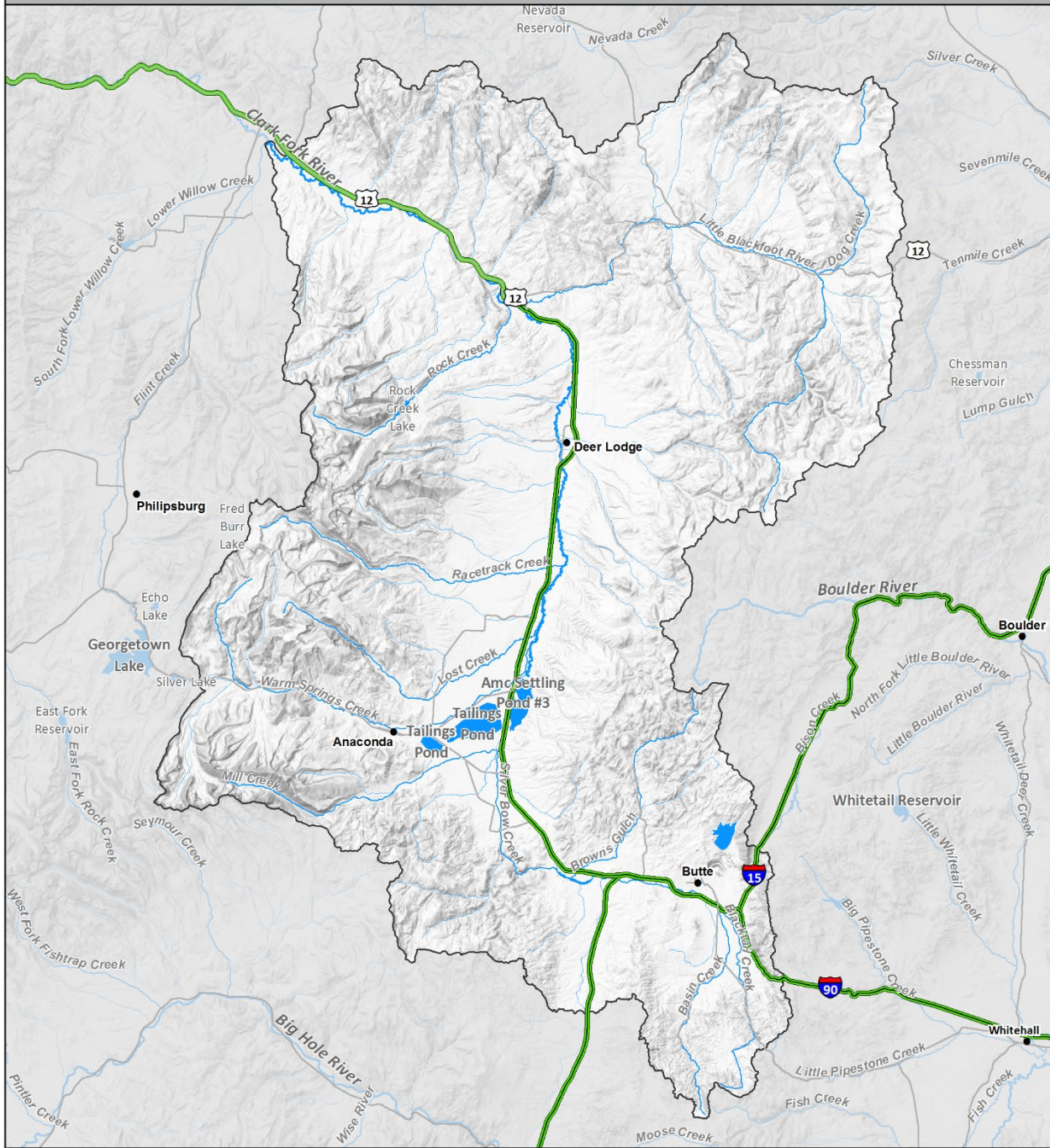




# Upper Clark Fork River Drainage

# MONTANA FWP

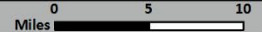


-  Tribal Lands
-  Drainage Boundary



Map Produced by:  
ASP - Geographic Data Services  
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Administrative boundaries and FWP Lands data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Background Imagery from ESRI



