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 who holds a valid Montana fishing license. The combined daily and possession limit for the two (or more) anglers cannot exceed the legal limit for one licenses angler. To catch his or her own legal limit, the youth must purchase a fishing license. See nonresident licenses 15-62+ years of age.
12-14	Conservation License Only	
15-61	Conservation License ($8) + Fishing License ($5 for 2 consecutive days or $18 for season, $8 for season for anglers ages 15-17 years). Resident Sportsman and Youth Sportsman (12-17 years) licenses also include a season fishing license.	Conservation License ($10) + Montana Fishing License ($15 for 2 consecutive days, $43.50 for 10 consecutive days or $60 for season). Nonresident Deer A Combo or Nonresident Big Game Combo licenses also include a season fishing license.
62+	Conservation License Only	

Special Fishing Licenses

Warm Water Game Fish Stamp
The stamp is required to fish in designated waters (see list of designated waters in each District Standard Regulations). Resident youth under 15 years of age, residents 62 years of age and older, and resident disabled anglers are exempt.

Resident and Nonresident $5.00
District Standard Regulations list the waters that require this stamp.

Paddlefish
All anglers must purchase a paddlefish tag to fish for paddlefish. To purchase a tag: Residents aged 15-61 must have a valid Conservation License and Fishing License. Resident youth 14 and younger and resident anglers over 62 must have a Conservation License.
Nonresidents of any age, including youth 14 and younger, must have a valid Conservation License and a Fishing License. Limit of one tag (one fish) per person.

Resident - $6.50 each Nonresident - $15 each

Bull Trout
Hungry Horse Reservoir, Lake Koocanusa and part of the South Fork Flathead River are open for a regulated and experimental bull trout angling season. When fishing for bull trout each angler must have in possession a valid Bull Trout Catch Card for the specific water he/she is fishing. ***Anglers may select only one of the following areas: A) Lake Koocanusa, or B) Hungry Horse Reservoir and South Fork Flathead River.*** Swan Lake is open to angling for bull trout without a special permit. All other waters are closed to intentional angling for bull trout year around.

Catch Cards are free of charge and are available at the FWP Region One office in Kalispell. Applications for a catch card are available at the FWP Region One office or online at fwp.mt.gov. Completed applications must be presented at the regional headquarters or mailed to FWP Bull Trout Permit, 490 North Meridian, Kalispell MT 59901.

Montana Resident With Disability
Resident Person With a Disability Conservation License - $8
Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at regional FWP offices. Allows the holder to fish. These licenses are not available to nonresidents.

Lifetime FIshing License for the Blind - $10
Contact the Helena FWP Licensing office for information and an application.

Veterans Administration Patients
Permits are available for patients residing at VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These free permits are available on-site at the VA hospital or State institution.

Legion of Valor
A Conservation License allows both residents and non-residents, regardless of age, to fish. Legion of Valor membership card required to qualify. Available only at FWP offices.

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.

Education Exemptions
Free fishing license exemptions are available to qualified educational events and fishing clinics. For information on these free educational exemptions, call 406-444-9736.

Purple Heart
- Residents who have been awarded a Purple Heart, regardless of age, may fish and hunt upland game birds with a conservation license issued by the Department.
- Nonresidents who have been awarded a Purple Heart, regardless of age, may fish and hunt upland game birds with a conservation license issued by the Department during expeditions arranged by a nonprofit organization that uses fishing and hunting as part of rehabilitation.
- Verification of Purple Heart and DD 214 Form required to qualify. Residents only available at FWP offices. Nonresidents only available at FWP Headquarters in Helena.

Other Permit Requirements and Laws

State School Trust Lands
Your conservation license provides anglers, hunters and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust Lands for fishing and hunting. Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the $10 state ands recreational use permit. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. Additional information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.
- On lands outside designated campgrounds there is a 2-day camping limit.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits. Contained mechanical heat sources are allowed.

Aquatic Invertebrates
Crayfish/Mussels
A valid fishing license is required to harvest crayfish for personal use (see “Licenses to Fish in Montana” for specific license requirements). Crayfish may be taken in traps no larger than 24x12x12 inches. Commercial harvest of crayfish or mussels is prohibited.

