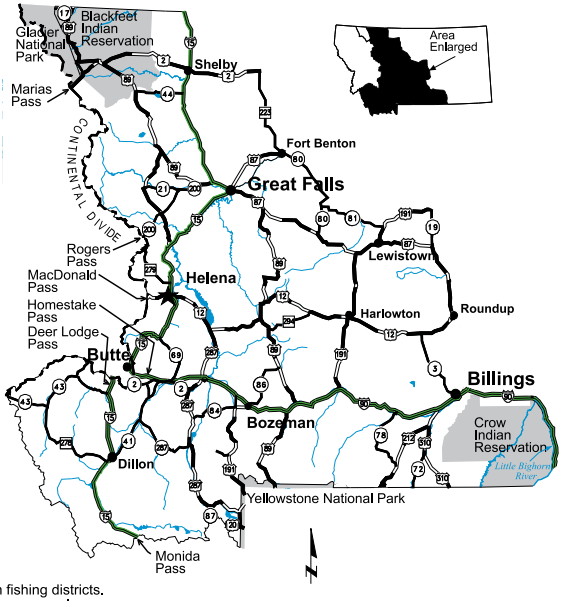
Central Fishing District



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-Canada border south to its junction with Hwy 2 at Shelby, then east on Hwy 2 to Chester, then south on Hwy 223 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. Hwy 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Hwy 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 87 at Grassrange, then south on U.S. Hwy 87 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 12 at Roundup, then west on U.S. Hwy 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.

Note: Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries in this fishing district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:

Billings.....406-247-2940
Bozeman.....406-994-4042
Butte Area Office.....406-494-1953
Great Falls.....406-454-5840
Helena Area Office.....406-495-3260
Lewistown Area Office.....406-538-4658
FWP Headquarters.....406-444-2449
Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay).....7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091

Central District Standard Regulations

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

Boat and Motor Restrictions: A complete, updated, copy of Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or FWP license providers. All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times when the boat is in motion if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

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.

Dam Closures and Use Restrictions: In the interest of public health and safety, certain areas above and below most dams are closed to the public. These restrictions include areas where no public access is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark. The restricted areas are identified and delineated by signs and/or boat restraining systems.

The following dams are closed to all boating, sailing, floating, swimming, fishing or other recreational activity as marked by boat restraining systems or as posted to restrict access. Other dams not listed here may also be posted for restricted access. For more information call the FWP Fishing Access Coordinator at 406-444-7885, or contact the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) 406-247-7298 or DNRC 406-444-2074 or Northwestern Energy (NWE) 888-467-2669.

Black Eagle Dam (NWE, Cascade County)
Canyon Ferry Dam (BOR, Lewis & Clark County)
Clark Canyon Dam (BOR, Beaverhead County)
Cochrane Dam (NWE, Cascade County)
Hauser Dam (NWE, Lewis & Clark County)
Hebgen Dam (NWE, Gallatin County)
Holter Dam (NWE Lewis & Clark County)
Madison Dam (NWE, Madison County)
Morony Dam (NWE, Chouteau County)
Rainbow Dam (NWE, Cascade County)
Ruby Dam (DNRC, Madison County)
Ryan Dam (NWE, Cascade County)
Tiber Dam (BOR, Liberty County
Yellowtail Dam (BOR, Bighorn County)
Yellowtail Afterbay Dam (BOR, Bighorn County)

Irrigation Canals and Ditches: Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in exceptions to standard regulations. The same daily and possession limits apply to them as for rivers/streams. Please refer to "Irrigation Canals and Ditches" on page 24 for more details.

Reservoirs: Under normal operations, reservoir pool elevation, surface acreage and the mouths of the inlet stream(s) are expected to vary throughout the year. An imaginary line connecting the reservoir shoreline across the mouth of the stream marks the boundary between reservoir and stream/river, and the boundary will move as reservoir levels change. Streams are defined by a sloped streambed that results in a defined current flow between two discernible stream banks. Stream regulations apply upstream from the mouth on the reservoir and often are managed under seasons, limits and special regulations that differ from the reservoir regulations.

Transporting Live Fish: An import permit is required to bring live fish of any kind into Montana. It is unlawful to possess or transport any live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken without authorization from FWP with the following exceptions:

1) transportation of fish for authorized commercial purposes (eg. Baitfish Seining Permit, Commercial Fish Ponds, Commercial Fishing, etc.);
2) use as live bait subject to restrictions imposed by the F&W Commission for the taking, transport and use of live baitfish (see "Bait Regulations" below); or
3) it is unlawful to possess or transport live fish, other than authorized baitfish, on roadways that form the boundary between the Eastern and Central fishing districts.

 Report unlawful fish introductions! Make the call: 1-800 TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668)

Methods of Taking Fish

- A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.
- Spears and bows are counted as lines for purposes of determining line limits.
- When multiple lines are allowed on a body of water, the maximum number of lines allowed shall not exceed the greater of either the attended lines or the setlines. For example, if an angler wants to spear for Northern Pike on Lake Frances in the winter (where the limit is 2 attended lines all year or 6 setlines through the ice), he/she may have a maximum of only 5 setlines in use if he/she is using one spear, for a total of 6 lines.
- All unattended fishing devices (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler's name and phone number or name, date-of-birth and ALS# attached.

Hook and Line Limits

Open Water

Rivers and Streams

- 1 line with 2 hooks per line, with or without a rod. The rod or line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.

Lakes and Reservoirs

- 2 lines with 2 hooks per line. All lines must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.

Ice Fishing

Lakes and Reservoirs

- 2 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice on lakes, reservoirs, or ponds open to fishing. When a line is used through the ice, the angler need not be in immediate control, but must be in the vicinity and in visual contact with the line.

Size of Hole

- In waters not open to spearing, the maximum size hole that may be used for ice fishing is 144 square inches or 12 inches in diameter.
- There is no size limit for a hole used for fishing with a spear.

Shelters: It is unlawful to use any ice fishing shelter not conforming to the following rules:

Definition/use: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material, except ice or snow, for the purpose of ice fishing.

Identification: Identification must be painted on or otherwise affixed to all unattended shelters in legible, 2-inch letters plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. Identification must include the owner's name and address, name and phone number, or 9/10-digit ALS number. Attended shelters at Clark Canyon Reservoir, Deadman's Basin, Hauser Reservoir, Lake Francis and Lake Helena must also be identified.

Inspection: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.

Waste and Rubbish Disposal: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.

Daily Removal: Daily removal of shelters is required on Fitzpatrick Lake, Deadmans Basin and Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir.

