

MADISON RIVER RECREATION RECOMMENDATION ON VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UPPER RIVER

MADISON RIVER WORK GROUP APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS 5-27-22

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. Floating recreation on the Madison River between Yellowstone National Park and Eight Mile Ford FAS and between Valley Garden FAS and Ennis Lake are required to use a Vessel as defined by MCA 23-2-502 and ARM 12.11.30 that is equipped with adequate propulsion to aid in avoiding conflicts with other river users. Allowable Vessels include any Vessel under mechanical power or Vessels designed for paddle or oar powered propulsion including row boats, inflatable pontoons or rafts equipped with oars, paddle boards and rafts with oars or equipped with paddles. Innertubes, air mattresses, and float tubes (belly boats) are restricted.

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.