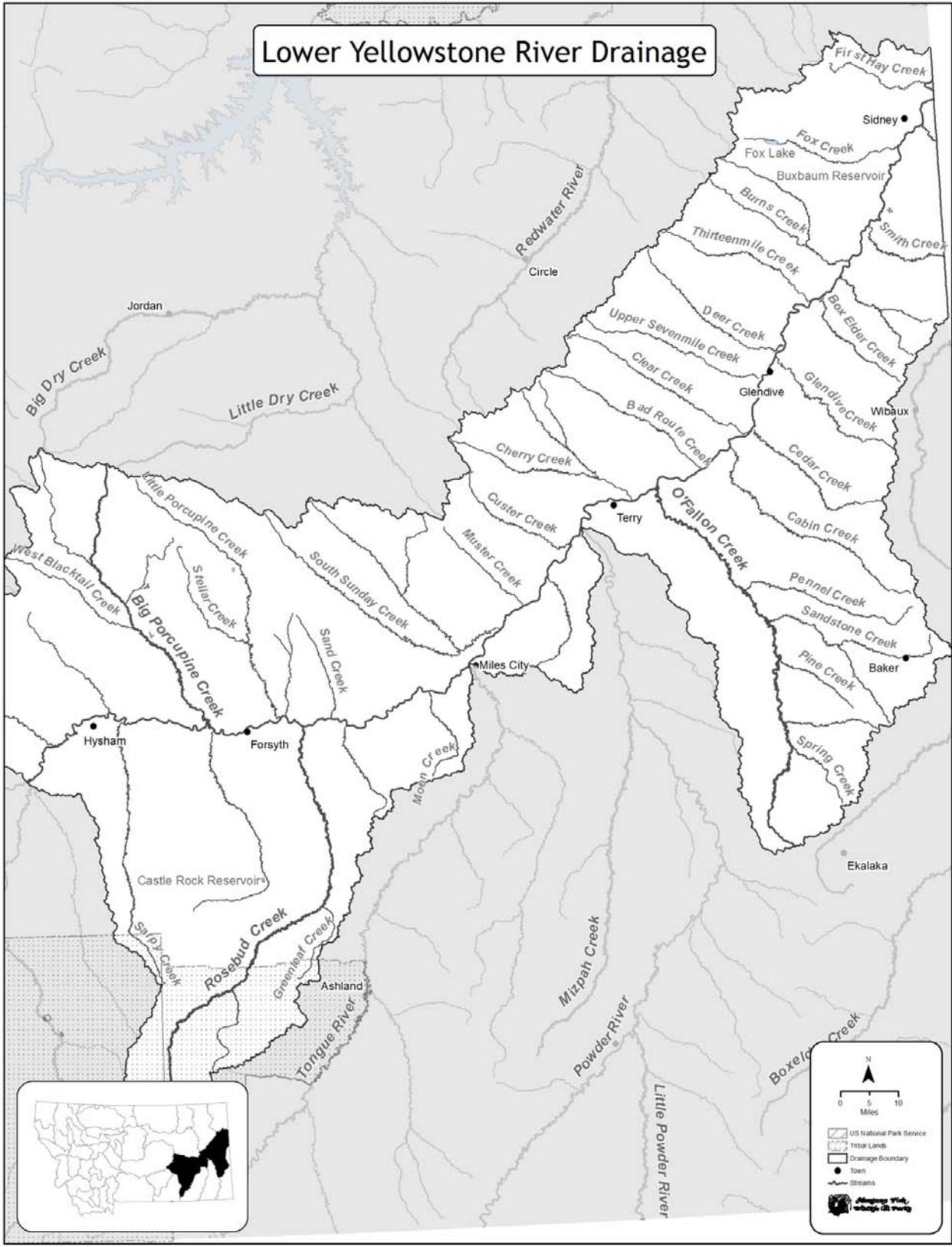


Lower Yellowstone River Drainage



LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Lower Yellowstone River Drainage includes the Yellowstone River, seven perennial streams (Burns, Rosebud, O'Fallon, Cedar, Cabin, Fox, and Thirteen Mile creeks) and numerous intermittent and ephemeral warmwater prairie streams. No natural fisheries lakes are located within the drainage; however, nine public reservoirs (Castle Rock, Baker, Hollecker, South Sandstone, Gartside, Johnson's, Rattlesnake, Homestead, and Spotted Eagle) and numerous smaller public and private reservoirs and stock ponds are managed for fisheries. The drainage includes all or portions of Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson, and Richland counties.