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, or within five days from receipt of notification from FWP to remove the shelter.

Setlines

- Setlines may be used only on waters specified in District Exceptions.
- Setlines must be checked by the fisherman at least once every 24 hours.
- The angler's name and phone number or name and 9/10-digit ALS# must be attached to each setline.
- Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Bow and Arrow: Waters open to angling are open to taking non-game fish with bow and arrow unless otherwise noted in the exceptions to the standard regulations.

Crossbows: Unlawful.

Nets and Traps: Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish. See Bait Regulations below for use of nets to harvest bait fish.

Snagging: Snagging of fish is allowed only on waters specified in District Exceptions.

Spearing: In all waters open to fishing, non-game fish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. Game fish species may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged but only from designated waters.

Spearing may be used through the ice for designated species in designated waters.

Bait Regulations

- Game fish, including Yellow Perch, may not be used as bait (live or dead) except as authorized below under Dead Bait.
- Possession of live non-game fish is prohibited on waters closed to using live fish as bait.
- It is unlawful to release live bait of any kind into Montana waters; do not empty any live bait containers at your fishing site.
- Where live fish may be used as bait (see list below under Live Bait), legal non-game fish may be taken for use as bait in the following manner:
  - with hook and line; or
  - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or
  - with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches); or
  - with cast nets (maximum 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet).
- Legal non-game fish, except Sculpins (genus Cottus) which must be killed prior to transport, may only be transported live to or from:
  - waters where live non-game fish may be used as bait in the Central Fishing District, or
  - anywhere within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.
- On waters within the Central Fishing District that do not allow the use of live bait and are not restricted to artificial flies and lures, Sculpins (genus Cottus) may be collected and used as dead bait. Collection screens or nets may not exceed four (4) feet in length on any side. Sculpins must be killed immediately upon collection and may not be used as live bait. [Note: Sculpins (genus Cottus) may not be used for bait in the Western Fishing District.]
- See Commercial Fishing License (page 6) requirements for information on commercial harvest permits.
- All unattended fishing devices (crayfish traps, minnow traps, fish traps, setlines, etc.) must have the angler's name and phone number or name and ALS# attached.
- Areas within the Central Fishing District that have been identified as contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil have additional bait restrictions as described on the next page.

Dead Bait

- Non-game fish that are freshly killed or have been preserved by freezing, salting or pickling may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial lures only. Heads and entrails of non-game fish may also be used as bait.
- Whole game fish may not be used as bait.
- Parts/pieces of Bass, Burbot (Ling), Channel Catfish, Crappie, Northern Pike, Paddlefish, Sauger, Shovelnose Sturgeon, Tiger Muskie , Walleye, or Yellow Perch may be used as bait if edible portions are not wasted.
- The eggs of Char, Cisco, Arctic Grayling, Salmon or Trout may be used as bait. Parts/pieces of Salmonids may not be used as bait.

Live Bait

- Live bait fish may not be imported into Montana, except by permit for use in Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.
- Bait fish collected in the Bighorn River drainage of Wyoming may be imported under a permit issued by FWP for use only in Bighorn Lake. For a permit, contact the FWP Fisheries Division at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105 or call (406) 247-2940.
- Live animals such as meal worms, red worms, night crawlers, leeches, maggots, crayfish, reptiles, amphibians and insects may be used as bait on all waters not restricted to artificial lures only.
- Leeches may only be imported into Montana from FWP-approved leech dealers. Anglers who import leeches must have in their possession a bill-of-sale (a receipt) from the approved out-of-state leech dealer when fishing with leeches in Montana. A list of approved out-of-state leech dealers may be obtained from FWP by calling 406-452-6181.
- Fish species that may be collected and used as live bait in the Central Fishing District include only the following: Fathead Minnow, Flathead Chub, Western Silvery Minnow, Plains Minnow, Emerald Shiner, Longnose Dace, Lake Chub, Creek Chub, Longnose Sucker, and White Sucker. These approved bait species may be used as live fish 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 and tributaries, except the Rock Creek drainage—downstream from the bridge at Bridger
  - Marias River and tributaries downstream from I-15
  - Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
  - Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
  - Teton River and tributaries downstream from I-15
  - Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell), Toole and Liberty counties
  - Yellowstone River and all streams and ditches in the drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except the section of the Bighorn River between the cable 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam and the Bighorn FAS).

Bait restrictions in Eurasian watermilfoil contaminated areas

Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that has become established in some Montana waters. This plant is easily spread from one body of water to another primarily by people transporting plant fragments. Anglers shall inspect all bait buckets, live wells, anchors and gear to ensure that NO PLANT FRAGMENTS are present when leaving a body of water. It takes only a small fragment of Eurasian watermilfoil to start a new plant and infest a body of water.

Areas within the Central Fishing District that have been identified as contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil are:

- Jefferson River
- Lower Madison River north of I-90
- Missouri River from the confluence of the three forks to the headwaters of Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Toston Reservoir

Additional bait restrictions within the contaminated areas are:

- The collection of bait animals, including commercial seining is not permitted.
- Transport of live aquatic bait animals to and from these contaminated areas is allowed only in clean water (e.g. transport minnows and leeches in well water).

General Regulations

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. It is unlawful to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence) unless those fish can be counted. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or storage/freezer lockers do not qualify as permanent residences. No person may sell or take for the purpose of sale any fish except as authorized in commercial fishing regulations.

Daily limit means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specify a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch-and-release is allowed, fish immediately released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily 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. You may possess the daily limit allowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water, or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- All fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed (see Disposal of Dead Fish and Fish Entrails on page 10).

Once off the water or ice, fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (Trout, Salmon, Arctic Grayling, Char and Whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.

General Fishing Seasons and Hours

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Fishing Season: Lakes and Reservoirs

Open entire year unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Fishing Season: Rivers and Streams

Open entire year unless otherwise specified in District Exceptions to Standard Regulations.

Central District Standard Daily and Possession Limits

See map on page 51 to make sure you are in the Central District. Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless otherwise noted in the Central District Exceptions. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.

Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess the limit of fish allowed only for the water on which they are currently fishing.

