

MAKE THE CALL!!!

-----Turn In Poachers-----

1-800-TIP-MONT

WHIRLING DISEASE

Help prevent the spread of the disease . . .

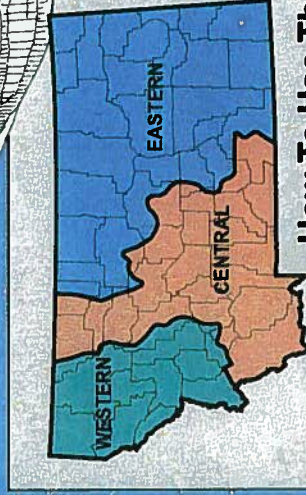
- Remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer and axles, waders, boots, and fishing gear before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Drain all water from your boat and equipment--including coolers, buckets, and live wells--before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Dry your boat and equipment between river trips.
- Do Not transport fish from one body of water to another;
- Do Not dispose of fish entrails, skeletal parts, or other by-products in any body of water;
- Do Not collect or use minnows or sculpins for bait;
- Do Not use parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait.

MONTANA

FISHING

REGULATIONS

1998-1999



How To Use These Regulations:

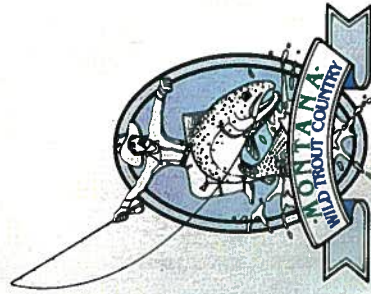
1. New Regulations in effect for 1998-1999 are identified with double underlines.
- Regulations which were deleted from 1996/1997 are not identified.
2. Next, turn to your district's Special Regulations and find out if the place you want to fish has any special regulations.

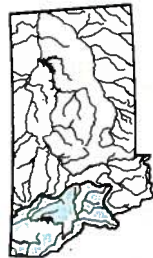
Western District pages 10 - 27
 Central District pages 28 - 51
 Eastern District pages 52 - 63

3. If the place you intend to fish is not listed in the Special Regulations, the district's standard regulations apply.
4. Consult the rest of the pamphlet for useful information about identifying different kinds of fish, fishing methods, legal and illegal bait, Montana trespass and stream access laws and so on.

**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

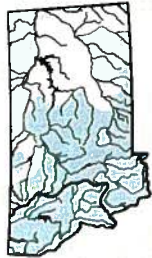
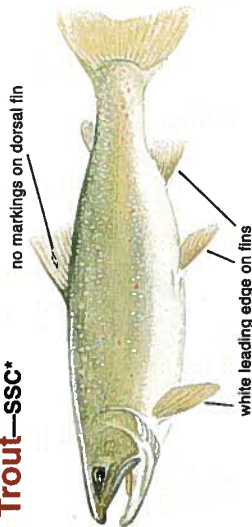
1420 East Sixth Avenue
 Helena, Montana 59620





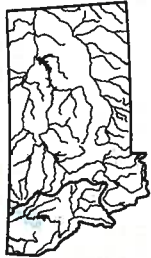
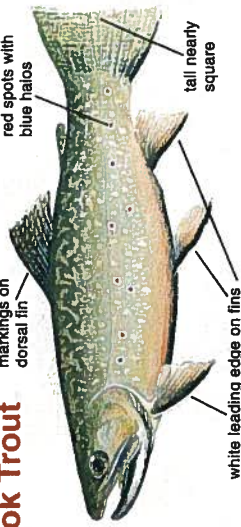
Average Size: 16" - 22"
MT Record: 25lb 10oz, 37"
Location unknown

Bull Trout—SSC*



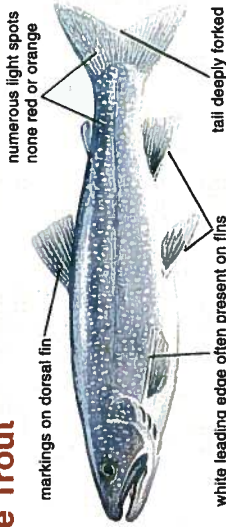
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 9lb 1oz
Lower Two Medicine Lake, 1940

Brook Trout



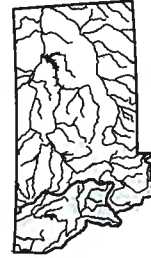
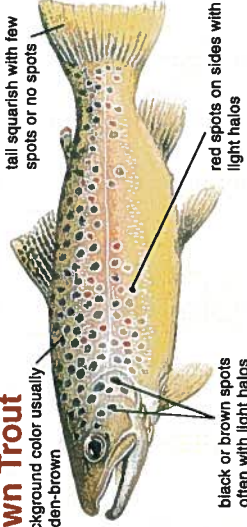
Average Size: 14" - 20"
MT Record: 42lb, 44"
Flathead Lake, 1979

Lake Trout



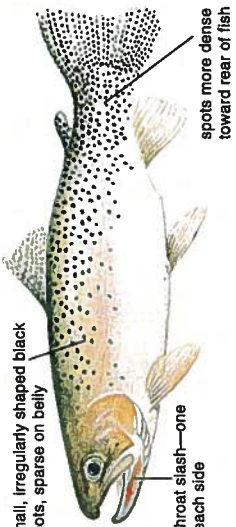
Average Size: 12" - 16"
MT Record: 29lb
Wade Lake, 1966

Brown Trout



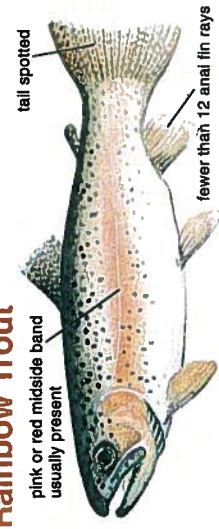
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 16lb
Red Eagle Lake, 1955

Cutthroat Trout—SSC*



Fish illustrations displayed in these regulations were painted by Glenn West for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Fish are not shown to scale. *SSC = Species of Special Concern—See definitions.

Rainbow Trout



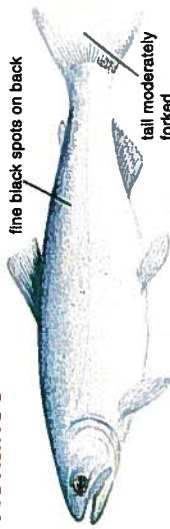
Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 33lb 1oz, 38.6"
Kootenai River, 1997

Golden Trout

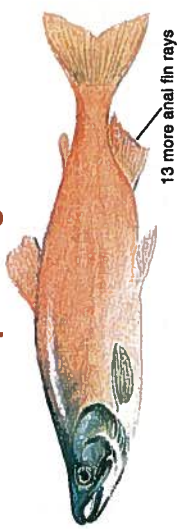


Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 4lb 14oz, 22.5"
Lightning Lake, 1993

Kokanee

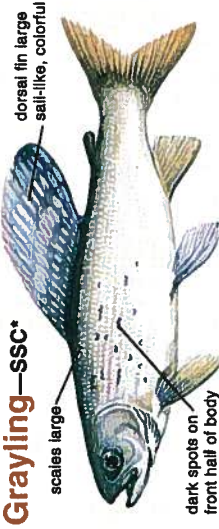


Kokanee—Spawning Male



Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 5lb 15oz, 25.75"
Pishkun Reservoir, 1976

Grayling—SSC*



Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 3lb 14oz, 20.9"
Handkerchief Lake, 1994

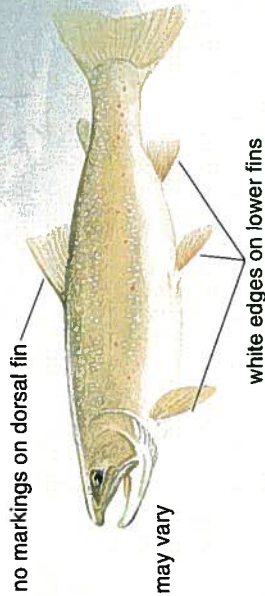
Mountain Whitefish



Average Size: 8" - 14"
MT Record: 5lb 1.5 oz, 21.14"
Kootenai River, 1987

*SSC = Species of Special Concern—See definitions.

Bull Trout

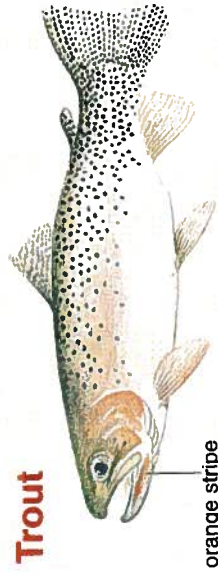


Help Save The Native Montanans!!

In Montana, there is a growing concern for several of our native fish species, primarily the BULL and CUTTHROAT trout. Populations of both are in decline across Montana, and it is important that anglers are able to properly identify BULL and CUTTHROAT trout to ensure they are released unharmed. Below is a simple key to help you identify these fish.

When handling fish, be sure to wet your hands, and keep the fish in the water if possible. If in doubt about the identity of your fish, don't take a chance - release it!

Cutthroat Trout



1. Turn the fish over, and look under the jaw. Does it have a red or orange stripe? If **Yes**—the fish is a **Cutthroat trout**. Check this booklet to determine the regulations for the water you are fishing. If no stripe under the jaw exists, go to number 2.
2. Does the fish have white edges on the front of its lower fins? If **yes**—it may be a bull trout. Continue to number 3.
3. Is the fish's dorsal (top) fin a clear olive color (with no spots or dark wavy lines)? If **Yes**—the fish is a **Bull trout and must be released!** (in all waters except Swan Lake - see Western Fishing District regulations).

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REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY FWP COMMISSION

By order of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC), the seasons, limits, and regulations listed here shall govern the 1998 fishing season. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on November 7, 1997, and are valid March 1, 1998 through February 28, 1999.

These regulations are also proposed to remain in effect for the 1999 fishing season. The FWPC will formally adopt the fishing regulations in the winter of 1998 with possible changes. Any changes in these regulations will appear in an addendum sheet available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) offices and from FWP license agents. Anglers must obtain an addendum sheet to make sure they are complying fully with fishing laws.

FWP receives federal aid. Therefore, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, FWP joins the federal government in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any program, activity, or facility may write to FWP, Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620 or to The Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission

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LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License Requirements

To fish in Montana, most anglers need two licenses: a Conservation License and a Fishing License.

A Conservation License is needed before you can buy any fishing or hunting license that Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) issues.

A fishing license allows a person to fish for and possess any fish authorized by the state's fishing regulations. It is nontransferable and nonrefundable. The license enables one to fish from March 1 through February 28 of the following year.

Resident Licenses

To qualify for a resident license, a person must meet the criteria set out in MCA 87-2-102 (see Legal Resident definition on page 85). If you are unsure of your resident status, check with your local FWP office or game warden.

What License(s) Do I Need To Fish In Montana?

Age	Resident	Nonresident
1-11	No license required. Must observe all limits and regulations.	No license required IF accompanied by an adult that holds a valid Montana fishing license. The combined fish limit for the two anglers cannot exceed the legal limit for one licensed angler.
12-14	Conservation License only - \$4.00	To catch his or her own legal limit, the youth must purchase a fishing license. See nonresident 15-61 and 62 + years of age.
15-61	Conservation License (\$4.00) + Fishing License (\$13.00) Resident Sportsman's License also includes a season fishing license.	Conservation License (\$5.00) + Montana Fishing License (\$10.00 for 2 consecutive days or \$45.00 - season).
62 +	Conservation License only - \$4.00	Nonresident Deer A Combo or Nonresident Big Game Combo licenses also include a season fishing license.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Special Licenses	
Paddlefish	A resident or nonresident of any age must purchase a paddlefish tag. Paddlefish anglers must also possess a valid Conservation License and Fishing License. Limit of two tags per person. Resident - \$2.50 each Nonresident - \$7.50 each
Montana Resident With Disability	Resident person with a Disability Conservation License only * - \$4.00 * Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at FWP offices. NOT available at FWP license agents. Not available to nonresidents.
Veterans Administration Patients	Permits are available for patients of VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These permits are available on site at the VA hospital or State institution.
Care Facility	The manager or director of an eligible facility licensed in Montana may apply for permission to take supervised residents fishing during activities approved by the facility. Licensed facilities include: long-term care, personal care, home for persons with developmental disabilities and home for persons with severe disabilities.

State Park Entrance Fees--Resident and Nonresident

Anyone using a Montana State Park, including anglers fishing in its waters, must pay an entrance fee. For the frequent user a state park passport vehicle sticker, good for the entire fishing season, is available for \$20 for residents and \$24 for nonresidents from any FWP office and from most license agents. The occasional user pays a daily entrance charge of \$4.00 per vehicle at the park's entrance.

Recreational Use of State School Trust Lands

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from FWP license agents, is required to conduct most recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state school trust lands. Pamphlets giving informational regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these recreational activities on state school trust lands are available from FWP offices, license agents, and offices of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Lands Division.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Seasons

All dates given for seasons are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed for the rest of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise noted.

Game Fish

All species of the family *Salmonidae* (charrs, trout, salmon, grayling, dace and whitefish); all species of the genus *Stizostedion* (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus *Esox* (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus *Micropterus* (bass); all species of the genus *Polyodon* (paddlefish); all species of the family *Acipenseridae* (sturgeon); the genus *Lota* (burbot or ling); and the species *Ictalurus punctatus* (channel catfish).

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified.

Fishing Methods

Hook and Line Limits

- Only a single line with up to 2 hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.
- Two lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Central and Eastern Fishing districts.
- Where multiple lines are permitted, the total number of allowable lines includes attended lines, setlines, spears, or other units of fishing gear.
- A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still deemed a single hook.
- These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Unattended Lines (Setlines)

- Unattended lines (setlines) may be used on waters specified by district regulations. Unless otherwise specified, an unattended line (setline) must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.
- The owner's name and address must be attached to each unattended line (setline).
- Unattended lines (setlines) shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Snagging

Snagging is a form of angling in which hooks are cast, trolled, or lowered into the water and moved to snag them in the bodies of fish. Snagging fish is unlawful, except for paddlefish, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. If you accidentally snag a game fish not legal for snagging, you must release it immediately.

Nets and Traps

- Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
- In the Central and Eastern Fishing districts, in waters where use of live fish is allowed for bait, nongame species (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads, yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be taken in the following manner:
 - with seines no longer than 12 feet by 4 feet.
 - with minnow traps, the dimensions shall not exceed 24 x 12 x 12 inches.
- Hoop nets may be used only in the Eastern Fishing District. See page 55.

Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include: fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

Legal and Illegal Bait

Minnows and Other Bait

Dead Fish

No portion of sculpins or salmonids (trout, salmon, whitefish, cisco) except eggs may be used as bait. All other fish, or parts thereof, may be used dead as bait if their heads and entrails are removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Live Fish

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by a permit issued by FWP.
- The taking and/or use of sculpins (genus *Cottus*) as fishing bait is prohibited on all waters in the state, because sculpins may transmit whirling disease.
- Carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt may not be used for live bait at any location in the state.
- Live fish may not be used for bait, except as provided under Bait (Live) as listed in the Central and Eastern district regulations.
- Possession of live bait fish is prohibited in waters closed to using live fish for bait. Only nongame species may be taken for bait and only in waters where live fish may be used as bait.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining and Sale of Bait Fish

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads, sculpins, yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially according to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.7.201.-12.7.206.

Any person taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must have a commercial license for seining bait fish. Contact regional FWP offices for a permit and list of waters open to commercial seining.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Commercial bait regulations are not valid on Indian reservation waters. For information, contact local tribal officials.

Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches, crayfish, and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution, should contact their regional FWP office for information. Also see Crayfish and Mussels page 8.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

It is Unlawful

- It is unlawful and a misdemeanor:
- To violate any regulations listed in this booklet.
- To introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters.
- To refuse to show one's fishing license upon demand.
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand.
- To loan or transfer your fishing license or tags to any person.
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by FWP Commission regulations.
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted.
- To stun or kill fish by using any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison. To possess these substances within 100 feet of any stream where fish are found is unlawful.
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide.
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food (see Waste of Fish or Game definition, page 86).

Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in district regulations. The same daily and possession limits apply to them as for rivers and streams.

Beaver Ponds

Beaver ponds on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

Closed Waters

Waters operated as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds by FWP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which FWP operates fish traps and other structures are closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams, and hazardous areas are also closed as posted.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons 12 years of age and older. Children's Fishing Waters are the Fairground Pond in Helena, Vigilante Pond near Virginia City, and Elks Club Pond near Lewistown.

Ice Fishing

Number of Rods/Lines

- Two rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on all lakes, reservoirs, or ponds open to fishing in the Western and Central districts. Six rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on lakes, reservoirs, and ponds open to fishing in the Eastern District. See a particular fishing district's special regulations for exceptions to this restriction.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Size of Hole

- The maximum size hole that may be used for ice fishing is 144 square inches.
- There is no size limit for a hole used for fishing with a spear.

Shelters

- Use: It is illegal to use any ice-fishing shelter not conforming to these rules.
- Shelter definition: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material except ice or snow, for the purpose of ice fishing.
- Shelter identification: All shelters at all public waters must be marked with the owner's name, address, and/or phone number. This identification must be painted on (or permanently affixed to) the shelter in legible, 2-inch letters, plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. For fabric shelters or tents, identification may be placed on a sign attached to the outside of the shelter.
- Inspection: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.
- Removal after the season: The owner of an ice-fishing shelter shall remove it from the ice before it becomes irretrievable at the end of the season.
- Waste and rubbish disposal: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish and trash. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.
- Shelter removal: Daily removal is required on the following waters:
 - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
 - Deadmans Basin
 - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
 - Georgetown Lake
 - Hauser Reservoir
 - Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
 - Lake Helena

Indian Reservations

- Certain waters on Indian Reservations may have special rules and permits. Specific information should be obtained from reservation headquarters.
- The State of Montana and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for fishing regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation by calling the FWP regional office in Kalispell at (406) 752-5501 or the Tribes at (406) 675-2700.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

National Parks

Certain waters within National Parks have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the park headquarters. For Glacier National Park, call (406) 888-7800 and for Yellowstone National Park, call (307) 344-7381.

Federal Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on Federal Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the federal refuge involved.

Crayfish

- A valid fishing license is required.
- Crayfish for personal consumption or for use as bait may be taken in traps no larger than 24 x 12 x 12 inches.
- The collection of crayfish for sale or commercial distribution is limited for use as bait and requires a permit. Contact FWP for information.

Commercial Whitefish Fishing

- A permit is required to sell whitefish. Contact a FWP regional office for a permit and a list of waters open to the commercial harvest of whitefish.

Mussels

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.2.501, it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells for sale or commercial distribution.

Check Stations

Anglers and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if they have no fish or game to be checked.

STATEWIDE STANDARD LIMITS

Daily and Possession Limits

Daily limit means the numbers of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the district where you are fishing specifies a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit.

Possession limit means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved.

- You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing. Refer to the district Standard Daily and Possession Limits and the Special Regulations.
- Where size limits apply and while a person is on the water and fishing, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, and fins attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.
- Transporting dressed fish to your permanent residence is illegal unless those fish can be counted and identified.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, cisco and whitefish) may be dressed and filleted (except where size limits apply) before transport to a permanent residence, but the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification. For all non-salmonids, a minimum of one square inch of skin (other than the belly) must remain attached to each fillet. If the catch is frozen prior to transportation, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted. Two fillets will be counted as one fish.
- It is illegal to can fish before taking them to your permanent residence (see Permanent Residence definition on page 85). Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or tents do not qualify as permanent residences.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Rivers and Streams

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Bow and Arrow

All waters are closed to bow and arrow taking of fish, except as noted under special regulations. Crossbows are illegal.

Snagging

All waters are closed to snagging of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

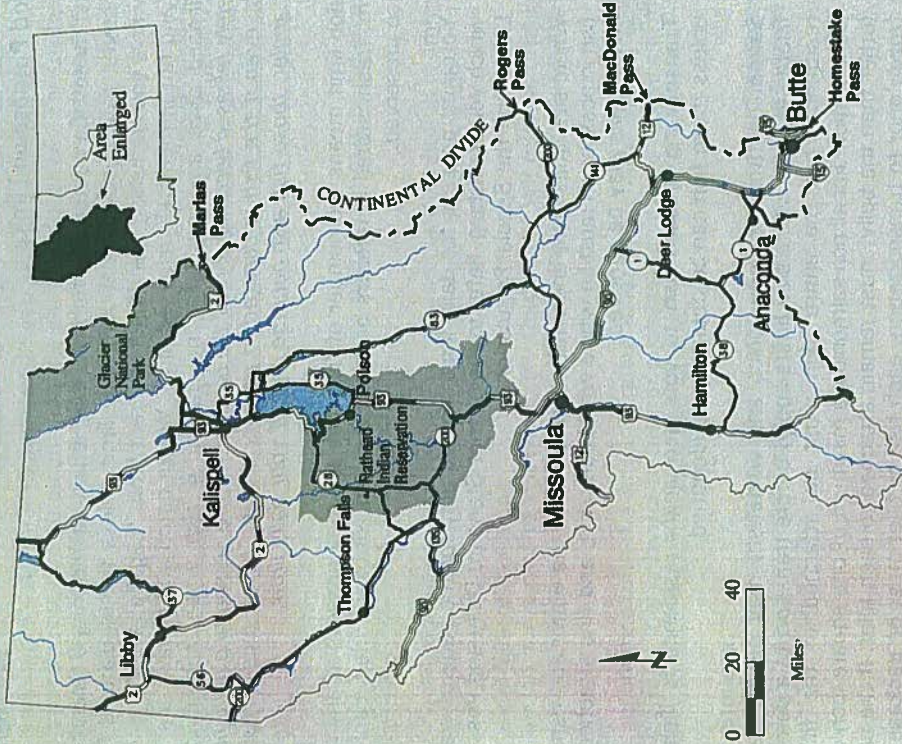
Spearing

All waters are closed to spearing of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

Ice Fishing

All lakes and reservoirs in the Western Fishing District open to fishing are open to ice fishing with 2 attended lines with 2 hooks per line.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

The Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

For additional information about fishing in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Kalispell	752-5501
Missoula	542-5500
TDD (Telephone Device for the Deaf)	444-1200

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations. However, anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing. For all waters, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit unless otherwise stated.

Species	Rivers & Streams	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Brown trout Cutthroat trout Golden trout Rainbow trout Grayling	5 daily and in possession	Only one fish over 14 inches.

Bull Trout	All waters of the Western District, except Swan Lake are closed to the taking and/or intentional fishing for bull trout. The limit on Swan Lake is 1 bull trout.	
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Species	Lakes	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Brown trout Cutthroat trout Golden trout Rainbow trout Grayling	5 daily and 10 in possession	

Species	Rivers, Lakes & Streams	Exceptions
Bass	Daily and in possession	
Brook trout	5	
Burbot (ling)	20	
Lake trout	5	
Northern pike	10	
Salmon	15	
Tiger muskellunge	20	40 in possession
Whitefish	1	30 inch minimum size
White sturgeon	100	
	0	It is unlawful to take or possess white sturgeon.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Wilderness Limits:

All waters (rivers, streams and lakes) in the South Fork Flathead River Drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness areas, unless otherwise specified under the Special Regulations.

Species	Rivers, Lakes & Streams	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit: Cutthroat trout Rainbow trout Grayling	Daily and in possession 3	Rivers and streams: No fish over 12 inches

Transporting Live Fish

- It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish in any waters of the Western Fishing District.
- It is illegal to use sculpins or any portion of salmonids except eggs as bait.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 64-75. A complete copy of the Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 3-9). For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless otherwise stated.

Abbot Lake

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.

Alice Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

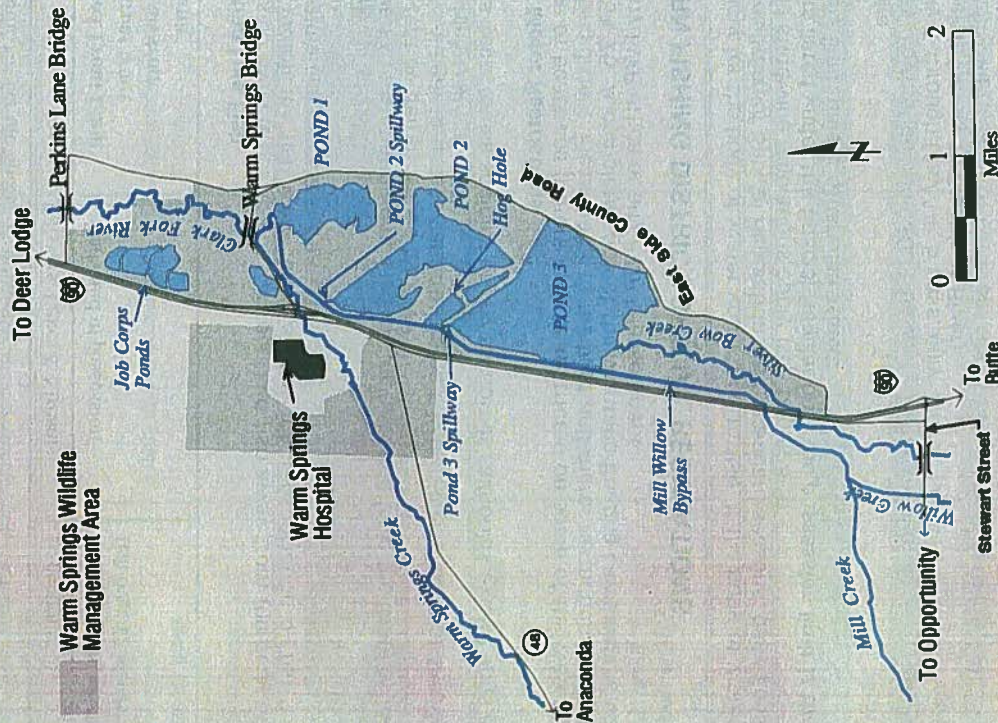
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Alvord Lake

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Anaconda Settling Pond System (Regulations on page 15)



WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Anaconda Settling Pond System (Map on page 14)

All waters in the Wildlife Management Area upstream from Warm Springs Bridge

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.
- Hog Hole open May 25 through June 30.
- Pond 3 open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from floating non-motorized craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed.
- All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30.

Mill/ Willow Bypass from Pond 3 spillway to Warm Springs Bridge

- Open entire year.
- No fishing from boats.

Willow Creek from Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area boundary

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

See Job Corps Ponds

Ashley Creek (near Kalispell)

- Open entire year downstream from Smith Lake.

Ashley Creek (near Thompson Falls)

- Closed entire year from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to source.

Ashley Lake

- 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Ashley Lake Inlet tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Basin Creek (Silverbow County)

- Closed entire year from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries.

Bear Creek (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River)

- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Beaver Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Big Creek (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) and its tributaries

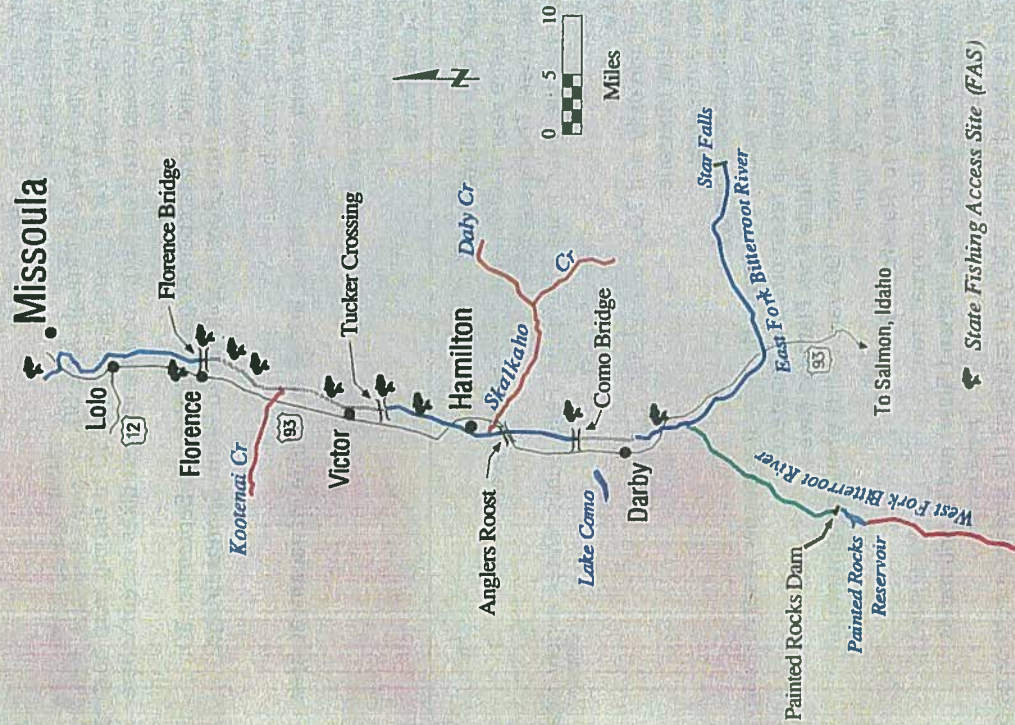
- Closed entire year.
- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted June 1 through August 30.