The Yellowstone River is the largest water body within the drainage. The headwater of the Yellowstone River is above Yellowstone Lake in northwest Wyoming. The Yellowstone River flows north into Montana and continues northeast through central and eastern Montana and crosses into North Dakota approximately fifteen miles prior to its confluence with the Missouri River. The Yellowstone River portion of the drainage consists of 293 river miles between the Bighorn River confluence and North Dakota state line. About 90% of all uses of Yellowstone River water in the drainage is for irrigation; roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water is used annually. Irrigation pumps, gravity-feed canals without dams, and gravity-feed canals with mainstem low-head irrigation diversion dams (Ranchers, Yellowstone River, Cartersville and Intake) are used to withdraw water for irrigation.

The Lower Yellowstone River Drainage is located in a rural setting that includes multiple small communities (Hysham, Forsyth, Colstrip, Rosebud, Miles City, Terry, Fallon, Glendive, Savage, Crane, Lambert and Sidney). The landscape is dominated by plains grassland complex, but includes a large area of shrub grassland and a smaller area of plains forest. Land ownership includes state and federal lands but is dominated by private property. Agriculture, primarily ranching and secondarily dry land and irrigated farming, dominate the land use. Industrial activities include coal mining at Colstrip and natural gas and oil drilling in Richland and Dawson counties.

FISH MANAGEMENT

The relatively natural hydrograph and intact habitat of the lower Yellowstone River and its tributaries support a rich fish assemblage composed of many warmwater and coolwater species, and a few coldwater species. Native fish species include: sauger, shovelnose sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, channel catfish, burbot, paddlefish, freshwater drum, goldeye, shortnose gar, smallmouth buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, blue sucker, river carpsucker, shorthead redhorse sucker, white sucker, longnose sucker, mountain sucker, longnose dace, northern redbelly dace, creek chub, lake chub, sturgeon chub, brook stickleback, brassy minnow, fathead minnow, plains minnow, flathead chub, western silvery minnow, sand shiner, emerald shiner, golden shiner, and stonecat. Common carp, plains killifish, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, and green sunfish are introduced species that can be found in parts or all of the drainage. Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, white crappie, black crappie, northern pike, yellow perch, bluegill, and

pumpkinseed have been stocked or illegally introduced and are found in reservoirs, stock ponds; some species are also established in the Yellowstone River and tributaries. Brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, and mountain whitefish inhabit reaches of the Yellowstone River near and upstream of the Bighorn River confluence. Brook trout are also found in four small tributaries of the lower Yellowstone River. All four tributaries are influenced by coldwater releases from large groundwater springs.

A primary fisheries management objective for the lower Yellowstone River is monitoring and maintaining the wild and self-sustaining populations of native species. This objective includes maintaining recreational harvest, on a limited basis, for native game species. Another primary objective is monitoring, maintaining and improving the overall ecosystem health of the river. This objective includes monitoring stream bank projects to ensure habitat protection and allowing for natural stream form and function for efficient transport of both water and sediment. A secondary management objective is to maintain a recreational fishery for introduced fish species with an emphasis on harvest.

The lower Yellowstone supports a wild sauger population. Monitoring and sustaining this population for native species preservation and recreational angling is a primary management concern for FWP fisheries staff in Region 7. Annual spring tagging of spawning sauger and subsequent recapture information from department sampling efforts and angler tag returns provides data used to estimate angler harvest and document fish movement. In the Yellowstone River above Cartersville diversion dam there is a reduced limit on sauger because trend data suggest lower relative abundance of sauger upstream of this structure.

