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Form 990-EZ

# Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-1150

2012

Open to Public  
InspectionDepartment of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code  
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

► Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds, organizations that operate one or more hospital facilities, and certain controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990 (see instructions). All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.

► The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

<b>A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning</b>		1 August	, 2012, and ending	31 July	, 2013
<b>B Check if applicable</b>		<b>C Name of organization</b>		<b>D Employer identification number</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending		Missouri River Bird Observatory Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address) 27331 Highway WW City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 Marshall, MO 65340		27-2746275 E Telephone number 660-886-8788	
<b>G Accounting Method:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ►				<b>H Check ► <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)</b>	
<b>I Website:</b> ► <a href="http://www.mrbo.org">www.mrbo.org</a>					
<b>J Tax-exempt status (check only one)</b> — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) ( ) ◀ (insert no) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527					
<b>K Check ► <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization or a section 527 organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$50,000. A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 return is not required though Form 990-N (e-postcard) may be required (see instructions). But if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return</b>					
<b>L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, line 25, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ</b>				► \$	111453.29
<b>Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances</b> (see the instructions for Part I)					
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I <input type="checkbox"/>					
<b>Revenue</b>	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received . . . . .	1	44667.65		
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts . . . . .	2	63489.78		
	3 Membership dues and assessments . . . . .	3	3295.86		
	4 Investment income . . . . .	4			
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory . . . . .	5a	0		
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses . . . . .	5b	0		
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) . . . . .	5c	0		
	6 Gaming and fundraising events . . . . .				
	a Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000) . . . . .	6a	0		
b Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000) . . . . .	6b	0			
c Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events . . . . .	6c	0			
d Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c) . . . . .	6d	0			
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . .	7a	0			
b Less: cost of goods sold . . . . .	7b	0			
c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a) . . . . .	7c	0			
8 Other revenue (describe in Schedule O) . . . . .	8				
9 <b>Total revenue.</b> Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	111453.29			
<b>Expenses</b>	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O) . . . . .	10	0		
	11 Benefits paid to or for members . . . . .	11	0		
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits . . . . .	12	69226.13		
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors . . . . .	13	0		
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance . . . . .	14	65406.03		
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping . . . . .	15	1248.49		
	16 Other expenses (describe in Schedule O) . . . . .	16	18163.43		
	17 <b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 10 through 16	17			
<b>Net Assets</b>	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9) . . . . .	18	95184.08		
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return) . . . . .	19	11056.10		
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O) . . . . .	20			
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	27325.31		

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

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**Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)**

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II . . . . .

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
<b>22</b>	Cash, savings, and investments . . . . .	11056.10	<b>22</b> 27325.31
<b>23</b>	Land and buildings . . . . .		<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	Other assets (describe in Schedule O) . . . . .		<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Total assets</b> . . . . .		<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b> (describe in Schedule O) . . . . .		<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Net assets or fund balances</b> (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	11056.10	<b>27</b> 27325.31

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments** (see the instructions for Part III)

**Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III**

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? **Wildlife Conservation & Education**

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

**Expenses**  
(Required for section  
501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)  
organizations and section  
4947(a)(1) trusts, optional  
for others)

28	<b>Statewide (Missouri) surveys for grassland-obligate bird species on state and private lands, with the goal of contributing information towards improved habitat management practices. Additional work on species of conservation concern using a variety of field techniques.</b> (Grants \$ 33526.00) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here . . . ► <input type="checkbox"/>	28a	33221.16
29	<b>Tri-state (Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska) surveys for grassland-obligate bird species on private lands as part of a larger national project connecting livestock production with bird-friendly habitat management.</b> (Remaining funds distributed after FYE2013) (Grants \$ 6984.62) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here . . . ► <input type="checkbox"/>	29a	13099.53
30	<b>Education programs targeted towards connecting citizens with the outdoors. More than 100 programs reaching almost 2,000 people were conducted in FY2013.</b> (Grants \$ 8,117.16) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here . . . ► <input type="checkbox"/>	30a	2034.79
31	<b>Other program services (describe in Schedule O)</b> (Grants \$ 7900.00) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here . . . ► <input type="checkbox"/>	31a	7344.04
32	<b>Total program service expenses</b> (add lines 28a through 31a) . . . ► <input type="checkbox"/>	32	55699.52

**Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees** List each one even if not compensated (see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV . . . . .

**Part V Other Information** (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	33	✓
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O (see instructions)	34	✓
35a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	35a	✓
b If "Yes," to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	35b	
c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	35c	
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	✓
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ► 37a	37a	
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	✓
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a	✓
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:	39a	
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39b	
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ► ; section 4912 ► ; section 4955 ►	40b	✓
b Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		
c Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		
d Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	✓
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ►		
42a The organization's books are in care of ► Dana Ripper	Telephone no. ► 660-886-8788	
Located at ► 27331 Highway WW, Marshall MO	ZIP + 4 ► 65340-5607	
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ►	Yes	No
See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.	42b	✓
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the U.S.? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ►	42c	✓
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ► 43	Yes	No
44a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	✓
b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	✓
c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	✓
d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	✓
45b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ (see instructions)	45b	✓

		Yes	No
46	Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I . . . . .	46	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only**

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47–49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI . . . . .

		Yes	No
47	Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II . . . . .	47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
48	Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E . . . . .	48	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
49a	Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? . . . . .	49a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization? . . . . .	49b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
50	Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."		

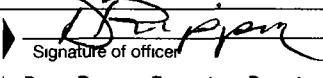
(a) Name and title of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
None.				

f	Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 . . . . . ►	
51	Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."	

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None.		

d	Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 . . . . . ►	
52	Did the organization complete Schedule A? <b>Note:</b> All section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A . . . . . ►	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	 Signature of officer Dana Ripper, Executive Director Type or print name and title	Date <i>25 Nov 2013</i>
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name Firm's name ► Firm's address ►	Preparer's signature Date Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed PTIN Firm's EIN ► Phone no

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions . . . . . ►  Yes  No

**SCHEDULE A**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

**Public Charity Status and Public Support**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2013**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

► Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

► Information about Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Name of the organization

Missouri River Bird Observatory

Employer identification number

27-2746275

**Part I Reason for Public Charity Status** (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1  A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2  A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3  A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4  A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5  An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6  A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7  An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8  A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9  An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10  An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11  An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
  - a  Type I    b  Type II    c  Type III—Functionally integrated    d  Type III—Non-functionally integrated
  - e  By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**.
  - f  If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box . . . . .
  - g  Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
    - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization? . . . . .
    - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above? . . . . .
    - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above? . . . . .
- h  Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above orIRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of monetary support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									
<b>Total</b>									

**Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") . . . . .		25405.30	95099.71	111453.29		231958.30
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf . . . . .						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge . . . . .						
4 <b>Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 3 . . . . .		25405.30	95099.71	111453.29		231958.30
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f) . . . . .						
6 <b>Public support.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4. . . . .						159958.30

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4 . . . . .		25405.30	95099.71	111453.29		231958.30
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources . . . . .		0	0	0		0
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on . . . . .		0	0	0		0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.) . . . . .		0	0	0		0
11 <b>Total support.</b> Add lines 7 through 10 . . . . .						231958.30
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) . . . . .				12		0
13 <b>First five years.</b> If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and <b>stop here</b> . . . . .						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

14 Public support percentage for 2013 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)) . . . . .	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2012 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 . . . . .	15	%
16a <b>33 1/3% support test—2013.</b> If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here</b> . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>
b <b>33 1/3% support test—2012.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and <b>stop here</b> . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>
17a <b>10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2013.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and <b>stop here</b> . Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>
b <b>10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and <b>stop here</b> . Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>
18 <b>Private foundation.</b> If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions . . . . .		<input type="checkbox"/>

**SCHEDULE O**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

OMB No 1545-0047

**2013**

Open to Public  
Inspection

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

► Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Name of the organization

Missouri River Bird Observatory

Employer identification number

27-2746275

**Part I, Line 16: OTHER EXPENSES**

Research Travel & Equipment: \$12,187.03

Education Travel & Equipment: \$2034.79

Administrative Expenses including salary, software, meetings: \$3,941.61

**Part III: OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES**

Line 31. This represents the final payment on a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service; the bulk of the funding was received in FY2012.

This grant was provided to allow MRBO to conduct monitoring for threatened wetland species, and to train volunteers to do so such that the project could be self-perpetuating financially.

**Part III General Note:**

Grants detailed in this section were awarded to conduct specific projects at the request of state, private, and federal organizations (Missouri Department of Conservation, National Audubon Society, US Fish & Wildlife Service, etc). Additional funds raised by MRBO in FY2013 were used to support full time staff, to provide partial support for seasonal staff where additional funding was needed, and to conduct education programs. For example, education program expenses listed in Part III refer to program-specific travel and materials costs, and do not reflect staff time for individuals whose time is split between many projects. Additional overhead (e.g., not project-specific) expenses included staff housing, printing of reports and newsletters, administrative time, and computer equipment.