## Upper Clark Fork River Drainage

### **Physical Description**

The upper Clark Fork River drainage is defined as the Clark Fork River between the headwaters near Butte downstream to the mouth of Flint creek. The uppermost portion includes Silver Bow Creek, Warm Springs Creek, and the Little Blackfoot River. The Clark Fork River begins at the junction of Silver Bow and Warm Springs Creeks, near the small community of Warm Springs. From its headwaters, the river flows northwesterly for approximately 70 miles through Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite counties. The upper Clark Fork River is bordered throughout much of its length by the Garnet Mountains to the north and east and the Flint Range to the south and west. The first 40 miles of the river meander through the flat plains of the Deer Lodge valley where agriculture is the primary land use. Downstream from the mouth of the Little Blackfoot River, the Upper Clark fork enters a narrow canyon. In this area the river channel has also been shortened by highway and railroad construction activities. However, downstream of Jens the river moves away from the transportation corridor and begins to meander downstream to its confluence with Flint Creek.

There are 76 lakes and reservoirs in the drainage, totaling 4,468 surface acres. Most natural lakes are mountain lakes in the Anaconda-Pintler and Flint Mountain Ranges. These lakes range in size from less than an acre to over 75 acres. Many of these lakes have been fitted with dams to increase storage capacity for downstream agricultural and industrial water users. The largest reservoirs in the drainage are the Warm Spring Settling ponds, which are located near the beginning of the Clark Fork River, and Silver Lake, which is located at the head of the Warm Springs Creek drainage not far from Anaconda.

### **Fisheries Management**

Located in the west-central part of the state, the upper Clark Fork drainage has a long history of mining related impacts that have negatively affected the fishery and aquatic resources along much of the river. This has led to the upper Clark Fork River being one of the more underutilized rivers in western Montana. However, ongoing environmental cleanup by the State and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as a diversity of recreational opportunities has contributed to an increase in the area's popularity in recent years.

The basin is also the focus of native fish recovery efforts, particularly in the Little Blackfoot River, Warm Springs Creek, and Silver Bow Creek drainages. The Upper Clark Fork River is home to 11 native fish species including bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish, longnose sucker, largescale sucker, northern pike minnow, peamouth, longnose dace, redbelt shiner, Columbia slimy sculpin, and Rocky Mountain sculpin.

Bull trout are very rare in the mainstem of the upper Clark Fork River. The species is largely isolated in the Warm Springs Creek drainage near Anaconda. Bull trout historically occurred in other drainages such as the Little Blackfoot River and Racetrack Creek but are now rare or absent in these areas. Most bull trout in the Warm Springs Creek drainage appear to be genetically isolated from these other drainages, with little intermixing occurring. Fluvial (river dwelling) forms are rare. Adfluvial (lake dwelling) forms exist in Silver Lake, Twin Lakes, and Storm Lake. Resident forms exist in most of the larger tributaries upstream of Anaconda including Barker, Foster, Twin Lakes, and Storm Lake Creeks.

Westslope cutthroat trout are present in many of the tributary streams in the upper Clark Fork drainage. Angling restrictions and habitat improvements in the Little Blackfoot River and Silver Bow Creek drainages have sought to improve westslope cutthroat trout numbers in these drainages. Many of the cutthroat populations in the upper Clark Fork River show little to no hybridization with introduced rainbow trout. Additionally, fluvial forms remain in many locations. While westslope cutthroat trout are relatively uncommon in the mainstem of the upper Clark Fork River, the species does provide a unique fishing opportunity in a river largely dominated by brown trout. Information is lacking on the abundance and life histories of mountain whitefish and non-game native fishes. Efforts are needed to describe these and monitor trends.

Non-native fish species with widespread distribution in the upper Clark Fork drainage include brown trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Non-native lake trout and kokanee salmon can also be found in Silver Lake and Georgetown Lake. Dominant fish species vary from westslope cutthroat trout and brook trout in the headwaters, to brown trout in the Clark Fork River and the lower reaches of valley-bottom tributary streams.

Lowland Ponds and reservoirs provide valuable recreational fisheries. The Warm Springs and Job Corp ponds are stocked primarily with rainbow trout, but westslope cutthroat trout and brown trout are also planted into some waters. Warm Springs Pond #3 is a popular location where anglers pursue trophy-sized trout. Racetrack pond, Skyline Pond, and the Kids Pond at the Warm Springs WMA are stocked with rainbow and/or westslope cutthroat trout and have special fishing regulations that seek to provide quality angling opportunities for youth anglers.

