

MONTANA'S

Missouri River Country



MORE ROOM TO ROAM

800.653.1319 MISSOURIRIVERMT.COM



Wolf Point Stampede | Hailey Rae Photography

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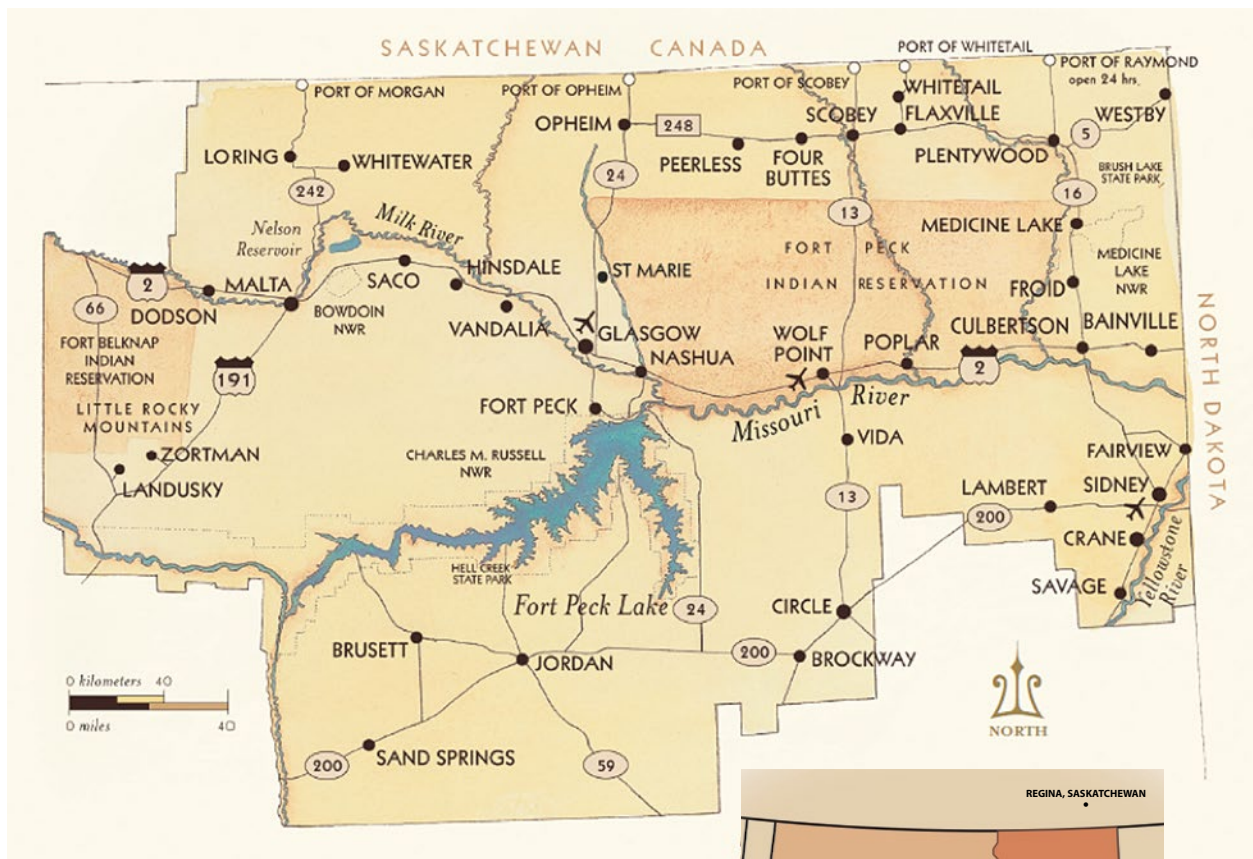
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Montana's Missouri River Country



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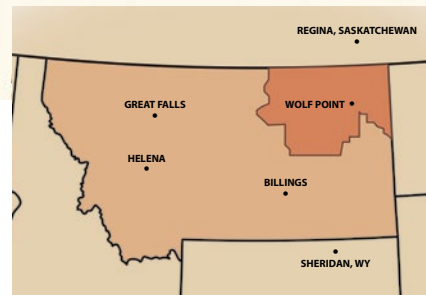
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The Missouri River Country Website

Every two years, Missouri River Country publishes a new travel planner, and its website is continually updated.