Commercial Fishing Licenses

Commercial Whitefish Fishing: A permit is required to sell whitefish.

Hook and Line Permits: Whitefish may be taken by hook and line for sale in the following waters--Flathead Lake north of the Flathead Reservation boundary, Flathead River north of Flathead Lake, Fisher River, Kootenai River, and Whitefish Lake.

Net/Seine Permits: Whitefish may be taken from the Kootenai River and tributaries (within one mile of the Kootenai River). Application required; fee is $200 plus a $1,000 bond per year.

Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional FWP office for information.

Mussels

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

Bait Fish Seining: Commercial Harvest, $10 Fee

Contact regional FWP offices for a Bait Fish Seining License and a list of waters open to commerical seining: $10 fee per year.

A bait fish seining license is required:

- For persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana;
- For any person who seines for and has in his/her possession more than 24 dozen nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially and transported in accordance with Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Section 12.7.201-12.7.206. Live bait fish or leeches may not be imported into Montana for commercial or other purposes unless authorized by FWP. Bait fish may not be exported without FWP authorization. Call 406-452-6181 or go online at fwp.mt.gov for more information.

Fishing Contests

A permit from FWP is required for most fishing contests. Contact your local FWP office for information and an application or download an application from the FWP Web site.

Hoop Net Fishing Permit

A permit is required to use hoop nets. Permits are only available in the Eastern Fishing District. Contact FWP offices in BIllings, Glasgow or Miles City for information.

Import Permits for Fish

A permit is required to import live fish into Montana. Contact the FWP Fish Health Lab in Great Falls at 406-452-6181 or download an application from the FWP Web site.

Private Fish Ponds – License Requirements, $10 Fee for 10 years

A person who owns or lawfully controls a private fish pond may obtain a license from FWP to stock the pond with fish. Only lawfully purchased fish may be planted. Contact your local FWP office for more information and an application or download the application from the FWP Web site. No fishing license is required to fish on licensed, privately stocked fish ponds. Fishing license requirements apply to all other ponds and/or waters on private land.

Koi and goldfish ponds must be registered with FWP. Registration forms are available online at fwp.mt.gov/fishing/license/ponds.html or from all FWP offices. There is no fee for registering a pond.

Unattended Fishing Devices

Any unattended fishing device (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have attached to it the angler's name and phone number or ALS#.

Penalties for Violations of the Law

Most fish and game violations are misdemeanors that are punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000 and imprisonment in for not longer than six months. The court may also order the forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and the privilege to hunt, fish and trap, or use state lands for recreational purposes for a period set by the court.

Taking an over limit of fish will result in a fine **plus** restitution to the state for each fish over the limit. Restitution for bull trout may be up to $500 per fish and for river grayling, white sturgeon, and paddlefish restitution is $300 per fish.

A person who intentionally imports, introduces, or transplants fish in violation of state law is guilty of an offense punishable by a fine of not more $5,000 and imprisonment for up to one year. The person is also liable for the amount necessary to eliminate or mitigate the effects of the violation. Upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail the person shall forfeit any current hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and the privilege to hunt, fish and trap in this state for a minimum of 24 months. If the effects of the violation cannot be eliminated or mitigated, a person may be required to forfeit the privilege to hunt, fish or trap in Montana for the rest of his/her life.

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 without FWP permission.
- 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, federal 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 at the end of this booklet).

General Information For Anglers

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/her agent, or
- when the landowner has failed to post a no-trespassing notice or mark legal accesses with 50 square inches of orange.

FWP recommends that anglers obtain permission from the landowner before entering private lands. Recreationists are urged to obtain complete rules about this law from any FWP office.

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 the law gives recreationists the right to use rivers and streams for water-related recreation, it does not give them the right to enter private lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams without landowner permission. FWP recommends that recreationists obtain landowner permission to cross private land to access a stream. Complete rules are available at any FWP office.

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.
- Boats should always yield to wade anglers, however, 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 and stream access laws.