Several high mountain lakes are stocked with westslope cutthroat trout. Lakes currently planted on a regular basis include Alpine, Albicaulis, Little Racetrack, and Upper and Lower Barker Lakes. Other lakes are planted on a more irregular basis depending on need, while some lakes are kept fishless to help conserve amphibian populations.

Fisheries assessments on waterbodies in the upper Clark Fork are completed using a variety of sampling techniques and gears. Tributary surveys are completed throughout the year, but most commonly from July through October as conditions allow. Tributaries are generally sampled using electrofishing or other gears depending on objectives. Population surveys on the mainstem of the upper Clark Fork River are performed annually using boat electrofishing methods in early spring. Mainstem population estimates are used to evaluate population trends and evaluate fisheries response to restoration and remediation of the upper Clark Fork River.

Lake sampling is conducted throughout the area from the valley bottom impoundments to the high elevation lakes. Lake fisheries are sampled throughout the year as conditions and time allows. Typically, valley bottom lakes are monitored on a semi-annual basis due to high angler interest and variable fisheries. High elevation lakes have been monitored infrequently and sporadically over the past 50 years. Monitoring all fish bearing high elevation lakes in the area over the coming years using standardized methods is currently underway. This effort is intended to optimize stocking strategies and produce high quality information for the angling public.

## ***Upper Clark Fork River Fisheries Management***

The upper Clark Fork River and tributaries are managed as wild trout fisheries, emphasizing natural reproduction. The mainstem Clark Fork River is the prominent fishery in the basin. A wild trout fishery exists despite persistent impacts of low water, high temperatures, and fish kills related to metals contaminated soils. The upper Clark Fork River fishery is characterized primarily by brown trout, with a small population of westslope cutthroat trout. Upstream of Deer Lodge the Clark Fork River features good access for wade angling throughout the year, and some float angling seasonally. Downstream of Deer Lodge floating becomes more popular as the river increases in size, and boat access points are more developed. Angling in the upper Clark Fork River occurs year-round and is most popular in the early spring, summer, and fall. Fly fishing is particularly popular on the upper Clark Fork River but use of artificial lures and bait fishing are also common. [Angling pressure on the upper Clark Fork River](#) has been variable since creel surveys began in 2005, but the long-term trend is stable.

The [trout fishery downstream of Deer Lodge](#) has been stable. Current brown trout densities are around the long-term average of 250 fish per mile. Westslope cutthroat trout populations are low but near historic highs for this section, and currently make up about 10% of the trout population.

Upstream of Deer Lodge, the [trout fishery has recently declined](#). Brown trout densities were higher but variable from the 1970's to 2014 and averaged about 900 fish per mile. Starting in 2015 and to the present, brown trout densities declined and have not recovered, averaging 212 fish per mile. The cause of the decline is unknown but is being investigated. Besides the persistent effects of metals contamination, flows have been the most prominent variable influencing brown trout densities, where numbers of young trout have increased when flows increase. However, this no longer seems to be the case as of 2015. Instead, current numbers of young trout are consistently low regardless of flows, leading to reduced recruitment of trout to the fishery ([Uerling, 2022](#)). It is not clear what is responsible for the reduced recruitment but continued effects of metals contamination, more regional environmental conditions, and changes in habitat may be influencing trout numbers. Harvest regulations do not appear to be responsible for brown trout population declines. Regulations are more restrictive upstream of Deer Lodge (where the decline has occurred) compared to downstream of Deer Lodge (where the trout population is stable). Angling pressure and harvest are not generally thought to influence recruitment because juvenile fish are rarely caught or harvested, and adult numbers don't appear to vary with angling pressure changes ([Uerling, 2022](#)). FWP is currently collecting information to better understand recruitment dynamics in the Upper Clark Fork ([Uerling, 2022](#)).

### **Habitat**

The upper Clark Fork basin has a long history of human disturbance beginning in earnest in the mid-1800s when placer mining for gold began on many basin streams. By 1896, copper had become the target metal and mining and smelting operations near the town of Butte, located near the headwaters of the Clark Fork River, were processing thousands of tons of copper ore per day. Mining and smelting activities in the Butte and Anaconda areas continued into the early 1980s. Some mining activity persists near Butte, but most of the operations have been shut down and abandoned. Nevertheless, the environmental consequences of over 100 years of large-scale mining activity in the upper Clark Fork basin have left their mark. Enormous amounts of fine material, mostly mine tailings, were released into

the drainage, and were transported and deposited downstream. These tailings, containing heavy metals, proved toxic to aquatic life and negatively altered the aquatic biological community of the upper river.

