

## Background

Recreation on the Blackfoot River is managed cooperatively by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Both agencies have Special Recreation Permit (SRP) systems that require commercial, competitive, and organized group activities to be permitted on the Blackfoot River, a portion of the North Fork of the Blackfoot, and adjacent agency managed lands. In an effort to create a simpler permitting process, the BLM and FWP consolidated both permitting requirements into one system which minimized the resources needed to administer the system and provided a simpler process for those who apply.



## What are Special Recreation Permits?

Special Recreation Permits allow specific recreational uses of public lands and waters. Permits are issued as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses. There are three types of use affected by Special Recreation Permits:

- (1) Commercial Use
- (2) Competitive Events
- (3) Organized Group Activity and Event Use

When Special Recreation Permits are issued, FWP and the BLM authorize the permit holder to use public lands and/or waters for permitted purposes. This authorization represents a privilege to use public lands and/or related waters and is subject to the terms and conditions of the permit.

Recreation permits are managed in a manner which is consistent with management objectives determined in resource management plans, recreation area management plans, or in their absence, through recreation management objectives resulting from the analysis of resources and visitor use for each area.

## Who is required to obtain a permit?

A permit is required for all commercial activity, competitive events, and organized group activity. Answering the following questions will help determine whether an activity may fall into one of these categories, but you should contact FWP to determine specifically whether or not you are required to obtain a permit.

- ✓ Will a fee be charged to participants?
- ✓ Is money expected to be made or will there be a fee to cover expenses?
- ✓ Will there be a competition?
- ✓ Will the activity be advertised?
- ✓ Will a course be marked?
- ✓ Will there be 30 or more people attending?
- ✓ Will the activity occur on public land or water?

If the answer to any of the questions is yes, a SRP will most likely be required.

## What limitations are associated with a SRP?

Recreation management on the Blackfoot River breaks the river into 7 different sections called reaches. The maximum number of individuals allowed to participate in permitted activities varies by: (1) river reach, (2) time of year, and (3) type of use. A map of river reaches and maximum group size limits are listed inside this brochure.

Each permit issued is accompanied by a list of general stipulations that apply to each approved SRP. In addition to the general stipulations, specific situations may require specific terms that are established prior to the permit being issued.



## What does a SRP cost?

The annual fee for a commercial SRP is 3% of unadjusted gross revenue for business conducted within the boundaries of the Blackfoot SRP program or \$100; whichever is greater.

The fee for an organized group SRP is \$3 per person, per day.

The fee for a competitive event SRP is \$3 per person, per day or \$100 per event; whichever is greater.



## How to apply for a permit.

Applying for a Special Recreation Permit will require some or all of the following items depending on the type of permit required.

- Application Form
- Application Fee Payment
- Copy of Insurance listing the State of Montana and the US Government as additionally insured.
- Refundable security deposit

Allow at least 45 days for FWP to process permit applications. Answers to questions and permit applications are available by contacting the Blackfoot River Manager or the Blackfoot River Ranger.

Christine Oschell  
**River Recreation Manager**  
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Ph. (406) 542-5562  
e-mail  
coschell@mt.gov

Ben Schmidt  
**Blackfoot River Ranger**  
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Ph. (406) 677-4018  
e-mail  
btschmidt@mt.gov



