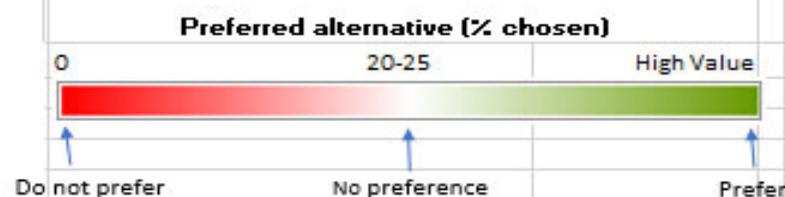
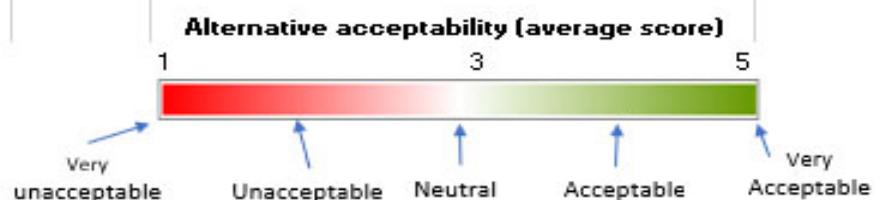


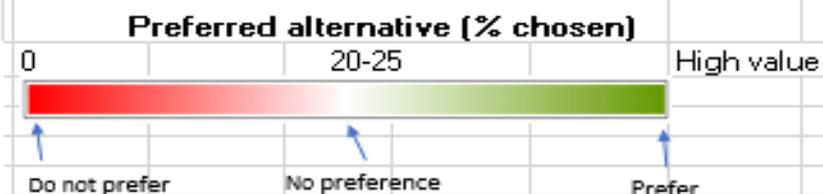
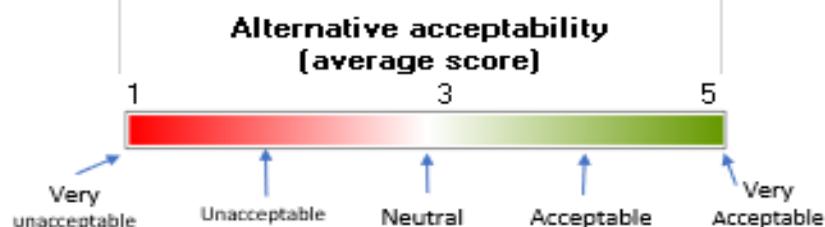
# MADISON RIVER RECREATION SCOPING SURVEY RESULTS

ALL RESPONDENTS (N=7,577)		Alternative Acceptability (average score)	Preferred Alternatives (percent)
Proposed Management Goal	Healthy Fishery	4.45	
	Economic Viability	3.5	
	Diversity of angling experiences	3.75	
Commercial Fishing Outfitter Management	No Limits	1.81	3.6
	Cap # of outfitters at 2018 level	2.31	6.7
	Cap # of trips of outfitters at 2018 level	3.12	26.7
	Reduce number of trips below 2018	3.53	57
Social Conflict Management on Upper River	No restrictions	1.97	8.9
	Access Site social conflict mgt	2.61	11.5
	Rest-rotation	3.28	28.6
	Walk-wade	3.19	33.6
	Daily boat launch restrictions	2.88	17.4
Lower River Recreational Use Management	Status Quo	2.37	19.5
	Evaluate level of crowding and conflict	3.38	25
	Prohibit commercial use below Greycliff	3.03	22.6
	Preserve primitive nature below Greycliff	3.55	35.1
Angler Use Management on Upper River	No Limits	2.13	13.4
	Non-commercial use cap at 2018 level	2.52	16.9
	50:50 resident:non-resident cap	3.02	38.8
	Citizen's Day	2.74	23