For years, the upper Clark Fork River was void of fish. It wasn't until efforts were made to retain and prevent the downstream movement of the toxic tailings in the Warm Springs Treatment Pond System that water quality improved to a level where trout could begin to re-colonize the sections of the river upstream of Missoula. However, by that time, most of the trout in the river were non-native species, including rainbow trout and brown trout. Brown trout have been shown to have a higher tolerance to metals and degraded habitat conditions than other trout species, and it is likely because of this that the species dominates the current trout community in much of the upper Clark Fork. While trout are common in the upper river today, past research has shown that trout populations are only one fifth of what would be expected without contamination from mining wastes.

The Clark Fork River from its headwaters to the former Milltown Dam site was designated a Superfund Priority Site in 1986. Cleanup activities have been completed for several years on Silver Bow Creek near Butte and at Milltown Dam near Missoula, and systematic remediation of the upper Clark Fork River mainstem began in 2012. Remediation of metals-contaminated soils along the upper Clark Fork River is expected to improve water quality and allow for more tolerable conditions for fish and other aquatic life. Remediation actions do disturb habitat, but the impacts are expected to be short-term.

In 2008 the State of Montana concluded a multi-decade natural resource litigation against the Atlantic Richfield Company for injuries to natural resources in the upper Clark Fork River and its tributaries from the historic mining practices around Butte and Anaconda. That litigation resulted in multiple settlements totaling about \$231 million in natural resource damages intended to restore or replace damages to natural resources in the basin. FWP in coordination with the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) completed a basin wide assessment of fisheries resources and used the data to prioritize restoration projects for these restoration dollars. The goals for restoration of the upper Clark Fork drainage is to restore the mainstem trout fishery to reference conditions including for native species by improving recruitment of trout from tributaries, replace lost angling in the mainstem by improving trout fisheries in tributaries, and maintain or improve native fish populations in the upper Clark Fork River basin. Many types of projects have and are being completed to meet these goals. Projects include fish screens and diversion upgrades for passage, barrier removal and implementation, habitat restoration, water savings and flow enhancement projects, land acquisition, among others. FWP continues to work with NRDP to prioritize and monitor the highest value projects in the drainage. Priorities are subject to change as new information is available and NRDP prioritization plans are updated. Current priorities can be found in the 2018 version of the [NRDP Upper Clark Fork Aquatic Prioritization Plan](#).

Other factors that affect habitat quality in the upper Clark Fork include mid-summer dewatering. Irrigation withdrawal can have severe impacts on summer stream flows in the river upstream of Deer Lodge, especially during drought years. Low flows increase water temperatures to levels not suitable for trout, and extensive algae and aquatic plant growth impact dissolved oxygen levels along much of the River. Flow projects have been prioritized as part of the NRDP restoration of the upper Clark Fork. Some projects have been completed, but major enhancements of summer low flows on the upper Clark Fork are still needed to restore the trout fishery to reference levels. Recently ratification of the CSKT Montana Compact instituted the Milltown Water Right as an instream flow right with a 1904 priority

date. The water right includes all water in the Clark Fork basin upstream of the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers including the upper Clark Fork. The State co-owns the water right with the CSKT but enforcement of the new priority date has been deferred to April of 2025.

## **Special Management Issues**

### ***Mountain Lakes Evaluation:***

There are roughly 70 mountain lakes in the upper Clark Fork basin. The current stocking strategy on most of these lakes seems to be working based on angling reports and sporadic data. However, many of these lakes have not been evaluated using standardized methods. In the coming years standardized gill net surveys will be carried out in a drainage-by-drainage fashion starting with lakes in the Warm Springs drainage. Updated fisheries data will allow FWP to optimize the stocking strategies, evaluate lakes for restoration opportunities, and provide better information to the public regarding angling opportunity and quality.