## Blackfoot River Special Recreation Permit Program

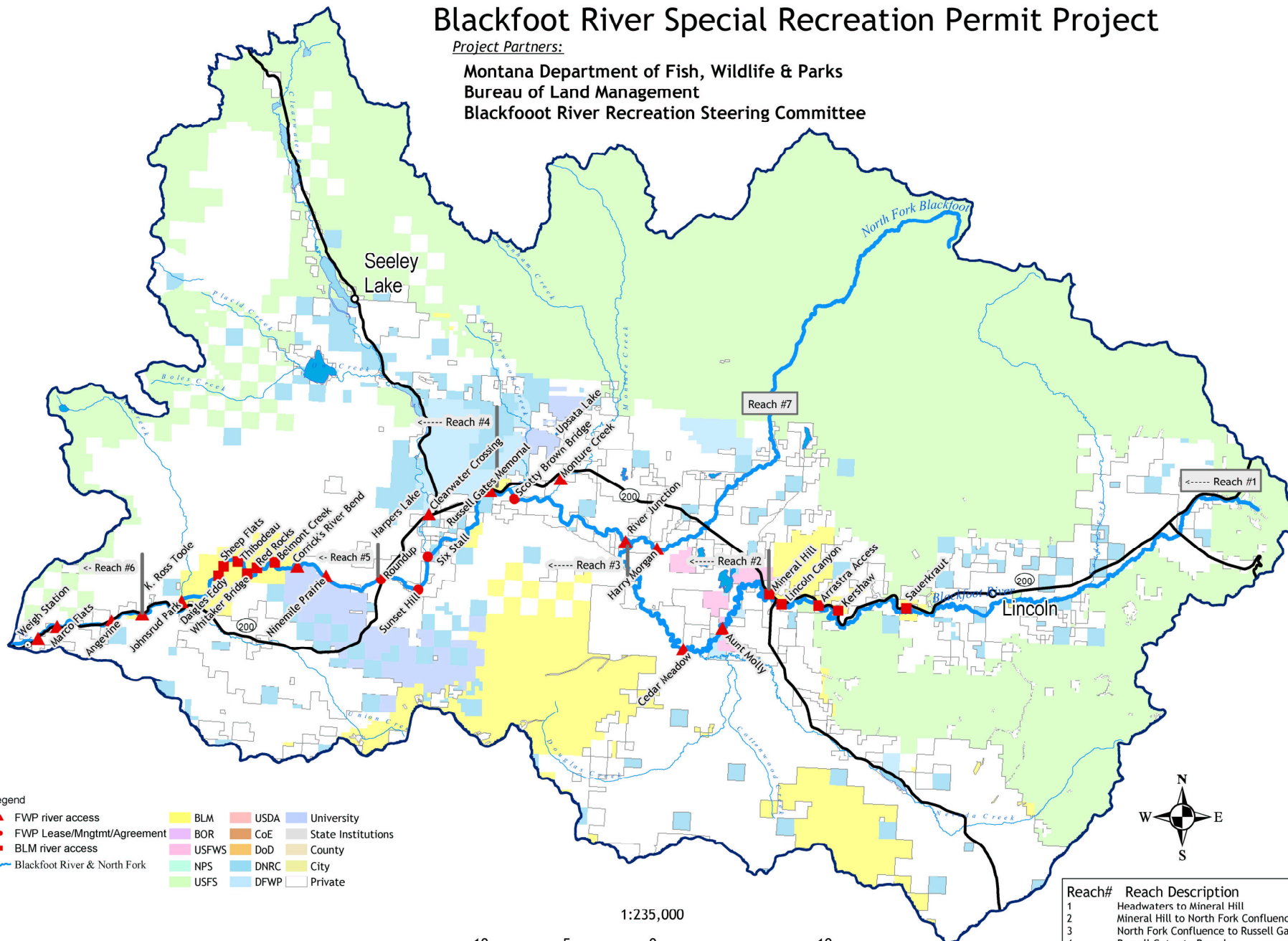
2012 Quick Reference Guide



# Blackfoot River Special Recreation Permit Project

*Project Partners:*

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Blackfoot River Recreation Steering Committee



- Legend**
- ▲ FWP river access
  - FWP Lease/Mngmt/Agreement
  - BLM river access
  - ~ Blackfoot River & North Fork
  - BLM
  - BOR
  - USFWS
  - NPS
  - USFS
  - USDA
  - CoE
  - DoD
  - DNRC
  - DFWP
  - University
  - State Institutions
  - County
  - City
  - Private

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Reach#	Reach Description
1	Headwaters to Mineral Hill
2	Mineral Hill to North Fork Confluence
3	North Fork Confluence to Russell Gates
4	Russell Gates to Roundup
5	Roundup to Johnsrud Park
6	Johnsrud Park to Bonner
7	North Fork Blackfoot River

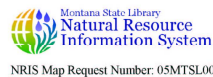
## Maximum Group Size by type and River Reach

Reach	Maximum Commercial Group Size
1	0 for floating 3 for wade fishing
2	12
3	21
4	30 (40 from May 1-June 15)
5	30 (40 from May 1-June 15)
6	Determined on a case by case basis.
7	12

Reach	Maximum Organized Group Size
1	0 for floating 3 for wade fishing
2	12
3	21
4	30 (40 from May 1-June 15)
5	30 (40 from May 1-June 15)
6	Determined on a case by case basis.
7	12

## Competitive Events

Maximum group size limits for competitive events are assessed on specific site capacities and suitability.



NRIS Map Request Number: 05MSTSL0009

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