Children's Fishing Waters

Numerous waters across the state provide excellent fishing opportunities for young anglers. A few waters have been set aside exclusively for the use of young anglers. Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are open to fishing during the entire year to persons 14 years of age and younger only with the exception of Indian Road Pond (see District Exceptions). ***One rod allowed per child.*** Children's Fishing Waters are:

Blacktail Meadows Pond, Dillon
Elks Club Pond near Lewistown
Fairground Pond, Helena
Fort Peck Kids Pond near Fort Peck
Gheny Pond near Twin Bridges
Home Run Pond, Glasgow
Indian Road Pond near Townsend
Kid's Pond in the Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area near Warm Springs
Vigilante Pond near Virginia City

Catch–And–Release Angling

Waters designated catch-and-release for one or more species of fish require that those fish be immediately released alive. Use of proper handling techniques will improve the chance of survival for any fish released. A fish that is released may still die from: deep hooking injury; internal organ damage from being squeezed; bacterial infections resulting from loss of slime in the handling process; effects of physical stress from being played too long; low dissolved oxygen in live wells; and heat shock from being held in shallow water or live wells.

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. There are release devices available from most sporting/fishing stores to assist you and, use of barbless hooks makes releasing fish easier.
- Set the hook quickly to avoid deep hooking the fish. If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Some fish will 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.

Lake/Reservoir fishing from boats:

- Fish caught from deep water may be unable to vent their air bladder and may "bloat". Puncturing the air bladder or "fizzing" is not recommended because it may cause infections. A simple release tool will facilitate releasing the fish in deep water and recompressing it quickly. All you need is a 50-foot cord, a weight and a hook. Dull the hook, flatten the barb and attach the hook inline just above the weight with knots at the hook eye and bend. The hook should be pointing down toward the weight. Place the hook over the lower jaw of the fish and let the weight drop, pulling the fish down rapidly. A tug on the cord will release the fish.

Safer Fishing Tackle
Loons, swans, cranes and other waterbirds can die from lead poisoning after swallowing lead fishing sinkers and jigs lost by anglers. Sinkers and jigs do not have to be made of lead. To help protect waterbirds from getting lead poisoning, anglers can use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel and recycled glass.

What You Can Do

- Ask your local sporting goods store to stock non-lead fishing tackle.
- Use non-lead fishing weights.
- Discard old lead sinkers and jigs properly.
- Spread the word. Tell other anglers about the problem with lead and encourage them to switch to non-lead sinkers and jigs.

Fishing Methods
Fish may be taken only by hook and line or other approved methods. Regulations for the taking of fish are listed in the standard regulations for each fishing district. A valid fishing license (or equivalent authorization) is required for all types of fishing on state waters.

Fishing From Boats/Vessels, Float Fishing and Float Outfitting
Fishing from Boats/Vessels, *Float Fishing* and *Float Outfitting* are regulated on some rivers and streams (see District Exceptions for regulated waters). These regulations apply as follows:

- When a water is closed to "**Fishing From Boats/Vessels,**" an angler may not fish while on any boat or vessel. However, an anlger may use a boat or vessel to access wade fishing opportunities. The angler must be completely out of the boat or vessel while wade fishing.
- When a water is closed to "**Float Fishing,**" an angler may not fish from a boat or vessel, and may not wade fish in the river or stream, or from the bak or shoreline of the river or stream, when fishing access is gained by boat or vessel.
- When a water is closed to "**Float outfitting,**" the operation of any boat or vessel for the commercial purpose of float fishing by a fishing outfitter or fishing guide is prohibited.

Disposal of Dead Fish and Fish Entrails
When you are in a boat on the water and fishing, it is acceptable to dispose of fish entrails in deep water in the lake, reservoir or river. When you are near or on the shore or bank, it is recommended that you bag all fish remains and dispose of the bag in an appropriate garbage receptacle. Help keep the shoreline clean for others. It is unlawful to discard game fish; however, dead non-game fish may be treated like fish entrails for disposal purposes (puncture the bladder first so the fish will sink).

Measuring Fish
To ensure compliance with slot limit regulations, place the fish on a flat surface, not over the curve of the body, and squeeze the lobes of the tail slightly. Measure the greatest length from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

Tagged Fish
It is legal to harvest a radio tagged fish, however, the radio tag must be returned to FWP. 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. whether the fish was kept or released; and
7. the name and address of the angler.

