



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## FWP DEWATERING CONCERN AREAS

Revised, May 2005

The following is a list of Montana streams that support important fisheries or contribute to important fisheries (i.e., provide spawning and rearing habitats) that are significantly dewatered. Dewatering refers to a reduction in streamflow below the point where stream habitat is adequate for fish.

This is the third revision of the Dewatered Streams List compiled by FWP dated January 24, 1991 and last updated in May 2003. List entries and updates were provided by FWP regional fisheries biologists from field observations. Further revisions may be necessary as water use patterns change, and additional or more detailed information becomes available.

This revised list includes a total of 323 stream reaches on 314 streams, which are chronically dewatered, and 113 stream reaches on 109 streams, which are periodically dewatered. The reaches do not overlap between categories.

The two categories of dewatering are:

1. **Chronic dewatering** -- streams where dewatering is a significant problem in virtually all years; and
2. **Periodic dewatering** -- streams where dewatering is a significant problem only in drought or water-short years.

Most man-made dewatering occurs during the irrigation season (July-September). Although most dewatering is caused by irrigation withdrawals, a few of the listed waters are dewatered through dam regulation for agricultural and power production purposes or by natural causes.

Each listed stream shows the length (in miles) of the dewatered reach. For larger/longer streams, the boundaries of the dewatered reach (Point A - Point B) are given. For streams that have no reach boundaries given, the miles shown as dewatered are from the mouth upstream. All mileages are approximate.

The dewatered reaches shown are typical for the stream. However, the number of miles dewatered may vary from year to year depending upon the amount of water available in the stream system.

## CHRONIC DEWATERING

<u>STREAM AND REACH</u>	<u>MILES DEWATERED</u>
<b>Beaverhead-Red Rock River Drainage</b>	
Beaverhead River: West Side Canal – mouth	39
Big Sheep Creek: BLM Boundary - Red Rock River	3
Blacktail Deer Creek: Axes Canyon Rd - Beaverhead River	5.5
Horse Prairie Creek: Red Butte - Clark Canyon Reservoir	15
Junction Creek: I-15 - Red Rock River	4
Rattlesnake Creek: Dillon/Argenta Rd - mouth	7.5
Red Rock River: Dell-Briggs Ranch	<u>6</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	80.0
 <b>Big Hole River Drainage</b>	
Alder Creek	0.1
Big Hole River:	
Big Lake Creek - Swamp Creek	9
Glen Bridges - mouth	24.4
Birch Creek: Beaverhead/Willow Ditch - mouth	9.8
Governor Creek	5
Wise River: Wise River Ditch - mouth	<u>5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	53.3
 <b>Bitterroot River Drainage</b>	
Baker Creek	1
Bass Creek	1
Bear Creek:	
North Channel	4
South Channel	4
Big Creek	3
Bitterroot River: Corvallis-Stevensville	17
Blodgett Creek	2
Burnt Fork Creek	5
Carlton Creek	5
Chaffin Creek	2
Eightmile Creek	3
Kootenai Creek	2
Lolo Creek	3
Lost Horse Creek	4
Mill Creek	3
Mill Creek (Trib. to Lolo Creek)	0.5
O'Brien Creek	1.5
Reimel Creek	1
Rock Creek	5
Skalkaho Creek	4
South Fork of Lolo Creek	0.5
Sweathouse Creek	2

Sweeney Creek	1
Tin Cup Creek * <sup>1</sup>	2
Tolan Creek	<u>1</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	77.5