Species		Daily and Possession Limits
TROUT	**Brook Trout**	20 daily and in possession.
	Combined trout includes Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Golden Trout, Cutthroat Trout and Arctic Grayling	**Lakes/Reservoirs:** 5 daily and 10 in possession, includes Cutthroat Trout. **Rivers/Streams:** 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches, only 1 can be a Cutthroat Trout. All Arctic Grayling must be released immediately.
	Lake Trout	3 daily and in possession.
Bass		5 daily and in possession.
Burbot (Ling)		5 daily and in possession.
Channel Catfish		10 daily and 20 in possession.
Northern Pike		10 daily and in possession.
Pallid Sturgeon		None - this is an endangered species and all fish must be released immediately. All waters are closed to fishing for Pallid Sturgeon.
Salmon (Kokanee & Chinook)		10 daily and in possession.
Sauger/Walleye		5 daily and 10 in possession.
Shovelnose Sturgeon		5 daily and in possession, none over 40 inches.
Tiger Muskie		1 daily and in possession, must be over 40 inches.
Whitefish		20 daily and 40 in possession.

2019 GENERAL FISHING SEASON		
	Rivers and Streams	Lakes and Reservoirs
Central District	Open all year unless otherwise specified in Exceptions to Standard Regulations.	Open all year
If you don't find the water you are looking for listed in the district exceptions, use the standard regulations for the district you are fishing in.		

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Central District Exceptions To Standard Regulations

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish in the Central District. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Exceptions, all of the Central District standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and standard regulations apply. Standard regulations apply for species not listed in the Exceptions.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS LAKES

- Combined trout: 10 daily and in possession.

ANTELOPE BUTTE LAKE aka Ostle Reservoir (Teton County)

- Open May 15 at 12:00 noon through November 30.

ARMSTRONG SPRING CREEK

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).

AROD LAKES aka Eyraud Lakes

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Spearing: open for Northern Pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

AXOLOTL LAKES

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.

BADGER CREEK DRAINAGE (near Heart Butte)

Downstream from confluence of North Badger and South Badger creeks within National Forest

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches.

BEAVER CREEK (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

Mouth to US Highway 12

- Open June 15 through September 30.

BEAVER CREEK (tributary to Missouri River below Hauser Dam)

- Open June 15 through September 30.

BEAVERHEAD RIVER

Entire river

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 may be a Rainbow Trout.

Clark Canyon Dam to Pipe Organ Bridge

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

High Bridge FAS to Henneberry FAS

- Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Saturday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Henneberry FAS to Pipe Organ Bridge

- Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Sunday from the third Sunday in May through Labor Day.

Highway 91 South Bridge (Tash Bridge) to Selway Bridge

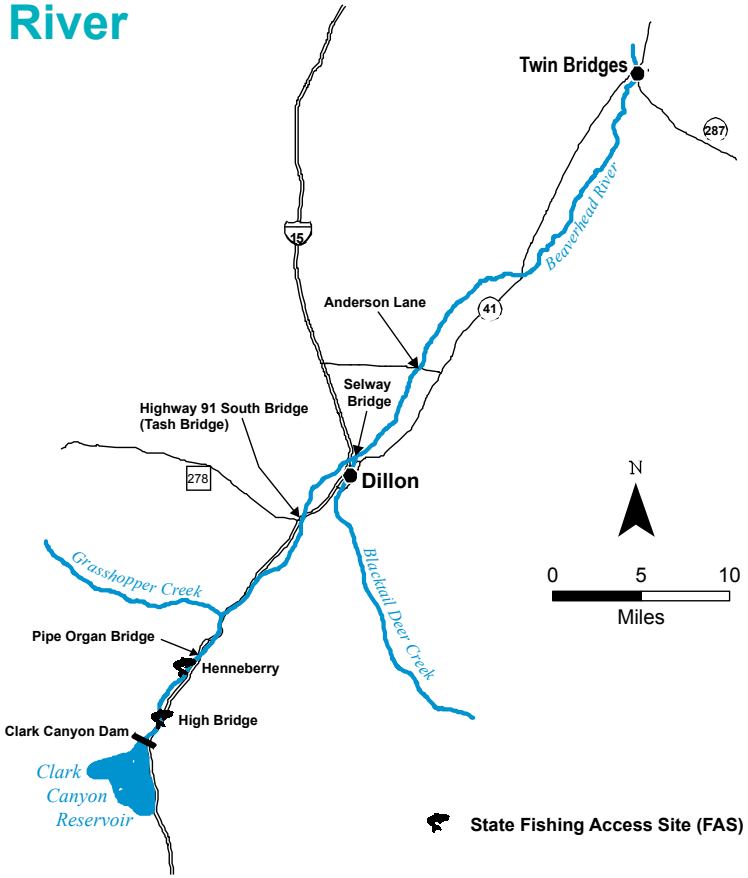
- Closed to float outfitting from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

BIG COULEE CREEK (tributary to Highwood Creek, near Great Falls)

- Closed entire year.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Beaverhead River



AIS Status: New Zealand mudsnail

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

BIG HOLE RIVER

Fishing Regulations

Entire River

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.

Headwaters to Dickie Bridge

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, no size restriction.

Dickie Bridge to Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS)

- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).
- Extended season for Whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with artificial lures (see definition on page 20) and/or maggots.

Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS) to the mouth

- Extended season for Whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with artificial lures (see definition on page 20) and/or maggots.

Recreation Rules

Entire River

- All float users are limited to a total of 2 launches at or near each official access site each day. See Big Hole River map for official access sites

Headwaters to Mudd Creek FAS

- Closed to float outfitting from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Mudd Creek FAS to Fishtrap FAS

- Closed to float outfitting on each Tuesday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Fishtrap FAS to East Bank BLM FAS

- Closed to float outfitting on each Thursday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

East Bank BLM FAS to Jerry Creek FAS

- Closed to float outfitting on each Wednesday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Jerry Creek BLM FAS to Divide FAS

- Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Saturday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Divide Bridge to Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS)

- Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Sunday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS) to Glen FAS (bridges)

- Closed to float outfitting on each Monday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Glen FAS (bridges) to Notch Bottom FAS

- Closed to float outfitting on each Friday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

BIG SHEEP CREEK (Beaverhead River drainage)

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

BIG SPRING CREEK (near Lewistown)