Fishing Log Program
If you fish regularly in Montana, help us gather fishing information by keeping a fishing log. Call, write or email for a Fishing Log. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Fisheries Division, PO Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620-0701; email requests to fwpfsh@mt.gov; 406-444-7815. Include your name, address and phone number with all requests.

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

Off–Highway Vehicles
An off-highway vehicle must have a current Off-Highway decal displayed in a conspicuous place to be used for off-road recreation on public lands in Montana (including frozen lakes and reservoirs). Decals are available from county treasurers. Owners of unregistered and unlicensed OHVs from other states must purchase a temporary use permit through FWP regional offices in person or by mail through the Helena FWP office. Nonresidents who operate licensed machines for more than 30 days in Montana must obtain the temporary use permit also.

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. A tribal permit is required to fish on waters within the exterior boundary of the Reservation. Call tribal headquarters at 406-675-2700 for information.
- The State of Montana and the Fort Peck Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Fort Peck Reservation. A tribal permit is required to fish on waters within the exterior boundary of the reservation. Call tribal headquarters at 406-768-5305 for information.
- A State of Montana fishing license is required to fish on the Bighorn River within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Reservation. A tribal permit is not required.

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

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.

STOP! Aquatic Hitchhikers & Illegal Introductions

Our fisheries are under attack by invasive creatures. These exotic species are not native to Montana, and cause damage by threatening the diversity and abundance of native species, and disrupting the ecological stability of our aquatic habitats.

Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species

Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce the spread and introduction of nuisance species such as Zebra Mussels, New Zealand Mudsnails, and Whirling Disease:

- **Inspect** your gear for any plants or dirt.
- Wash your gear with **clean** water.
- Thoroughly **dry** your gear.
- **Drain** all water from your boat and equipment– including coolers, buckets and live wells– before departing a fishing access site or boat dock.
- **Spread the word**: encourage others to follow these practices.
- **Always report** illegal activities. It is illegal to import and release any wildlife into or within Montana without FWP authorization.

Remember: Inspect • Clean • Dry

Illegal Introductions

FWP has documented over 500 illegal fish introductions. Introduced fish, aquatic invertebrates (insects, crayfish, etc.) and noxious weeds pose a threat to our valuable natural fish and aquatic resources. They:

- compete with native or other desired species for food and space;
- interbreed with established species or disrupt spawning;
- carry and spread diseases and parasites;
- reduce overall fishing opportunity;
- increase the need for special fishing regulations; and
- increase the cost of fish management and hatchery operations.

It is unlawful to:

- move live fish, aquatic invertebrates or plants from one body of water to another without FWP authorization;
- use parts of trout, salmon or whitefish for bait; and
- release any live aquarium fish or bait fish.

For more information on aquatic hitchhikers and illegal introductions, contact your local FWP office.

Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds are everyone's problem. Weed infestations cause increased runoff to our rivers and streams, and threaten critical habitat for trout and other fish. Please do your part to help prevent the spread of weeds.

To prevent the spread of noxious weeds:

- Learn to identify noxious weeds.
- Avoid parking, walking or driving through weed infestations.
- Wash vehicles before and after trips afield.
- Feed weed-free forage to livestock before and during backcountry trips.
- Keep clothing, equipment and pets weed-free.

Motorboat and Vessel Restrictions

The use of vessels and motors may be restricted on some waters. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office, or by calling 406-444-2535. Additional restrictions may be posted at access points to specific waters. Contact the County Sheriff's office or federal agency where you will be boating to find out if additional restrictions are in effect.

All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times when the motorboat or vessel is in motion if the motorboat or vessel is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant. Children 12 years of age or younger may not operate a motorboat or a personal watercraft (jet skiis, water bikes, etc. that use a motor or engine to power a water jet pump as the primary source of propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person standing or kneeling on the vessel) powered by a motor rated at more than 10 horsepower unless accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older. Youths 13 and 14 may not operate those vessels without possessing a valid Montana motorboat operator's safety certificate or evidence of completing an approved water safety course, unless accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older. A home-study boating course is available from FWP.

