

MADISON RIVER RECREATION RECOMMENDATION ON VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UPPER RIVER

DRAFT 5-26-2022

SUMMARY:

The increased growth of recreation on the Madison River has raised concerns related to social conflicts on the river. It is recommended that floating between Yellowstone Park and Ennis Lake be restricted to vessels with an adequate means of propulsion to aid in avoiding conflicts with wading anglers and other floaters.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Reduce social conflicts that arise between float users and wading anglers or other floating parties.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. OPTION 1: Floating recreation on the Madison River between Yellowstone National Park and Ennis Lake are required to use a Vessel with adequate propulsion as defined by ARM 12.11.30 to aid in avoiding conflicts with other river users.
2. OPTION 2: River users engaging in floating recreation on the Madison River must have an adequate form of propulsion to aid in avoiding conflicts with other river users. Propulsion options must be either mechanical, oar powered or paddle powered.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **MCA 23-2-502: "Vessel"** means every description of watercraft, unless otherwise defined by the department, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.
2. **ARM 12.11.30** The definition of "vessel" in 23-2-502 (13) , MCA does not include inner tubes (motor vehicle type) , float tubes (belly boats) , air mattresses and sailboards when used without mechanical propulsion by one individual.