The lower Yellowstone River is one of the few places left in North America where anglers can catch and harvest a paddlefish. With technical guidance provided by the University of Idaho, Montana FWP and North Dakota Game and Fish manage the paddlefish population in the lower Yellowstone River cooperatively. Paddlefish management is guided by the 10-year "Management Plan for North Dakota and Montana Paddlefish Stocks and Fisheries." Fish from this population spend most of their lives in the headwaters of Lake Sakakawea. In May and June during elevated Yellowstone River discharge, paddlefish seasonally migrate up the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers to spawn. During paddlefish season, anglers can fish for paddlefish from the Bighorn River confluence to the North Dakota state line, but most angling occurs at and downstream of Intake FAS. The paddlefish season has a specific set of regulations and management activities designed to ensure that this long-lived, late to mature species can continue to provide sport fishing opportunity in Montana. FWP attempts to maximize angler opportunity while ensuring sustainability with a split season, with harvest-only days and catch-and-release-only days. Data collected from tagging efforts during catch-and-release fishing allows estimation of the population size each year. Data collected from harvested fish allows evaluation of population structure. Together this information allows FWP to monitor the overall size of the population and condition of the individuals within the population through time. A statewide paddlefish telephone creel is conducted annually to obtain a harvest estimate that is compared to the field-measured harvest.

Research activities are conducted to understand and aid recovery of pallid sturgeon, a federally endangered species and state Species of Concern. Recent research includes monitoring adult pallid sturgeon migration pathways and reproduction within the Yellowstone River. The lack of successful natural recruitment prompted the stocking of juvenile hatchery-reared pallid sturgeon

into the Yellowstone River as far upstream as Cartersville diversion dam. These fish are reared by state and federal hatcheries including the Miles City State Fish Hatchery. Annual monitoring of juvenile pallid sturgeon occurs in late summer/early fall to assess the survival rate of hatchery-stocked pallid sturgeon into the Yellowstone River. No angling is allowed for pallid sturgeon because of its endangered species status.

Trend electrofishing is conducted annually on five reaches of the lower Yellowstone River to assess and monitor relative abundance, population structure, and relative condition of all fish species. Trend sections are six miles long and are located at Hysham, Forsyth, Miles City, Fallon, and Intake. Each site is sampled once in the months of August, September, and October. Data collected during this period is the baseline information for monitoring relative abundance and condition of sport fish and native species in the lower Yellowstone River. In the Yellowstone River and tributaries, the primary objective for all fish species is to monitor and sustain a wild fishery. Fish stocking will not occur in a river system unless natural spawning and recruitment are failing or habitat is deemed to be irreparable.

The Lower Yellowstone River Drainage also has many private and public reservoirs and stock ponds that are managed as fisheries in the Regional Pond Fishing Program. The program is used as a public relations opportunity with landowners and provides a fishing opportunity for the surrounding community. If the landowner agrees to allow free public access to the pond, FWP will stock and manage the fishery. Anglers are required to obtain landowner permission every time they access the fishery. Fish populations are established or supplemented when needed through stocking from a state hatchery or by wild fish transfers from another fishery. A variety of fish species are available for stocking from a state operated hatchery including: walleye, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel catfish and northern pike. The statewide wild fish transfer policy also allows transferring fish between waters. Northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, white crappie, and bluegill are often available for transfer. Transfers are usually done to re-establish or augment ponds affected by winterkill or to provide forage. Reservoirs and stock ponds are sampled by FWP at least every three years to evaluate the status of the fisheries and ensure a catchable stock of fish is present. A Regional Pond Fishing Guide is generated annually that summarizes the pond program, locations of ponds, and fish species available. The guide is available to the public at the regional office.

Overall fishing pressure is low to moderate in the drainage, but increasing on the Yellowstone River due to increasing numbers of anglers owning riverboats and increased public access. Stock ponds and prairie streams in the drainage have high to low angling pressure. Spotted Eagle Pond in Miles City, Hollecker Lake in Glendive, Baker Lake in Baker, South Sandstone Lake near Baker, Castle Rock Lake in Colstrip, and Gartside Reservoir near Sidney all experience high fishing pressure because of proximity to population centers. Many of the public reservoirs and private ponds in the district get moderate to low angling pressure.

