



River Recreation Advisory Council Description and Application

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) is seeking up to 12 individuals to serve on a statewide citizen advisory council. The purpose of the council is to produce recommendations for managing river recreation in Montana and administering the use of water-related activities. The focus area extends to department lands and restricted water bodies under the authority of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This includes recreation use on and along the water way, including fishing access sites.

The process will include various stakeholders with an interest in river recreation. The council aims to foster transparent discussions on how best to manage recreation opportunities, including when it may need to be managed for the protection of the resources and the quality of the experience.

Montana boasts a wealth of publicly accessible rivers that support recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, swimming, floating, motorized, and non-motorized boating, and other water-related activities. The popularity of river recreation in some parts of the state has led to challenges such as conflicts among river users and between different types of river recreation activities. Moreover, the department receives complaints about congestion on waterways and at access sites. While most people agree on the importance of protecting the aquatic and terrestrial river resources, there is often disagreement on the means for managing river recreation. As the trustees of these public resources, the Department and the State of Montana would benefit from having foundational principles derived from broad public input to guide and inform future considerations of river recreation management and developing a predictable, equitable, and fair system for administering use.

The council will meet in-person for a 3-day workshop from **October 16-18**. Members' travel expenses will be covered. Additional virtual meetings in October may occur if necessary. A virtual meeting in early November also is planned to present the council's final recommendations. Members also are encouraged to attend virtual public scoping workshops scheduled during August 26 – September 6.

To be selected, you must be available for the in-person meeting from October 16-18th. Final recommendations from the council will be submitted to FWP by December 15, 2024, to guide future river recreation management decisions in Montana.

Applications must be received no later than August 2, 2024.

Appointments to the advisory council will be made within four weeks of the application deadline. If you have questions, please contact:

Deb O'Neill, *Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Administrator (Acting)*
doneill@mt.gov
406-444-4585

Liam Harry, *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Planner*
liam.harry@mt.gov
406-452-5531

River Recreation Advisory Council Application

Applications must be received no later than **August 2, 2024**.

Mail completed application to: **OR** **Email completed application to:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn: Liam Harry
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

liam.harry@mt.gov

Name _____

Home Address _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail _____

Are you a Montana resident? **Yes** **No**

Are you available for in-person meetings from October 16-18? **Yes** **No**

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you need additional space, feel free to use and attach additional pages.

1. Describe your interest in improving river recreation management in Montana.

2. Please describe why you want to serve as a member of this council.

3. Please describe your background and experience that leads you to be an active stakeholder in this topic.