Bitterroot Lake

- See Little Bitterroot Lake

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Bitterroot River Map
(Regulations on page 17)



WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Bitterroot River
(Map on page 16)

...Special Limit Areas

West Fork above Painted Rocks Reservoir

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

West Fork from the mouth to Painted Rocks Dam

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, no size limit.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

One mile below Darby Bridge to Star Falls on the East Fork

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge and one mile downstream from Darby to Como Bridge

- Catch-and-release for all trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Como Bridge to Tucker Crossing

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge

- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Florence Bridge to mouth of the Bitterroot

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Buckhouse Bridge (ditches, canals, and sloughs)

- Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blackfoot River

Mainstem and its tributaries (except the Clearwater River downstream from the Lake Inez Fish Barrier)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

Mainstem only

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blue Sky Creek

- Closed entire year.

Boatjack Lake (near Whitefish)

- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 trout, 22 inch minimum.
- Artificial lures only.

Callahan Creek (Kootenai River Drainage)

- June 1 through August 30: closed to fishing within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth.

Carpenter Lake (Eureka)

- See Tetrault Lake.

Church Slough

- Open year round.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only over 12 inches.

Clarence Creek (near Eureka)

- Closed entire year.

Clark Fork River

Waters of Mill and Willow creeks, and Warm Springs Creek and the Clark Fork River upstream of Perkins Lane Bridge to the I-90 Bridge

- Catch-and-release only.
- Closed to fishing from boats.
- Open entire year.
- Above Warm Springs Bridge—See the Anaconda Settling Pond System regulations, page 15.

Perkins Lane Bridge to mouth of Thompson River

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 15 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May, with aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures only.

Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River.

- Open entire year for northern pike with bait or lures.

Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border.

- Open entire year. Lake limits apply to entire reach.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Clearwater River and its tributaries

- See individual waters for salmon regulations.

- Catch-and-release for bass.

- No limit on northern pike.

- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Upstream from Lake Inez Fish Barrier and tributaries of Clearwater River

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

Clearwater River

- Open entire year downstream from the Lake Inez Fish Barrier.
- Open to salmon snagging from Lake Inez Fish Barrier to Seeley Lake from September 15 through November 30.
- Closed to snagging from Seeley Lake to Salmon Lake.

Coal Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Copper Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout downstream from Wilderness boundary (see Blackfoot River, page 18).

Cottonwood Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Crystal Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)

- Open to salmon snagging September 15 through November 30.

Donaldson Creek Drainage (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan)

- Closed entire year.

Echo Lake (near Anaconda)

- Open third Saturday in May through March 31.

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout (including brook trout).

Echo Lake (near Bigfork)

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.
- Open to spearing northern pike through the ice only.

Elk Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

Emily Springs (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Closed entire year.

Fennon Slough

- Open entire year.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches.

Fish Creek and its tributaries (Mineral County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

- Artificial lures only.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Fisher River

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flathead Indian Reservation

- A tribal fishing permit is needed for fishing on waters within the exterior boundary of the Reservation.
- Call Tribal Headquarters (406) 675-2700 for information.

Flathead Lake

- 5 bass, only 2 over 15 inches. All bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- 15 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.
- 50 lake whitefish.
- 50 yellow perch.

Flathead River

From the confluence of the North and Middle forks to Flathead Lake

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- 50 lake whitefish.
- 15 lake trout.

- Extended season for whitefish and lake trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only. Catch-and-release for all other trout.

Flathead Indian Reservation boundary to mouth

- Open entire year.
- 5 northern pike, 24 inch minimum.

Flint Creek

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes (Libby water supply, Lincoln County)

- Closed entire year.

Foy Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply, Granite County)

- Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan)

- Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake

- No daily or possession limit for salmon.
- 5 trout, includes brook and lake trout.
- Lake is open third Saturday in May through March 31 except for the following restrictions: See page 21.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Georgetown Lake cont...

South and East Shoreline

- The south and east shorelines are closed to fishing from the shore or within 100 yards of the shore April 1 to July 1. The closed area extends from a point 200 yards west of Denton's Point Marina (along the shore, including all of Stuart Mill Bay in its entirety) to a point 200 yards north from the mouth of the North Fork Flint Creek.

Tributaries to Georgetown Lake (North Fork Flint, Stuart Mill and Hardtla creeks)

- Open July 1 through November 30.

Goat Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

Granite Creek and its tributaries (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary)

- Closed entire year.

Grave Creek (near Eureka)

- Highway 93 bridge downstream to mouth open to salmon snagging September 15 through November 30.

Hardtla Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Open July 1 through November 30.

- 5 trout, includes brook and lake trout.

Haskill Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year from Whitefish public water intake to its source.

Herrig Creek

- Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)

- Western one-third of lake closed to fishing February 1 through May 15 as posted.

- Open to spearing for nongame fish.

Horseshoe Lake (near Ferndale)

- 5 bass under 12 inches, or 4 bass under 12 inches and 1 over 16 inches.

Hungry Horse Reservoir and its tributaries

- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 13.

Reservoir only

- At press time harvest of bull trout was being evaluated through MEPA process. Call FWP Kalispell Regional Office for status—(406) 752-5501.

Job Corps Ponds (Deer Lodge County)

- Refer to map, page 14.

- Open August 15 through September 30.

- Catch-and-release only.

- Artificial lures only.

Keeler Creek

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Kootenai Creek (tributary to Bitterroot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

- Artificial lures only.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Kootenai River

Libby Dam to Idaho border

- Combined Trout Limit: 4 trout, 3 under 13 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All trout between 13 and 18 inches must be released.
- Closed within 100 yard radius of the Callahan, O'Brien and Quartz creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30.

Libby Dam downstream to David Thompson Bridge and Kootenai Falls to one-half mile downstream from swinging bridge

- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.
- Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge (near Fisher River)
- Closed from March 15 to third Saturday in May.
- Open remainder of year.

Lake Alva

- 10 salmon.
- Catch and release for bass.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Lake Creek (near Troy)

Dam downstream to mouth

- Open to salmon snagging from September 15 through November 30.

Lake Inez

- 5 salmon daily and in possession.
- Catch and release for bass.
- Open to spearing for northern pike.

Lake Kocanusa

- Closed to burbot (ling) fishing, January 15 through February 28.

Lake Mary Ronan

- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.
- Third Saturday in May through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through February 28: 5 bass.
- 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m.

Landers Fork

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Libby Creek

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Lion Creek

- Closed entire year.

Lion Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Little Bitterroot Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 22 inches.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Little Blackfoot River

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Little Loon Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes area)

- Third Saturday in May through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.

- Remainder of year: 5 bass.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Long Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Loon Lake (Thompson Chain of Lakes)

- Third Saturday in May through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.

- Remainder of year: 5 bass.

Lower Stillwater Lake

- 15 lake trout.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

McGregor Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Medicine Lake (near Phillipsburg)

- Open July 1 through April 31.

Medicine Lake tributaries

- Open July 1 through November 30.

Metcalf Lake

- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 1 trout, 22 inch minimum.
- Artificial lures only.

Middle Fork Flathead River Drainage (all streams within the wilderness)

- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 13.

Middle Fork Flathead River (non-wilderness portion)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the ordinary high water mark on the park side of the river.

- 15 lake trout.

- 50 lake whitefish.

- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of the Bear Creek stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Middle Thompson Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.
- Open to salmon snagging September 15 through November 30.

Monture Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Morrison Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year.

Nevada Creek (tributary to Blackfoot River)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

North Fork Blackfoot River

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

North Fork Flathead River

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout

- 50 lake whitefish.

- 15 lake trout.

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the Big and Coal creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30.

- Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the middle of the river.

North Fork Flint Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Open July 1 through November 30.

- 5 trout, includes brook trout.

Noxon Rapids Reservoir

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.

- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

O'Brien Creek

- Closed entire year from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth mile upstream as posted.

- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Peterson Lake

- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.

- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass, only 1 over 12 inches.

Petty Creek and its tributaries

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

- Artificial lures only.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Placid Creek (tributary to Placid Lake)

- 10 salmon.
- Open for snagging salmon September 15 through December 31, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Open to spearing for northern pike.**Placid Lake**

- 10 salmon.

Catch-and-release for bass.

- Open for snagging salmon September 15 through November 30, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Open to spearing for northern pike.**Quartz Creek (Kootenai River Drainage)**

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

- Angling is closed within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

Rattlesnake Creek**Upstream from the mouth of Beeskove Creek**

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Rattlesnake Creek and its tributaries

- Closed entire year from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to the mouth of Beeskove Creek.

Rock Creek (near Clinton) from its mouth to the confluence of the East and West forks

- 3 brown trout, none over 12 inches.

Catch-and-release for cutthroat and rainbow trout.

- Artificial lures only, except anglers 14 years and younger may use bait.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

- Closed to fishing from boats July 1 through November 30.

Rogers Lake spawning inlet

- Closed entire year.

Salmon Lake and its tributaries

- 5 salmon.

Catch-and-release for bass.**Open to spearing for northern pike.****Seeley Lake**

- 10 salmon. Open for snagging salmon September 15 through December 31, when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Catch-and-release for bass.**Open to spearing for northern pike.**

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Skalkaho Creek (tributary to Bitterroot River) including Daly Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

South Fork Flathead River Drainage (all waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam, including Hungry Horse Reservoir) and tributaries

- Wilderness Limits apply. See Wilderness Limits, page 13.

From Meadow Creek Bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Hungry Horse Dam downstream to Devil's Elbow

- Closed entire year.

Devil's Elbow downstream to mouth

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- 50 whitefish.
- 15 lake trout.
- December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Squeezer Creek (tributary to Swan River)

- Closed entire year.

St. Regis River and its tributaries

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches.

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

- Artificial lures only.

Stillwater River and its tributaries

- 50 lake whitefish.
- 15 lake trout.

- Open entire year from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake.

Stuart Mill Creek (tributary to Georgetown Lake)

- Open July 1 through November 30.

- 5 trout: includes brook trout and lake trout.

Swan Lake

- Daily and possession limit for bull trout is 1 fish. Upon catching a bull trout, an angler must either kill it at once and count it as the limit, or release it. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason.

Swan River

- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of Woodward Creek June 1 through August 30.

Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake

- Catch-and-release for rainbow and cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

From Swan Lake to Flathead Lake

- Open entire year.
- Flathead Lake limits and seasons apply.

Tetraut Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout daily.

Tobacco River

- Open to snagging of salmon September 15 through November 30.

Trail Creek (Yakinkak) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Triangle Pond

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Upper Stillwater Lake

- 15 lake trout.
- Open to spearing of northern pike through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 1 trout, over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30: 1 bass, 22 inch minimum.
- July 1 through May 14: 5 bass.

- Open to spearing of northern pike through ice only.

Upsata Lake

- Catch-and-release for bass.

- No limit on northern pike.

- Open to spearing of northern pike.

West Fork Quartz Creek (Kootenai River Drainage)

- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Whale Creek (tributary to North Fork Flathead) and its tributaries

- Closed entire year downstream from Whale Creek Falls.

Whitefish Lake

- 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- 2 cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout (or 1 each) only 1 over 14 inches.
- 15 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.
- 50 lake whitefish.

Whitefish River

- Open entire year from Whitefish Lake to State Highway 40 Bridge.

Wigwam River (Kootenai River Drainage)

- Catch-and-release for trout.

- Artificial lures for trout.

Wildlife Management Ponds

- See Job Corps Ponds (page 21).

Willow Creek (near Anaconda Settling Ponds)

From Stewart Street Bridge to the Wildlife Management Area

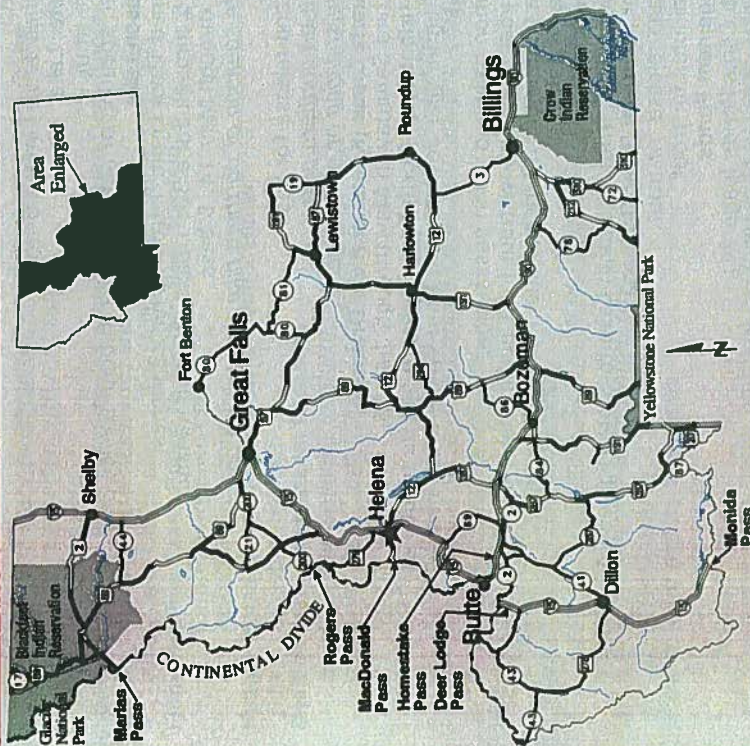
- Catch-and-release only.

- Artificial lures only.

Woodward Creek

- Angling is closed within a 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT



Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

0 20 40
Miles

The Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana east of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St. Mary's River drainages) and west of the following described boundary: Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, then east on said bypass to Smelter Avenue, then east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, then south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, then east along high water mark of the Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, then across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, then easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton, then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 at Grassrange, then south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12 at Roundup, then west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3 at Lavina, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Billings, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

For additional information regarding the boundaries in this fishing district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Billings (406) 247-2940 Great Falls (406) 454-5840
Bozeman (406) 994-4042 Helena Area Resource Office (406) 444-4720
Butte Area Resource Office (406) 494-1953 TDD (406) 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Rivers and Streams

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Hook and Line Limits

Two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Central Fishing District.

Unattended Lines (Setlines)

Anglers may use unattended lines (setlines) on those waters open to fishing as specified under the district Special Regulations. Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address and shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Bow and Arrow

All waters open to angling are open to taking nongame fish with bow and arrow. Crossbows, however, are illegal.

Snagging

All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. (See Statewide Regulations, page 3.)

Spearing

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

Ice Fishing

All lakes and reservoirs in the Central District are open for using 2 attended lines with 2 hooks per line for fishing through the ice. More than 2 lines are permitted on some waters as specified under the district's Special Regulations.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart unless noted in the Special Regulations. However, anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing. In all waters, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit unless otherwise stated.