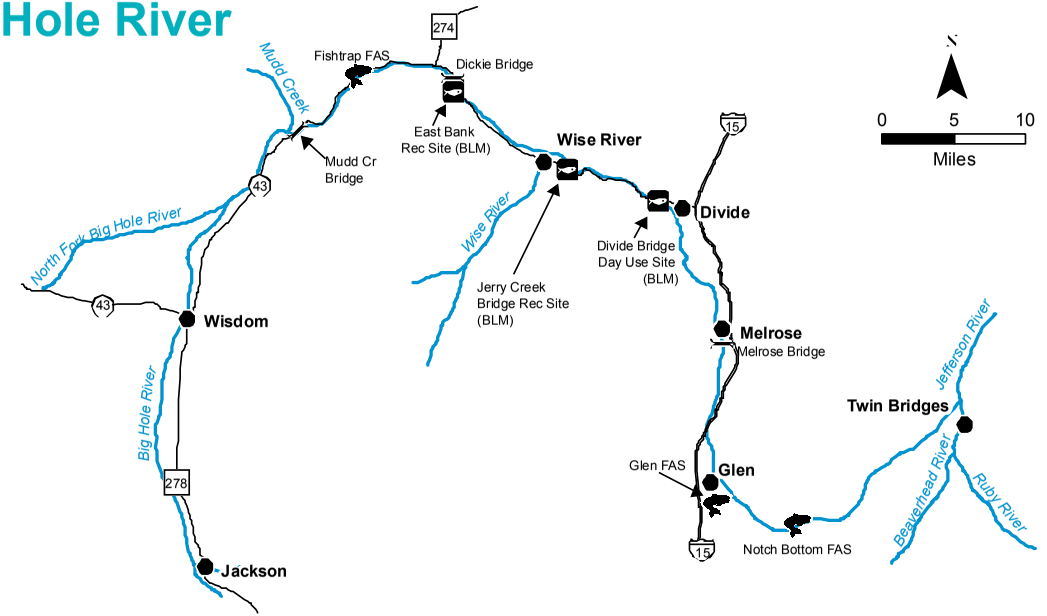
Upstream of the US Highway 191 bridge, including East Fork Big Spring Creek downstream from the Reservoir

- Catch-and-release only for all trout.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

Big Hole River



State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

BLM Recreation Site

AIS Status: New Zealand mudsnail

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

BIGHORN LAKE AND AFTERBAY RESERVOIR

- Bass: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- Shovelnose Sturgeon: 2 daily and in possession.
- Sauger/Walleye: 6 daily (only 3 may be Sauger) and 12 in possession (only 3 may be Sauger).
- Channel Catfish: 6 daily and in possession.
- Burbot (ling): 3 daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line on open water and 6 lines with 1 hook per line through the ice.
- Anglers obtaining live bait fish in Montana may use them only in the Montana portion of the lake.

BIGHORN RIVER

Entire river

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be Sauger.
- A State of Montana fishing license is required for all anglers to fish on the Bighorn River within the boundaries of the Crow Reservation. A tribal permit is not required.

Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from Bighorn FAS

- May use live nongame bait fish (as identified in standard district regulations).

Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS

- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).

BLACKTAIL DEER CREEK (Beaverhead River drainage)

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

BLACKTAIL MEADOWS POND (Dillon)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

BOULDER RIVER (tributary to Jefferson River, near Cardwell)

Mouth upstream to the bridge on Boulder Cut-Off Road (mile 14.4)

- Open January 1 through September 30.

BOULDER RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES (near Big Timber)

River and Tributaries from the mouth upstream to Hawley Creek

- Combined trout: Only 1 fish over 14 inches.

River and Tributaries upstream of Hawley Creek

- Combined trout: Only 1 fish over 14 inches; may include 3 Cutthroat Trout.

BYNUM RESERVOIR

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice.

CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

- **All watercraft must be inspected prior to leaving.**
- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession any size.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 20 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

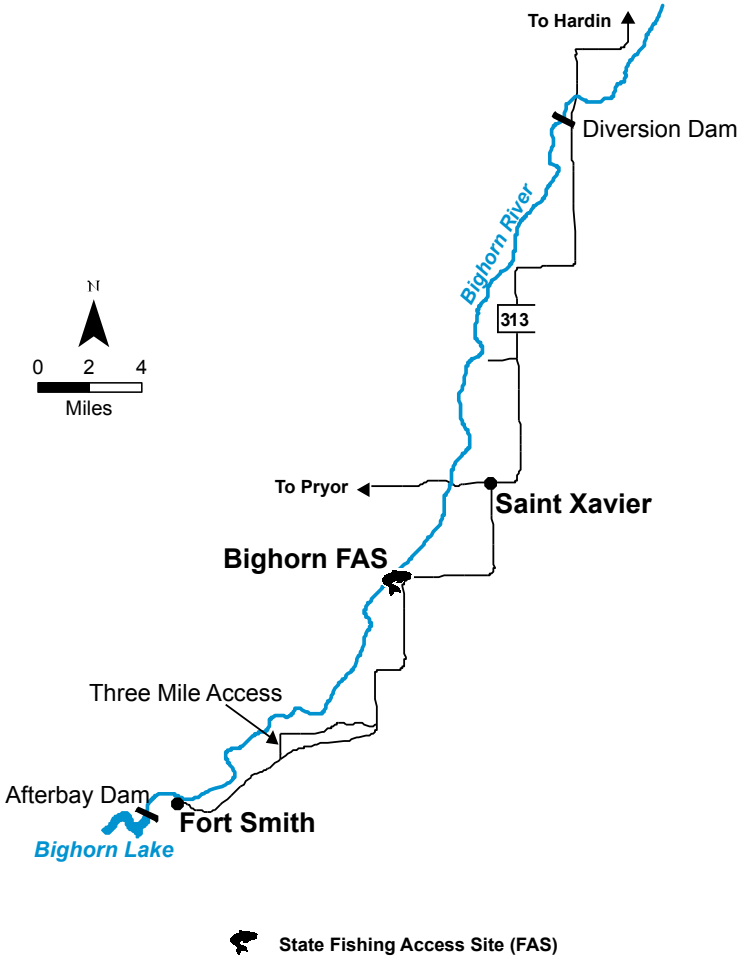
Magpie Bay

- Closed (as posted) March 1 through June 14.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Bighorn River



If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

CHESSMAN RESERVOIR (Tenmile Creek drainage, near Helena)

- Closed to fishing (City of Helena water supply).

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR

- Burbot (ling): 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 28 inches.
- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession.

CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

Mainstem downstream from the bridge at Bridger

- Hook and Line: 2 lines with 2 hooks per line all year.

CONFEDERATE GULCH (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

Mouth to Highway 284

- Open June 15 through September 30.

COTTONWOOD CREEK (10 miles SW of Martinsdale)

- Combined trout: limit includes 2 Cutthroat Trout daily and in possession.

CULVER POND (Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge)

- ***Closed to angling from November 30 to April 15.***
- ***Artificial lures only.***

CUT BANK CREEK

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

DEADMANS BASIN RESERVOIR

- Combined trout: 10 daily and in possession.
- Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon October 1 through December 31, 35 daily and 70 in possession.