### ***Racetrack Pond Stocking Evaluation:***

Racetrack Pond was enlarged and non-sport fish species removed in 2018. After renovation, the pond was stocked back with rainbow trout and westslope cutthroat trout. FWP has been evaluating the current stocking prescription using spring gill net surveys as conditions in the pond stabilize. Once a baseline is established under the current prescription, FWP will evaluate the data to determine if changes to stocking could increase fishing quality and opportunity. Brown trout will also be evaluated as a sport fish addition to the pond as they were a popular component before the renovation, and some anglers have requested brown trout in the pond.

### ***Silver Bow Creek Fisheries Mortality and Movement Study:***

Silver Bow Creek was void of trout due to mining impacts until the first brook trout was discovered in the creek in 2006, and by 2010 brook trout and westslope cutthroat trout were present throughout the creek. Over the past decade populations have remained at relatively low levels due to a variety of factors, but recently trout populations have declined. It appears recruitment is limited in the creek and mortality is likely high. FWP has partnered with the George Grant Chapter Trout Unlimited to tag and track trout in Silver Bow Creek. This study will help identify and confirm spawning locations, movements related to impacts in the drainage, refuge habitats, and causes of mortality. The results of this study will be used to prioritize restoration and management needs in the drainage.

### ***Clark Fork River Population Monitoring:***

Population monitoring has become a primary means for evaluating large scale remediation being undertaken by Department of Environmental Quality on the upper Clark Fork River. Since remediation began FWP has added monitoring locations to evaluate the response of trout populations. FWP will continue this effort as remediation continues. While some short-term negative impacts to the trout population are expected from remediation, a goal of remediation is long-term benefit to the fishery.

### ***Upper Clark Fork River Brown Trout Recruitment Evaluation***

Brown trout populations in the upper Clark Fork River upstream of Deer Lodge began declining precipitously in 2017 and by 2019 were at the lowest levels on record since the 1970's. There are many chronic limiting factors in this reach of the Clark Fork River, including water quality, temperature, habitat quality, and large-scale disturbance related to remedial activities. Understanding the specific factors relevant to the recent brown trout decline has been difficult. Recruitment and factors influencing survival can be hard to understand in trout populations. FWP will be evaluating spawning activity, juvenile fish distribution, natal origin, and other facets of brown trout life history in the upper Clark Fork to understand recruitment and limiting factors. This data will be used to help prioritize actions that can be taken to enhance brown trout recruitment in the upper Clark Fork River.

### ***Priority Tributary Fisheries Monitoring***

FWP completed a [basin wide assessment](#) of fisheries and habitat values in tributaries to the upper Clark Fork starting in 2008 to prioritize tributaries for restoration needs related to the NRDP settlement fund. FWP continues to monitor priority tributaries to keep a baseline dataset that can be used to evaluate and prioritize restoration in the drainage. In addition to standard sampling, FWP will monitor individual restoration actions to help understand their benefits and inform future restoration. FWP currently has plans to monitor restoration projects on a watershed scale in Cottonwood Creek and O'Neill Creek.

### ***Bull Trout Conservation in the Upper Clark Fork Basin***

Warm Springs Creek is the primary spawning and rearing location in the upper Clark Fork basin. Bull trout occasionally use the Clark Fork River mainstem for migration and overwinter habitat. FWP will continue population and spawning assessments in the Warm Springs drainage to evaluate the status of bull trout. FWP has also partnered with NRDP, Butte-Silver Bow County, and Trout Unlimited to install trapping facilities at three barriers in the Warm Spring drainage. The barriers are beneficial for isolating native westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout from non-native brown trout but impede bull trout spawning migrations. FWP will move trapped bull trout above the barriers so they can reach spawning grounds. The trapping facilities will be constructed in summer of 2023 on Butte-Silver Bow property using NRDP restoration funds. FWP will be responsible for operating the traps and handling captured bull trout.

### ***Designated Hoot Owl Reaches***

The upper Clark Fork River mainstem and tributary stream reaches that have traditionally been affected by drought restrictions are identified below (Table 2.05-1). Native and non-native trout populations are affected by high water temperatures and low flows during summer drought periods. Classification, criteria, and measurement apply to the entire reach; however, implementation of restrictions may occur in all or parts of individual reaches depending on temperature, flow, and angling pressure at that time. Furthermore, there are times and locations that cutthroat trout and bull trout congregate within a fishery designated as non-native trout waters, such as when they are seeking cold water refuge in springs or at tributary mouths during warmer months. In these instances, a cutthroat or bull trout criteria may be applied to these areas.

