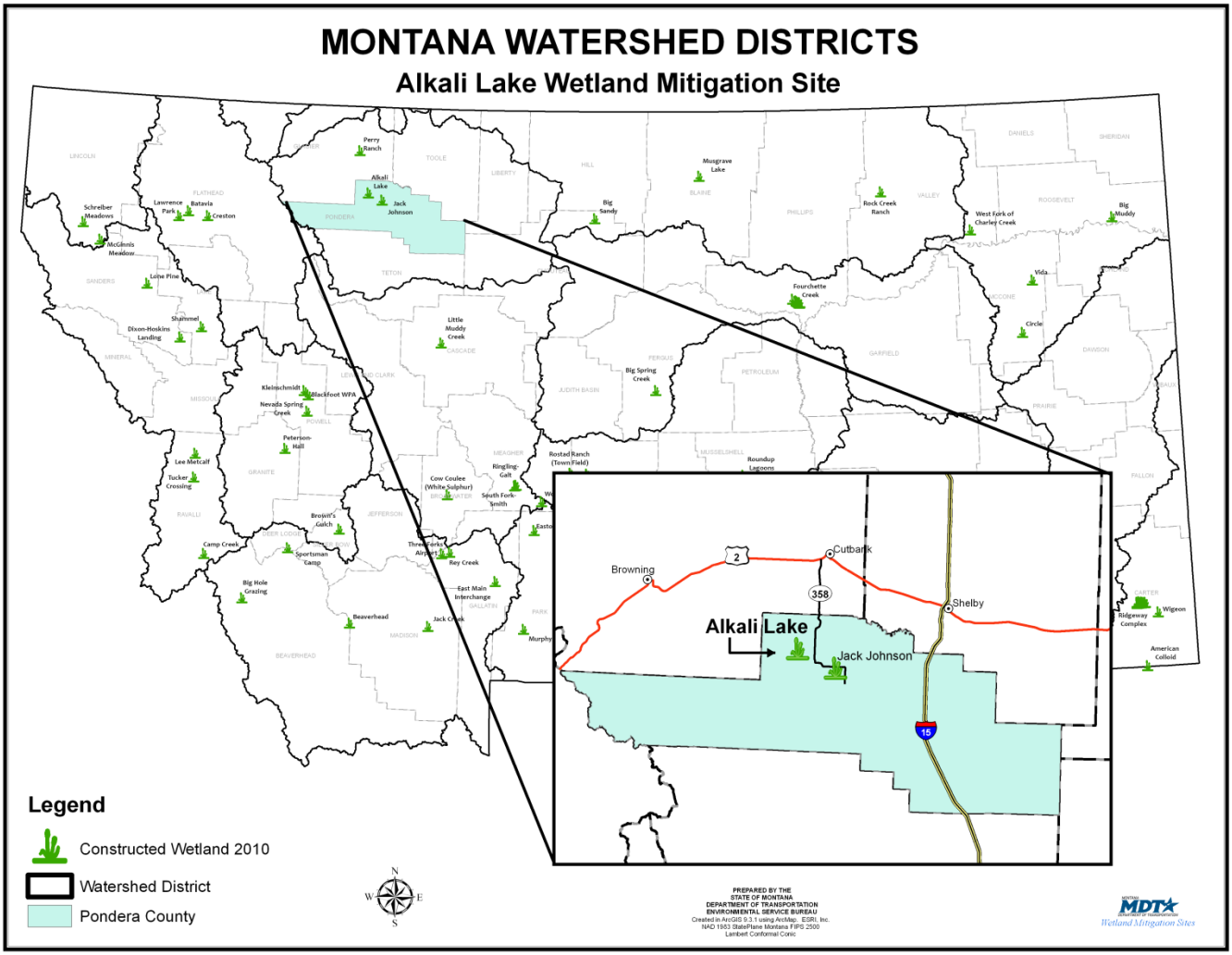
ALKALI LAKE

Watershed # 8- Marias River Basin
Blackfeet Indian Reservation
Pondera County, Montana



LAND OWNERSHIP: BLACKFEET NATION- MDT EASEMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Blackfeet Nation's Environmental Office and Fish & Wildlife Department, developed a wetland restoration project within the historic Southeastern arm of Alkali Lake on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Pondera County, Montana. This site is located in Watershed #8 (Marias River Basin). The Alkali Lake restoration project was originally proposed in 1996 by the Blackfeet Nation Fish & Wildlife program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a means to re-establish shorebird and wetland habitat to the area. The project is comprised of an approximately 175.8-acre historic lakebed that was constructed and flooded in late summer/early fall of 2005. This restoration project is anticipated to provide approximately 154 acres of mitigation credits to mitigate transportation projects in the watershed.

WETLAND INHABITANTS

FISH, AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES

Juvenile fish (unidentified species)

BIRDS

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)
American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)[2]
Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)
Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*)
Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)
Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)[2]
Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)[2]
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)[1]
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)[2]
Gull (California, *Larus californixus, or* **Ring-bill,** *L. delawarensis*)
Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)
Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)[2]
Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)[2]
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)[2]
Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)[1]
Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)[2]
Sparrow (*unidentified species*)
Swallow (*unidentified species*)
Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)
Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)
Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)
Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)[2]

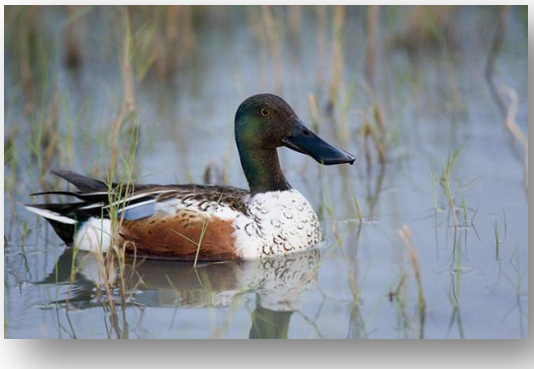
MAMMALS

American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)
Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)[2]
White-tailed Jack Rabbit (*Lepus townsendii*)
White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Bolded species were observed in 2006; [1] observed during fall 2005 post-construction inspection; [2] observed by MDT.



American White Pelican



Northern Shoveler

WETLAND VEGETATION

Dominant wetland vegetation

Two community types were observed:

Type 1 - Nuttall's alkali grass (*Puccinellia nuttalliana*), Foxtail barley, Small-flower sumpweed, and Halberd-leaf saltbush

Type 2 – Scattered stems of three-square bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), a round-stemmed bulrush (*Scipus* spp.), and Broadleaf cat-tail (*Typha latifolia*)



Nuttall's alkali grass

Alkali Lake



Click the icon below for complete monitoring reports for this site (2006 to 2010)

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Wetland Mitigation Site