DEARBORN RIVER

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Upstream from Highway 434 Bridge in T18N R6W, Section 29

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches.

DEEP CREEK (tributary to Missouri River, near Townsend)

Mouth to North Fork of Deep Creek

- Open June 15 through November 30.

DICKENS LAKE (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)

- Open May 15 at 12:00 noon through November 30.

DIVERSION LAKE (Sun River drainage)

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.
- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession.

DRY CREEK (tributary to Missouri River, near Townsend)

Mouth to Flynn Lane

- Open June 15 through September 30.

DUCK CREEK (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

EAST FORK BIG SPRING CREEK (near Lewistown)

Downstream from the Reservoir

- Catch-and-release only for all trout.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

EAST FORK HYALITE CREEK

Above Hyalite Reservoir including East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open July 15 through November 30.
- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

Below Hyalite Reservoir

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

EAST FORK RESERVOIR (near Lewistown)

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice.
- Spearing: open for non-game fish and Northern Pike through the ice and by persons swimming or submerged.

EAST GALLATIN RIVER

- Northern Pike: No limit

ELK LAKE (Beaverhead County)

- The Narrows Creek spawning channel is closed to angling.
- Catch-and-release for Lake Trout and Arctic Grayling.

ELK SPRINGS CREEK (Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge)

- ***Closed to angling from May 15 to June 15.***
- ***Artificial lures only.***

ELKS CLUB POND (Lewistown)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

ENNIS RESERVOIR aka Ennis Lake

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.

EYRAUD LAKES aka Arod Lakes

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through ice only.
- Spearing: open for Northern Pike and non-game fish through the ice only.

FAIRGROUNDS POND (Helena)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only.

GALLATIN RIVER

Entire river

- Northern Pike: No limit

Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River

- Closed to fishing from boats/vessels.

GHENY POND (near Twin Bridges)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

GIANT SPRINGS (near Great Falls)

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

GIBSON RESERVOIR

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

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession. Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.

GOOSE LAKE (Madison County)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

GRAYLING CREEK (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

HARRISON LAKE AND TRIBUTARIES

Willow Creek arm, as posted

- Open third Saturday in May through the end of February.

Tributaries to reservoir - North Willow, South Willow and Norwegian Creeks - from the Highway 287 bridges to reservoir

- Open June 15 through November 30.

HAUSER RESERVOIR

Including Canyon Ferry Dam tailwater and Lake Helena

- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 trout and Kokanee Salmon daily and in combination and 10 trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession, except from April 1 through June 30, only 1 fish daily and in possession, 14 inch minimum.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

HAYMAKER CREEK

- Cutthroat Trout: 2 daily and in possession.

HELENA VALLEY REGULATING RESERVOIR

Including irrigation canal in the area from the discharge outlet to 400 yards downstream

- Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon September 1 through October 31; 35 daily and 70 in possession.

HELLROARING CREEK (Yellowstone River drainage)

- Cutthroat Trout: 3 daily and in possession, only one over 14 inches.

HELLS CANYON CREEK (Jefferson River drainage)

- Open June 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout.

HIDDEN LAKE aka Our Lake (Teton County)

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession.

HIDDEN LAKE AND TRIBUTARIES (Madison County)

- Open June 15 through November 30.

HOLTER RESERVOIR

Up to American Bar Gulch (approximately 4.6 miles downstream from Hauser Dam)

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Walleye: 10 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon daily in any combination and 10 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Yellow Perch: 50 daily and no possession limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

HYALITE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES

Above Hyalite Reservoir including East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open July 15 through November 30.
- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

Below Hyalite Reservoir

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

HYALITE RESERVOIR

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.

INDIAN ROAD POND (Townsend)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger, holders of a "Resident Person with a Disability Conservation License" and holders of a "Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle" with the proper prerequisite fishing license. One rod per angler.

JEFFERSON RIVER

Entire river

- Northern Pike: No limit
- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 may be a Rainbow Trout.

Hells Canyon Creek and Willow Springs Creek

- Seasonal spawning closure at tributary mouths: Closed to fishing 100 yards upstream and downstream from the creek mouths from April 1 through April 30 and from September 30 through November 30.

LAKE ELWELL aka Tiber Reservoir

NOTE: AIS Status: Quagga/zebra mussel

- ***All watercraft must be inspected prior to leaving.***
- Cisco and Whitefish: all fish must be released immediately or killed and counted as part of your limit. It is unlawful to possess live Cisco or Whitefish for any reason.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Spearing: open for nongame fish, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Burbot (Ling) through the ice and by persons swimming or submerged.

LAKE FRANCES

- Closed entire year around the water supply outlet as posted.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Spearing: open for nongame fish, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Burbot (Ling) through the ice.

LAKE HELENA

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession, except from April 1 through June 30, only 1 fish daily and in possession, 14 inch minimum.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 trout and Kokanee Salmon daily and in combination and 10 trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

LITTLE PRICKLY PEAR CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (tributary to Missouri River)

Mouth to Big Sheep Creek

- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

LYMAN CREEK (near Bozeman)

From the City water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream

- Closed entire year as posted.

MADISON RIVER

Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Reservoir

- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Rainbow Trout daily and in possession, any size.

Quake Lake outlet to Lyons Bridge

- Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).
- Closed to fishing from boats/vessels.

Lyons Bridge to Varney Bridge

- Catch-and-release for trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).

Varney Bridge to Ennis Bridge

- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Rainbow Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).

Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake

- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Rainbow Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).
- Closed to fishing from boats/vessels.

Ennis Dam to the mouth

- Northern Pike: No Limit

MAGPIE CREEK (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir)

- Open June 15 through September 30.

MARIAS RIVER

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be a Suager. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.
- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches.
- Mountain Whitefish: 35 daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 2 lines with up to 2 hooks per line all year.

