



Thank you for your interest in Montana Ponds Guidebook.

Since this guidebook was published there have been **several changes to Montana water resource regulations**. Before proceeding on any water project, please contact local and state government offices to ensure that you have all the permits required. See backside for updated contact information. ***This updated information is available, with working hyperlinks, at the Montana Watercourse website:***

<http://mtwatercourse.org/publications/>.

New Water Rights Requirements – Contact the *Department of Natural Resource Conservation (Page 7)* in regard to the following:

Ground Water Use in Closed Basins: Determine if you are in a closed basin. A hydro-geologic study and mitigation plan are now required for new water use in closed basins. Under the new law, requests for ground water in a closed basin will be considered if the ground water use will not adversely affect existing surface water rights.

Real Estate Transactions – Starting July 1, 2008 sellers are required to disclose water right information on the Realty Transfer Certificate (RTC) that accompanies the deed.

Changes in Fees – *(Page 7 describes these types of water rights)*

- Provisional Permits - \$125
- Certification Water Right - \$200, \$600, or \$800
- Authorization to Change - \$200 or \$700

New Fish Stocking Permit– *Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (Page 11)*

Private-pond owners with fish stocking permits that are 10 years or older must renew their permits every ten years. There is a \$10 fee for applications and renewals. Permits that are not renewed will become inactive. Contact MT FWP at 406-444-7319 for more information.

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Program or Agency	Phone	Email
Conservation Programs - Page 6		
Future Fisheries Improvement Program	(406)444-2449	http://fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futureFisheries/
Grassland Reserve Program	(406)587-6967	www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp/
Habitat Montana Program	(406)495-3257	http://fwp.mt.gov/habitat/
Montana's Forest Legacy Program	(406)444-2535	http://fwp.mt.gov/habitat/wildlife/forestLegacy.html
Montana Wetlands Legacy Program	(406)994-7889	http://www.wetlandslegacy.org/
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	(406) 727-7400	http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/pfw/montana/
Wetland Mitigation Program - MT Dept. of Transportation	(406) 444-6224	http://www.mdt.mt.gov/
Wetland Reserve Program and Other Conservation Programs	(406)587-6967	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	(406)587-6967	http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/
Upland Game Bird Enhancement & Release Program	(406) 444-2535	http://fwp.mt.gov/habitat/wildlife/uplandgamebird/release.html
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Water Resources Offices - Page 7		
Helena Regional Office	(406)444-6601	
Table of Permits - Page 8		
Conservation District /MT Assoc. of Conservation Districts - 310 Permits	(406) 443-5711	www.macdnet.org
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality - 318 Permits; 401 Water Quality Permits	(406) 444-3671	http://deq.mt.gov/default.mcp
US Army Corps of Engineers - 404 Permits	(406) 444-6670	
MT Fish Wildlife & Parks - All licenses	(406) 444-2950	http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/license/
DNRC Dam Safety Program - Downstream Hazard Evaluation Permits	(406) 444-6613	http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_op/dam_safety/default.asp
MT Association of Counties - Floodplain Permits	(406)449-4360	http://maco.cog.mt.us/
DNRC Water Rights Bureau - Water Right and Change Permits	(406) 444-6610	http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_rts/default.asp
MT Association of Counties - Lakeshore Protection and Subdivision Regulations	(406)449-4360	http://maco.cog.mt.us/
MT Department of Environmental Quality - MPDES Permits	(406) 444-3671	http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/mpdes/default.mcp
Shoreline Protection Office Confederated Salish & Kootenai	(406) 883-0157	http://www.cskt.org/tr/epa_shoreline.htm
Water Quality Program Confederated Salish & Kootenai	(406) 675-2700	http://www.cskt.org/tr/epa_wetlands.htm
Blackfeet Environmental Office	(406) 338-7421	http://www.blackfeetenvironmental.com/
Additional Resources - Page 15		
<i>Water Rights in Montana</i> , DNRC, 2009	(406) 444-0581	http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Environmental/2009waterrightshandbook.pdf
<i>Guide to Stream Permitting in Montana</i> , MACD, 2007		http://dnrc.mt.gov/permits/streampermitting/guide.asp
Soil Survey Information	(406)587-6811	www.soils.usda.gov/survey/
<i>A Guide for Building and Managing Private Fish Ponds in Montana</i> , MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, 1994	(406) 444-2535	http://fwp.mt.gov/
<i>Ponds- Planning, Design, Construction</i> , NRCS 1997	(406)587-6811	http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/pdf%20files/PONDS.PDF
<i>Small Earthen Dam Construction: A Guidebook for Planning and Construction of Small Earthen Embankments</i> , DNRC, Helena, 2004	(406) 444-6601	http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp
<i>Pond Guideline, Opencut Mining Program</i> , DEQ, Helena 2004	(406)444-4970	http://deq.mt.gov/opencut/default.mcp
<i>Landowner's Guide to Montana Wetlands</i> , Montana Watercourse, 2008	(406) 994-6671	http://mtwatercourse.org/publications/
<i>An Introduction to Wetland Restoration, Creation, and Enhancement</i> , EPA, Washington D.C.	1(800) 832-7828	http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/defs.html
Website: Monitoring and Assessing Water Quality, EPA	1(800) 832-7828	http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/monitoring/monitoring_index.cfm
<i>Volunteer Wetland Monitoring Guide: An Introduction and Resource Guide</i> (EPA 843-B-00-001,) EPA	1(800) 832-7828	http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/assessment/volmonitor.cfm
<i>Field Guide to Montana's Wetland Vascular Plants</i> , NRCS, 2004	1(888)526-3227	http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/news/pubs.html