HABITAT

The Yellowstone River, touted as the longest undammed river in the lower 48 states, has a relatively intact and natural hydrograph. Hydrograph fluctuations often consist of short-duration elevated flows in early spring from local snow melt and rain events, but longer, sustained, elevated flows in spring/early summer from mountain snow melt. Historically, two major tributaries that are now dammed (Bighorn and Tongue rivers) provided a significant influence on

the hydrographs and sediment regime of the lower Yellowstone River. Construction of Tongue River Reservoir (on the Tongue River) and Yellowtail Dam (on the Bighorn River) permanently altered the hydrograph and sediment contribution to the lower Yellowstone River.

These anthropogenic habitat alterations are noteworthy because many native species in the lower Yellowstone River evolved and relied upon increased turbidity as a spawning cue. The increased turbidity and fine-grained streambed material may be critical to the life history of native fish species in the lower Yellowstone River. The resulting reduced turbidity creates favorable conditions for introduced species such as smallmouth bass. Prior to construction of Tongue River Reservoir and Yellowtail Dam, the Tongue River and Bighorn River had sediment regimes similar to the Powder River. Sauger, channel catfish, paddlefish (during high flow years that accommodate passage at Intake) and shovelnose sturgeon are four native game fishes that have been documented to aggregate in the high-turbidity waters downstream of the Powder/Yellowstone River confluence. It is probable that similar fish aggregations historically occurred in the Yellowstone River downstream of the confluences with the Tongue and Bighorn Rivers prior to dam construction.

Four low-head diversion dams on the lower Yellowstone River (Ranchers, Yellowstone, Cartersville and Intake) create anthropogenic barriers to upstream fish migrations. The impact on migration is different at each dam. Cartersville and Intake dams are the most significant fish barriers. Native fishes exhibit extensive seasonal migrations that are critical to their life history and to maintaining populations throughout the lower Yellowstone River. Working with irrigation districts to facilitate fish passage at barriers is critical for habitat improvement and is a primary goal for the regional fisheries management program. Designs are currently underway to improve/create fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam.

Entrainment of fishes into unscreened canals is a concern in the drainage. Installation of screens on unscreened structures will prevent or reduce the entrainment of fishes into canals and other irrigation structures. In 2011, a new head gate with screens was completed at Intake canal. A screening structure has also been purchased and will be installed at the Buffalo Rapids Shirley pump site. Both projects have/will reduce the annual entrainment of thousands of fish into these canals.

The lower Yellowstone River riparian corridor provides critical wildlife habitat. It varies from sparse ribbons of trees to robust cottonwood galleries. Much of the floodplain is developed for irrigated agriculture. Other developments include the construction of railroads, as well as numerous roads to accommodate vehicle travel (county roads, state highways and a federal interstate highway). All of these developments have impacted the ability of the Yellowstone River to migrate laterally and interact with its historic floodplain. The use of rock or concrete rip rap to protect city infrastructure, roads, bridges, homes, and farmland/ranchland has restricted the natural function of the Yellowstone River and prairie streams in this drainage. These impacts may extend to the quality of fish habitat in the river. The installation of culverts, fords and dams has similar impacts on the function of the river, tributaries, and prairie streams and even greater impacts on upstream fish migrations.

The Lower Yellowstone River Drainage has some of the deepest ponds and reservoirs in the region, but many private and public ponds in the drainage are limited by water depth. Ponds with a maximum depth of 10-11 feet are generally marginal for overwintering fish during winters with

sustained snow accumulations. The severity and prevalence of winterkills may be reduced by installing windmill aerators. Some landowners and the BLM have installed aerators at their expense in attempt to reduce winterkill occurrences. FWP has refrained from installing aerators because of the time and expenses required to service and maintain the structures.