Species	Rivers & Streams	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Brown trout Cutthroat trout* Golden trout Rainbow trout Grayling	5 daily and in possession	Only one fish over 18 inches. Grayling taken in rivers and streams must be released.
*Cutthroat trout must be released in rivers and streams in the Missouri River Drainage (above the PN Bridge on State Highway 236, northwest of Winifred), in the mainstem of the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the I-90 Bridge at Billings and in all rivers and streams of the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from Yellowstone National Park to Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston) unless otherwise noted under the Special Regulations.		

Species	Lakes	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Brown trout Cutthroat trout Golden trout Rainbow trout Grayling	5 daily and 10 in possession	

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Species	Rivers, Lakes & Streams	Exceptions
Bass	Daily and in possession	
Brook trout	5	
Burbot (ling)	20	
Catfish	10	
	20	
Lake trout	2	
Northern pike	10	
Salmon	10	
Sauger/Walleye	5	Possession limit is 10.
Shovelnose sturgeon	5	40-inch maximum length. It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon.
Tiger muskellunge	1	30 inch minimum size.
Whitefish	100	

Wilderness Limits:

All waters (rivers, streams and lakes) east of the continental divide within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness areas unless otherwise specified under the Special Regulations.

RIVERS & STREAMS Daily and in possession	LAKES Daily and in possession
3 rainbow trout: none over 12 inches. Catch and release only for cutthroat. Catch and release only for grayling.	3 fish combined limit. Can be rainbow, cutthroat, or grayling in any combination.

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken except for: 1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads, yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be taken and used for bait only in the following waters:

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.

Bighorn River—Afterbay Dam to the cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from the Bighorn FAS.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River — downstream from the bridge at Bridger.

Marias River.

Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals.

Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except the section of the Bighorn River listed above).

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 64-75. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 3-9).

For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless otherwise stated.

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Lakes

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds

- Open entire year from mouth to Virginia City.

Antelope Butte Lake (Teton County)

See Ostle Reservoir.

Armstrong Spring Creek

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Arod Lakes

See Eyraud Lakes.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Axolotl Lakes

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Bad Canyon Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Badger Creek Drainage (near Heart Butte) within National Forest

Below confluence of North Badger and South Badger creeks.

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout.

Beaver Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

Mouth to US Highway 12

- Open June 15 through September 30.

Beaver Creek Ponds (R3E, T11S, S21 — Madison River Drainage)

All ponds north and south of US Highway 287 adjacent to Beaver Creek.

- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

Beaverhead River

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout.

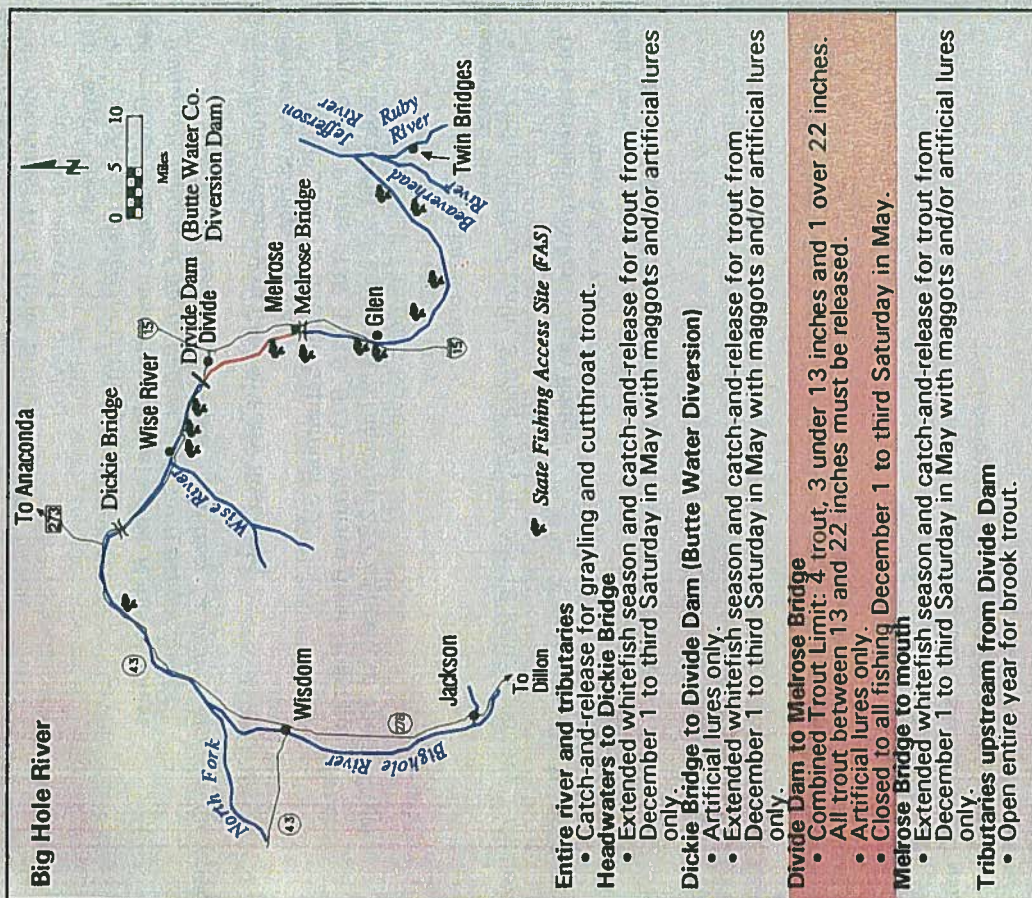
Downstream from Pipe Organ Bridge

- Open entire year.

Belt Creek

- Open entire year downstream from bridge at Riceville.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT



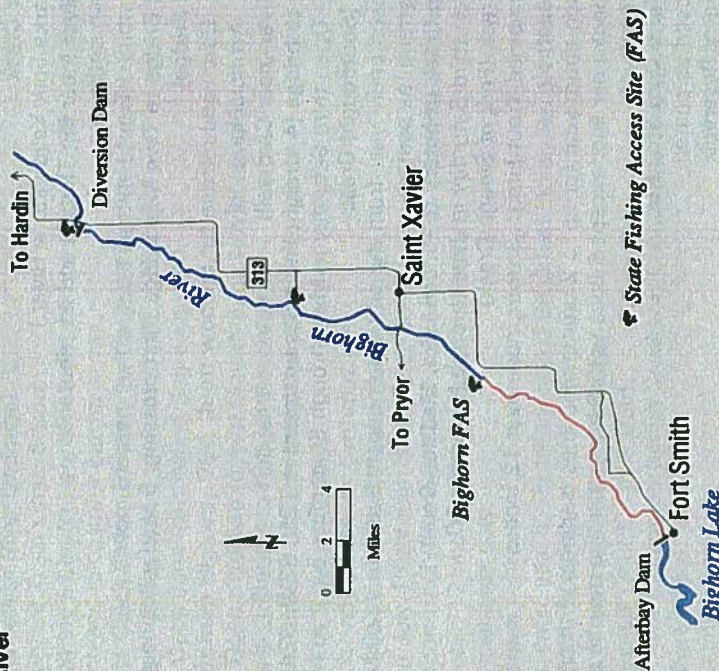
- Big Sheep Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)**
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat in Meadow, Muddy and Simpson creeks.
- Big Spring Creek (near Lewistown)**
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.
 - Open entire year.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir

- 6 walleye, sauger, and bass in any combination.
- 6 catfish.
- Up to 6 attended lines, with 1 hook per line allowed through the ice only.

Bighorn River



- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from Bighorn FAS**
- Open entire year.
 - May use live nongame bait fish (as identified on page 32).
 - Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout.
- Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS**
- Open entire year.
 - Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
 - Artificial lures only.
 - Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Black Sands Spring Creek (a tributary to South Fork Madison River)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Blacktail Deer Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Cottonwood, Lake and Rock creeks.
- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Bluewater Creek

(See Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.)

Boulder River (near Big Timber) and its tributaries

- Open entire year.
- Combined Trout Limit: 2 trout, only 1 over 13 inches.

Natural Bridge to Two-Mile Bridge (first crossing, 5 road miles upstream from Natural Bridge)

- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Boulder River (near Cardwell)

Mouth to bridge (4 straight-line miles upstream in T2N, R3W, S24)

- Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek

- Closed entire year from the city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.

Brimstone Creek (tributary to Hidden Lake, Madison County)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Buffalo Creek (Fork of Slough Creek)

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

Bynum Reservoir

- Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with no more than 2 hooks per line, except 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.

Canyon Ferry Dam Structure

- Closed as posted.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir

- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used through ice.

The following areas of Canyon Ferry Reservoir (as posted) are closed to fishing from March 1 to third Saturday in May:

- Cave Bay at Kim's Marina
- Magpie Bay

Clark Canyon Reservoir

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Springs entering the reservoir at its south end, near Red Rock River

- Closed as posted.

Central Fishing District

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and its tributaries

- Open entire year.
- Mainstem downstream from the bridge at Bridger

- Fishing is allowed the entire year with up to 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Cliff Lake (Madison River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Collar Gulch (near Lewistown)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Confederate Gulch Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

Mouth to Highway 284

- Open June 15 through September 30.

Upstream from Highway 284

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Crooked Creek (Carbon County)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool)(Beaverhead County)

- Open July 15 through September 30.

- 5 brook trout: 4 under 12 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All brook trout between 12 and 18 inches must be released.

- Artificial lures only.

Cut Bank Creek

- Open entire year downstream of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2.

Dailey Lake (Yellowstone River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Deadman's Basin Reservoir

- Salmon snagging through ice only: 35 daily and 70 in possession.
- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Dearborn River

Dearborn River downstream from Highway 434 Bridge in T18N R6W, Section 29

- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Dearborn River upstream from Highway 434 Bridge in T18N R6W, Section 29

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, only 1 over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Deep Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend) Mouth to the North Fork of Deep Creek

- Open June 15 through September 30.
- Stream above the mouth of the North Fork of Deep Creek
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Dickens Lake (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Diversion Lake (Sun River Drainage)
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Dry Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend)

- Mouth to Flynn Lane
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Upstream from Flynn Lane

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Duck Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

East Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

East Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

East Gallatin River

- Open entire year downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek.

East Rosebud Creek

See Stillwater River.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- 2 lake trout.

Elks Club Pond (Lewistown)

- Open to fishing only for persons under 12 years of age.

Ennis Lake

- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes

- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice only.
- Spearing for northern pike and nongame fish through ice only.

Fairgrounds Pond, Helena

- Open to fishing only for persons under 12 years of age.

Ferguson Lake (Bighole River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Fishtail Creek

See Stillwater River.

Central Fishing District

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Foolhen Lake (Big Hole River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- Gallatin River
- Open entire year.
- Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River
- Closed to fishing from boats.

Gibson Reservoir

Gibson Dam upstream to the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir levels.

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Goose Lake (Madison County)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Grayling Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Half Moon Creek (near Lewistown)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (Madison County)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 18 inches.

Willow Creek arm, as posted

- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.

Tributaries to Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (North Willow, South Willow and Norwegian creeks) near Harrison from the Highway 287 Bridges to Harrison Reservoir

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted

- Closed entire year.

Hauser Reservoir (includes Canyon Ferry tailwater and Lake Helena)

- Daily limit: 5 trout and salmon in any combination.
- Possession limit: 10 trout and salmon in any combination.
- 5 walleye, only 1 over 20 inches.
- Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m.
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Hebgen Reservoir

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Tributaries to Hebgen Reservoir (Cougar, Duck, Grayling, Red Canyon, Rumbaugh, Trapper and Watkins creeks and South Fork Madison River)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

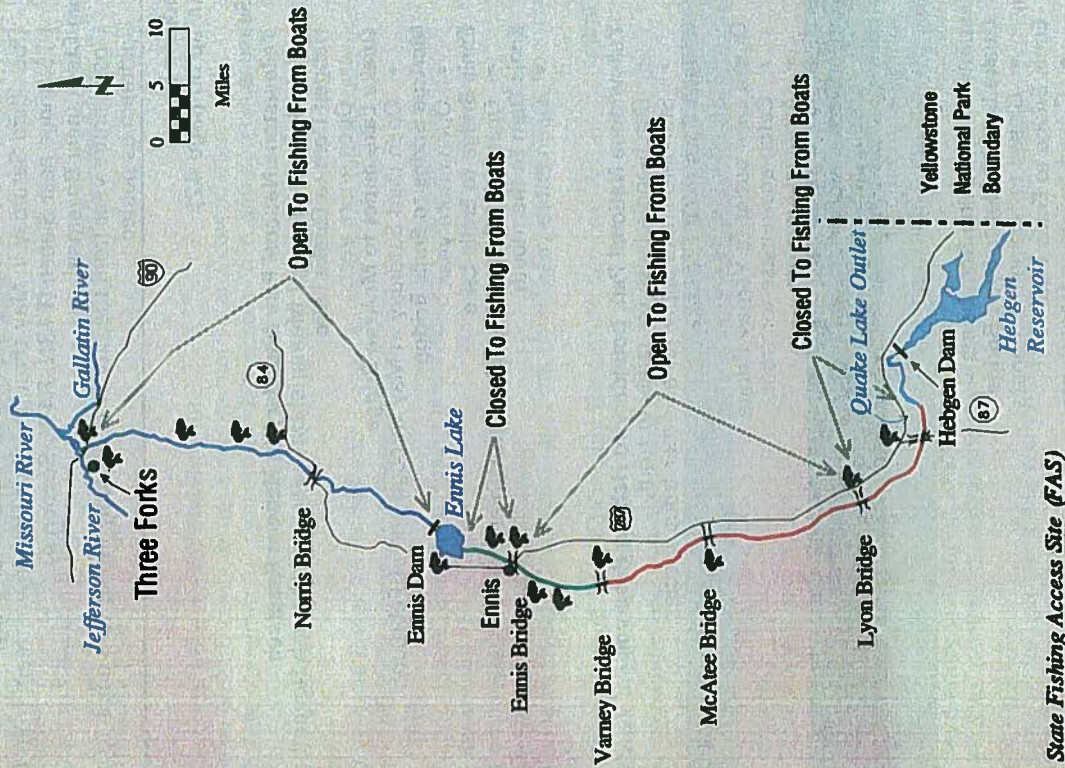
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

- Open for salmon snagging September 1 through October 31, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- 3 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Hells Canyon Creek

- Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

Madison River (Regulations on page 41)



State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

Magpie Creek (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through September 30.

Marias River

- 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line.

