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For Immediate Release

Montana Watershed and Wetland Stewardship Recognized at the Capitol

On May 23rd in Helena at the Capitol Rotunda, please join us for a celebration honoring watershed and wetland stewardship in Montana. The Montana Wetland Council and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council will jointly honor their stewardship award recipients in the Capitol Rotunda starting at 11:00 am followed by a complimentary luncheon. Prior to the awards ceremony at 9:00 am in the Old Supreme Court Chambers, the recipients will highlight their success stories. **Please RSVP to Debbie Zarnt at the Montana Watercourse, 406 994-1684 or dzarnt@montana.edu by May 16th.**

Montana Watershed Coordination Council recognizes the Critical Lands Project which was initiated by the Flathead Lakers in 1999. The Critical Lands Project is a collaborative effort that brings together local stakeholders to protect lands critical for maintaining or improving water quality, wildlife habitat and the quality of life in the Flathead Lake Watershed. Through their efforts, over 2,000 acres of critical wetlands are now protected by conservation easement and 1,100 feet of stream have been restored.

Montana Wetland Council recognizes Gary Sullivan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Dave Carr, The Nature Conservancy for their vital role in a partnership between a federal agency and a conservation group which has resulted in protection of over 2,500 acres of wetlands along the Rocky Mountain Front. Due to their dedication, passion and creativity, millions of dollars were raised to purchase over 60,000 acres of perpetual easements.

Montana Wetland Council also recognizes Jim Stone and his family for their long history of extensive wetland and watershed restoration beginning in 1992 and continuing through today. Jim has restored over 375 acres of wetlands, enhanced 135 acres and restored more than 2 miles of stream on their ranch. The Rolling Stone Ranch is a model of private land stewardship.