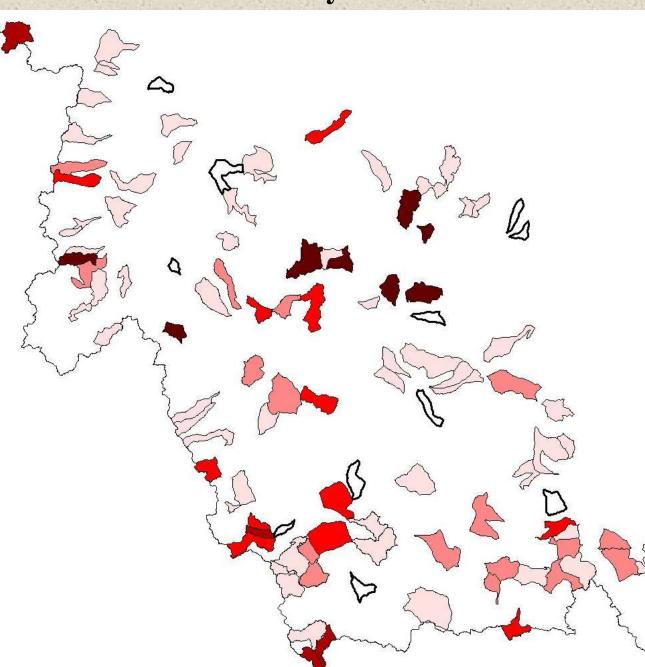




#### **Percent of Lentic Sites Created By Beaver**



Black Outline = Dry Watershed or All Private

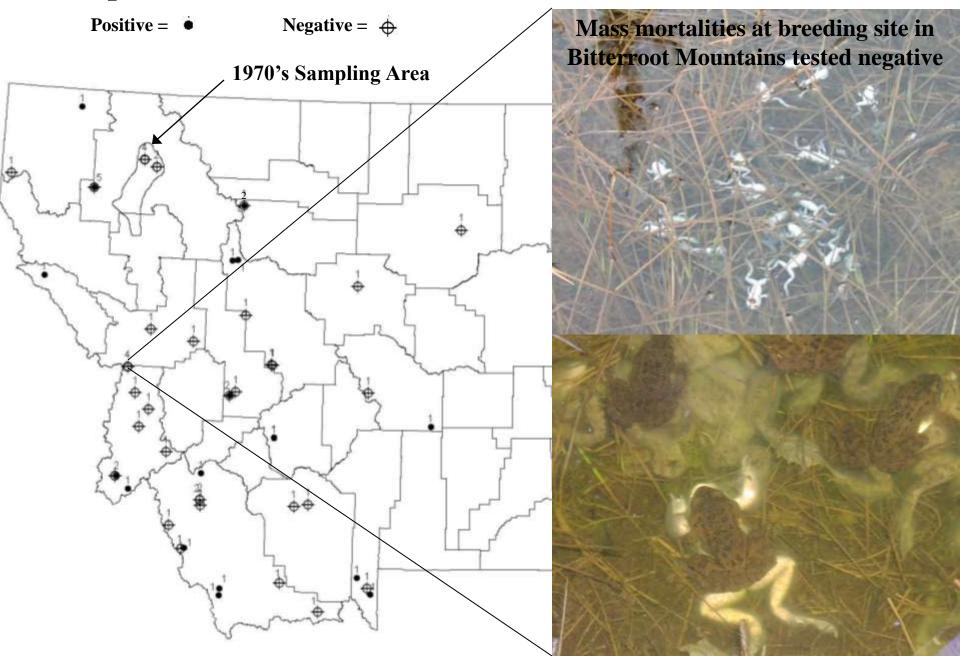








#### Spatial Distribution of Tissues Tested for B. dendrobatidis



## Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Plans