

**AGENDA**  
**MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday January 20, 2004**  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
DEQ Directors Conference Room

**10:00 Welcome, Introductions & Setting the Stage for Rapid Assessment.**

Lynda Saul, Wetland Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality.

**10:15 Steps Forward in Wetland Monitoring and Assessment – EPA & DEQ Perspectives.**

Randy Apfelbeck, Water Quality Specialist, DEQ.

Overview of wetland monitoring and assessment strategies with emphasis on developing rapid assessment protocols to assess wetland ecological condition. Presentation provided by Mary Kentula, EPA Corvallis.

**10:45 MDT Montana Wetland Assessment Method.**

Jeff Berglund, Senior Biologist/Wetland Scientist, Land & Water Consulting.

This assessment method has been used and modified since 1989 mainly to address highway and other linear projects to meet the needs of regulatory agencies quantifying jurisdictional wetland functions and values. Overview of MDT Method and comparison to DEQ rapid assessment proposal.

**11:10 Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Assessment Method.**

Tom Parker, Principal Ecologist, Geum Environmental Consulting, Inc.

The HGM functional assessment approach is based on the hydrogeomorphic model for classifying wetlands and was specifically developed for wetland assessment in response to the requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Overview of HGM Method and comparison to DEQ rapid assessment proposal.

**11:35 Proper Functioning Condition (PFC).**

Mary Manning, Regional Vegetation Ecologist, US Forest Service.

PFC is a method for assessing the physical functioning of a riparian-wetland area (including both lentic, standing water habitat and lotic, running water habitat). Overview of PFC Method and comparison to DEQ rapid assessment proposal.

**Noon - Lunch break** (on your own or bring a brown bag)

**1:00 Riparian Assessment USDA NRCS Method.**

Pete Husby, Wildlife Biologist, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

NRCS adapted the Montana Riparian Wetland Association method for assessing riparian health, management plans and monitoring. Overview of Riparian Assessment Method and comparison to DEQ rapid assessment proposal.

**1:30 Panel Discussion - How Can Existing Rapid Assessment Methods Contribute to the State's Wetland Assessment Program Needs?**

Facilitated discussion with the Wetland Council and Presenters on how various existing assessment methods can contribute to assessing wetland ecological integrity.

## **2:30 Break**

### **2:45 Wetland Updates and Coordination Reports.**

This is an opportunity for everyone to share wetland and riparian related activities ongoing in their agency or organization with their colleagues.

State Agencies: DEQ, DFWP, DNRC, NRIS, MNHP, MDT, Dept of Ag, Military Affairs.

Federal Agencies: EPA, USFWS, NRCS, BLM, USFS, COE, BOR, USGS, FHWA.

Tribal Governments, MT Wetlands Legacy, MT Watercourse, Watershed Coordination Council, Flathead Basin Commission, Non-profits, Consultants, Industry, Universities, Individuals, Others.

### **3:45 Potential Agenda Items and Set Date for Next Council Meeting.**

### **4:00 Adjourn**

Montana wetland information can be found at the NRIS Wetland Clearinghouse web site

<http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/wetlands>

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year in Helena; everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information please contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, 444-6652 or

[lsaul@state.mt.us](mailto:lsaul@state.mt.us).