



# MARIAS RIVER Wildlife Management Area

Deer/Elk Hunting District: 406 Antelope Hunting District: 404

Access Dates: Noon April 1st - January 1st, 11:59 PM

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Acres	County	Ownership
8,865	Toole/Pondera	Fish, Wildlife & Parks

All species may be hunted, fished, and trapped with valid licenses during legal seasons unless otherwise restricted. See hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations for species specific regulations and license/permit types.

### PRIMARY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES:

Mule/Whitetail Deer with access permit only, Upland Game Birds, Antelope, and Waterfowl.

## HOW TO GET THERE:

The Marias River WMA can be accessed by three access roads or floating the Marias River.

### Lincoln Access Road:

Access through this road is limited to Marias River WMA deer hunting access permit holders ONLY for the respective hunting season.

### McCormick and Clark Access Roads:

From Hjartarson Road, the McCormick Road leads to the northwest corner of the WMA. The Clark Access Road leads to the north central portion of the WMA.

### River Floating:

**Put-in Access:** Public put-in access is available at the Sullivan Bridge via Sullivan Bridge Road, located approximately 13 miles north of Valier, on undeveloped BLM property.

**Take-out Access:** The public take-out is located at Williamson Park, 1.2 miles downstream from the I-15 Bridge.

**What to Expect:** The Marias River is a Class I river suitable for beginners its entire length during normal river flows. The upper Marias River is slow moving and typically becomes too low to float beginning mid to late July. Canoes and kayaks are the recommended watercraft. Rafts can also be used but often result in slow progress and long days on the water.

**River Flows:** Very little information on minimum, optimum, and maximum river flows is available for reliable and safe floating for the upper Marias River. Optimum flows below Tiber Reservoir have been estimated to be between 700 and 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs), with flows below 500 cfs estimated to be too low to float. River flow for the Upper Marias River is available on-line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?06099500>.

### River Mileages:

- Sullivan Bridge to WMA boundary: 9 miles
- WMA western boundary to eastern boundary: 13 miles
- WMA eastern boundary to take-out at Marias Valley Rd Bridge (I-15): 9 miles
- Total Mileage - Sullivan Bridge to Williamson Park: 31 miles

## OTHER INFORMATION:

The 8,865 acre Marias River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was purchased in 2009, features an underdeveloped 14-mile stretch of the Marias River, along with diverse habitats including sagebrush grassland and short grass prairie.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- The use of motorized vehicles, including e-bikes and off-highway vehicles, is allowed only on designated open roads (see map). Off road travel with motorized wheeled or tracked vehicles is prohibited.
- All individuals should be aware of potential grizzly and black bear presence. Bear resistant storage is required for all food and attractants (Grizzly Bear Committee Certified Bear-Resistant Products or non-commercial products approved under IGBC's courtesy inspection program). This does not limit field dressing or transport of game meat in the course of lawful hunting and angling activities.
- Fires are allowed in portable camp stoves and in designated fire rings unless otherwise posted or prohibited by emergency fire restrictions. All fires must be extinguished when left unattended.
- Damage or removal of any property, natural or cultural resources, and live trees is prohibited. Cutting of dead trees for firewood is allowable only for onsite use.
- When open to public use, wildlife management areas are open to all commission-established hunting seasons unless otherwise prohibited and posted. Archery and firearm hunting is permissible following adherence to local regulations. The possession, display, carrying, discharge, or use of a weapon in a public use site must be in compliance with Titles 23, 25, and 87, MCA.
- Discharge of fireworks is prohibited.
- Trapping is allowed following local regulations and with written permission from the WMA manager. Contact FWP Region 4 HQ (406) 454-5840 for information on obtaining trapping permission.
- Recreational horseback and mule riding/packing allowed. Horses, or similar animals must be corralled or tethered when not in use. Certified weed free hay and straw products, including but not limited to pelletized feed, cubes, and whole grains, are required, and must be properly and clearly marked.
- No littering—Pack it in—Pack it out.
- Conducting organized dog training or field trials requires written authorization from the WMA Manager. Contact FWP Region 4 HQ (406) 454-5840 for more information.
- A Commercial Use Permit is required for any allowable commercial activity. Contact FWP Region 4 HQ (406) 454-5840 for information on obtaining a permit.
- A Special Use Permit is required for groups of 10 or more persons. Contact FWP Region 4 HQ (406) 454-5840 for information on obtaining a permit.
- Written authorization by the WMA Manager is required prior to conducting organized dog training or field trials. Contact FWP Region 4 HQ (406) 454-5840 for information on obtaining dog training permission.
- Refer to Public Use Rules and Regulations: <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management-areas> for general rules pertaining to use of and recreational activities on Wildlife Management Areas.

## MARIAS RIVER WMA SPECIFIC RULES:

- Motorized camping restricted to designated parking areas off McCormick and Clark Access Roads. Non-motorized camping allowed > 1/4 mile (440 yards) from designated parking areas.



### REGION 4 OFFICE

4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405  
Phone: (406) 454-5840  
M - F, 8AM - 5PM (excluding holidays)

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN EVICTION FROM THIS PROPERTY AND/OR A CITATION FOR VIOLATING COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS.

REPORT VIOLATIONS: [tipmont.mt.gov](http://tipmont.mt.gov)