FISHING ACCESS

In 2012 there are 18 FASs that provide access to the Lower Yellowstone River. There are several private or undeveloped public access points as well. The Yellowstone River upstream of Ranchers diversion dam can be accessed by Manuel Lisa FAS on the Bighorn River. Myers Bridge FAS provides access to the Yellowstone River between Ranchers diversion and Yellowstone diversion. Rosebud West FAS provides access to the Yellowstone River from Yellowstone diversion to Cartersville diversion. Rosebud East FAS, Far West FAS, Roche Jaune FAS, Kinsey Bridge FAS, Bonfield FAS, Powder River Depot FAS, Calypso Bridge (BLM), Fallon Bridge FAS, Black Bridge FAS, Walleyes Unlimited Boat Ramp (Glendive), and Stipek FAS provide access to the Yellowstone River between Cartersville and Intake diversion dams. Intake FAS, Elk Island FAS, Seven Sisters FAS, Sidney Bridge FAS, and Richland Park (Richland County) provide access to the Yellowstone River downstream of Intake diversion dam. There are also a few sites available at county bridge crossings and some landowner agreements that provide limited access. Amelia Island and Stipek FAS's are scheduled to have boat ramps installed. Other high priority areas include securing access in the reaches between the Bighorn Confluence and Forsyth, between Rosebud and Miles City, at the bridge in Terry, and between Fallon and Intake.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Resource management in the Lower Yellowstone River Drainage requires involvement with many agencies, entities, and user groups. River issues may include involvement with Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, BLM, FWS, BOR, Army Corp of Engineers, Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad, Yellowstone River Conservation District Council, local conservation districts, and adjacent landowners. Land use, energy development, and water allocation are special management issues that affect multiple stakeholders in the drainage.

Securing appropriate in-stream flow rights is a special management concern for the lower Yellowstone River. Over-allocation of water in the Yellowstone River drainage is poised to be a major threat to fisheries resources in the next drought cycle. The cumulative effect of irrigation withdrawal and withdrawal for oil and gas hydraulic fracturing is of particular concern. Balancing diverse land and aquatic resource uses while maintaining critical habitat for fish and wildlife is also a special management concern. Maintaining current fish passage and recovering lost fish passage due to anthropogenic influences is a special management concern, especially as irrigation districts begin to update infrastructure. Structures such as Yellowstone diversion dam and Ranchers diversion dam do not currently appear to be significant fish passage barriers, but they have the potential to become major barriers if updated without consideration to fish passage.

Paddlefish management on the lower Yellowstone River includes an annual Memorandum of Understanding and permit for a commercial caviar operation conducted by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce. During the paddlefish season the Chamber has a paddlefish processing facility at the Intake FAS. In exchange for having paddlefish cleaned, anglers donate their

paddlefish eggs to the caviar operation. The 1993 Legislature authorized paddlefish caviar sales by the Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce and funds generated from the caviar sales must be used for a grant program. Funds are available to non-profit entities through grant applications for projects that meet a historical, cultural, or recreational need. The project must show public benefit and funding is not allowed for projects that are for private benefit. Emphasis is on small non-profit groups in Eastern Montana.