Our website is an encyclopedia to Northeast Montana. The Missouri River Country site contains numerous articles on all aspects of this corner of Montana, spectacular photography, trip planning ideas, places to stay and eat, activities, things to do and see, and events. We welcome you to use it along with this current edition as your guide to a beautiful and undiscovered destination, Missouri River Country.

LEARN MORE • PLAN MORE • SEE MORE

AT MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY'S NEW WEBSITE

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Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit our site!



Follow us on:





Spring on the Montana prairie near Malta | Rick and Susie Graetz



Judge Ray Trumpower and young visitor | Cheryl Trumpower

More Room to Roam...

The wealth of opportunities for adventure amidst the natural treasures of Missouri River Country cannot be overstated. If you love big water recreation, wildlife sightings, prairie topography, wild country, paleontology, uncluttered views that go on forever, the romance and colorful history of the Old West, night skies brilliant with stars, and just plain being in the landscape that gives you room to breathe, then a journey to Montana's northeast corner to explore this incredible expansive geography should be on the top of your bucket list!

The welcome mat is out, come visit us, you won't be disappointed.

Judge Ray Trumpower
President Missouri River Country Board of Directors

Under Montana's Biggest Sky...





Montana's prairie lands surging east of the Northern Rockies are the most unique and beautiful in the nation.

This is Missouri River Country

Nowhere on the North American continent can one find such a magnificent gathering of simple grandeur—river breaks, island ranges, buttes, badlands, grasslands, wildlife refuges, and lakes—as to be found in Montana's portion of the Great Plains.

It's a distinct region unto itself and one of America's great pieces of geography. Space, much of it undisturbed, is its most celebrated commodity. This vast territory of unending sky delivers a feeling of no borders or confinement—a place where a human can stretch and breathe.

At first, the openness, immensity, and distances may seem overpowering. Gradually, though, you begin to notice the beauty and splendor... cottonwoods along a small creek, a lone tree silhouetted on a hillside, waves of wheat dancing in the summer wind, the first rays of sun illuminating sandstone cliffs, delicate snow patterns drifted against a weathered barn, the northern lights shimmering across the night horizon, antelope moving quietly through a sagebrush-covered prairie, and the soft fusion of earth and sky on vistas that seem endless.