Table 2.05-1: Designated hoot owl reaches where drought related fishing restrictions and closures due to fishing pressure, high water temperatures, and/or low flows are expected to be implemented. Drought related restrictions and closures may also be placed on waters not listed here.

Waterbody	Reach	Classification	Criteria
<b>Upper Clark Fork River</b>	Flint Creek to confluence of Warm Springs Creek and Silver Bow Creek (RM 264.5 to 330)	Non-native salmonid sport fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily maximum river temperature reaches or exceeds 73 F for three consecutive days or stream flows fall below the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile of daily mean values for the date.</li> <li>• Measurements relevant for criteria will occur at USGS gauge 12324200 at Deer Lodge. Measurements at this gauge are representative of temperatures throughout the Clark Fork upstream of Flint Creek.</li> </ul>
<b>Little Blackfoot River</b>	Confluence with Clark Fork River to Hwy 12 Bridge at Elliston (RM 0 to 26.2)	Non-native salmonid sport fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily maximum river temperature reaches or exceeds 73 F for three consecutive days or stream flows fall below the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile of daily mean values for the date.</li> <li>• Temperature measurements relevant for criteria will be taken using portable temperature recorders at the FWP Fishing Access Site at river mile 9.3. Temperatures at this location are representative of temperature throughout the Little Blackfoot River below the USFS boundary.</li> </ul>
<b>Silver Bow Creek</b>	Confluence with Warm Springs Creek to confluence with Blacktail Creek (RM 0 to 28.8)	Non-native salmonid sport fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily maximum water temperature reaches or exceeds 73 F for three consecutive days.</li> <li>• Temperature measurements relevant for criteria will be taken using portable temperature recorders at Miles Crossing. Temperatures at this location are representative of temperatures throughout Silver Bow Creek.</li> <li>• The Silver Bow Creek reach will include the mainstem stream, excluding the mileage contained within the Warm Springs Ponds (RM 1.1 to 5.2).</li> </ul>

## Fisheries Management Direction for Upper Clark Fork River Drainage

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Silver Bow Creek and Tributaries	25 miles mainstem plus tributaries	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Enhance fluvial populations for conservation and catch-and-release angling. Promote connectivity among tributary populations.
		Brook trout, Rainbow trout, Brown trout	Wild	General	Manage for the recovery of westslope cutthroat trout by continuing to allow liberal harvest of non-native trout. Consider other options to reduce non-native trout numbers if options are practical and would increase native trout density.
Habitat needs and activities: Cleanup of mining contamination throughout reach. Increase instream flow and enhance habitat to support ecosystem function and production of native trout. Improve water quality coming from upper Silver Bow Creek and Tributaries. Evaluate effects of water management changes in upper Silver Bow Creek. Maintain a barrier on the mainstem (just below German Gulch) to prevent colonization of brown trout and rainbow trout and allow for a westslope cutthroat trout fishery to develop.					
Warm Springs Creek and Tributaries	30 miles mainstem plus tributaries	Bull trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Continue year-long closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance migratory and resident populations for conservation.
		Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Preserve existing genetics in currently isolated resident populations. Improve migratory populations for angling and conservation.
		Brown trout, Brook trout, Rainbow trout	Wild	General	Manage for harvest opportunity and reduce numbers to lessen competition, hybridization with, and predation on native trout. Above Meyers Dam, consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and cutthroat angling opportunity.