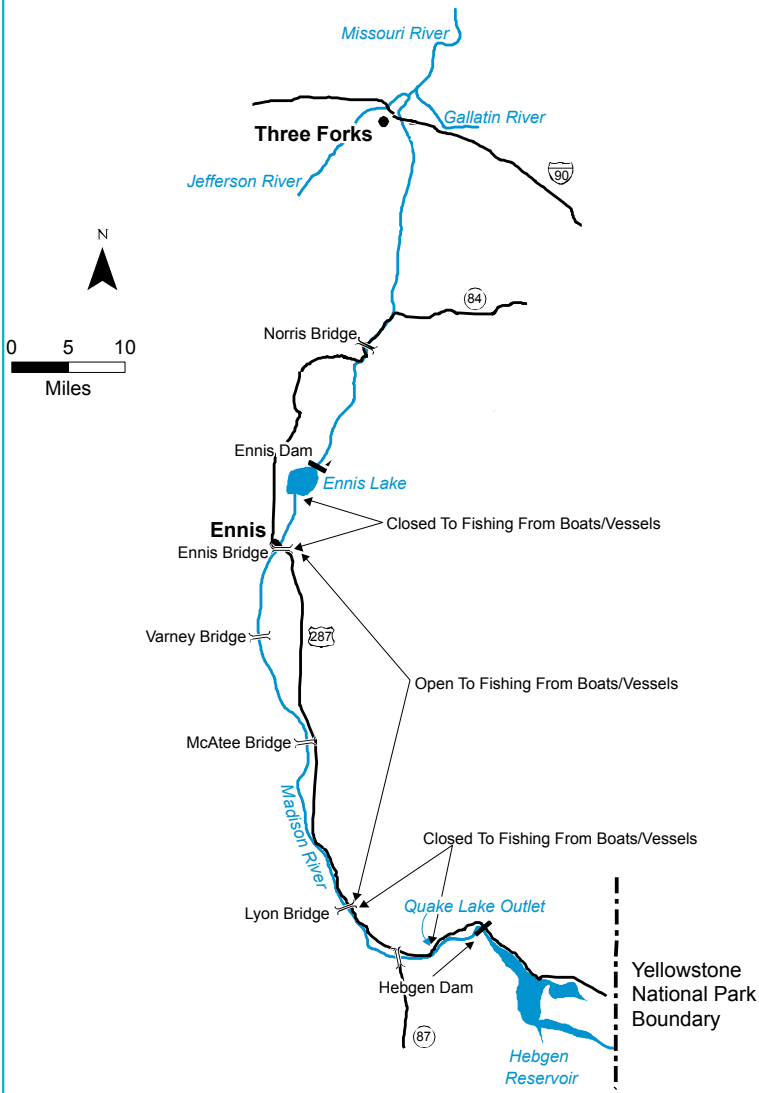
MIDVALE CREEK (Blackfeet Reservation)

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

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Madison River



AIS Status: Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

MISSOURI RIVER

Confluence of Madison and Jefferson Rivers to Holter Dam

- Northern Pike: No limit.

Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir

- Localized spawning areas closed as posted from March 1 through June 15.
- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 20 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit

Canyon Ferry Reservoir

- **All watercraft must be inspected prior to leaving.**
- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 20 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Canyon Ferry Dam to Hauser Dam (includes Hauser Reservoir, Lake Helena and Canyon Ferry Tailwaters)

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 trout and Kokanee Salmon daily and in combination and 10 trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession, except from April 1 through June 30, only 1 fish daily and in possession, 14 inch minimum.
- Walleye: 20 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir (Hauser Dam downstream to American Bar Gulch approximately 4.6 miles)

- Combined trout: Standard river/stream limits apply, except catch-and-release for Brown Trout.
- Walleye: 10 daily, only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit

Holter Reservoir (American Bar Gulch downstream to Holter Dam)

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age or younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession, any size.
- Walleye: 10 daily and only 1 over 25 inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Combined trout and Kokanee Salmon: 5 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon daily in any combination and 10 Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon in possession in any combination.
- Yellow Perch: 50 daily and no possession limit.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.

Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches, and only 1 may be a Brown Trout.
- Walleye: No limit.

Cascade Bridge to Black Eagle Dam

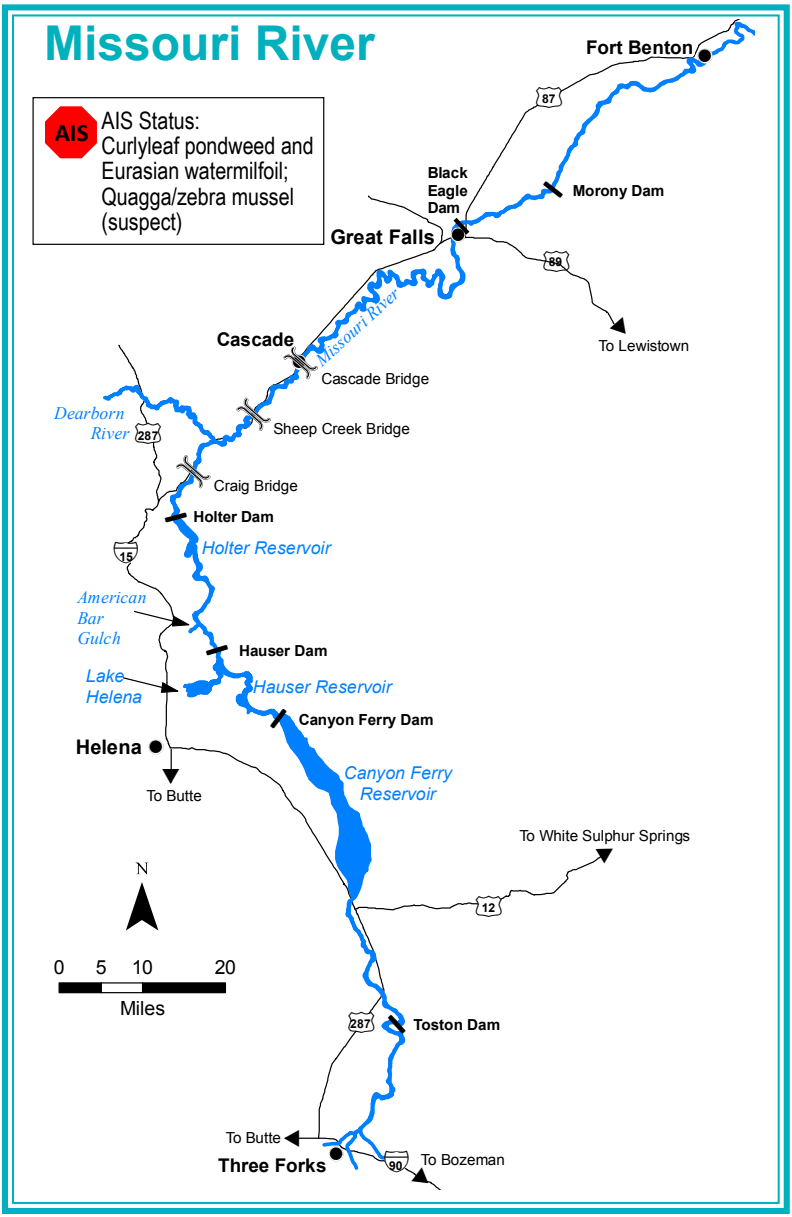
- Walleye: 20 daily and 40 in possession.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Morony Dam to Fort Benton

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.
- Smallmouth Bass: 10 daily and in possession.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 6 hooks per line all year.