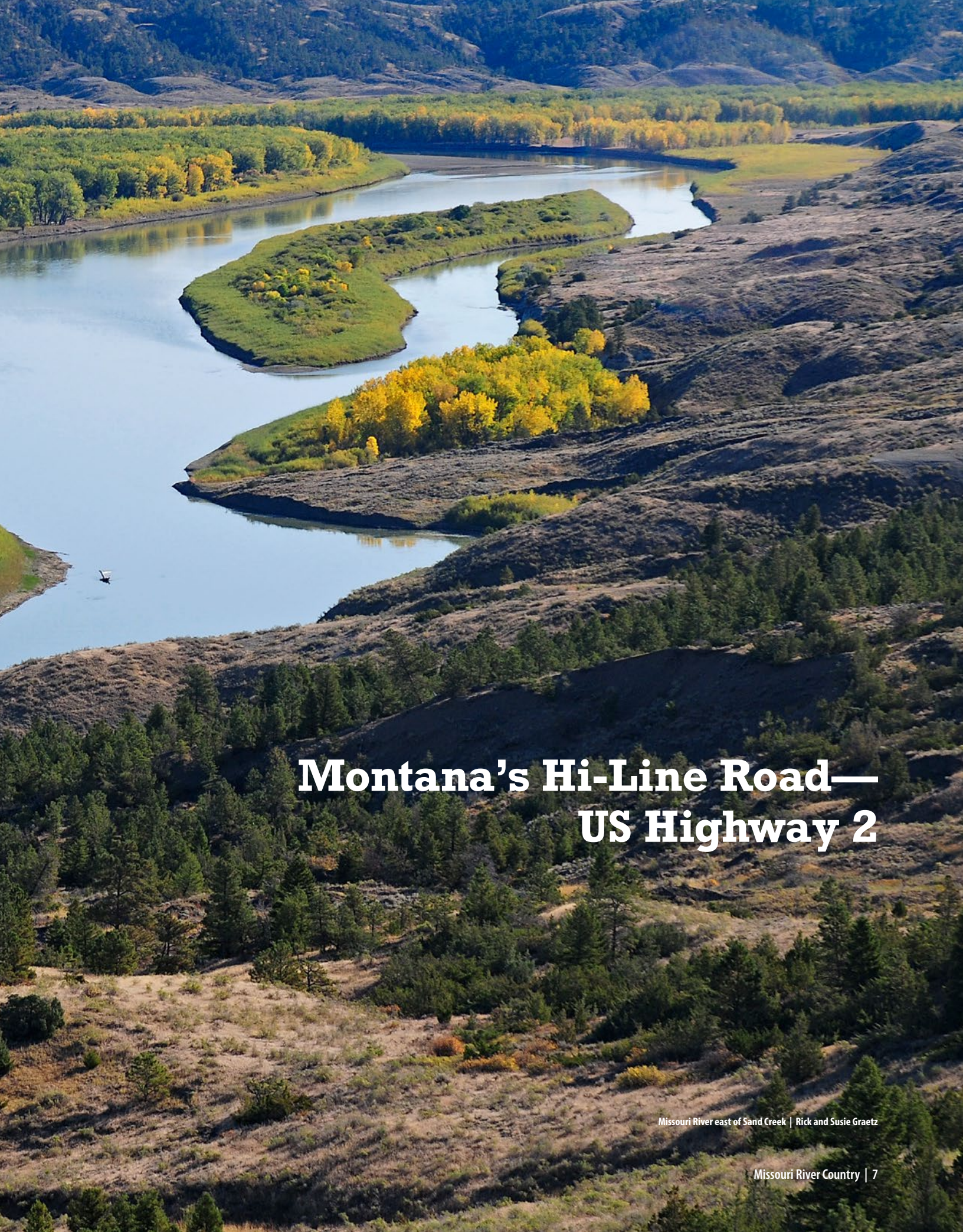
Couple this splendor with great sweeps of country unaltered through time and chronicles extending back less than two centuries, and watch one of the most fascinating places in America unfold.

This is Northeast Montana...

This is Missouri River Country

Let the pages that follow take you on a journey of discovering new territory and the people and communities that will welcome you...





Montana's Hi-Line Road— US Highway 2

Missouri River east of Sand Creek | Rick and Susie Graetz

Montana's Hi-Line Road— US Hwy 2

Malta: Zortman and the Little Rockies—Saco—Hinsdale
Vandalia

Glasgow: Fort Peck—Nashua—Frazer—Oswego

Wolf Point: Poplar—Brockton

Capturing many of the landforms that accentuate Missouri River Country

Frequently used in writings on the state, the term Hi-Line refers to US Hwy 2 as it traverses the windswept glaciated plains and shallow valleys of northern Montana. From Browning, just east of Glacier National Park, its trajectory heads straight to the North Dakota state line.

MALTA

Good lodging and dining make this historic Hi-Line community the place to stay while exploring the western portion of Missouri River Country. Located at the junction of US Hwys 2 and 191, the town gives easy access to the Charles M. Russell NWR, the Little Rocky Mountains, the Milk River country to the north, Bowdoin NWR, and Nelson Reservoir.

Reference the Missouri River Country map in this guide.