• Whitefish and cisco must be released immediately or killed upon capture.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)

- Open July 15 through September 30.
- 1 rainbow trout over 20 inches.
- Artificial lures only.

Middle Creek (Hyalite Creek) (near Bozeman)

- Closed entire year from the intake of the city water supply to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.

Midvale Creek

- Closed entire year from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to the park boundary.

Mill Creek (near Sheridan)

- Open entire year.

Missouri River (Map on page 44)

Three Forks downstream

- Open entire year.
- Toston Dam structure as posted
- Closed entire year.

Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir

- Localized spawning areas closed from March 1 through June 15 as posted.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 18 inches.
- Catch-and-release for brown trout between 18 and 24 inches.

Canyon Ferry Dam to Hauser Reservoir

- Hauser Reservoir fishing regulations apply.
- Posted area just below Canyon Ferry Dam closed entire year.

Holter Dam to Holter Reservoir

- Waters from Hauser Dam downstream approximately 4.6 miles to American Bar Gulch (T12N, R3W, Section S11) are considered Missouri River for the purpose of fishing regulations.
- Catch-and-release for brown trout.
- 3 walleye under 18 inches and 1 over 28 inches. All walleye between 18 and 28 inches must be released.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted

- Closed entire year.
- Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam
- Closed entire year.

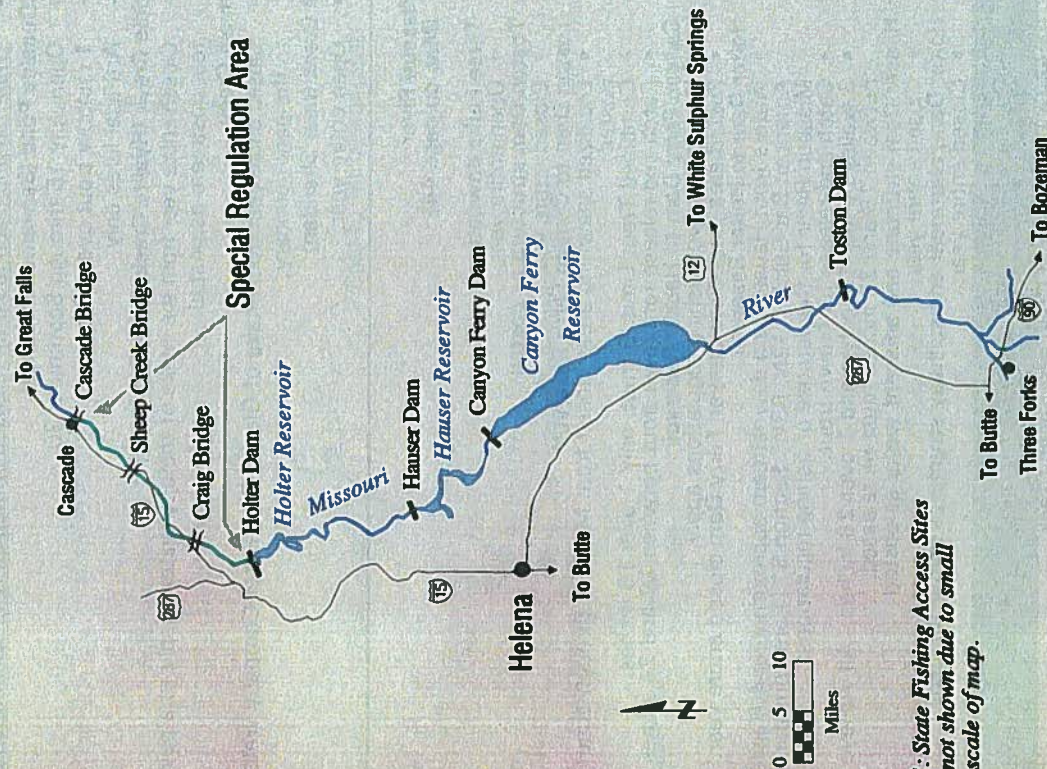
Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow trout, only 1 over 16 inches; 1 brown trout, 22 inch minimum.

Between the bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek

- Open to spearing for whitefish with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- Limit: 5 whitefish.

Missouri River (Regulations on page 43)



NOTE: State Fishing Access Sites not shown due to small scale of map.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Musselshell River (downstream from where North and South forks meet)

- Open entire year.

Nelson Spring Creek

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only.

North Fork Birch Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

North Fork Sun River and its tributaries, upstream from Gibson Reservoir

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, only 1 over 12 inches; includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.)

North Fork Teton River Drainage (near Choteau) within the National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

North Willow Creek (near Harrison)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

Norwegian Creek (near Harrison)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

O'Brien Creek

- Closed entire year above the intake to the Neihart public water supply.

O'Dell Creek (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Ostle Reservoir (Antelope Butte Lake) in Teton County

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Otter Lake (Madison County)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Our Lake (Teton County)

- See Hidden Lake in Teton County.

Piney Creek

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Pishkun Reservoir

- 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open for snagging salmon September 1 through December 31, 35 daily and 70 in possession.

- Spearfishing for northern pike through the ice only.

Poindexter Slough

- Open entire year.
- December 1 to third Saturday in May: catch-and-release only with artificial lures.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Priest Butte Lake

- Open June 15 to September 15 and December 1 to February 28.

Quake Lake (Madison River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Rat Lake (Gallatin River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

- The unnamed tributary to the lake is closed entire year as posted.

Rattlesnake Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Cat Creek.

- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Rattlesnake Creek (near Dillon)

- Closed entire year from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.

Red Canyon Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Red Rock Creek (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Renshaw Lake

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout.

Rock Creek (tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone) and its tributaries.

- Open entire year.

- See West Fork Rock Creek.

Ruby River

Entire River and tributaries

- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Ruby River and its tributaries upstream from Ruby Reservoir except

Cottonwood (near Cottonwood Camp), Geyser, Idaho, Robb and Sweetwater creeks

- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam

- Just below Ruby Dam: Closed entire year, that portion of the Ruby River from its confluence with the Ruby Dam outlet channel, upstream to the dam, including the outlet channel.

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, only 1 over 15 inches.

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Rumbaugh Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Sawtooth Lake (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- 1 golden trout.

Scott Lake (Beaverhead River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Central Fishing District

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Shields River

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Extended season for whitefish and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Silver Creek (near Marysville)

- Catch-and-release from Gold Sil Mine (as posted) to Green Meadow Drive. Downstream from the I-15 Bridge near Helena

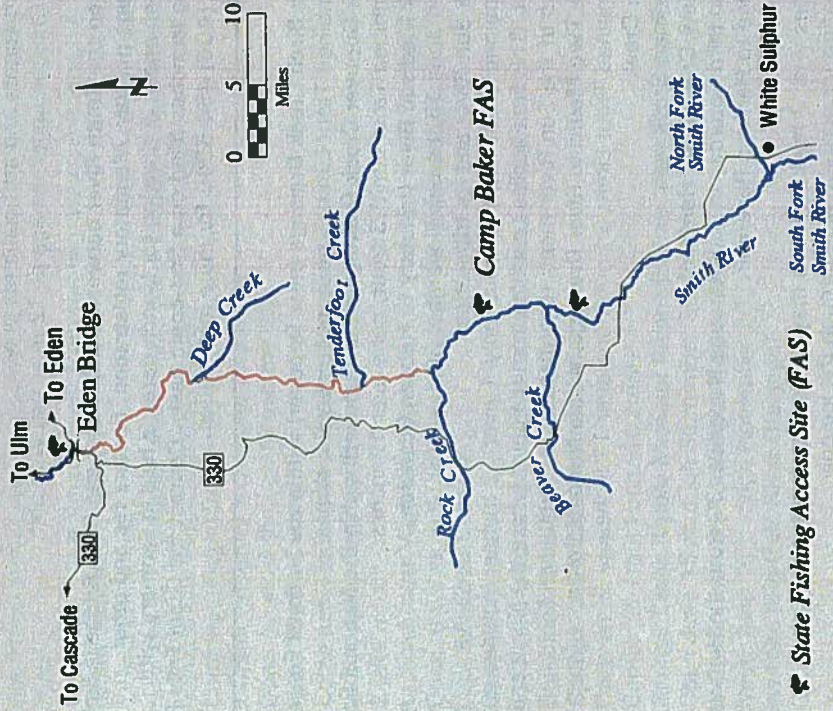
- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Smith Lake (Madison River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Smith River

(Regulations on page 48)



CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Smith River

(Map on page 47)

- Downstream from confluence of North and South forks**
- Open entire year.

...Special Limit Area

From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge

- Artificial lures only.
- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout under 13 inches and 1 trout over 22 inches. All trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures only.
- Children under the age of 12 may fish with bait.

Floating on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge is limited to 9 groups per day. Mandatory registration, floaters fee and other regulations apply. A drawing for launch dates is held in February with remaining launches filled on a first-come basis. Contact the Great Falls FWP office at (406) 454-5840 for more information.

South Fork Birch Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within the National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage (near Dupuyer) within the National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

South Fork Madison River (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

South Fork Sun River and its tributaries

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, only 1 over 12 inches; includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.)

South Fork Two Medicine River Drainage, within National Forest

- Combined Trout Limit: 3 trout, none over 12 inches.

Sourdough Creek

See Bozeman Creek.

South Willow Creek (near Harrison)

- Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir.

Split Rock Lake

- 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Spearing for northern pike through the ice only.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Spring Meadow Lake

- Open to fishing with hook and line only.
- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.
- 1 bass.

Stillwater River and its tributaries

- Open entire year.
- 2 trout, only 1 over 13 inches.

Sun River

- Open entire year downstream from Gibson Dam.

Sunny Slope Canal downstream from Pishkun Reservoir

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

- Catch-and-release for grayling.

Swaze Lake (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tahepia Lake (Wise River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Teton River

- Open entire year downstream from the Highway 89 Bridge.

Toston Dam structure as posted

- Closed entire year.

Trail Creek and its tributaries (Beaverhead River Drainage) near Horse Prairie

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Bear Creek.

- Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout.

Trapper Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Tunnel Lake (Teton County)

- Combined Trout Limit: includes 1 grayling.

Twin Lakes (Upper Big Hole River Drainage)

- 2 lake trout.

Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)

- Open to fishing only for persons under 12 years of age.

Wade Lake (Madison County)

- Open entire year.

- Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted.

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

Warm Springs Creek (near Lewistown)

- Open entire year.

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

Warm Springs Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary, near Townsend)

- Open June 15 through September 30.

Watkins Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

Waukena Lake (Big Hole River Drainage)

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

West Boulder River

See Boulder River near Big Timber.

West Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

West Fork Madison River

• Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

West Fork Rock Creek

- Closed entire year from Red Lodge water intake to 1,000 feet upstream.

West Fork Stillwater River

See Stillwater River.

West Rosebud Creek

See Stillwater River.

Widow's Pool (Beaverhead County)

See Culver Pond.

Willow Creek and its tributaries (Meagher County)

- Closed entire year from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source.

Willow Creek Reservoir (Madison County)

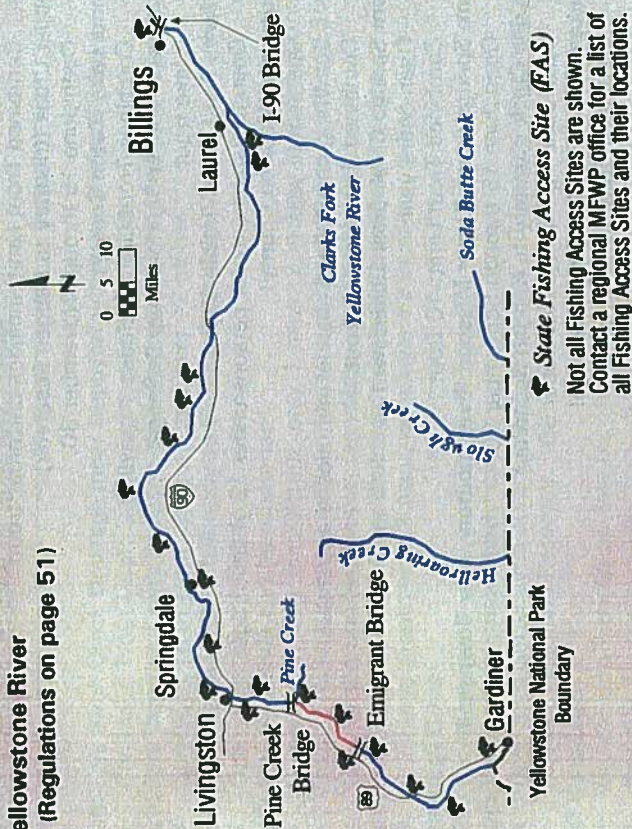
See Harrison Reservoir.

Willow Springs Creek (tributary to the Jefferson River)

• Catch-and-release for rainbow trout.

Yellowstone River

(Regulations on page 51)



CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

Yellowstone River

(Map on page 50)

Mainstem Yellowstone River

Yellowstone National Park boundary to Emigrant Bridge

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Open entire year.

Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown and rainbow trout, 4 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All brown and rainbow trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Pine Creek Bridge to mouth of Clarks Fork

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

Mouth of Clarks Fork to I-90 Bridge at Billings

- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line allowed entire year.
- Live fish (except sculpins, yellow perch, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait (including feeder streams and ditches).

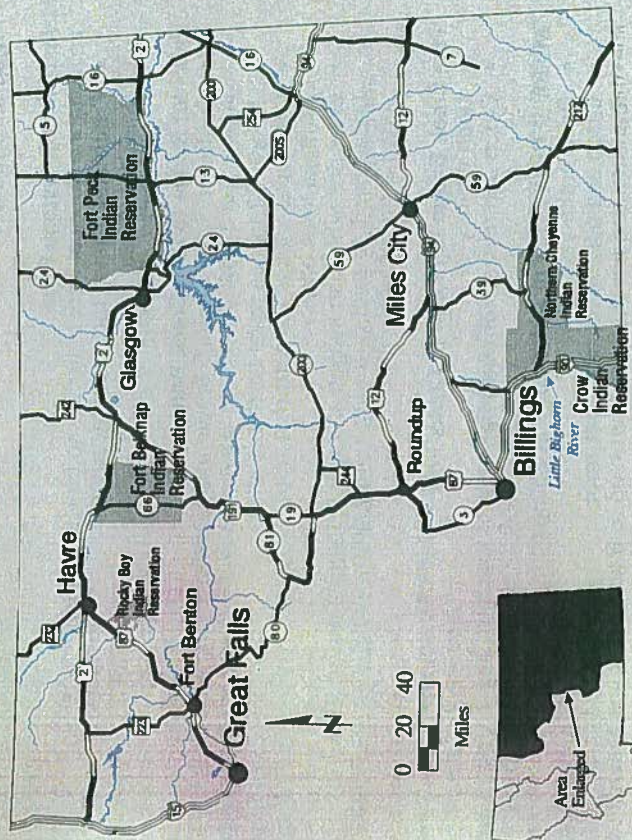
Tributaries to the Yellowstone River that flow into Yellowstone National Park including the Hellroaring Creek, Slough Creek (except Buffalo Fork) and Soda Butte Creek drainages.