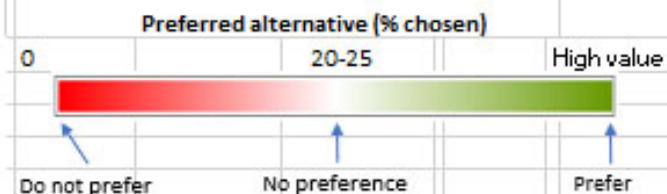
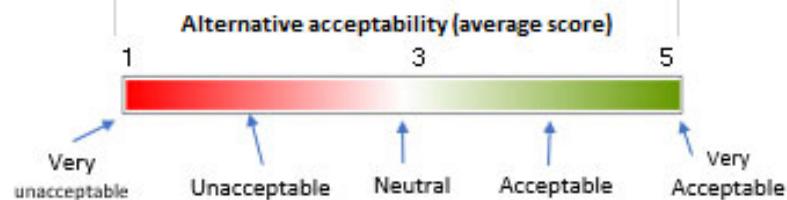


**COMPARISON OF RESPONDENTS  
BASED ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY  
HAD STOPPED FISHING THE MADISON  
RIVER IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

		Alternative Acceptability (average score)		Preferred Alternatives (percent)	
		Have Stopped fishing	Have NOT stopped fishing	Have Stopped fishing	Have NOT stopped fishing
<b>Proposed Management Goal</b>	Healthy Fishery	4.49	4.5		
	Economic Viability	3.15	3.82		
	Diversity of angling experiences	3.78	3.76		
<b>Commercial Fishing Outfitter Management</b>	No Limits	1.39	2.16	2.2	16.1
	Cap # of outfitters at 2018 level	2.2	2.34	3.7	8.7
	Cap # of trips of outfitters at 2018 level	3.1	3.13	20.3	31.9
	Reduce number of trips below 2018	4	3.13	73.7	43.3
<b>Social Conflict Management on Upper River</b>	No restrictions	1.56	2.37	2.7	15.2
	Access Site social conflict mgt	2.32	2.86	5.1	18
	Rest-rotation	3.7	2.88	37.1	21.5
	Walk-wade	3.48	2.87	37.1	29.2
	Daily boat launch restrictions	3.06	2.67	18	16.2
<b>Lower River Recreational Use Management</b>	Status Quo	1.96	2.77	6.3	20.8
	Evaluate level of crowding and conflict	3.28	3.49	21.5	29.9
	Prohibit commercail use below Greycliff	3.41	2.58	30.1	14.9
	Preserve primitive nature below Greycliff	3.77	3.29	41.5	34.5
<b>Angler Use Management on Upper River</b>	No Limits	1.72	2.56	7.5	31.9
	Non-commercial use cap at 2018 level	2.53	2.47	12.9	25.1
	50:50 resident:non-resident cap	3.45	2.53	49.4	26.3
	Citizen's Day	3.18	2.3	30.2	16.6



COMPARISON BASED ON COMMERCIAL STATUS AND RESIDENCY		Alternative Acceptability (average score)			Preferred Alternative (percent)		
		Non-commercial		Commercial Outfitters	Non-commercial		Commercial Outfitters
		Residents	Non-Residents		Residents	Non-Residents	
Proposed Management Goal	Healthy Fishery	4.48	4.42	4.66			
	Economic Viability	3.28	3.69	4.29			
	Diversity of angling experiences	3.74	3.87	3.32			
Commercial Fishing Outfitter Management	No Limits	1.65	1.88	2.61	7.2	9.8	25.7
	Cap # of outfitters at 2018 level	2.24	2.32	2.47	4.7	6.6	18.4
	Cap # of trips of outfitters at 2018 level	3.1	3.23	2.75	24.3	29	34.3
	Reduce number of trips below 2018	3.71	3.5	2.22	63.8	54.6	21.7
Social Conflict Management on Upper River	No restrictions	1.84	2.01	2.86	6.9	8.3	30.1
	Access Site social conflict mgt	2.5	2.66	3.19	9.5	10.3	35.7
	Rest-rotation	3.51	3.09	2.01	35.8	17.5	16.3
	Walk-wade	3.22	3.45	1.79	30.9	44.3	8.7
	Daily boat launch restrictions	2.92	3	1.88	16.8	19.6	9.2
Lower River Recreational Use Management	Status Quo	2.24	2.47	3.07	11.8	12.4	32.1
	Evaluate level of crowding and conflict	3.32	3.45	3.64	24	23.4	42.2
	Prohibit commercial use below Greycliff	3.19	3	1.61	26.4	18.1	7.1
	Preserve primitive nature below Greycliff	3.58	3.69	2.59	37.7	46.1	18.6
Angler Use Management on Upper River	No Limits	1.96	2.4	2.6	12.9	29.5	33.2
	Non-commercial use cap at 2018 level	2.43	2.66	2.7	10.7	33.5	31.9
	50:50 resident:non-resident cap	3.44	2.29	2.35	48.3	23.4	19.3
	Citizen's Day	3.11	2.11	2.11	28.1	13.4	15.7