In Malta:

The Phillip's County Museum holds a wealth of locally found, pre-historic dinosaur and fossil remains. Also, an extensive collection of Plains Indians' artifacts and tableaus depicting what life was like for Native Americans and early-day settlers on the north-central Montana prairie. Learn the story of the outlaw Kid Curry's famous train robbery of 1901. **(406) 654-1037**

H.G. Robinson House and Gardens. H.G. Robinson wanted to be a cowboy and left New York for Montana at just 19 years of age. The house, shipped out on the railroad in 1898, is a prime example of a turn-of-the-century mail order home. Tours are available upon request; ask at the Phillips County Museum.

The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum and Field Station.

Located in the heart of "dinosaur country," it is a unique stop along the Montana Dinosaur Trail. Many extraordinary fossils: fish, invertebrates, turtles, plants, and crocodiles are featured. Of special note is a variety of Jurassic and Cretaceous dinosaur species, such as Triceratops, Stegosaurus, new species of Sauropod and raptor, and superbly preserved juvenile and adult Hadrosaurs. Summer field dig programs for adults and children are also offered. **(406) 654-5300** dinosaur@itstriangle.com greatplainsdinosaurs.org



Blue Ridge Brewing. Fine craft beers brewed locally. 320 S 1st East. **(406) 654-2855**

Marian Hills Golf Course. A nine-hole course and restaurant, open to the public. Located south of town off of US Hwy 191. **(406) 654-1250**

Places of interest near Malta:

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Considered the crown jewel of the nation's wildlife refuge system, it is one of America's great prairie wilderness landscapes. One of the best accesses to its western edge is the Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area

on the north side of the Fred Robinson Bridge. Just south of the passage over the Missouri River and up the hill, you can get more information at the Sand Creek Wildlife Station. **(406) 526-3493** fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell | fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell/fort-peck-interpretive-center

Zortman and the Little Rockies. From a distance, the mountains resemble atolls rising from the prairie sea of north-central Montana. Although not lofty, they are visible from 75 miles away. Indians migrating through this territory called them “the Wolf Mountains.”

From 1870 to 1900, this piece of geography was the setting for the Old West. The characters of those times... cattle barons, gold seekers, outlaws, cowboys, vigilantes, wood-hawkers, trappers, whiskey traders, rustlers, and horse thieves, went about their everyday business here.

With a quiet demeanor and photogenic white clapboard church, it is hard to believe the place was once a rip-snorthing, die-hard mining town. Home to the successful Ruby Gulch gold mine, it is estimated that before the shut down in 1949, the mines at Zortman, Landusky, and Beaver Creek produced \$125 million in gold. Lodging, meals, and camping are available.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. Seven miles east of Malta on old Hwy 2, the refuge is one of the best nature-viewing areas



St. Joseph Church in Zortman, MT
Burnt Image Photography

in Montana. More than 230 different species of birds and waterfowl have been identified. Home to a large pelican rookery, Bowdoin is also considered a prime spot to see pronghorn antelope.

A 15-mile circular car route through the refuge’s 15,500 acres opens up superb wildlife sighting opportunities. While hiking is allowed anywhere here, a dedicated 1/2-mile walking trail loops around Display Pond. Early morning and late afternoon in the spring and fall are the best times to visit. In the autumn, waterfowl and bird hunting are permitted in designated areas. **(406) 654-2863** | fws.gov/bowdoin



Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz



Nelson Reservoir
Rick and Susie Graetz

Nelson Reservoir. East of Malta, an access road leads to one of northeast Montana's popular water recreation and fishing areas. Ranked the number one walleye spot in the state, the reservoir produces record-class walleye, yellow perch, and northern pike. Amenities include camping, swimming, boating, picnic shelters, RV sites, restrooms, showers, and year-round fishing. In winter, ice fishing is a draw. In the Nelson vicinity, wetlands near the Milk River attract white-tailed deer, upland game birds, beaver, mink, and numerous small mammals. Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds come through the area to rest and feed during spring and fall migrations.

Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs Resort. East of Malta on US Hwy 2, you'll find mineral hot springs, sauna, swimming pool, lodge rooms, cabins, RV and tent camping facilities, and ice castles for winter ice-fishing. **(406) 527-3320**

Saco. In 1999, it held the Guinness World Record for making the world's largest hamburger patty; no small feat for a town of only 197 residents. It took the beef from 16 cows to create a 6,040-pound burger that sizzled on a monster 24-foot pan for one hour and forty minutes. Lodging, meals, camping, groceries, and gas are available.