- Combined Trout Limit: 10 trout.

All tributaries to the Yellowstone River Drainage (including the Shields River and its tributaries) between the Yellowstone National Park boundary and Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston).

- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

The Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District, page 28.

For additional information regarding the boundaries of this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Billings	(406) 247-2940
Glasgow	(406) 228-3700
Great Falls	(406) 454-5840
Havre Area Resource Office	(406) 265-6177
Miles City	(406) 232-0900
TDD	(406) 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)	

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year. See Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

Standard Fishing Regulations

A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.

Hook and Line Limits

Two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District.

Unattended Lines (Setlines)

Fishing is allowed in all lakes and reservoirs through the ice with unattended lines (setlines) except as noted in the Special Regulations for this district. All streams in the Little Missouri, Milk, Missouri (downstream from Morony Dam), Musselshell and Yellowstone drainages are open entire year to 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line (see exceptions, Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations, Marias River and Missouri River (below Fort Peck Dam)). Lines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices. Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

Anglers may use up to 6 lines, attended or unattended, with up to 6 hooks per line, through the ice, in all lakes and reservoirs, except as specified under the Special Regulations for this district.

Bow and Arrow

All waters open to angling are open to taking paddlefish and nongame fish by bow and arrow. Crossbows, however, are illegal.

Snagging

All waters open to angling are open to snagging paddlefish. Snagging chinook salmon, however, is allowed on Fort Peck Reservoir only from October 1 through November 30. Likewise, snagging nongame fish is allowed on all open waters, except the Missouri River and portions of the Yellowstone River, as specified under the district Special Regulations.

Spearing

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish and burbot (ling) may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

Spears may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations. However, anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing. **In all waters the possession limit is the same as the daily limit unless otherwise stated.**

Species	Rivers & Streams	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Grayling Salmon All trout except lake trout	10 daily and in possession	

Species	Lakes	Exceptions
Combined Trout Limit (Includes the following in any combination): Grayling Salmon All trout except lake trout	5 daily and in possession	

Species	Rivers, Lakes & Streams	Exceptions
Bass	Daily and in possession	
Burbot (ling)	5	
Catfish	10	
Crappie	20	
Lake trout	15	Possession limit is 30.
Northern pike	3	
Pallid sturgeon	10	It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon.
Sauger/Walleye	5	Possession limit is 10.
Shovelnose sturgeon	5	40 inch maximum size.
Tiger muskellunge	1	30 inch minimum size.
Whitefish	No Limit	

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Paddlefish Season Limit:

One paddlefish for Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam. Tag is required. Two paddlefish limit for Missouri River upstream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required. Not to exceed 2 paddlefish per season.

Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

Hoop Nets

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- A permit is required. Permit applications and rules are available at FWP offices in Billings, Glasgow, and Miles City.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- Live nongame bait fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads, yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used in all streams and rivers in the Eastern Fishing District except:
 - Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
 - Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
 - Streams south of Highway 2 (which originate in the Bears Paw Mountains) and Beaver Creek and Big Sandy Creek upstream from the Highway 87 Bridge.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait only in the following ponds, lakes, reservoirs and impoundments:
 - Bainville Railroad Ponds, Roosevelt County
 - Baker Lake, Fallon County
 - Box Elder Reservoir, Sheridan County
 - Buxbaum West Reservoir, Richland County
 - Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
 - Cole Ponds, Phillips County
 - Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County
 - Dry Fork Reservoir (Schwarz), Blaine County
 - Engstrom Reservoir, Sheridan County
 - Ester Reservoir, Phillips County
 - Flat Lake, McCone County

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Fort Peck Reservoir

Frenchman Reservoir, Phillips County
 Gartside Reservoir, Richland County
 Johnson Reservoir, Dawson County
 Kammerzell Reservoir, Liberty County
 Killenbeck Reservoir, Daniels County
 Kuester Reservoir, Richland County
 Lame Steer Reservoir, Wibaux County
 Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Dawson County
 Lindsay Reservoir, Dawson County
 Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
 Lyons Reservoir, Blaine County
 McChesney Reservoir, Phillips County
 Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sheridan County
 Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam
 Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
 Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
 Raymond Reservoir, Sheridan County
 Rolph Dam, Carter County
 Schlesinger Perch Pond, Rosebud County
 South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
 Spotted Eagle Pond, Custer County
 Talcott Pond, Carter County
 Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell), Toole and Liberty counties
 Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
 Valley Reservoir, Valley County
 Whiteside Reservoir, Garfield County
 Whitetail Reservoir, Daniels
 Witkowski Reservoir, Wibaux County

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on pages 64-75. A complete copy of the Montana Boating Laws may be obtained by contacting any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply (see pages 3-9).

For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless otherwise stated.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Beaver Creek (Hill County)

Upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Beaver Creek Reservoir

- No limit on northern pike.

Big Sandy Creek

Upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Clear Creek

South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Cow Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Eagle Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Fort Peck Dredge Cuts

See the Missouri River.

Ft Peck Reservoir (Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837)

- Open entire year for all species (except the pallid sturgeon) to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

Fresno Reservoir (Hill County)

- No limit on northern pike.

Giant Springs (near Great Falls)

- Closed entire year where enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.

Lake Elwell

See Tiber Reservoir.

Little Box Elder Creek

South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Marias River

- Combined Trout Limit: 5 trout, only 1 over 18 inches.
- Whitefish Limit: 35 whitefish.

Whitefish and cisco must be released immediately or killed upon capture.

I-15 Bridge to Tiber Reservoir

- Up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line.

From Highway 223 Bridge to the Missouri River

- 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Sheridan County)

- All lakes are open to 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line.

Medicine Lake

- Open November 15 through September 15.

Gaffney Lake and Lake 10

- Open August 15 through March 31.

Lake 12

- Open November 15 through March 31.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Missouri River

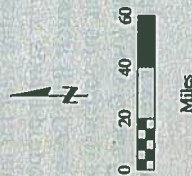
Upstream from Morony Dam

- Closed to using live fish for bait.
- Immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted
- Closed entire year.

From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of the Milk River (includes Dredge Cuts)

- Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout.
- Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted
- Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted
- Closed March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading.

Missouri River (upstream of Fort Peck Dam) (Paddlefish Regulations on page 59)



State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Missouri River (upstream of Fort Peck Dam) (Map on page 58)

- Open entire year to paddlefish harvest.
- All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase paddlefish tags along with other required licenses, and have them in their possession.
- Limit: 2 paddlefish per season.
- Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful for another angler to do so.
- Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
- Any altered or modified tag shall be void.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or part of one.
- Anglers must immediately tag paddlefish with their own tag.
- Anglers must either tag or release a paddlefish immediately when they catch it.
- If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- It is illegal to snag for nongame fish from Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border.

Missouri River (downstream from Fort Peck Dam)—Paddlefish Regulations

- Regulations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations. (See the entries for the Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam, page 61.)

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)

- Open entire year for all species to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- No limit on northern pike.

Peoples Creek

South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Powder River and its tributaries

- Open entire year to taking catfish by bow and arrow.

Ross Reservoir (Blaine County)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)

- Open February 1 through October 15.

Snake Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)

- Whitefish and cisco must be immediately released upon capture.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Tongue River Reservoir

- Open entire year for all species to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.
- Up to 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice, but the angler must be in the vicinity and within visual contact of the line(s) or rod(s) at all times.

Tongue River

12-Mile Dam Fishing Access Site (T&Y Dam)

- Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.

Wind Creek (Blaine County)

- Closed entire year from Clear Creek road crossing to Ross Reservoir Dam.

Yellowstone River

Intake Fishing Access Site

- Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line.
Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (4 miles downstream from Intake Diversion Dam)

- Open May 1 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted.
- Snagging of nongame fish is prohibited.

From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek

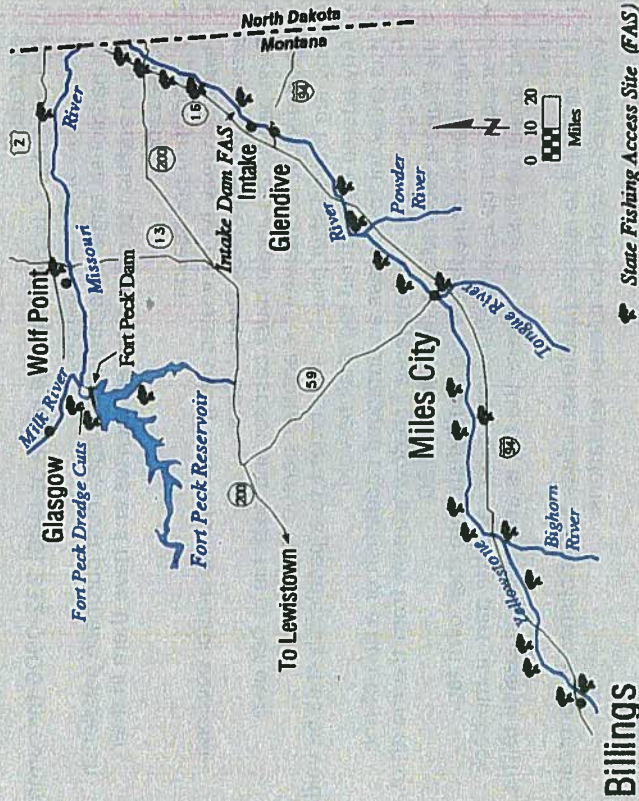
- Open May 15 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted.
- Snagging of nongame fish is prohibited.

From Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted

- Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Yellowstone River and the Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam) (Regulations on page 62)



Yellowstone River and Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam) (Map on page 61)

Paddlefish Regulations

- The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Each state has set regulations so that average annual harvest will not exceed 1500 fish. The FWP Commission may close the season within 48 hour notice in any year, if it appears that the harvest target may otherwise be significantly exceeded.
- Call the Miles City FWP regional office at (406) 232-0900 for current information on harvest status.
- All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase paddlefish tags in addition to other required licenses and have them in their possession.
- 1 paddlefish per season.
- Paddlefish may be harvested using hook and line and/or bow and arrow in the Fort Peck Dredge Cuts.
- Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own paddlefish. It is unlawful for another person to do so.
- Any tag locked shut prior to attachment to a paddlefish shall be void.
- Any altered or modified tag shall be void.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or a part of one.
- It is illegal to snag for nongame fish downstream from the mouth of the Bighorn River May 1 through June 30.
- Anglers must immediately tag paddlefish with their own tag.
- If anglers cut up a paddlefish, they must keep the part of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) where the tag is attached and sealed to the fish.
- It is unlawful to release paddlefish unless accomplished in accordance with specific catch-and-release regulations.

For the Yellowstone River only. Catch-and-Release Regulations .

- All paddlefish caught at the Intake Dam Fishing Access Site on Wednesdays and Sundays between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time) must be released.
- Anglers must show evidence of current year paddlefish tag.
- Use of gaffs is prohibited.

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BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Boat and Motor Restrictions

- The following is a partial list of rules pertaining to boating and water safety; other waters may be closed as posted.
- The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. A complete copy of the Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.
- Notice: All rafts, boats or sailboats on Montana's waters must have a wearable personal flotation device (PFD) available for each person on board. The PFD must be the appropriate size for each person, in good working order, readily available to each person and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition, boats (except canoes and kayaks) 16 feet and longer must have a throwable Type IV PFD on board.
- When the boat is less than 26 feet and in motion, all passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times.
- Sailboats 12 feet and longer and all motorboats (gas or electric) must be properly licensed and numbered with registration carried on board.
- All boats must carry equipment as required by the Montana Boating Laws.

Motorboat Operator Requirements

- Requirements for persons operating personal watercraft or a motor boat with a motor greater than 10 horsepower.

Age	Requirement
0-12	Must be accompanied by adult
13-14	Accompanied by adult or possess motorboat operator certificate*
15 & over	No requirements

- *To obtain a certificate a person must complete a boating course approved by FWP. Home-study courses are available from any FWP office.

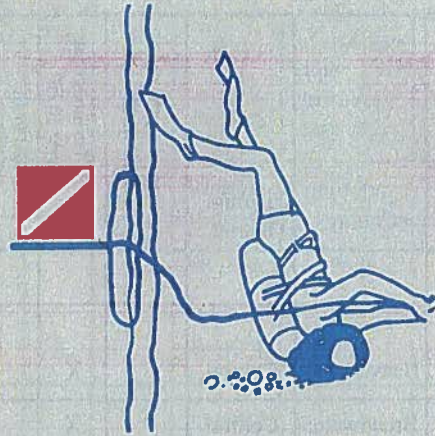
BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

Boating Closures

Section 12.6.801 (1), ARM, states: The following waters will be either closed (as posted or marked by barrel booms) to the use of all boats or other water craft, except for rescue craft or plant maintenance work:

- waters immediately above and below Canyon Ferry Dam (Lewis & Clark County);
- waters immediately above Kerr Dam (Lake County);
- a portion of Brown's Lake near Ovando (Powell County), beginning April 1 and ending July 15;
- the upper end of Hauser Reservoir from Canyon Ferry Dam to below Brown's Gulch beginning October 15 and ending December 15.

BOATERS: This flag means there are scuba divers in the area.



Montana law requires that boats stay at least 100 feet away from a **DIVER DOWN** flag.

Violators may be subject to a fine of \$500 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.