= Highest ranking preferred alternative



= Alternative that was not considered acceptable

Highest ranked Preferred Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY

All respondents

Non-commercial

Residents

Non-Residents

Commercial Outfitters

Have Stopped fishing

Have NOT stopped fishing

Commercial Fishing Outfitter Management

- No Limits
- Cap # of outfitters at 2018 level
- Cap # of trips of outfitters at 2018 level
- Reduce number of trips below 2018



Social Conflict Management on Upper River

- No restrictions
- Access Site social conflict mgt
- Rest-rotation
- Walk-wade
- Daily boat launch restrictions



Lower River Recreational Use Management

- Status Quo
- Evaluate level of crowding and conflict
- Prohibit commercail use below Greycliff
- Preserve primitive nature below Greycliff



Angler Use Management on Upper River

- No Limits
- Non-commercial use cap at 2018 level
- 50:50 resident:non-resident cap
- Citizen's Day





**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT GOAL FOR MADISON RIVER RECREATIONAL USE**

Manage recreational use of the Madison River in a manner that ensures long term health and sustainability of the fishery, diversifies angling opportunity while reducing conflicts, and sustains the ecological and economic benefits of the river to Montanans and our guests.

On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important do you think it is to maintain a healthy and sustainable fishery on the Madison River? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unimportant)    1    2    3    4    5    (very important)

On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important do you think it is to maintain the economic benefits that derive from recreation and fishing on the Madison River? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unimportant)    1    2    3    4    5    (very important)

On a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important), how important do you think it is to provide for a diversity of angling opportunities on the Madison River? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unimportant)    1    2    3    4    5    (very important)

**1. Commercial Fishing Outfitter Management.** Commercial fishing outfitters operate primarily on the upper river between Quake Lake and Ennis Lake. Overall, their clients represent about 11% of the total angler use on the upper river, but seasonally and in certain sections they are the majority of users, about 60-70%, and this contributes to social conflict issues in those areas. Outfitting is also increasing considerably in recent years, going from 6,653 trips in 2008 to 12,177 trips in 2018. There were 178 outfitters working the Madison in 2018.

- **Alternative 1A: No limits.** Currently there are no limits or caps on the numbers of outfitters on the river or the number of trips they take, provided they apply for a Special Resource Permit (SRP) and pay 3% of gross revenue to FWP after each calendar year. Under this alternative, it is expected that total client days will continue to rise, especially if growth in the Gallatin Valley and visitors to Yellowstone Park continues to grow.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 1A to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 1B:** *Cap the total number of outfitters at 2018 levels.* This could be done in a variety of ways, but would need to address issues such as how to identify which outfitters are to be allowed in under the cap and how to allow entry of new outfitters under a cap when outfitters retire or cease operating on the Madison. This alternative might do little to stem the growth of outfitter activity as there would be no restriction on the number of trips each outfitter could take.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 1B to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 1C:** *Cap the total number of outfitter trips at 2018 levels.* This could be done in a variety of ways, but would need to address issues such as how to allocate trips among current outfitters and how to allow entry of new outfitters under a cap when outfitters retire or cease operating on the Madison. This alternative would not restrict numbers of outfitters but would be effective at stopping overall growth of outfitter activity.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 1C to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 1D:** *Manage for a reduction of outfitter trips relative to 2018 levels.* This could be done in a variety of ways, but could be accomplished by attrition when outfitters retire or their business declines with the effect of reducing the pool of outfitter numbers or allocated trips. This would be done in an adaptive management fashion to help achieve a reduction in social conflict.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 1D to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