**Blackfoot River Drainage**

Arrastra Creek: Stream mile 2.5-2.0	0.5
Bear Creek (North Fork)	1
Blackfoot River: Seven-Up Pete Creek - Poorman Cr.	11
Blanchard Creek*	1.2
Burnt Bridge Creek	1.0
Chamberlain Creek*	0.5
Chimney Creek (Nevada Creek)	0.5
Cottonwood Creek*: Stream mile 10.0-4.4	5.6
Dick Creek: Stream mile 6.0-3.5	2.5
Douglas Creek	14
Dry Creek	0.5
Dunham Creek	5
Fish Creek	0.3
Frazier Creek	1.5
Frazier Creek, North Fork	0.5
Gallagher Creek	3
Humbug Creek	1
Jefferson Creek	1
McElwain Creek	1
Monture Creek: Stream mile 15.0-12.0	3
Murray Creek	3
Nevada Creek: Stream mile 31.7-6.4	25.3
No-Name Creek	0.5
North Fork of Blackfoot River: River mile 12.0-6.2	5.8
Owl Creek	4.3
Pearson Creek*	2
Poorman Creek	2
Rock Creek: stream fmile 7.0-1.4	5.6
Spring Creek (Cottonwood Creek)	1
Spring Creek (North Fork)	2.5
Trail Creek	1
Union Creek: Stream mile 7.0-0.5	6.5
Wales Creek	1.9
Warm Springs Creek	1
Warren Creek	6
Washington Creek: Sections 24 and 26	1
Wasson Creek	2
Willow Creek	2
Wilson Creek	0.8
Yourname Creek	<u>1</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	129.8

---

<sup>1</sup> Asterisk (\*) indicates that FWP currently holds a water lease on the stream to improve the dewatered condition.

**Dearborn River Drainage**

Dearborn River: Bean Lake Canal – mouth	44
Middle Fork Dearborn River	<u>4</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	48

**Flathead River Drainage**

Lost Creek: 4 miles Above Lore Lake - Stillwater River	7
Mount Creek: Welcome Springs - mouth	5
South Fork Flathead River: Hungry Horse Dam - mouth	5.3
Walker Creek: Entire Length	<u>7</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	24.3

**Flint Creek Drainage (Clark Fork)**

Cow Creek	3
Douglas Creek	2
Flint Creek: Georgetown Lake - mouth	42.4
Gird Creek	1
Henderson Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	4
Lower Willow Creek: Reservoir - mouth	9.4
Marshall Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	<u>5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	66.8

**Gallatin River Drainage**

Baker Creek	10
Big Bear Creek	5
Bridger Creek	10
Gallatin River: Shedd's Bridge - Mouth	32.7
Hyalite (Middle) Creek	20
South Cottonwood Creek	<u>6</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	83.7

**Jefferson River Drainage**

Antelope Creek	7
Boulder River: Boulder - Cold Springs	36
Fish Creek	10
Jefferson River: Headwaters - mouth	84
Little Boulder River	10
North Willow Creek	9
Pipestone Creek	8
South Boulder River	10
South Willow Creek	8
Whitetail Creek	<u>24</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	206

**Judith River Drainage**

Cottonwood Creek: McMillan ditch to Big Spring Creek	17
Judith River: Ackley Lake diversion – Big Spring Creek	37
Ross Fork Creek	<u>10</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	64

**Kootenai River Drainage**

Grave Creek: Glen Lake Diversion Dam -Fortine Creek	5
Indian Creek: Burma Road - mouth	3
Kootenai River: Libby Dam - Montana/Idaho border	45
Phillips Creek: US/Canadian Border - Sophie Lake	3
Pleasant Valley Fisher River: Lost Prairie - Loon Lake	25
Sinclair Creek: Source - mouth	4
Therriault Creek: Glen Lake Irrigation Diversion - US Hwy 93	<u>2</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	87

**Little Blackfoot River Drainage**

Carpenter Creek	4.8
Dog Creek	2
Galleger Creek	3
Gimlet Creek	2
Jefferson Creek	1
Little Blackfoot River: Elliston - mouth	25.5
North Trout Creek	5.1
Ophir Creek	4
Sixmile Creek	9
Snowshoe Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	6
Spotted Dog Creek: Private Reservoir – mouth	2.5
Threemile Creek	8
Washington Creek	1
Willson Creek	<u>0.8</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	74.7