MCA 23-2-525

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
* Beaverhead	Beaverhead	Central		X			
* Broadwater	Broadwater	Central		X			Exception: Missouri River downriver from Broadwater-Gallatin county line.
* Gallatin	Gallatin	Central		X			Exception: Missouri River downriver from Headwaters State Park.
* Jefferson	Jefferson	Central		X			
* Madison	Madison	Central		X			
* Park	Park	Central		X			Exception: Yellowstone River downriver from Highway 89 Bridge, near mouth of Shields River.
* Silver Bow	Silver Bow	Western & Central		X			

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Arapoosh Pond	Big Horn	Central			X		
Beaumont Rest Area Pond	Granite	Western			X		
Beaumar Lake	Hill	Eastern			X		
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill	Eastern		X		X	
Beaver Lake (near Whitefish)	Flathead	Western				X	5 a.m. through 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. through 11 p.m. each day.
Beavertail Pond	Missoula	Western	X				
Big Hole River	Silver Bow, Madison, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead	Central			X		

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Bighorn River	Bighorn	Central			X		From Afterbay Dam to the Bighorn FAS.
Bitterroot River	Missoula	Western			X		From its headwaters to its confluence with the Clark Fork River. Exception: (1) Any motorized craft may be used from May 1 through June 30 on the Bitterroot River from the Florence Bridge in Ravalli County downstream to the Clark Fork River. (2) Motorized craft of 15 horsepower or less may operate anywhere on the Bitterroot River from October 1 through January 31.
Blackfoot River & tributaries	Lewis & Clark	Western			X		From their headwaters to Stimson Lumber Mill Dam at Bonner.
Blackfoot River	Missoula	Western				X	Downstream from the Stimson Lumber Company chainlink fence, as posted, to and including the Milltown Reservoir then upstream on the Clark Fork River to the old Milwaukee Railroad bridge pilings.
Blanchard Lake	Missoula	Western		X			On Clearwater River.
Bozeman Pond	Gallatin	Central				X	

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Brannum Pond	Custer	Western			X		
Canyon Ferry Reservoir	Broadwater	Central				X	White Earth and Goose Bay within 300 feet of dock or as buoyed; Yacht Basin, Cave Bay, Little Hellgate, Magpie Bay and Carp Bay within 300 feet of dock or as buoyed; and from Canyon Ferry Dam to Riverside boat ramp.
Carpenter Lake	Lincoln	Western		X			
Carter Ponds (Upper & Lower)	Fergus	Central				X	
Castle Rock Reservoir	Rosebud	Eastern	X				
Clark Fork River	Mineral	Western				X	From St. John's fishing access site to the mouth of Fish Creek (also known as the Aliberton Gorge Whitewater section).
Clark Fork River	Missoula	Western				X	From the north side of the Interstate Bridge nearest East Missoula to the FWP fishing access site and boat ramp located off Spurgin Road and Kelly Island, from July 1 through September 30.

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Clark Fork River and tributaries	Deer Lodge, Granite, Missoula, Powell	Western			X		From their headwaters to the Milwaukee Bridge abutments on Milltown Reservoir.
Clearwater Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Clearwater River	Missoula	Western				X	From the outlet of Seeley Lake to the first bridge downstream from Camp Paxson swim dock.
Clearwater River	Missoula	Western				X	From Boy Scout Road Bridge north of Seeley Lake to the mouth of Clearwater River at the north end of Seeley Lake.
Colt Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Cooney Reservoir	Carbon	Central				X	All of Willow Creek arm as buoyed. North Shore and Marshall Cove within 300 feet of dock, as buoyed.
Cottonwood Lake	Missoula	Western	X				

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Crystal Lake	Fergus	Central	X				
East Gallatin Pond	Gallatin	Central			X		
Elaina Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Fitzpatrick Lake	Toole	Central			X		
Flathead	Flathead	Western				X	Bigfork Bay to 100 yards west of Hwy 35 bridge, as buoyed.
Forest Lake	Meagher	Central			X		
Frenchtown Pond	Missoula	Western			X		
Fresno Reservoir	Hill	Eastern				X	The area around the Fresno boat club docks, public boat ramp area, swimming and beach area as buoyed and signed.
Ft. Peck Reservoir	McCone	Eastern				X	Rock Creek Marina as buoyed.

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Gartside Reservoir	Richland	Eastern	X				
Harpers Lake	Missoula	Western			X		
Harrison Lake (Willow Creek Reservoir)	Madison	Central				X	All of Willow Creek Arm and Norwegian Arm as buoyed 6 p.m. through 11 p.m.
Hauser Reservoir	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Lakeside marina and Black Sandy beach within 300 feet of the docks or as buoyed; Spokane Creek Bay within 500 feet from mouth of bay as buoyed and from Canyon Ferry Dam to Riverside boat ramp.
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir	Lewis & Clark	Central	X				
Henry Reservoir	Toole	Eastern			X		
Hidden Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Holland Lake	Missoula	Western				X	Holland Lake Lodge and the Bay Loop campground within 300 feet or as buoyed.
Hotter Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Bureau of Land Management boat landing as buoyed, Juniper Bay, Log Gulch, Departure Point, Menthweather Camp, and Hotter Lake Lodge docks.

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Hotter Lake (upper)	Lewis & Clark	Central				X	Gates of the Mountains marina within 300 feet of docks or as buoyed.
Hyalite Reservoir	Gallatin	Central				X	
Johnson Reservoir	Dawson	Central	X				
Lake Dinah	Missoula	Western			X		
Lake Elmo	Yellowstone	Central	X				
Lake Koocanusa	Lincoln	Western				X	Cripple Horse Bay within 300 feet of dock or as buoyed.
Missouri River	Cascade	Central			X		From the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge No. 119.4 at Broadwater Bay in Great Falls to Black Eagle. Also, the part of the river extending from the Warden Bridge on 10th Avenue South in Great Falls to the floater take-out facility near Oddfellows Park at Broadwater Bay as posted.
Morrell Lake	Missoula	Western			X		

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Spring Meadow Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central			X		
Summit Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn	Eastern				X	As buoyed in the marina area at Campers Point
Upsala Lake	Missoula	Western				X	
Whitefish River	Flathead	Western				X	From its confluence with Whitefish Lake to the bridge on the JP road.
Whitetail Reservoir	Daniels	Eastern				X	
Wood Lake	Lewis & Clark	Central			X		

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

Body of Water	County	Fishing District	Manually powered or electric motors only	Closed to motorboats over 10 HP	Closed to all motorboats	No wake speed	Description & Exceptions
Park Lake	Jefferson	Central			X		
Pelican Point	Cascade	Central			X		Fishing Access Ponds.
Placid Creek	Missoula	Western				X	From its headwaters to the confluence with Placid Lake.
Rainy Lake	Missoula	Western	X				
Salmon	Missoula	Western				X	Clearwater River from the Placid Lake Road Bridge to Salmon Lake, that portion known as Legendary Lodge Narrows near the South end of the lake, and the area south of Salmon Cove Point (Eagle's Nest) to the lake's outlet.
Savage Lake	Lincoln	Western				X	During the hours of 5 a.m. through 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. through 11 p.m. each day.
Smith River	Cascade & Meagher	Central			X		
South Sandstone Reservoir	Fallon	Eastern				X	
Spook Lake	Missoula	Western	X				

This is a partial list of rules. A complete copy of Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Highlights of 1996-1997 Fisheries Program

* Providing diverse angling opportunities is important to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). With that in mind, Montana continues to rely almost exclusively on wild, naturally reproducing trout to replenish its rivers and streams. In lakes and reservoirs where natural reproduction is not adequate, management objectives are accomplished with hatchery-reared fish.

* FWP also continues to emphasize the preservation of native fish and habitat protection with special efforts aimed at habitat that has been damaged.

* Among our many accomplishments during 1996-1997 were the following:

Fisheries Management

* FWP, in concert with a citizen's advisory group, completed a new plan to guide management of Montana's warmwater fishery (walleye, bass, catfish, etc.) over the next decade. The plan aggressively pursues improvement of warmwater fishing in Montana through stocking, regulation, habitat improvement and educational efforts.

* FWP fisheries personnel inventoried fish populations in over 400 waters in 1996-1997 to monitor health of our aquatic ecosystems and evaluate various management activities such as fish stocking, special angling regulations, and habitat improvement projects.

Research

* Montana's spirits were buoyed in 1997 by the discovery that arctic grayling and bull trout are resistant to whirling disease. Research further established that Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout are prone to infection, yet are slightly less susceptible than rainbow trout to contracting a fatal dose of whirling disease.

* During 1996, an Action Plan that addresses research, management and communications priorities was developed by the Montana Whirling Disease Task Force. This action plan subsequently attracted the federal and private funds necessary to construct a new research facility in Montana and the dollars to support the aggressive research needed to combat this threat to the state's world-renowned fisheries.

Habitat Protection/Improvement

* The Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) began in July of 1995 and provides funding for projects that restore and enhance habitats for wild fish populations in streams, rivers, and lakes. During the first four funding cycles over \$2 million program dollars have been committed to 94 projects located throughout Montana; these projects generated nearly \$4 million in matching contributions.

* Montana's two stream protection laws, the Stream Protection Act (administered by FWP) and the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (administered by county Conservation Districts), regulate activities that affect the bed or banks of Montana streams. FWP biologists or our representatives inspect nearly 2000 projects annually and recommend or require permit conditions that protect fish habitat.

* FWP has completed nine water leases on seven streams in the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Jefferson and Yellowstone river basins under a program to improve flows in dewatered streams. Voluntary agreements were made with irrigators who own early water rights, which were transferred from irrigation use to in stream use to make spawning habitat better for fish.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Species of Special Concern

* Over 29,000 fluvial Arctic grayling were stocked in the upper Ruby River this year as part of an aggressive restoration project. This culminates over a year of planning including several meetings of local landowners and sportsmen. Next year FWP will repeat this stocking effort in the Ruby River and hopefully stock the Sun River as well.

* Recovery efforts for bull trout and other native fishes occurred along several fronts during 1997. Efforts include restoration of more than 23 streams affecting 200 miles of stream channel with the assistance of local watershed groups; near completion of a bull trout restoration plan; monitoring of bull trout habitat and bull trout populations; and close coordination with private landowners and management agencies to minimize effects of different land use activities.

Fish Stocking

* In 1996, the latest year for which complete fish stocking information is available, FWP fish hatcheries produced over 7 million salmonids for stocking in lakes and reservoirs, approximately 36 million walleye, and hundreds of thousands of other warmwater fish.

* Protecting the hatchery water supplies from Whirling disease has become a high priority with the Fisheries Division. Currently, construction is underway or being planned to safeguard the water supply at Giant Springs, Big Springs and Bluewater Trout Hatcheries. Major maintenance and modifications are also underway at Miles City and Jocko River hatcheries.

Increased Opportunities

* A total of four public access points are now available to the angling public on the Ruby River below the Ruby Dam. Of the four sites, one is a long-term lease from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the other three are five-year leases from private ranchers. Development of a latrine, parking area, etc. at the DNRC site will be completed in 1998. Improvements on the three sites leased from private ranchers will be completed by 1998.

* During 1997, instructional opportunities were provided to 554 educators who will reach nearly 14,000 Montana students with the knowledge they gained in aquatic education workshops. Newly trained volunteer fishing instructors, teachers and other educators held over 200 courses and fishing clinics during the year, reaching nearly 9,000 children and adult learners.

Enforcement

* Montana wardens contacted over 46,000 anglers in 1996 to improve compliance with regulations and protect Montana's fisheries resources

* Saturation patrols aimed at illegal harvest of paddlefish were again successful during the spring of 1997. These efforts are integral to the long-term success of FWP's Paddlefish Plan.

RIVER ETIQUETTE

- Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that is less congested.
- Do not encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.
- Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river. Fish for a while, then move on.
- Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters, because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.
- When possible, avoid using the streambed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

ANGLER EDUCATION

Fishing is an important part of the Montana lifestyle, and FWP has a program designed for all ages which teaches the skills of safe, successful, and ethical fishing. Educational materials are available to individuals and schools across the state, and fishing clinics are offered to teach children and their families how to enjoy Montana's aquatic resources. To learn more about Montana's Angler Education Program, or for information on becoming an FWP Certified Fishing Instructor, call 406-444-9736.

ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION

Fish have been moved illegally into over 200 waters statewide. Illegally introduced fish can introduce disease or parasites, impact recreational fisheries or native fish populations, and reduce water quality. Illegal transplants cost you as an angler through increased costs for chemical rehabilitation projects, expanded hatchery programs, lost fishing opportunity, and limits on legal fish introductions. In many cases, the fishery can never be recovered.

Help curb this harmful practice by only using live bait fish where legal and safely disposing of unused bait fish. Educate other anglers to never move live fish between waters and report violations by calling 1-800-TIPMONT.

HELP CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

- Noxious weeds, including spotted knapweed and leafy spurge:
- infest millions of acres and limit recreational opportunities.
 - reduce habitat for fish, wildlife and livestock.
 - choke out native plant species.
 - cost millions of dollars each year in Montana.

Be a good land steward:

- learn to identify noxious weed species and prevent their spread.
- support noxious weed management efforts.

MONTANA STREAM ACCESS LAW

Under the Montana Stream Access Law, the public may use rivers and streams for recreational purposes up to the ordinary high-water marks. Although Montana law gives recreationists the right to use these rivers and streams, it does not allow them to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

Recreationists are urged to refer to the complete rules which can be obtained from any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA TRESPASS LAW

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter private land only:

- with the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or
- when the landowner has failed to post a no-trespassing notice.

The recreationist is responsible for finding out if private lands are posted. If lands are posted, the recreationist must obtain permission from the landowner before entering them. (Exception: Montana big game hunters must always obtain permission). Recreationists are urged to obtain complete rules about this law from any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY DAMS

Use Restrictions at Montana Power Company Dams

In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below all Montana Power Company (MPC) owned and operated dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark and areas of no boating, sailing, floating and swimming. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems. For specific closures, see the current Montana Boating Laws or call MPC's Hydro hotline at 1-800-247-9131 (Montana only).

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from certain Montana waters. Fish from some Montana waters contain levels of chemicals which may be harmful to young children, nursing mothers, and child-bearing women or persons frequently consuming fish.

Information, advice and additional details about fish consumption are available from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Food and Consumer Safety Section, Helena, Montana, 59620; telephone (406) 444-2408.

TAGGED FISH

If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office:

1. the tag's number and color;
2. the date the fish was caught;
3. the species of the fish;
4. the fish's length and weight (close as possible);
5. location of the catch (the body of water and distance from nearest landmark);
6. if the fish was kept or released; and
7. the name and address of the angler.

RELEASING FISH

To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

FISHING LOG PROGRAM

If you fish regularly in Montana, help us gather fishing information by keeping a fishing log. Write or call for a Fishing Log. Include your name, address and phone number with all written requests.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
MSU Campus
PO Box 173230
Bozeman, MT 59717-3230
(406) 994-6838



FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Services and Options

The demand for more information faster has led FWP to experiment with a wide selection of information services to improve service to our customers.

Beginning in 1996, services included telephone, fax, and computer on-line assistance through free and fee-based information options.

1-900 Hotline

Our new 1-900-225-5397 information hotline—a pilot project FWP designed in cooperation with a private vendor—offers comprehensive details to callers on a wide variety of recreation topics, from hunting opportunities to road conditions. The line is operational Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm MST. A \$1.50 per minute charge is assessed and callers must be at least 18 years old.

On-Line Computer Bulletin Board

Our free computer on-line information center can be accessed via computer modem through the State of Montana's Bulletin Board System. By calling 1-800-962-1729 in Montana or 1-406-444-5648 from out-of-state, customers can access the latest FWP news and leave messages with our System Operator.