Of the four alternatives presented above (1A, 1B, 1C and 1D), which alternative is MOST preferable to you? **(check only one)**

- Alternative 1A
- Alternative 1B
- Alternative 1C
- Alternative 1D

**2. Social Conflict Management on the Upper River.** Angler use on the upper river (Quake Lake to Ennis Lake) has increased more than threefold in the past 20 years and in 2017 was at 207,000 angler days. The 2016 FWP survey showed that 40-45% of anglers felt that there was an unacceptable level of crowding at boat ramps and on the river. This sentiment was expressed irrespective of whether the crowding was due to commercial or non-commercial users. The survey also showed that wade anglers felt their experience was diminished in the upper wade section. Alternatives below are fashioned to respond to these concerns.

- **Alternative 2A: No restrictions.** Known areas of congestion would probably get more congested if use trends continue. It may be self-correcting in that some users would avoid these areas or move to other areas out of frustration.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 2A to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 2B: Access site social conflict management.** This would direct FWP to address crowding at boat ramps, e.g. possibly hiring staff to help direct traffic at boat launches and have its engineers redesign sites to help with limited parking and poor designs that impair traffic flow. Any redesign that results in getting boats on the water quicker would have the effect of transferring some of the congestion to the water, especially during busy times of day.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 2B to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 2C: Rest-rotation.** This would create sections of the river where commercial activity is prohibited anywhere from one to seven days a week on a rotating basis. An example of a two-day rest-rotation model would be to prohibit commercial activity on Saturdays from McAtee Bridge to Varney Bridge and on Sundays from Varney Bridge to Ennis FAS. Although this approach means fewer people are eligible to fish the rested sections, it is unclear how much the effect might be reversed if the closure served to attract more non-commercial anglers.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 2C to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 2D: Walk/wade sections.** This would create sections that prohibit use of a boat to gain access to fishing. The two current walk/wade sections (Quake Lake to Lyons Bridge FAS and Ennis FAS to Ennis Lake) only disallow fishing from a boat. The rationale for this approach is that an angler walking into river sections are at a disadvantage since the float angler has an advantage in more rapidly accessing remote areas. Areas where the channel is narrow also can create conflict when float and wade anglers are in close proximity.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 2D to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable) 1 2 3 4 5 (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 2E: Daily boat launch restrictions.** In sections designated as walk/wade that allow access by boat, boat launches would be restricted to a certain period of the day to reduce conflict with wading anglers. This approach would reduce the interaction between boat and wade anglers, but not to the extent of Alternative 2D.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 2E to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

Of the five alternatives presented above (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E), which alternative is MOST preferable to you? **(check only one)**

- Alternative 2A
- Alternative 2B
- Alternative 2C
- Alternative 2D
- Alternative 2E

**3. Lower River Recreational Use Management.** The Lower River as defined here refers to the river downstream of the Beartrap Wilderness, from the Warms Springs Recreation Area to the Missouri River. Between Warms Springs and Blacks Ford FAS, river use is heavily skewed toward recreational floating, at densities and a level of use higher than anglers on the river upstream of Ennis. It is estimated that there were 410,000 user days in this section of river in 2017. Below Greycliff FAS, river use is lower than anywhere else on the river, in part due to limited access and poor fishing, especially in late summer when water temperatures are high.