**Lower Clark Fork River Drainage**

Beaver Creek	5
Big Beaver Creek– Stream miles: 5.7 to 12.0	6.3
Boyer Creek: Deemer Creek - mouth	2
Clear Creek – Stream miles: 4.1 to 8.3	4.2
Cooper Gulch	1.7
Deep Creek	0.7
Dry Creek – Stream miles: 0.5 to 4.1	3.6
East Fork Blue Creek – Stream miles: 1.1 to 3.0	1.9
East Fork Elk Creek – Stream miles: 2.4 to 5.1	2.7
East Fork Trout Creek	2.3
Elk Creek	0.7
Graves Creek	0.4
Henry Creek: Section 31 - mouth	2
Little Beaver Creek – Stream miles: 5.6 to 8.1	2.5
Little Trout Creek – Stream miles: 0.0 to 0.5 and 1.1 to 3.2	2.6
Lynch Creek	2
Marten Creek– Stream miles: 5.3 to 9.0	3.7
McKay Creek	4
Middle Fork Bull River – Stream miles: 0.4 to 1.2	0.8
North Branch Marten Creek	0.2
North Fork Bull River	0.4
Pilgrim Creek – Stream miles: 5.0 to 7.0	2

Prospect Creek – Stream miles: 8.4 to 11.1 and 12.3 to 16.5	6.9
South Fork Marten Creek – Stream miles: 0.2 to 3.3	3.1
South Fork Pilgrim Creek	2.3
Squaw Creek	0.5
Stevens Creek – Stream miles: 4.0 to 6.2	2.2
Swamp Creek – Stream miles: 0.5 to 2.8 and 3.7 to 4.3	2.9
Trout Creek – Stream miles: 7.0 to 9.1	2.1
Tuscor Creek – Stream miles: 0.9 to 1.2 and 3.0 to 4.3	1.6
West Fork Elk Creek – Stream miles: 0.0 to 0.1 and 1.3 to 1.8	0.6
West Fork Pilgrim Creek	1.0
West Fork Rock Creek	0.2
West Fork Trout Creek	1.0
Whitepine Creek – Stream miles: 3.4 to 10.2	<u>6.8</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	82.9

**Madison River Drainage**

Bear Creek	6.0
Indian Creek	5.8
Jack Creek	4.6
Moore Creek	5
North Meadow Creek	10.1
South Meadow Creek	3.5
Watkins Creek	1
Wigwam Creek	<u>2.0</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	38.0

**Marias River Drainage**

Birch Creek: Swift Dam - mouth	61
Dupuyer Creek: Above Dupuyer - mouth	<u>20</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	81

**Middle Clark Fork River Drainage (Rock Creek to Flathead River)**

Albert Creek	1
Big Creek (Tributary to St. Regis River)	0.5
Butler Creek	4
Cedar Creek	2
Cold Creek: Road 69 (near mouth) to 1 mile upstream	1
Deep Creek (near Lozeau)	2.5
Deep Creek (near Harper's Bridge)	2.5
Dirty Ike Creek	0.5
Donovan Creek	0.5
Dry Creek: Dry Fork to mouth	2.5
First Creek	2
Grant Creek	5
Johnson Creek	2
Kendall Creek	0.5
Lavalle Creek	4
Little Joe Creek (Tributary to St. Regis River)	1.5

Meadow Creek	3.5
Nemote Creek: Sheridan Creek to Miller Creek	4
O'Keefe Creek: Section 34 to Mullan Road	6
Pardee Creek: Section 9 to mouth	2.5
Patrick Creek	1.5
Petty Creek: Gus Creek to 1.5 miles above mouth	6
Quartz Creek	1
Rock Creek (near Rivulet): Section 15 – Road 343 crossing	2
Rock Creek (downstream of Harper's Bridge)	2.5
Second Creek	1.5
Sixmile Creek	1
Siegel Creek:	2
Slowey Gulch: Little Pittsburg Mine to mouth	2.5
Sunrise Creek	3
Swartz Creek	0.5
Tamarack Creek: below Dry Fork to Section 4	2
Thompson Creek: Sectoin 11 to Section 32	2.5
Turah Creek	0.5
Twelvemile Creek (Tributary to St. Regis River)	1
Wallace Creek	1
West Mountain Creek	<u>1.5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	80.0