Coal development began in the mid 1970's and continues to be a large industrial activity in the Colstrip area. In 2011, the State of Montana also sold its Otter Creek mineral rights to an out-of-state company. The impact of continued coal operations at Colstrip and development of new mines will be a management concern for many years in the drainage. Oil and natural gas extraction from the Bakken and other shale zones is another industrial activity that will have unknown impacts to the drainage. The majority of drilling is focused in the Sidney and Baker areas. Infrastructure for the oilfield, especially pipeline construction, is a secondary product of oil development that will continue to have impacts on the resources of the LYRD. Immigration of people associated with oil development has increased, and will heighten the demand on natural resources and local infrastructure, especially housing. Management of the local FAS and Wildlife Management Areas have become more challenging due to the influx of people, and changes are being considered to limit the use of these sites.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Yellowstone River - Confluence of Bighorn River to Cartersville Dam	59 miles	Sauger	Wild	Conservation/ Special Regulations	Manage sauger population for limited consumptive harvest by reduced harvest limits.
		Channel catfish	Wild	General	Manage as a recreational fishery. Standardize catfish sampling methods for comparison across eastern Montana.
		Smallmouth bass	Wild	General	Recreational fishery with an emphasis on harvest. Monitor to evaluate the impacts of smallmouth bass on native fish populations in the Yellowstone River.
		Walleye	Wild	General	Recreational fishery with emphasis on harvest. Monitor to evaluate source of walleye in Yellowstone River to direct management decisions for sauger conservation.
		Multi species	Wild	General/ Conservation	Manage for recreational fishing opportunity where applicable. Monitor non-game fish species for native fish assemblage and overall ecosystem health.
Habitat needs and activities: Increase fish passage and reduce fish entrainment into canals at Ranchers, Yellowstone, and Cartersville diversion dams and other irrigation intakes. Maintain/restore river ecosystem health and function by minimizing or removing stream bank stabilization projects thereby decreasing channel confinement.					
Yellowstone River – Cartersville Dam to Powder River confluence	88 miles	Sauger	Wild	Conservation	Manage sauger populations for limited consumptive harvest. Monitor threat of hybridization with walleye and direct management decisions that maximize angler opportunity while protecting genetic integrity of the sauger population. Protect critical spawning habitat from Miles City to Glendive.
Continued on next page		Paddlefish	Wild	Special Regulations	Monitor paddlefish usage of this section of river in water years that paddlefish successfully migrate upstream of Intake Dam (on average occurs 2 out of every 10 years).

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
		Channel catfish	Wild	General	Manage as a recreational fishery. Standardize catfish sampling methods for comparison across eastern Montana.
		Smallmouth bass	Wild	General	Recreational fishery with an emphasis on harvest. Monitor to evaluate the impacts of smallmouth bass on native fish populations in the Yellowstone River.
		Walleye	Wild	General	Recreational fishery with an emphasis on harvest. Monitor to evaluate source of walleye in Yellowstone River to direct management decisions for sauger conservation.
		Shovelnose sturgeon	Wild	General/ Conservation	Manage as a recreational fishery with some harvest opportunity. Monitor health of this long lived native species.
		Pallid sturgeon	Wild	Conservation	Endangered species, harvest prohibited. Conduct research to assist decision making for recovery of species. Increase genetic diversity through stocking following pallid sturgeon recovery plan. Establish fish passage at intake diversion dam and monitor subsequent upstream passage and habitat usage.
		Blue Sucker	Wild	Conservation	Monitor population and investigate life history and movements throughout Yellowstone River.
		Multi species	Wild	Conservation/ General	Manage for recreational fishing opportunity where applicable. Monitor non-game fish species for native fish assemblage and overall ecosystem health.
<p>Habitat needs and activities: Increase fish passage at Cartersville and Intake Diversion Dams and reduce fish entrainment into irrigation intakes. Maintain/restore river ecosystem health and function by minimizing or removing stream bank stabilization projects thereby decreasing channel confinement. Protect critical sauger spawning habitat from Miles City to Glendive. Increase fish passage at intake diversion dam and reduce fish entrainment into irrigation intakes. Maintain/restore river ecosystem health and function by minimizing or removing stream bank stabilization projects thereby decreasing channel confinement. Protect critical sauger spawning habitat from Miles City to Glendive.</p>					
Yellowstone River – Confluence of Powder River to	134 miles	Paddlefish	Wild	Special Regulations	Intensively monitor population to closely harvest with a harvest target reflective of population trends. Management shared and coordinated through a Montana/North Dakota Management Plan. Annual Memorandum of Understanding between FWP and