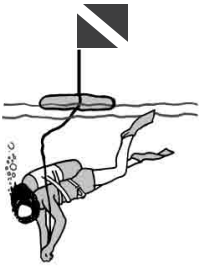
Sailboats 12 feet long and longer, and all motorboats and personal watercraft must be registered and numbered. Non-motorized sailboats less than 12 feet long and manually propelled boats, regardless of length, are exempt from registration and taxation. Also exempt are a vessel's lifeboat, government-owned boats, and properly registered boats from out-of-state or country that will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days.

No-Wake Zones on Lakes – Western Fishing District Only
All watercraft operating on public lakes and reservoirs of 35 surface acres or less within the Western Fishing District are limited to no-wake speed. The Montana Boating Laws booklet contains a complete list of these lakes. Contact your local FWP office for a copy.

All watercraft operating on public lakes and reservoirs greater than 35 surface acres within the Western Fishing District are limited to no-wake speed from the shoreline to 200 feet from the shoreline. No-wake speed is defined as a speed whereby there is no "white" water in the track or path of the vessel or in created waves immediate to the vessel.

General Boating Restrictions

- Do not anchor a vessel in a position that obstructs a passageway ordinarily used by others.
- Do not operate a vessel within:
  - 20 feet of a designated swimming area marked by white and orange buoys.
  - 50 feet of a swimmer in the water except for boats towing water skiers.
  - 75 feet of an angler or a waterfowl hunter unless it is unavoidable. If unavoidable, travel at no wake speed or at the minimum speed necessary to maintain upstream progress.
  - 200 feet of a diver's flag.
- Motorboats and vessels 16 feet and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also have a throwable type IV PFD on board.
- It is unlawful to operate or be in actual physical control of a motorboat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- All motorboats and vessels must carry equipment as required by the Montana Boating Laws.



Boaters: This flag means there are scuba divers in the area.
Montana law requires that motorboats stay at least 200 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.

Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines

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 that may be especially harmful to young children, nursing mothers, and childbearing women or persons frequently consuming fish. Information, advice and additional details about fish consumption is available from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Food and Consumer Safety Section, Helena, Montana, 59620; telephone 406-444-5306 or on the internet at dphhs.mt.gov/fish2005.pdf. This information is also available in a brochure titled "Montana Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines" which can be obtained at any FWP office or license provider, or on the FWP Web site.

Waters with a fish consumption advisory and an exception to the standard fishing regulations are identified with a fish icon to help you in identifying places to pay special attention to when harvesting fish.

General Guidelines to Reduce Your Health Risk

- **Keep smaller fish for eating.** They taste better and have had less time to accumulate contaminants than older, bigger fish.
- **Eat smaller meals when you eat big fish and eat them less often.**
- **Eat fish that are less likely to be contaminated.** Contaminants such as mercury and PCBs build up in large predatory fish such as walleye and lake trout. Their prey, such as yellow perch and rainbow trout, have less contaminants.
- **Clean and cook your fish properly.** Trim fish to remove fatty portions. Cook fish in a way that drains juices away from the meat.

Future Fisheries Program

Beginning in 1995, the Montana legislature passed the Future Fisheries Improvement Program, which increased the dollars allocated to fish habitat restoration and expanded the program to include habitat improvements in lakes or reservoirs. The program has worked to restore rivers, streams and lakes to improve Montana's wild fish habitats. About $750,000 are available each year for projects that revitalize wild fish populations. Future Fisheries applications are considered every year in January and July. An independent review panel recommends projects for funding to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Projects include:

- Riparian fencing and off-stream water development to improve habitat along streams;
- Re-vegetation of stream banks to stabilize banks and provide cool water;
- Installation of screening devices on irrigation diversions to prevent the loss of fish into ditches;
- Removal of barriers or installation of fish ladders around barriers to facilitate upstream movement of spawning fishes;
- Construction of barriers to prevent non-native trout from competing with or hybridizing with pure native cutthroat populations;
- Reconstruction of stream channels that have been modified from their natural form;
- Water conservation measures that result in more water left in-stream; and
- Installation of habitat structures in lakes/reservoirs that provide cover or enhance spawning.