- **Alternative 3A: Status quo.** No restrictions will be placed on commercial outfitting, recreational floating, or non-commercial angling. Access sites will be managed to accommodate all types of users, and this may require new site development, or enhancement of existing infrastructure (i.e. campsites, latrines, shelters) if use continues to increase.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 3A to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 3B:** Evaluate the level of access-site crowding and on-river conflicts between recreational boaters and anglers in order to determine if there is a need to manage use or improve access in the Warm Springs Recreation Access to Blacks Ford FAS section.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 3B to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 3C:** Prohibit commercial fishing outfitter use from Greycliff FAS to the Missouri River. This section gets less than 1% of all commercial use on the river, but it is relevant here because floaters in this stretch of river value a primitive floating experience with unique scenery and plentiful wildlife. The prohibition would guard against the growth and establishment of a commercial use presence that recreationists may view as inconsistent with a primitive experience.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 3C to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 3D:** Preserve primitive nature of the river below Greycliff FAS. There is only one access site in the 18.9 mile-reach between Greycliff FAS and Milwaukee FAS, a major reason for the primitive conditions. To preserve the experience, FWP would institute a policy that any future land acquisitions maintain the primitive nature of this reach by limiting vessel or float tube access to carry-in only.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 3D to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

Of the four alternatives presented above (3A, 3B, 3C, and 3D), which alternative is MOST preferable to you? **(check only one)**

- Alternative 3A
- Alternative 3B
- Alternative 3C
- Alternative 3D

**4. Angler Use Management on the upper river.** On an annual basis, roughly 89% of fishing on the upper Madison comes from non-commercial anglers, which includes wade and float fishing and both residents and non-residents. The percentage of non-residents is roughly 75%. Angler use has increased rapidly over the past 20 years and in 2017 was at 207,000 angler days.

- **Alternative 4A.** *No limits.* Overall use on the river is expected to rise, even if commercial use is capped or limited in some way. Social conflicts at access sites and on the river will continue to rise, although management tools such as walk/wade, rest-rotation, and access site improvements will help maintain quality experiences for a short period of time but will eventually lose effectiveness if overall use continues to increase.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 4A to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 4B.** *Establish a cap on non-commercial users equivalent to 2018 levels.* This could be implemented through issuance of a no-cost Madison River Stamp when a fishing license is purchased. These would be issued on a first-come basis and would apply to all non-commercial users. This alternative would be most equitably applied if used in conjunction with a similar commercial use cap as described in alternative 1C.
- **Alternative 4B.** *Establish a cap on users numbers equivalent to 2017 levels.* This could be implemented through issuance of a no-cost Madison River Stamp when a fishing license is

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 4B to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 4C.** *Establish a Madison River Stamp as in Alternative 4B, except that non-residents would be limited to 50% of stamps.* This would be done for the purpose of recruiting resident anglers back to the river that have been displaced to other rivers because of unacceptable levels of crowding.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 4C to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

- **Alternative 4D.** *Establish a Citizen's Day (once a week) on one or more sections of the upper river during the highest-use period, June 15-September 30.* This would apply to both commercial and non-commercial users. By excluding non-residents, it would potentially create a relatively uncrowded section for resident anglers, but it is unclear how much this effect would be reversed if it served to increase resident use.

On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable is Alternative 4D to you? **(circle only one number below)**

(very unacceptable)    1    2    3    4    5    (very acceptable)

Of the four alternatives presented above (4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D), which alternative is MOST preferable to you? **(check only one)**

- Alternative 4A
- Alternative 4B
- Alternative 4C
- Alternative 4D

**About You...**

Are you currently a resident of Montana?

- NO
- YES

Are you a commercial fishing outfitter/guide?

- NO
- YES

Are you a Madison River SRP holder?

- NO
- YES

On average over the past 5 years, how many days a year have you participated in any of the following recreational activities on the Madison River? **(check ALL that apply, and for each activity checked provide number of days per year)**

Bank/wade fishing: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of days per year)

Float fishing: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of days per year)

Recreational boating: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of days per year)

Inner-tubing: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of days per year)

Camping: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of days per year)

Answer the following question only if you have ever fished the Madison River at some point in time in the past. Have you stopped fishing the Madison in recent years due to congestion and/or crowding on the river?

NO

YES

How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ (age in years)

Are you?  Female  Male