If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

MUSSELSHELL RIVER

From the Highway 3 bridge at Lavina downstream to Fort Peck Reservoir

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 2 may be Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 4 may be Sauger.

Downstream from where North and South forks meet

- Channel Catfish: 10 daily and in possession.

NELSON SPRING CREEK

- Catch-and-release only.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20).

NEWLAN CREEK RESERVOIR

(Including a 400-yard reach of inlet stream from the mouth up to a concrete water weir, and a 120-yard reach from the dam outlet down to Secondary Highway 259 culvert crossing.)

- ***Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon October 1 through October 31; 15 daily and 30 in possession.***

NORTH FORK SUN RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

Upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches, all may be Cutthroat Trout.

NORTH FORK TETON RIVER DRAINAGE (near Choteau)

Within the National Forest

- Catch-and-release for Cutthroat Trout.

NORTH WILLOW CREEK (near Harrison)

Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir

- Open June 15 through November 30.

NORWEGIAN CREEK (near Harrison)

Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir

- Open June 15 through November 30.

O'BRIEN CREEK (near Neihart)

Above intake to the Neihart public water supply

- Closed entire year.

ODELL CREEK (Red Rock River drainage)

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

OSTLE RESERVOIR aka Antelope Butte Lake (Teton County)

- Open May 15 at 12:00 noon through November 30.

OTTER LAKE (Madison County)

- Open June 15 through November 30.
- Combined trout: 1 Rainbow Trout daily and in possession.

OUR LAKE aka Hidden Lake (Teton County)

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession.

PARSONS SLOUGH

Downstream from Loomont Lane

- Open June 15 through September 30.

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

PELICAN POINT POND #1 (largest pond on Pelican Point FAS - near Cascade)

- Northern Pike: No limit.

PISHKUN RESERVOIR

- Spearing: open for Northern Pike through the ice only.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon September 1 through December 31; 35 daily and 70 in possession.

RAT LAKE (Gallatin River drainage)

- The unnamed tributary to the lake, inlet and outlet, is closed all year.

RATTLESNAKE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (near Dillon, Beaverhead County)

- Closed entire year from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

RED ROCK CREEK (Beaverhead River drainage)

- Open entire year except May 15 through June 14.
- Cutthroat Trout: No harvest of Cutthroat Trout.
- Artificial lures only.

RED ROCK RIVER

Lima Dam to Clark Canyon Reservoir

- Open third Saturday in May through the end of November.
- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 18 inches.

ROCK CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River)

- West Fork Rock Creek is closed to fishing from the Red Lodge water intake to 1,000 feet upstream.

ROCK CREEK RESERVOIRS (Robb-Ledford Game Range)

- Catch-and-release for Cutthroat Trout.

RUBY RIVER

Upstream from Ruby Reservoir

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

Downstream from Ruby Dam

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

SAGE CREEK (Pryor Mountains)

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

SAWTOOTH LAKE (Beaverhead River drainage)

- Combined trout: 1 Golden Trout daily and in possession.

SCOTT RESERVOIR

- Closed to fishing (City of Helena water supply).

SHEEP CREEK (tributary to Missouri River south of Cascade)

- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

SILVER CREEK aka D2 Ditch (tributary to Prickly Pear Creek)

Downstream from I-15 bridge near Helena

- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

SLOUGH CREEK (Yellowstone River drainage)

- Cutthroat Trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches.

SMITH RIVER

NOTE: Floating on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge is strictly limited. Mandatory registration, floater's 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.

Camp Baker Bridge to Eden Bridge

- Combined trout: 3 under 13 inches daily and in possession and only 1 over 22 inches daily and in possession.
- Artificial lures only (see definition on page 20), except anglers 14 years of age or younger may use bait.

SODA BUTTE CREEK (Yellowstone River drainage)

- Cutthroat Trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches.

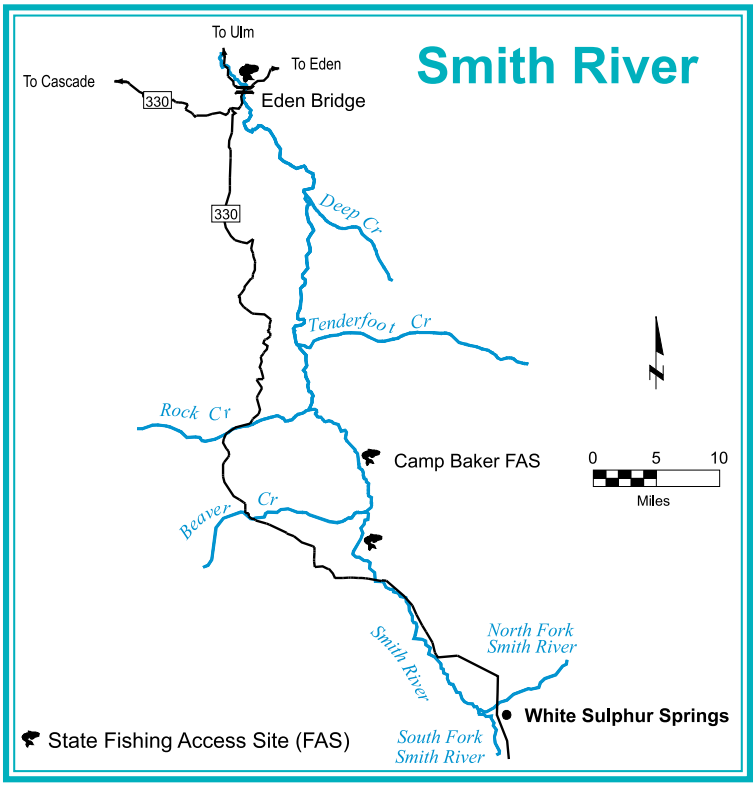
SOUTH FORK MADISON RIVER (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

SOUTH FORK SUN RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

Upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession only 1 over 12 inches.



 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

SOUTH FORK TETON RIVER (near Choteau)

- Catch-and-release for Cutthroat Trout.

