



Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

Avista Recreation Management Area Biennial Rule Public Use Special Regulations

BIENNIAL RULE

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (“FWP”) and the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission adopts the following rules and regulations to govern recreational use within the designated Avista Recreation Management Area in Sanders County for the purpose of gaining hunting access and recreational privileges on private land, to prevent vehicular damage to soils and vegetation, and to avoid excessive disturbance to native wildlife including threatened and endangered species.

This Rule is effective from 8/25/2021 to 8/25/2023.

The designated area of the Avista Recreation Management Area is depicted in Figure 1 below:

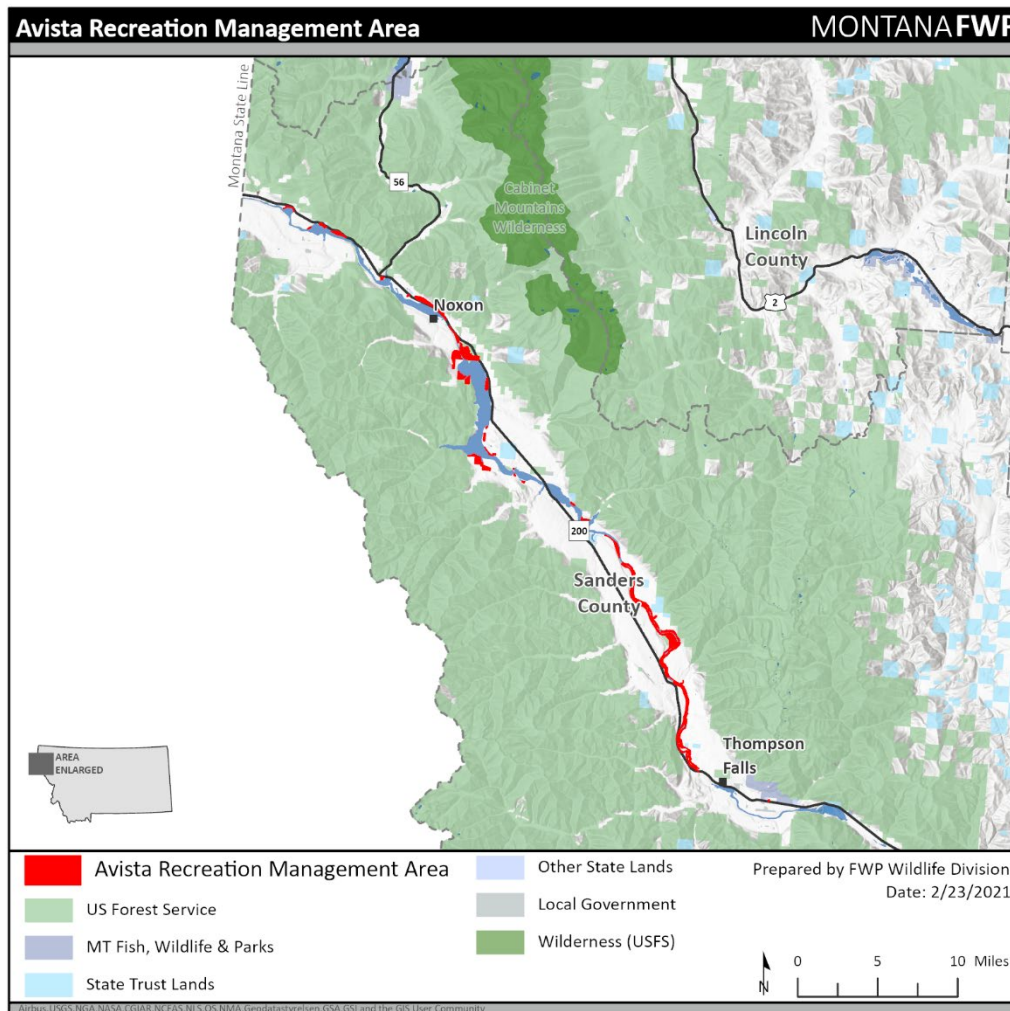


Figure 1. Avista Recreation Management Area Map.

Property boundaries are approximate. Detailed ownership information is available at the Avista Natural Resources Office in Noxon, MT.

Because the public enjoyment of the recreational facilities of these lands necessitates rules, regulations and enforcement, the provisions of 87-1-303 MCA shall apply.

Public Use Rules:

1. Motorized vehicles may only be driven in the above described area on established roads designated open for motorized travel, or in designated parking and camping areas as posted. Landowners and/or their designee in the course of administrative work, and federal, state, and county officials in the course of their official duties will be exempt from these vehicular restrictions.
2. Target shooting and discharge of firearms is prohibited on Avista lands in all posted safety zones and on lands from June 1 through August 31, annually.
3. Camping on Avista land is limited to 14 days during any 30-day period, with a 30-day limit per calendar year.
4. Camping is allowed on all Avista lands unless it is posted "Day Use Only."
5. No person may leave a campsite unattended overnight, nightly occupancy is required.
6. No person may destroy, injure, pick up, remove or otherwise damage any natural structures or items on Avista lands. Persons cannot willfully or negligently cut or destroy any tree, shrub or plant without written approval by Avista or take, possess or damage any geological, historical, or archaeological feature.
7. Any and all ground disturbance is prohibited on Avista lands
8. Visitors utilizing campsites and day use sites will keep their site clean, organized and free of litter and debris that may attract any wildlife. Feeding wildlife intentionally or unintentionally is prohibited.
9. Waste & refuse disposal: litter, pollutants, or other refuse, including fish entrails must be disposed of off-site. Sewage waste from portable toilets or recreational vehicles may not be disposed of in vault toilets or on the ground; it must be disposed of at a proper handling facility.
10. Fires may be built only in established fireplaces, grills, steel fire rings, or camp stoves. Rock fire rings are prohibited.
11. No person may leave a fire unattended; fires must be attended at all times.
12. Avista lands may not be used for any commercial or special use purposes without an Avista issued Special Use Permit.
13. No firewood cutting is allowed (use of dead and downed wood for onsite camping is permitted).
14. Fireworks are not permitted anywhere on Avista lands.

STATEMENT OF LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE RULE

Section 87-1-303, MCA, gives the Fish and Wildlife Commission authority to adopt and enforce rules governing uses of lands that it operates under agreement with or in conjunction with a private owner.

This rule was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 24, 2021.

Lesley Robinson, Chair
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission