

# **Marias River Wildlife Management Area Regulations and General Information**

**This area is open to public use from April 1 through January 15**

## **General Recreation:**

- Respect adjacent private property – do not trespass.
- Non-motorized access only beyond designated parking areas.
- Camping permitted in designated parking areas – no open fires.
- No littering – pack it in – pack it out.
- Properly dispose of human waste (cat hole method or packing out).
- Please practice “Leave No Trace” principles.
- Certified weed seed-free hay and forage required.
- Pets must be on a leash in designated camping/parking areas, elsewhere pets must be on leash or under control.
- Discharge of weapons for lawful hunting only during established hunting seasons.
- Disturbing or removing botanical, geological or cultural resources prohibited.
- Discharge of fireworks prohibited.
- Permit required for authorized commercial use, and groups over 10 persons.
- Disorderly conduct prohibited.

## **Hunting:**

- **For deer hunting access during the archery season and general hunting season:**
  - A deer hunting access permit is required for all lands within the Marias River WMA including DNRC and BLM lands.
  - Ten archery hunters per 2-week period (3 hunt periods) will be drawn.
  - Ten general season hunters per 7-day period (3 hunt periods) will be allowed.
  - Hunters may apply for only one hunt period.
  - Any duplicate submission of names will be removed from the drawing.
  - Hunt periods are not transferable.
  - Electronic applications will be accepted (via [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)) June 1 - June 30.
  - Hunters will include their full name, address, phone number, email address, ALS number and desired hunt period on the application.
  - Incomplete applications will be removed from the drawing
  - Successful applicants will be contacted with hunt information via email.
- Antelope (as specified in antelope HD 404 regulations), upland bird and waterfowl hunting allowed.
- Furbearer trapping will be prohibited (includes coyotes, badgers, foxes).
- For hunting access information contact MT FWP at 406-454-5840 (Great Falls) or 406-271-7033 (Conrad).
- Report violations to 1-800-TIP-MONT.

## **River Floating:**

**Put-In Access:** Public put-in access is available at the Sullivan Bridge via Sullivan Bridge Road, located approximately 13 miles north of Valier, on undeveloped BLM property.

**Take-Out Access:** The public take-out is located at Williamson Park, 1.2 miles downstream from the I-15 Bridge.

**What to Expect:** The Marias River is a Class I river, suitable for beginners its entire length during normal river flows. The upper Marias River is slow moving and typically becomes too low to float beginning mid to late July. Canoes and kayaks are the recommended watercraft. Rafts can also be used but often result in slow progress and long days on the water.

**River Flows:** Very little information on minimum, optimum, and maximum river flows is available for reliable and safe floating for the upper Marias River. Optimum flows below Tiber Reservoir have been estimated to be between 700 and 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs), with flows below 500 cfs estimated to be too low to float. FWP will be gathering additional information relating to optimum flows during the next few years. River flow for the upper Marias River is available on-line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?06099500>.

### **River Mileages:**

Sullivan Bridge to WMA boundary:	9 miles
WMA western boundary to eastern boundary:	13 miles
WMA eastern boundary to take-out at Marias Valley Rd. Bridge (I-15):	9 miles
<b>Total Mileage - Sullivan Bridge to Williamson Park:</b>	<b>31 miles</b>

**Contact Fish, Wildlife and Parks: 406-454-5840 or 406-271-7033 or [fwprg42@mt.gov](mailto:fwprg42@mt.gov)**