**Musselshell River Drainage**

American Fork Creek	10
Big Elk Creek	10
Careless Creek: Bercail - Franklin	25
Cottonwood Creek	3
Flatwillow Creek: Durfee Creek - Petrolia Reservoir	69
McDonald Creek	50
Musselshell River: Deadmans Basin Supply Canal - mouth	309
North Fork McDonald Creek	26
North Fork Musselshell River: Bair Reservoir - mouth	25
South Fork Musselshell River: Muddy Creek - mouth	13
South Fork McDonald Creek	31
Spring Creek	6
Swimming Woman Creek	<u>20</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	597

**Rock Creek Drainage (Clark Fork)**

Brewster Creek	0.5
North Fork Spring Creek	3
Ranch Creek	1
Ross's Fork	5
South Fork Spring Creek	5
Upper Willow Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	<u>7.4</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	21.9

**Ruby River Drainage**

Indian Creek: National Forest - Leonard Slough	8.5
Mill Creek: National Forest - BN RR Bridge	6
Ruby River: Alder, MT - Clear Creek	10
Thompson Ditch - mouth	18
Sweetwater Creek: Irrigation Diversion - mouth	3.3
Wisconsin Creek: National Forest - mouth	<u>7</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	52.8

**Shields River Drainage**

Bangtail Creek	5
Canyon Creek	0.7
Cottonwood Creek	5.9
Rock Creek	2
Willow Creek	<u>12.2</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	25.8

**Smith River Drainage**

Big Birch Creek	5
Camas Creek	5
North Fork of Smith River: Dam - mouth	23
Smith River: McKamey Diversion - mouth	<u>28</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	61

**Sun River Drainage**

Elk Creek: Augusta vicinity	7
Sun River: Diversion Dam - Fort Shaw	<u>60</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	67

**Teton River Drainage**

Deep Creek: T23N, R5W, Sec 10 - mouth	5
Spring Creek: Above Choteau - mouth	5
Teton River: Bynum Diversion - mouth	<u>188</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	198



### **Upper Clark Fork River Drainage**

Bear Creek: Forks - Clark Fork River	2.2
Blum Creek (Tributary to Gold Creek)	2
Clark Fork River: Racetrack - Rock Creek	92.7
Cottonwood Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	8
Crevice Creek (Tributary to Gold Creek)	2
Dempsey Creek: Jct. North/South forks - mouth	8.4
Gold Creek: Pioneer - mouth	6.5
Harvey Creek	0.5
Hoover Creek: Miller Lake - mouth	5.4
Lost Creek: State Park - mouth	12
Mill Creek: BA&P Tracks - Settling Ponds	6.6
Morris Creek	4
Peterson Creek: USFS Boundary - mouth	10.5
Powell Creek: Powell Lake - mouth	6.5
Racetrack Creek: USGS Station - mouth	11.3
Rock Creek: Rock Creek Lake - mouth	10.9
Storm Lake Creek (Tributary to Warm Spring Creek)	2
Swartz Creek	0.5
Taylor Creek: Lower Taylor Reservoir - mouth	4.7
Tigh Creek	1
Tin Cup Joe Creek: Conley's Lake - mouth	5.2
Twin Lakes Creek (Tributary to Warm Spring Creek)	2
Warm Spring Creek: Hwy 273 - mouth	8
Warm Spring Creek (near Garrison): Falls - mouth	5.4
Willow Creek: Mt. Haggin WMA - Settling Ponds	<u>6.5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	224.8

### **Upper Missouri River Drainage**

Beaver Creek (Tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)	6
Confederate Creek (Tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)	4
Crow Creek	15
Deep Creek	6
Dry Creek	7
Duck Creek (Tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)	3.5
Greyson Creek	4
Prickly Pear Creek: East Helena - Lake Helena	8
Sixmile Creek	7
Tenmile Creek (Tributary to Prickly Pear Creek)	<u>13.5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	74.0

