



## **LAKE ELMO FISHING REGULATION CHANGE**

**April 1, 2020**

In order to prevent the spread of invasive Asian clams recently discovered in Lake Elmo, FWP is planning to dewater the lake to eliminate the invasive clams. This action is expected to completely eliminate the Lake Elmo fishery. During public scoping and comments provided toward the Environmental Assessment for this action, some commenters requested the department remove bag limits to allow public opportunity to remove fish prior to dewatering since the fish are going to die when all the water is removed.

As of April 1, Lake Elmo daily fishing limits and possession limits are the Eastern District Standard Daily and Possession Limits (see page 84 of the 2021 Montana Fishing Regulations). One exception to standard regulation prohibits bow and arrow fishing (page 85 of the 2021 Montana Fishing Regulations). Upon approval by the Fish & Wildlife Commission, the department will remove all standard daily and possession limits for Lake Elmo from May 1 to November 1, 2020. Bow and arrow fishing at Lake Elmo will still be prohibited. All other Eastern District Standard Regulations, such as methods of taking fish, will remain in place at Lake Elmo (see page 76 of the 2021 Montana Fishing Regulations for allowed Methods of Taking Fish).

After November 1 all Eastern District Standard Daily and Possession Limits and Exceptions to Standard Regulations at Lake Elmo will apply.

The department may consider future regulation changes to re-establish the fishery in Lake Elmo. Currently the lake is expected to refill in April 2022.