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
North Dakota State line Continued on next page		Pallid sturgeon	Wild/ Hatchery	Conservation	Glendive Chamber of Commerce for processing of paddlefish and sale of paddlefish roe for funding of a nonprofit community grant program. Increase fish passage at Intake diversion dam to provide additional upstream spawning habitat.
	Sauger	Wild	Conservation	Endangered species, harvest prohibited. Conduct research to assist decision making for recovery of species. Increase genetic diversity through stocking following pallid sturgeon recovery plan. Establish fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam and monitor subsequent upstream passage and habitat usage.	
	Channel catfish	Wild	General	Manage sauger populations for limited consumptive harvest. Monitor threat of hybridization with walleye and direct management decisions that maximize angler opportunity while protecting genetic integrity of the sauger population.	
	Shovelnose sturgeon	Wild	General/ Conservation	Manage as a recreational fishery. Standardize catfish sampling methods for comparison across eastern Montana.	
	Walleye, Northern pike	Wild	General	Manage as a recreational fishery with some harvest opportunity. Monitor health of this long lived native species.	
	Blue sucker	Wild	Conservation	Recreational fishery with emphasis on harvest. Monitor to evaluate source of walleye in Yellowstone River to direct management decisions for sauger conservation.	
	Multi species	Wild	Conservation/ General	Monitor population and investigate life history and movements throughout Yellowstone River. Manage for recreational fishing opportunity where applicable. Monitor non-game fish species for native fish assemblage and overall ecosystem health.	