### **Yellowstone River Drainage**

Big Creek	1.6
Big Timber Creek	5
Boulder River	5
Bridger Creek	3
Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone: State Line - Bluewater Creek	40
Deep Creek	3.3
East Boulder River: Forest Boundary - mouth	7
Eightmile Creek	2

Elbow Creek	4
Elk Creek (Tributary to East Boulder River)	2
Emigrant Creek	3
Fridley Creek	0.1
Little Trail Creek	8
Lower Deer Creek	4
Mill Creek*	0.7
Mission Creek	0.8
Pine Creek	1.6
Powder River: Montana/Wyoming Border - mouth	217.5
Pryor Creek	21
Rock Creek (Tributary to Clarks Fork): Red Lodge - mouth	41
Sage Creek (Tributary to Shoshone-Bighorn): Res. Boundary - State Line	18
Sixmile Creek	3
Soap Creek (Tributary to Bighorn River)	9
Strawberry Creek	1
Suce Creek	1.5
Sweet Grass Creek	6
Tongue River: T&Y Diversion - mouth	20.4
Trail Creek	5
Upper Deer Creek	<u>5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	439.5

## PERIODIC DEWATERING

<u>STREAM AND REACH</u>	<u>MILES DEWATERED</u>
<b>Beaverhead - Red Rock River Drainage</b>	
Beaverhead River: Clark Canyon Dam - West Side Canal	21
Big Beaver Creek	0.7
Blacktail Deer Creek: West Fork - Axes Canyon Rd.	19.8
Bloody Dick Creek (Tributary to Horse Prairie Cr.)	10
Grasshopper Creek:	
Polaris - Bannock	14
Frenzy Place Placer - mouth	6
Jones Creek: BLM boundary - mouth	1.5
Little Sheep Creek: Road crossing - mouth	7.5
Medicine Lodge Creek (Tributary to Horse Prairie Cr.): Ayers Cyn - mouth	16.8
Peet Creek: Jones Diversion - mouth	1.7
Sage Creek: Rock Island Ranch - mouth	11
Trail Creek (Tributary to Horse Prairie Cr.): Source - mouth	<u>7</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	117.0
 <b>Big Hole River Drainage</b>	
Big Hole River:	
Hamby Creek - Big Lake Creek	23.4
Swamp Creek - Glen Bridges	84.5
Big Lake Creek	7.5
Canyon Creek	6
Deep Creek	5.1
Divide Creek	9.5
Doolittle Creek	1.5
Fishtrap Creek	2.4
Francis Creek	7.7
Jerry Creek	3.1
Johnson Creek	3.7
Moose Creek	3.0
Mussigbrod Creek	9.4
North Fork Big Hole River	25
Pintlar Creek	10.8
Rock Creek	3
Rock Creek (Tributary to Big Lake Cr)	7
Ruby Creek	4.3
Sandhollow Creek	4.8
Steel Creek	8.6
Swamp Creek	17.4
Trapper Creek	6
Warm Springs Creek	9
Willow Creek	<u>5.5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	268.2

**Bitterroot River Drainage**

Lolo Creek	<u>1</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	1

**Blackfoot River Drainage**

Arkansas Creek	2
Ashby Creek	2
Blackfoot River: Stream mile 84.9-54.1	30.8
Clearwater River	3.5
Elk Creek	3
Hoyt Creek	1
Nevada Creek: Stream mile 34.0-40.0	6
Shanley Creek	<u>1.6</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	49.9

**Dearborn River Drainage**

South Fork Dearborn River	<u>10</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	10

