

### **Joint Wetland and Watershed Stewardship Award Ceremony**

Every two years, the Montana Wetland Council and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council jointly honor stewardship award recipients. The Montana Wetland Stewardship Award recognizes individuals and teams who exemplify excellence, innovation and extraordinary commitment in wetland and riparian protection, restoration, and conservation. The Montana Watershed Stewardship Award recognizes innovative, locally led approaches to restoring and enhancing Montana's watersheds.

#### **The Montana Wetland Council**

The Montana Wetland Council is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetland and riparian ecosystems. Montana's wetland goal is "No overall net loss of the state's remaining wetland resource base and an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands in Montana." The Council meets three times a year to exchange information and develop and advance solutions for complex wetland and riparian issues. Council participants achieve our state goal by implementing Montana's Wetland Strategic Framework. Everyone is welcome to participate. For more information visit <http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/> or contact Lynda Saul at (406) 444-6652.

#### **Montana Watershed Coordination Council**

The Montana Watershed coordination Council (MWCC) is a statewide information and support network organized to advance voluntary local watershed work and to help build the capacity to get it done. MWCC serves as a forum that establishes a link with local watershed groups needing assistance to help enhance, conserve, and protect natural resources and to sustain the high quality of life in Montana for present and future generations. It also serves as a statewide coordination network for Montana's natural resource agencies and private organizations to share resources and collaborate. For more information, visit <http://mtwatersheds.org> or contact MWCC Coordinator Alicia Vanderheiden at [info.mwcc@gmail.com](mailto:info.mwcc@gmail.com).



*The Montana Wetland Council and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for supporting these awards.*



Cover photo courtesy of Gravity Shots.

# 2011 *Wetland & Watershed Stewardship Awards*



*May 26, 2011  
Montana State Capital*



MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL



# Schedule of Events

## **Stewardship Award Presentations**

*Department of Agriculture-Scott Hart Auditorium*

- 9:00 am Gather and Convene**  
*Welcome and Introductions*
- 9:10 am Presentations by Wetland Stewardship Award Recipients**  
*Gordon Cattle Company*  
*Flathead River to Lake Initiative*
- 9:55 am Presentations by Watershed Stewardship Award Recipients**  
*Sweet Grass County Conservation District*  
*DEQ Remediation Division: Silver Bow Creek Restoration*
- 10:40 am Move to Capitol-Old Supreme Court Chambers**

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## **Wetland and Watershed Stewardship Award Ceremony**

*Capitol-Old Supreme Court Chambers*

- 11:00 am Opening Remarks**  
*Ann Schwend, Montana Watershed Coordination Council Co-Chair*  
*Lynda Saul, Wetland Council Chair*  
*Richard Opper, Director of Department of Environmental Quality*  
**Lieutenant Governor, John Bohlinger**  
**Wetland Stewardship Award Recipients**  
*Henry and Trish Gordon, Gordon Cattle Company*  
*Flathead River to Lake Initiative Partners*  
**Watershed Stewardship Award Recipients**  
*Sweet Grass County Conservation District*  
*Joel Chavez and Tim Reilly, DEQ, Silver Bow Creek Restoration*
- 11:50 am Keynote Address: Water Woes? Restore Nature's Infrastructure.**  
*Eloise Kendy, The Nature Conservancy*
- 12:15 pm Complimentary Luncheon Celebration in the Rotunda**

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## **MWCC and Wetland Council Joint Presentations**

*Department of Agriculture-Scott Hart Auditorium*

- 1:30 pm Innovative Wetland and Watershed Approaches**  
*Trumpeter Swan Restoration: Building Community Support*  
*Cooperative Lake Helena Bioengineering Demonstration Project*  
*Moving to the Win-Win: Channel Migration Easement Program*
- 3:30 pm Closing Remarks**  
*Nicole Divine McClain, MWCC Co-Chair*
- 3:45 pm Adjourn**

# Award Recipients

## **Wetland Stewardship Award: Henry & Trish Gordon, Gordon Cattle Company**

The Gordon Cattle Company in northern Blaine County exemplify ranchers practicing long-term land stewardship and a deep commitment to conservation. They restored shallow wetland habitats resulting in about 100 acres of wetlands, placed a conservation easement on 15,000 acres of deeded lands that consists of native grassland, shrub land, and wetland habitat in spite of pressures to convert native range to cropland, and instituted a rest-rotation grazing system and alternative water resources on about 40,000 acres of rangeland. The Gordon Cattle Company's conservation accomplishments are of landscape proportions.

## **Wetland Stewardship Award: Flathead River to Lake Initiative Partners**

The River to Lake Initiative is recognized for outstanding achievement in building a diverse partnership and working with private landowners to protect and restore critical wetlands and riparian habitat along the Flathead River and the north shore of Flathead Lake. Since 2000, the partnership has protected over 5,000 acres of critical lands, including 1,200 wetland acres, and restored over 5,000 feet of river banks. The partners bring together diverse strengths, skills, and resources to achieve common goals, including protecting clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, productive farm lands, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.

## **Watershed Stewardship Award: Sweet Grass County Conservation District**

The Conservation District is recognized in conjunction with the Boulder River Watershed Association, Big Timber and Swamp Creek Watershed Group. The Conservation District Board of Supervisors, District Administrator Guelda Halverson and Watershed Coordinator Dan Rostad, have helped these groups stay focused on conservation and improvement of natural resources with demonstrable improvements to water quality, weed control, riparian health, wildlife predation, fuels reduction, and irrigation infrastructure improvements. This integrated approach has allowed these groups to stay true to their organizational goals, objectives and mission.

## **Watershed Stewardship Award: Joel Chavez and Tim Reilly**

DEQ Remediation Division's Superfund Project Manager Joel Chavez and Tim Project Officer Reilly, are recognized for their outstanding work on the Silver Bow Creek Restoration Project. Superfund remediation removed mine waste contaminants, relocated the stream, brought the floodplain to grade using clean fill and revegetated the area with a rich diversity of native riparian plants. Mr. Chavez and Mr. Reilly demonstrated a true commitment to restoration by not only meeting, but by exceeding, procedural requirements in both quantity and quality.