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Habitat needs and activities: Increase fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam and reduce fish entrainment into irrigation intakes. Maintain/restore river ecosystem health and function by minimizing or removing stream bank stabilization projects thereby decreasing channel confinement. Establish fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam and monitor subsequent upstream passage and habitat usage.					
Perennial Streams: Burns Rosebud O'Fallon Cedar Cabin Fox Thirteen Mile Intermittent Streams: Armells Big Porcupine Reservation Sarpy Sunday North Sunday South Sunday Cherry Sandstone Glendive Sweeney Ephemeral Streams: 48 with documented fish populations	49 miles 208 miles 157 miles 60 miles 98 miles 42 miles 50 miles 27 miles 107 miles 27 miles 103 miles 15 miles 68 miles 87 miles 63 miles 72 miles 53 miles 33 miles	Multi species	Wild	Conservation/ General	Maintain fishery through habitat protection and restoration. Maintain or increase connectivity. Opportunistic monitor to further understand system and population dynamics.
Habitat needs and activities: Improve fish passage at current restrictions (culverts, fords, dams) and ensure future structures provide for adequate creek flow and fish passage.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Castle Rock Lake	153 acres	Largemouth bass, Walleye	Wild/Hatchery	General/ Put-Grow-Take	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Northern pike	Wild/Hatchery	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Bluegill, Crappie	Transfer	General	Provide additional panfish angling and prey base for bass, pike, and walleye. Maintain fisheries through wild fish transfers.
Habitat needs and activities: Maintain current conditions.					
South Sandstone Reservoir	114 acres	Largemouth bass, Walleye	Wild/Hatchery	General/ Put-Grow-Take	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Northern pike	Wild/Hatchery	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Yellow perch, Crappie	Transfer	General	Provide additional panfish angling and prey base for bass, pike, and walleye. Maintain fisheries through wild fish transfers.
Habitat needs and activities: Evaluate and modify overflow structure at dam to reduce escapement of adult fish into South Sandstone Creek.					
Baker Lake	96 acres	Largemouth bass	Wild/Hatchery	General/ Put-Grow-Take	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Northern pike	Wild/Hatchery	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Yellow perch, Crappie	Transfer	General	Provide additional panfish angling and prey base for bass and pike. Maintain fisheries through wild transfers.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) is a common limitation that leads to frequent winterkills; limitation offset by frequent sampling and stocking or wild fish transfers.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Spotted Eagle Pond	36 acres	All Species	Wild/ Hatchery/ Transfer	Special regulations	High angler pressure and limited natural fish production mandates a reduced harvest: 5 fish daily and in possession, any combination of species.
		Largemouth bass, Walleye, Northern pike	Wild/ Hatchery	Put-Grow-Take	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Channel catfish	Wild/ Transfer	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through wild fish transfers if necessary.
		Yellow perch, Crappie, Bluegill	Transfer	General	Provide additional panfish angling and prey base for bass, pike, and walleye. Maintain fisheries thorough wild fish transfers.
Habitat needs and activities: Poor natural fish production, growth, and recruitment because of competition with nontarget species (migrating from Tongue River), little habitat complexity, and aquatic vegetations is limited. Offset with frequent wild fish transfers and habitat projects aimed at increasing water quality and reducing nontarget fish abundance.					
Gartside Reservoir	35 acres	Tiger muskie	Hatchery	Quality	Monitor population and supplement stock if justified to control forage base. Consider restricting harvest to 1 fish over 40 inches.
		Largemouth bass, Northern pike	Wild/ Hatchery	General/ Put-Grow-Take	Maintain fishery through regulations and stocking if necessary.
		Bluegill, Yellow perch, Crappie	Transfer	General	Provide additional panfish angling and prey base for bass, pike, and walleye. Maintain fisheries through wild fish transfers.
Habitat needs and activities:					
Johnson Reservoir	21 acres	Yellow perch	Wild/ Transfer	General	Manage as a recreational fishery. Supplement population through wild fish transfers if necessary. Utilize population for transfer to other ponds.
Habitat needs and activities: Utilize yellow perch population as donor source for wild fish transfers to other ponds/reservoirs. Explore opportunities to control forage base.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Rattlesnake Reservoir	12 acres	Crappie	Wild/Transfer	General	Provide panfish angling opportunity, supplement population through wild fish transfers when necessary.
Habitat needs and activities: Limited water depth and severity of winter creates an annual problem of partial or total winter kill; limitation offset by aerator installation and frequent sampling and wild fish transfers.					
Homestead Reservoir	12 acres	Yellow perch	Wild/Transfer	General	Manage as a recreational fishery. Supplement population through wild fish transfers if necessary.
		Northern pike	Wild/Hatchery	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) that occasionally leads to winterkill; limitation offset by windmill aerator, frequent sampling and stocking or wild fish transfers.					
Marshall Reservoir, Silvertip Reservoir	11 acres 10 acres	Largemouth bass	Wild/Hatchery	General/ Put-Grow-Take	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) is a limitation that leads to winterkill; limitation offset by windmill aerator, frequent sampling and stocking or wild fish transfers.					
Hollecker Pond	7 acres	Largemouth bass	Wild/Hatchery	Special regulations	Manage as a recreational fishery, supplement population through stocking if necessary.
		Bluegill	Wild/Transfer	General	Provide additional angling opportunity and control forage base, supplement population through wild fish transfer if necessary.
		Trout	Hatchery	Put-Take	Annual stocking of catchable sized trout for kids fishing day and general angler enjoyment.
Habitat needs and activities: Frequent establishment of undesirable species via irrigation water supply or from illegal introductions. Management of undesirable species may require pond rehabilitation by mechanical draining.					
Maier Pond	6 acres	Yellow perch	Wild/Transfer	General	Provide panfish angling opportunity; maintain fisheries through wild fish transfers when necessary.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) is a limitation that leads to winterkill; limitation offset by windmill aerator, frequent sampling and stocking or wild fish transfers.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Origin	Management Type	Management Direction
Public Trout ponds: Clarks, Oil Pump, Harms, South Fork Fort Keogh	34 acres 7 acres 5 acres 19 acres 3 acres	Trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-Take	Annual stocking of trout for angler opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) is a limitation that leads to winterkill; limitation offset by annual stocking.					
Small Private Ponds/Reservoirs	Various	Trout	Hatchery	Put-Grow-Take	Public relations opportunity with landowners to provide local fishing opportunity for rural community. Maintain fishery through regulations and annual stocking.
		Bass, Walleye, Northern pike	Wild/ Hatchery	General	Public relations opportunity with landowners to provide local fishing opportunity for rural community. Maintain fishery through regulations and annual stocking when necessary.
		Crappie, Yellow perch, Bluegill	Wild/ Transfer	General	Public relations opportunity with landowners to provide local fishing opportunity for rural community. Provide panfish angling opportunity, supplement population through wild fish transfers when necessary.
Habitat needs and activities: Water depth (less than 12 feet deep) is a limitation that leads to winterkill; limitation offset by windmill aerator, frequent sampling and stocking or wild fish transfers.					