**Flathead River Drainage**

Ashley Creek: US Hwy. 2 Bridge – mouth	20
Blaine Creek: Above Lake Blaine - Lake Blaine	3
Bowser Spring Creek: Hwy 424 - Kalispell	8
Dayton Creek: Co. Line - mouth	10
Echo Creek: Sec. 27 - mouth	3
Evergreen Spring Creek	5
Garnier Creek: USFS - mouth	3
Lynch Creek: Sec. 12 - mouth	5
Meadow Creek (Big Fork): USFS - mouth	3
Ronan Creek: Lake Mary Ronan - mouth	5
Spring Creek: North of Kalispell	5
Trumbull Creek: USFS - Rose Crossing	<u>20</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	90

**Gallatin River Drainage**

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek	8
Gallatin River: Gallatin Gateway - Shedd's Bridge	<u>5.3</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	13.3

**Jefferson River Drainage**

Hells Canyon Creek*	0.3
Willow Creek	<u>10</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	10.3

**Judith River Drainage**

Judith River: Utica to Ackley Lake diversion	<u>5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	5

**Kootenai River Drainage**

Fortine Creek: Crystal Lake - mouth	5
Libby Creek: US 2 Bridge - mouth	14
Pinkham Creek: Still Cr. in Sec. 3 - mouth	15
Young Creek: Sec. 15-16 Crossing - mouth	<u>5</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	39

**Lower Clark Fork River Drainage**

Rock Creek – Stream miles: 0.0 to 1.5 and 2.6 to 5.3	4.2
Fishtrap Creek – Stream miles: 2.7 to 3.7	<u>1</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	5.2

**Madison River Drainage**

Ruby Creek	0.4
Blaine Spring Creek	<u>2.3</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	2.7

**Marias River Drainage**

Cut Bank Creek: City of Cut Bank – mouth	<u>18</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	18

**Middle Clark Fork River Drainage (Rock Creek to Flathead River)**

Bear Creek (Tributary to Fish Creek)	2
Nemote Creek	2
Ninemile Creek	3
West Fork Fish Creek	<u>2</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	9

**Milk River Drainage**

Beaver Creek: Ft. Assiniboine - mouth	6
Clear Creek: Clear Creek Rd - mouth	<u>15</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	21

**Musselshell River Drainage**

Cottonwood Creek	10
Musselshell River: N/S Forks Confluence – Deadmans Supply Canal	55
North Willow Creek	20
Painted Robe Creek	<u>28</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	113

**Shields River Drainage**

Brackett Creek	14
Flathead Creek	12
Shields River	<u>82</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	108

**Smith River Drainage**

Hound Creek: East Fork - mouth	25
Sheep Creek: Jumping Creek - mouth	30

Smith River: Jct. North/South forks - McKamey Diversion	97
South Fork of Smith River	<u>15</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	167

**Upper Clark Fork River Drainage**

Clark Fork River: Warm Springs - Racetrack	<u>9</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	9

**Upper Missouri River Drainage**

Little Prickly Pear Creek: Canyon Creek - mouth	26
Missouri River: Headwaters - Townsend	<u>42</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	68

**Yellowstone River Drainage**

Bad Canyon Creek (Tributary to Stillwater River): BLM - Mouth	1.0
Bighorn River: Afterbay Dam - Little Bighorn R.	42
Cedar Creek*	0.7
Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone: Bluewater Creek - mouth	32
Crooked Creek (Tributary to Bighorn River): Tillet - State Line	4.0
Fishtail Creek (Tributary to Stillwater River): At Fishtail	2
Fleshman Creek	1
Locke Creek*	0.3
Mill Creek*: Stream mile 4.9-0.7	4.2
Mol Heron Creek	0.8
Sand Creek-Tributary of Spidel WPA	5.0
Stillwater River: Cliff Swallow - Rosebud Creek	11
Suce Creek: Stream mile 3.0-1.5	1.5
Sweet Grass Creek	2
Tongue River: state line to T&Y Diversion	185.3
Trail Creek: Stream mile 31.2-17.7	13.5
Yellowstone River: Springdale - Bighorn River	<u>179</u>
Subtotal for Drainage	485.3

Total Number of Dewatered Streams: 314 (chronic); 109 (periodic)

Total Number of Dewatered Reaches: 323 (chronic); 113 (periodic)