

Region 4 Spring 2024

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2023 Season

- September & Early October had warm and dry conditions that later gave way to heavy snow and cold in Late October.
- November & December Region 4 had milder weather, melting the snow. Making hunting conditions more difficult. Poor Road condition. Mud.
- Hunter reports varied.

Winter 2024

- January & February extreme temperature swings temperatures, High winds and low moisture.
- Great Falls January Low temp -37, high temp 64.



R4 Contracts

- 130 active Contracts.
- 78 Open Fields
- Project Acres 23,568
- Access Acres 122,790
- 5 contracts expired Jan 1
- Winter Proposals 4 HML-CRP, 2 HML, 1 Shelterbelt Project



Marias WMA



- Poor growing conditions compared to other parts of R4 in 2023.
- Seeing signs of kochia form some resistance to glyphosate. Russian Thistle also an issue.
- Worked & treated fields with 2,4-d late September.
- Late October treated fields with sulfentrazone and glyphosate for residual control.
- Altering seed mix and have plans to plant earlier to catch winter moisture.



Wood Bottoms

- Prescribed grazing treatment in Subunit 4 (226 acres; early spring grazing).
- Mowing and herbicide treatments done in previously completed subunits.
- For 2024 prescribed grazing will again occur in early spring. The pasture will then be treated with herbicide to terminate plant growth. Afterwards, a native grass mixture will be reseeded/planted followed by any needed spot-shot weed control.



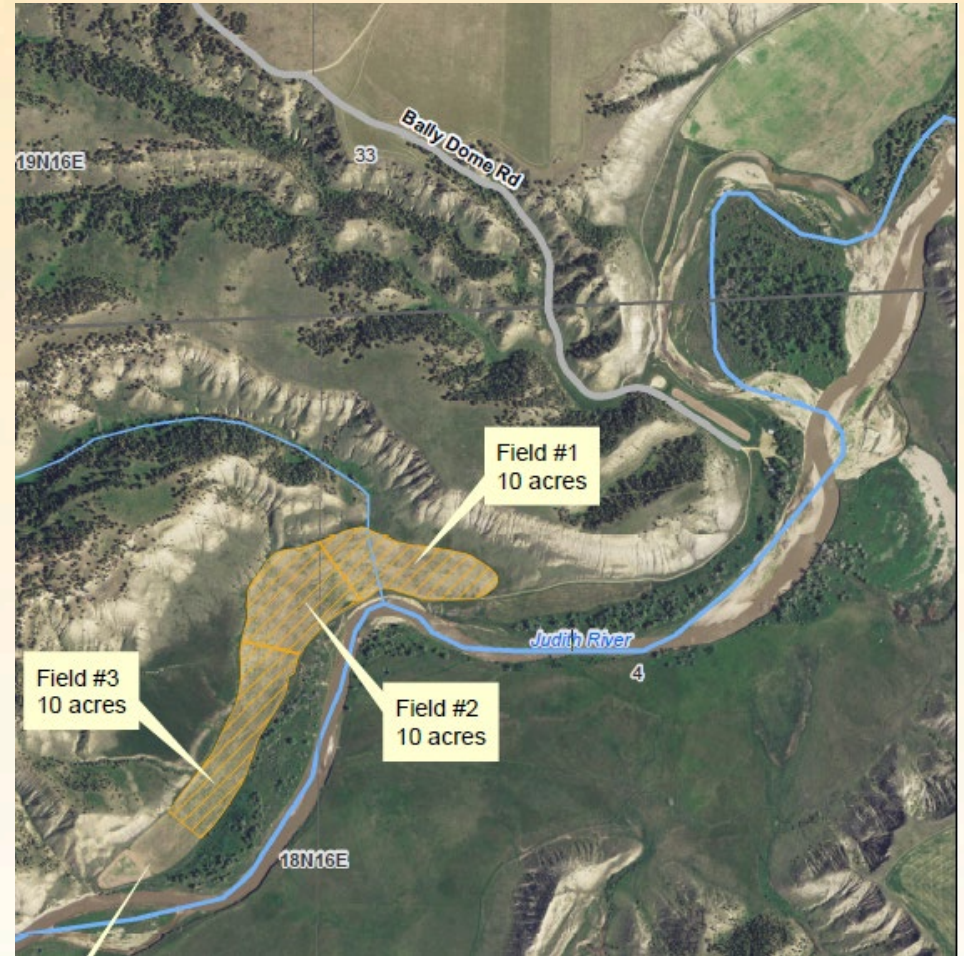
Freezout Lake WMA

- Completed grass conversion projects in 2024.
- Future plans include light discing, complete field renovation 180 acres (chemical treatment, field discing and reseeding), cover crop seeding, and prescribed fire.



Beckman WMA

- Handline Fields Planting 45 total acres with R4 maintenance staff.
- Food Plots & PF partnership
- Fence



Turkey Trapping



- Winter conditions made trapping difficult.
- Moved 32 Turkeys to Highwood Mountains & Marias River WMA



Winter Outreach

Sage Creek Watershed Alliance Winter Meeting

Toole County Local Working Group Meeting

Cascade County Local Working Group Meeting

Teton County Local Working Group Meeting

Fergus County Local Working Group Meeting

Winnett Acres Winter Meeting

Judith Basin Local Working Group Meeting

Pheasants Forever Meetings

Meagher County Young Farmer & Ranchers Meeting

National Wild Turkey Federation Meetings

Meagher County Conservation District Winter Seminar

Block Management Dinners



NRCS TIPS

- “Save Our Soils” Great Falls Area Soil Health
- Golden Triangle Expired CRP to Grazing lands
- Little Belt Mountain Ecosystem Restoration
- Marais River Buffer
- Highwood Mountains Native Grouse Riparian Habitat.
- Judith Basin & Fergus counties Windbreak & Shelterbelt.





2024 Projects & Focus

- Little Muddy BMA Fence Project
- Crested Wheat Grass Conversion