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Habitat needs and activities: Cleanup of mining contamination downstream of Anaconda. Secure instream flow and enhance habitat to support ecosystem function and production of trout and whitefish. Manage connectivity to favor native trout, particularly bull trout. Trap and pass native fish at barriers throughout the drainage. Evaluate and screen diversions in lower Warm Springs Creek.					
Silver Lake	300 acres	Bull trout (N)  Westslope cutthroat trout (N)  Rainbow trout, Brook trout, Lake trout	Wild  Wild  Wild	Conservation  Conservation  General	Continue year-long closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance adfluvial population for conservation.  Enhance population for conservation and to provide angling opportunity.  Allow liberal harvest to reduce competition and hybridization with, and predation on native trout. Consider other options to reduce numbers if options would increase native trout density and cutthroat angling opportunity.
Habitat needs and activities: Manage connectivity with Storm Lake Creek to favor adfluvial bull trout moving upstream to spawn. Pursue leasing or purchasing stored water to supplement Warm Springs Creek and the Clark Fork River. Evaluate impacts of drawdowns on bull trout populations.					
Clark Fork River Headwaters Downstream to Confluence with Flint Creek.	70 miles	Bull trout (N), Westslope cutthroat trout (N)  Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout	Wild  Wild	Conservation  Quality/ Restrictive Regulations	Continue year-long closure on angling for bull trout. Enhance migratory populations for conservation. Enhance catch-and-release westslope cutthroat trout fishery.  Manage harvest to support quality angling opportunity. Ensure adequate connectivity with important spawning tributaries to provide for natural recruitment.
Habitat needs and activities: Cleanup mining contamination throughout reach. Document, evaluate, and further study fish kills and their relation to tailings deposited on banks and in the floodplain. Evaluate changing remediation strategies related to bank design and habitat formation. Evaluate past remediation as it ages and habitat is formed. Enhance instream flow. Enhance connectivity with tributaries where appropriate. Protect and improve habitat quality in spawning and rearing areas to enhance natural recruitment of wild and native trout and whitefish.					

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
Warm Springs and Job Corps Ponds	897 acres	Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Hatchery	Quality	Restrict trout harvest and manage stocking densities to promote quality catch-and-release angling opportunity for large trout.
Habitat needs and activities: Improve water quality of ponds. Slow eutrophication process by improving water quality of Butte Metro Sewage Treatment Plant discharge. Understand the effects of stored contaminants on the biota in and downstream of the Warm Springs Ponds.					
Racetrack Pond, Kids Pond at Warm Springs WMA, Gravel Pit Pond adjacent to Highway 48, Skyline Pond, Copper Mountain Pond	45 acres	Rainbow trout, Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Hatchery	Family fishing water	Encourage youth angling through special regulations (Racetrack Pond and Warm Springs WMA Kids Pond), or special fishing day events (Gravel Pit Pond). Manage stocking densities and trout harvest to promote quality angling opportunity for stocked trout.
		Brown trout (only present in Racetrack Pond)	Hatchery	Family fishing water	Manage as limited component of fishery at Racetrack Pond. Manage for low densities to reduce competition and predation on rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout.
Little Blackfoot River and Tributaries	50 miles mainstem plus tributaries	Westslope cutthroat trout (N)	Wild	Conservation	Enhance migratory and resident populations for conservation and catch-and-release angling. Consider isolation of local populations only if hybridization or competition is a threat and habitat and fish numbers are sufficient to allow persistence.
		Brown trout, Brook trout, Rainbow trout	Wild	General	Manage for harvest opportunity and reduce numbers to lessen competition, hybridization and predation, particularly above Elliston where westslope cutthroat trout are abundant. Consider other options to reduce numbers if they would increase native trout density and angling opportunity.

Water	Miles/acres	Species	Recruitment Source	Management Type	Management Direction
<p>Habitat needs and activities: Protect and improve habitat to support ecosystem function and natural production of native trout and whitefish. Manage connectivity to favor native trout. Look for opportunities to enhance recruitment of trout to the Clark Fork River. Look for opportunities to augment late season flows in the lower Little Blackfoot.</p>					
<p>Tributaries to Upper Clark Fork River above Confluence with Flint Creek, other than those specifically listed</p>	<p>---</p>	<p>Westslope cutthroat trout (N)</p> <p>Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Brook trout</p>	<p>Wild</p> <p>Wild</p>	<p>Conservation</p> <p>General</p>	<p>Enhance populations for conservation and recruitment to the Clark Fork River sport fishery. Maintain currently isolated (or consider isolating) populations only if hybridization or competition is a threat and habitat is sufficient to allow persistence. Preserve connectivity with streams currently connected to allow for maintenance of migratory life histories. Monitor these populations closely for hybridization and/or competition threats.</p> <p>In streams with westslope cutthroat trout, continue to allow liberal harvest to reduce competition, hybridization, and predation. Consider other options to reduce numbers if they would increase native trout numbers and angling opportunity. Where native species concerns are not present, enhance migratory populations to improve recruitment to recreational fishery in the Clark Fork River.</p>
<p>Habitat needs and activities: Protect and improve habitat to support ecosystem function and natural production of trout. Manage connectivity to favor native trout.</p>					