Fax and Customer Service

Customers can send a fax to FWP at 406-444-4952 or call 406-444-2535 for general information. Those seeking nonresident hunting license information should call 406-444-2950.

Internet—<http://fwp.mt.gov>

Internet surfers can now catch a wave of information from FWP at "<http://fwp.mt.gov>." FWP's searchable homepage is organized in eight main areas: **Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife, Parks, News, Education, Kid's Page and Resources**. Within these areas are hunting and fishing regulations, parks information, Montana threatened and endangered species, descriptions of several of Montana's Wildlife Management Areas, rundowns on FWP's education programs—including a complete guide to educational trunks available to teachers and others. The site provides links to the Natural Resource Information System, Travel Montana, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Montana Online, important whirling disease information sites and various news and weather links. The site is arranged for users to provide comments to FWP and to seek friendly advice and share information and experiences on subject-related bulletin boards.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

THANK YOU, ANGLERS AND MOTORBOATERS!

Every time you purchase a fishing rod, reel, tackle box, lure, fishing line, an electronic fish finder, or boat gasoline, you are financially assisting many fisheries programs in Montana. This support is in addition to what FWP receives when you purchase a fishing license.

In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a bill creating the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. The legislation, supported by conservationists, anglers, tackle manufacturers, and many others throughout the nation, was modeled after the highly successful Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1939.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act created a 10 percent federal excise tax on certain fishing equipment, with proceeds to be used at the state level to improve sport fisheries. The main Congressional sponsors of the bill were Senator Dingell from Michigan and Representative Johnson from Colorado. Hence, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program came to be known as the "Dingell-Johnson" or "D-J" Act.

In 1984, Congress passed significant amendments to the bill, adding motorboat fuel, fish finders and other products to the list of taxed goods. Many of these products sport the Federal Aid logo. The 1984 amendments more than tripled the funding for state sport fisheries programs. Because the sponsors of that legislation were Senator Wallop from Wyoming and then Representative Breaux from Louisiana, this Federal Aid program has recently been referred to as "Wallop-Breaux" or "W-B."

The excise tax is included in the price of the fishing products you buy. The tax is paid by the manufacturer, but the cost is ultimately passed along to the consumer. The "user pay" concept is very important: as a condition of receiving the Federal Aid funds, states cannot use their state license dollars for any purpose other than sport fisheries management. The penalty for "diverting" license dollars to other uses is severe -- any state doing so would lose its Federal Aid funds! This is why state legislatures refrain from using the license dollars to fund other government functions.

Each year, the excise tax is collected by the U.S. Treasury, then turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They return it to the states on the basis of a formula. Forty percent of the funds received are based on the land and water area of the state. Sixty percent of the funds received are based on the number of people who have paid to purchase one or more fishing licenses. So, people who buy a fishing license contribute much more than the actual amount of license dollars they pay. FWP receives over \$16 in Federal Aid funds per paid fishing license holder, which currently amounts to over \$5 million a year. Since 1952, Montana has received nearly \$62 million in Sport Fish Restoration Funds.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

With revenue received from license sales and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, FWP funds a number of important programs and projects. Most of FWP's field biologists performing fisheries management work are funded with Sport Fish Restoration funds. Most of Montana's fish hatchery personnel, along with many of the major hatchery renovation projects, also are funded with Federal Aid. Other important projects include aquatic education, research, habitat protection, and angler survey projects.

In addition, over 100 Fishing Access Sites throughout Montana have been improved with this money, and some were originally purchased with Federal Aid. You may have noticed the Federal Aid logo on signs at these sites throughout the state.

Motorboaters also benefit from Federal Aid dollars. The Act mandates that 12.5% of the funds be used to develop and maintain motorboat use facilities. So far, over 12 of Montana's water-based State Parks received motorboat access improvements with Federal Aid funds.

So, remember, each time you purchase that rod, reel, or other piece of fishing equipment, or put gas in your boat, you are contributing toward the conservation of sport fisheries in Montana.



DEFINITIONS

ANGLING/FISHING

Angling or fishing means to capture or attempt to capture fish or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article, or substance for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.

ARTIFICIAL LURE

Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include, however, fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

ATTENDED LINE

A fishing line, which is hand-held or where the angler has immediate control.

CALENDAR DAY

A 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

DAILY LIMIT

The number of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit.

DRAINAGE

All of the waters comprising a watershed, including tributary rivers, streams, sloughs, ponds and lakes, which contribute to the water supply of the watershed.

DRESSED FISH

A fish which has been cleaned by removing the entrails. Dressed fish may also be filleted and/or have their head, gills and scales removed.

FISHING ACCESS SITE (FAS)

An area adjacent to a stream or lake which has been acquired by FWP to allow anglers access to a water body. Fishing access sites are funded in part by fishing license fees.

HOOK

A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.

HOOP NET

A net trap designed to capture fish moving within a body of water. Hoop nets are permitted for use in certain locations in the Eastern Fishing District. A permit is required for fishing with a hoop net.

DEFINITIONS

LANDING NET

A net attached to a frame and handle, which is used to capture fish which have been hooked by an angler.

LEGALLY TAKEN

Any fish caught using legal methods and not immediately released.

LEGAL RESIDENT

To be a legal resident eligible to purchase hunting, fishing or trapping licenses, you must have physically been living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days (six months) immediately before purchasing any resident license; you must file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file; you must have registered your vehicles in Montana; if you are registered to vote, you must be registered in Montana; and you may not possess or apply for any resident hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in another state or country. You must show a valid Montana Driver's License or a valid Montana Identification Card when purchasing a license. If unsure of your residency status, contact a regional FWP office.

LENGTH

Fish length is measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail fin.

MAINSTEM

In a particular drainage, the mainstem is the primary stream or river into which most tributaries flow.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

The physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The number of fish that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

RESERVOIR

An artificially impounded body of water behind a man-made dam extending upstream to the mouth of its inlet stream(s).

SALMONID

Any species of trout, char, salmon, grayling, cisco, or whitefish. All salmonid fish have an adipose fin (small, fleshy fin on the back near the tail).

SEINE

A net, usually suspended between two poles, which is pulled through the water to capture fish for bait. Seines used for this purpose must not exceed 12 feet in length and four feet in width.

DEFINITIONS

SNAGGING

A technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to embed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. You have snagged a fish if: (a) you are fishing in a manner that the fish does not voluntarily take the hook in its mouth, or (b) if you accidentally hook the fish in a part of the body other than the mouth.

SPEAR

Any sharp-pointed instrument, with or without barbs, used to capture and/or kill fish by penetrating the body. Usually a spear consists of a shaft with a sharp head or point. Spears are hand-propelled or propelled with a spring, rubber band, or compressed gas.

STREAM MOUTH

The downstream point defined as a straight line running from the most downstream extremity on one stream bank to the most downstream extremity on the other stream bank or a point defined and marked by FWP.

TRIBUTARY

Any watercourse which flows into a body of water, including tributaries to a tributary.

UNATTENDED LINE (Setline)

Any line extended into the water and supporting one or more hooks where the angler is not in immediate control of the line. Setlines may be used on those waters specified by district regulations. All setlines must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address.

WASTE OF FISH OR GAME

To purposely waste any part of a game fish suitable for food by transporting, hanging, or storing the carcass or flesh in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or to abandon or dispose in the field or water the carcass or flesh of any game fish suitable for food.

Help Protect The Pallid Sturgeon



The pallid sturgeon is a fish of special concern in Montana and it is listed as an Endangered Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pallids are a bottom-dwelling fish of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, preferring strong currents flowing over a sandy or gravelly river bottom.

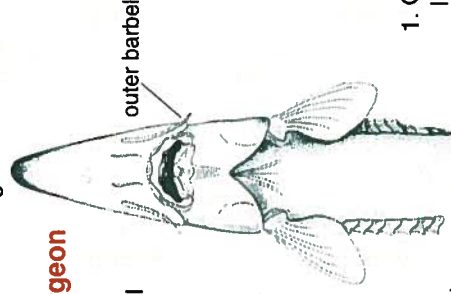
Montana law requires:

- All pallid sturgeon must be released immediately.
- All sturgeon longer than 40 inches must be released immediately.

What can you do to help conserve the pallid sturgeon?

1. Learn to distinguish the pallid from the shovelnose sturgeon, a smaller and more common species (see diagrams below). Since the sturgeon are hard to identify, we recommend that all sturgeon be released if you are unsure of the species.
2. Immediately and safely release the pallid sturgeon.
3. Contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks with any information on the location and size of pallid sturgeon.

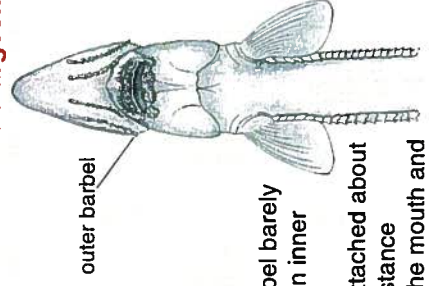
Pallid sturgeon



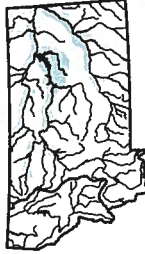
1. Outer barbel 2 or more times the length of inner barbel. (Be alert for broken barbels)

2. Barbels attached close to mouth, about 1/3 the distance between mouth and tip of snout.

Shovelnose sturgeon

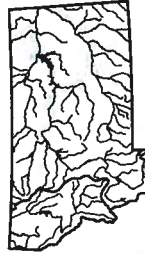
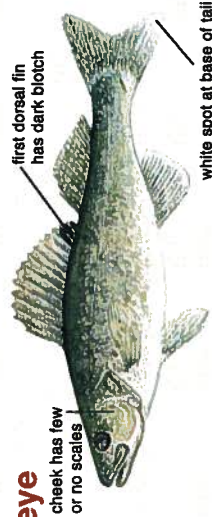


1. Outer barbel barely longer than inner barbel.
2. Barbels attached about 1/2 the distance between the mouth and tip of snout.



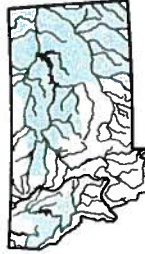
Average Size: 14" - 18"
MT Record: 16lb 6oz, 31.5"
Cooney Reservoir, 1996

Walleye



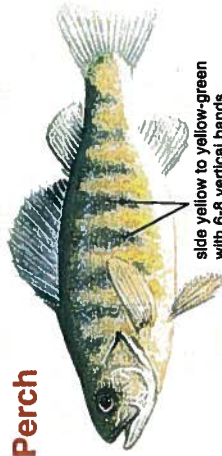
Average Size: 10" - 16"
MT Record: 8lb 13oz, 28.2"
Fort Peck Reservoir, 1994

Sauger



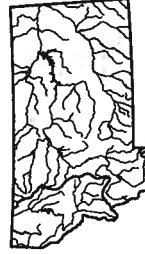
Average Size: 6" - 10"
MT Record: 2lb 6oz, 14.5"
Ashley Lake, 1988

Yellow Perch



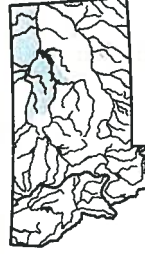
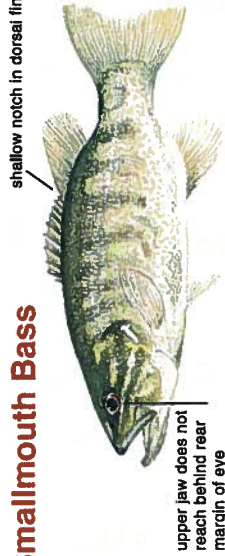
Average Size: 10" - 16"
MT Record: 8lb 2.5oz, 21.75"
Milnor Lake, 1984

Largemouth Bass



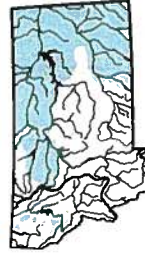
Average Size: 8" - 14"
MT Record: 6lb 2oz, 20.3"
Fort Peck Reservoir, 1996

Smallmouth Bass



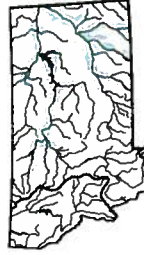
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 3lb 2oz, 16.7"
Tongue River Reservoir, 1973

Black Crappie



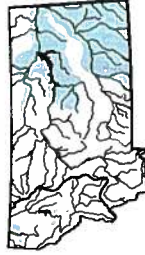
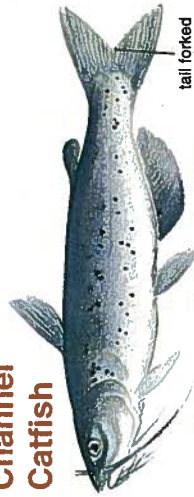
Average Size: 18" - 26"
MT Record: 37lb 8oz
Tongue River Reservoir, 1972

Northern Pike



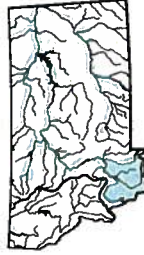
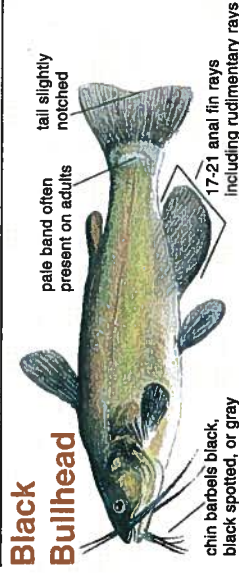
Average Size: 14" - 20"
MT Record: 25lb 14oz
Fort Peck Reservoir, 1988

Channel Catfish



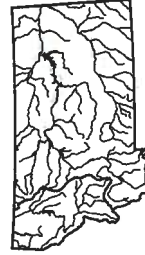
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 2lb 5oz, 15.5"
Lower Flathead River, 1994

Black Bullhead



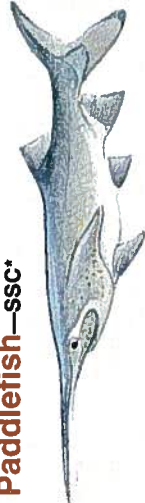
Average Size: 16" - 24"
MT Record: 17lb 1oz, 39"
Missouri River, 1989

Burbot



Average Size: 55" - 65"
MT Record: 142lb 8oz, 77"
Missouri River, 1973

Paddlefish—SSC*



Average Size: 20" - 32"
MT Record: 13lb 12oz, 39.5"
Missouri River, 1973

Shovelnose Sturgeon



This fish is easily confused with the Pallid Sturgeon
*SSC = Species of Special Concern—See definitions.