SOUTH FORK TWO MEDICINE RIVER DRAINAGE

Within National Forest

- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession, none over 12 inches.

SOUTH WILLOW CREEK (near Harrison)

Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir

- Open June 15 through November 30.

SPLIT ROCK LAKE

- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Spearing: open for Northern Pike through the ice only.

SPRING MEADOW LAKE

- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession.
- Bass: 3 daily and in possession, none over 10 inches.
- No spear fishing or bow fishing allowed.

STILLWATER RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES (Yellowstone River drainage)

- Combined trout: Only 1 fish over 14 inches.

SUNNY SLOPE CANAL

Downstream from Pishkun Reservoir

- Catch-and-release for Arctic Grayling.
- Combined trout: 5 daily and in possession.

SWAZEE LAKE (Sun River Wildlife Management Area)

- Open May 15 at 12:00 noon through November 30.

TIBER RESERVOIR aka Lake Elwell

NOTE: AIS Status: Quagga/zebra mussel

- ***All watercraft must be inspected prior to leaving.***
- Cisco and Whitefish: all fish must be released immediately or killed and counted as part of your limit. It is unlawful to possess live Cisco or Whitefish for any reason.
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice only.
- Spearing: open for nongame fish, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Burbot (Ling) through the ice and by persons swimming or submerged.

TROUT CREEK (Tributary to Missouri River)

- Open third Saturday in May through November 30

TUNNEL LAKE (Teton County)

- Combined trout: Includes 1 Arctic Grayling.

TWIN LAKES (Big Hole River drainage)

- Catch-and-release for Lake Trout.
- Combined trout: 3 daily and in possession.

VIGILANTE POND (near Virginia City)

- Open to fishing for anglers 14 years of age or younger only. One rod per child.

WADE LAKE (Madison County)

- Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted.

WARM SPRINGS CREEK (tributary to Missouri River, near Townsend)

- Open June 15 through September 30.

If you don't find the water you are looking for, use the Standard Daily & Possession Limits on p 57.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

WEST FORK HYALITE CREEK

Above Hyalite Reservoir including East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek

- Open July 15 through November 30.
- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

Below Hyalite Reservoir

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout.

WEST FORK MADISON RIVER

- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout.

WEST FORK ROCK CREEK

Red Lodge water intake to 1,000 feet upstream

- Closed entire year.

WIDGEON POND (Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge)

- Closed to angling from November 30 to April 15.
- Artificial lures only.

WILLOW CREEK (Meagher County, near White Sulpur Springs)

White Sulphur Springs water intake to its source

- Closed entire year.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR (near Augusta)

- 5 trout daily only 1 over 20 inches.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR AND TRIBUTARIES (near Harrison)

Willow Creek arm, as posted

- Open third Saturday in May through the end of February.

Tributaries to reservoir - North Willow, South Willow and Norwegian Creeks - from the Highway 287 bridges to reservoir

- Open June 15 through November 30.

WILLOW SPRINGS CREEK (tributary to Jefferson River)

- Open June 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release for Rainbow Trout.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER

Entire River

- Smallmouth Bass: 10 daily and in possession.

Yellowstone National Park Boundary to Pine Creek Bridge

- Catch-and-release for Cutthroat Trout.

Yellowstone National Park Boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings

- Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a Sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be Sauger, includes tributary streams.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER TRIBUTARIES

Hellroaring, Slough and Soda Butte creeks upstream from YNP Boundary

- Cutthroat Trout: 3 daily and in possession, only 1 over 14 inches.

All tributaries between YNP Boundary and Pine Creek Bridge

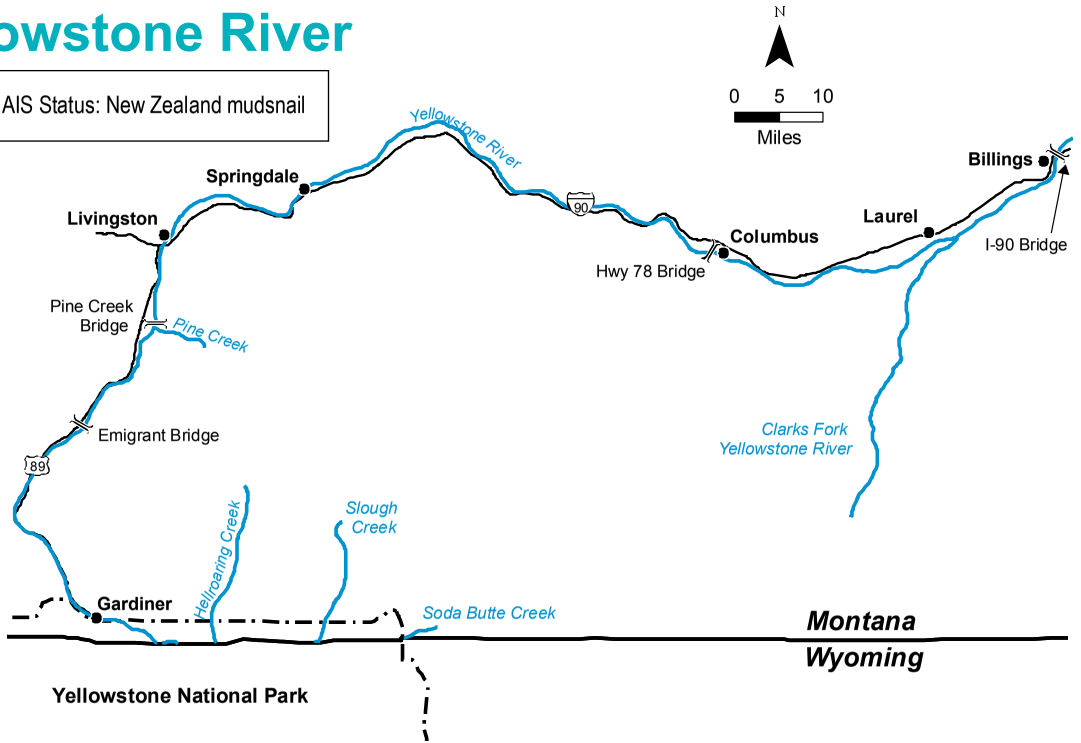
- Catch-and-release for Cutthroat Trout.

All tributaries downstream from Springdale

- Combined trout: All may be Cutthroat Trout (unless indicated otherwise in exceptions).

 If you see this icon, turn to page 16 for information on Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines.

Waterbody/Section	Exceptions to Standard Regulations

Yellowstone River

AIS Status: New Zealand mudsnail