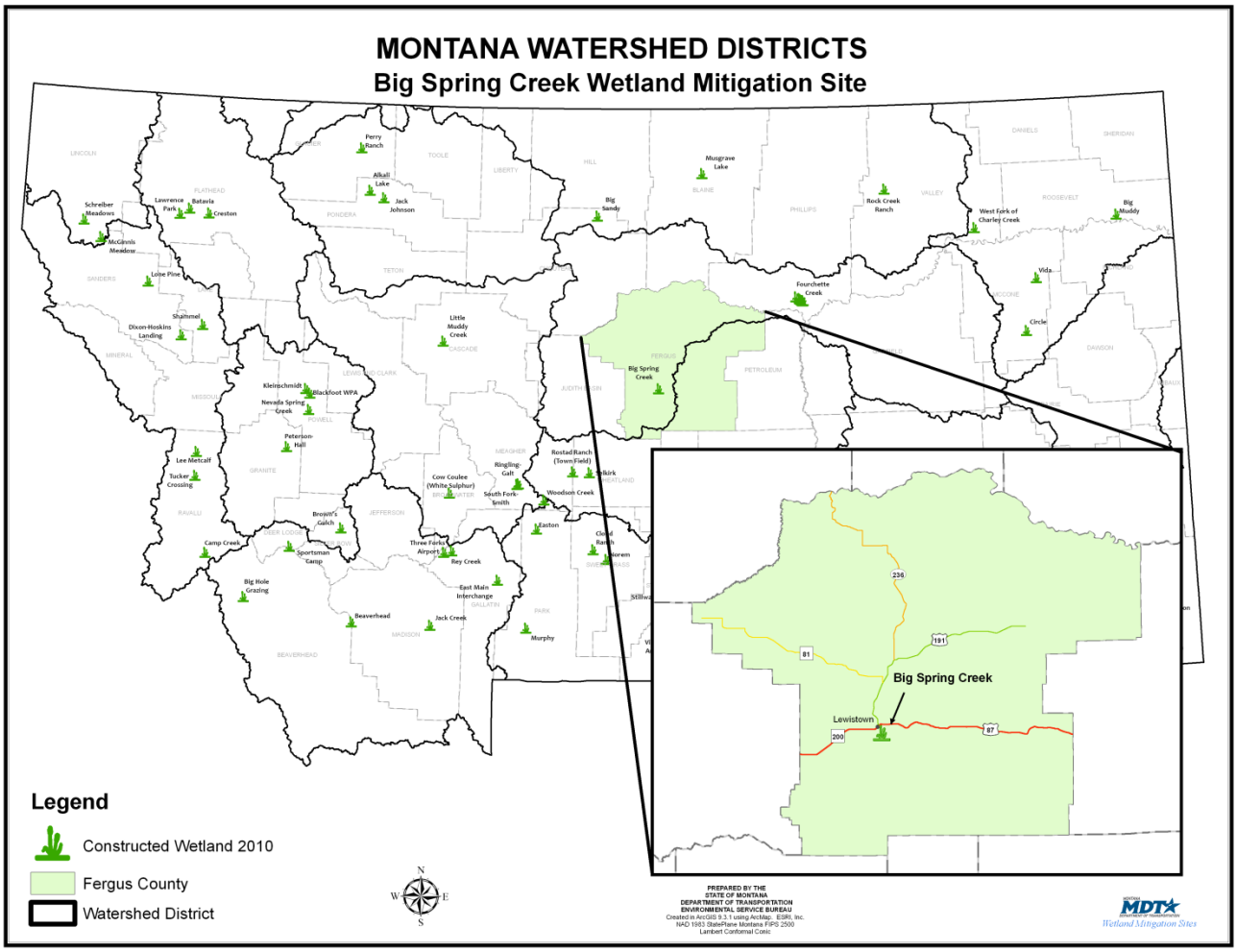
BIG SPRING CREEK

Watershed #9-Middle Missouri River Basin
Fergus County, Montana



LAND OWNERSHIP: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS (FWP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1996, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) partnered with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to restore approximately one half of a mile of Big Spring Creek, at the FWP Brewery Flats Fishing Access site. Big Spring Creek was straightened through the Brewery Flats area around 1907 by the Milwaukee Railroad to facilitate the construction of a freight yard to the west of the creek. FWP proposed, through their Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP), to restore that section of Big Spring Creek that traversed Brewery Flats to a more natural condition for the purpose of improving fisheries habitat. In addition to increasing total stream length from 2,300 feet to 4,000 feet, the design also included the establishment of a functional floodplain and associated wetland habitat. This restoration project provided approximately 7.2 acres of mitigation credits to mitigate transportation projects in watershed #9 (Missouri River Basin).

WETLAND INHABITANTS

FISH

Rainbow Trout ***(Oncorhynchus mykiss)***

AMPHIBIANS

Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*)

REPTILES

Western Terrestrial Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans*)

BIRDS

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)
Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon)*
Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)
Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*)
Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)
Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)
Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas)*
Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis)*
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*)
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
Sora (*Porzana Carolina*)
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)
Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)

MAMMALS

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
American Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*)
Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)
Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)
Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)
Raccoon *(Procyon lotor)*

Bolded species were seen during the 2004 monitoring. All other species have been seen during one or more of the previous monitoring seasons.



Osprey



Muskrat

WETLAND VEGETATION

Dominant wetland vegetation

Three types of communities were observed:

Type 1- Red top (*Agrostis alba)*

Type 2- Broad-leaf cat-tail (*Typha latifolia)*

Type 3- Peach leaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides)*



Salix amygdaloides **(Peach leaf willow)**

Big Spring Creek



Click the icon below for complete monitoring reports for this site (2001 to 2005)

MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Wetland Mitigation Site