The Huntley School. This is the one-room county schoolhouse where Saco student Chet Huntley, who went on to become a famous TV newscaster, once studied. Walk in, the door is open.

Hinsdale. According to local lore, about 1889 it was named for Reverend Hinsdale, a friend of James J. Hill, builder of the Great Northern Railway. In 1898, a devastating flood of the Milk River inundated the settlement and residents simply packed up and moved to safer ground about 1½ miles to the west.

Rock Creek Road. Eighteen miles up the road, you'll find some of Montana's most spectacular and seldom visited badlands. You are skirting the western edge of a true prairie wilderness... the Bitter Creek region. This is cowboy country. Ranches are significant, and the distance between human presence is considerable. Looking carefully along the ridges and hills above the creek, you'll note faint remains of trails and tipi rings used by early-day Native Americans, including Sitting Bull.

GLASGOW

Around 1887, by using the old "railroad naming method"—spin a globe and stop it with your finger, Scotland gave the new town a name. The Homestead Act and the Milk River Irrigation

Project delivered droves of folks to the area. Construction work on Fort Peck Dam in the late 1930s brought in more than 10,000 workers, allowing Glasgow to prosper during the days of the Great Depression.

Today, Glasgow is a flourishing community with an agriculture and service driven economy. Its location gives access to all the wonders of Fort Peck Lake, the C. M. Russell NWR to the south, and the prairie wildlands of Bitter Creek on the north. Excellent lodging and dining make this the place to stay while exploring the central area of Missouri River Country.



Sleeping Buffalo | Jamie Blotsky

In Glasgow:

Valley County Pioneer Museum. A terrific place to study the vibrant past of lands drained by the Milk River. The collections range from Native Americans to the Homestead Era to the wild-life and plants Lewis and Clark noted in their journals. Other displays include dinosaur bones, Fort Peck Dam history, the Buffalo Bill Cody bar, and the history of local aviation. Winter: Wed-Sat 10-4, Summer: Mon-Sat 9-5 **(406) 228-8692**

Children's Museum of Northeast Montana. Provides hands-on activities for kids and has a World Wildlife Exhibit. **(406) 228-4FUN nemtchildrensmuseum.com**

Sunnyside Golf & Country Club. Open to the public, this nine-hole course is located on Skylark Road. **(406) 228-9519**

Busted Knuckle Brewery. This craft brewery is a hit with a vintage car theme and a creative, fun décor. Eugene's Pizza delivers, and a local food truck hangs out nearby in the summer. 303 1st Ave. South. **(406) 228-2277**

Centennial Park Disc Golf Course. On the east side of town, take Highland Drive to this nine-hole "folf course."

Places of interest near Glasgow:

Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area. These 59,660-acres and the surrounding Bureau of Land Management (BLM), state, and private lands harbor a vanishing prairie that once defined the Northern Great Plains. Along with Canada's Grasslands National Park, this prairie forms one of the most extensive intact grasslands left in North America. "Not only did it escape the plow, but you can hike all day and not see another person," says John Carlson, BLM biologist. Hikers can wander through the vast, rolling semi-arid grasslands, broken by glaciated badlands and dotted with tipi rings. Boot-to-knee-high native grasses create a mosaic of vegetation that sustains longspurs, Sprague's pipits, sage grouse, long-billed curlews, and other prairie birds. The Audubon Society recognizes Bitter Creek as a Globally Important Bird Area. Visitors might also spot pronghorn and, if especially lucky, the seldom-seen swift fox.



Bitter Creek northwest of Glasgow, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz

To access Bitter Creek from Glasgow, drive 20 miles west on Hwy 2 and turn north onto Britsch Road for 15 miles. Be aware of the weather as the gravel-then-dirt road becomes impassable when wet. This is the case with many of the off-highway routes. For more information, contact the BLM Glasgow field office. **(406) 228-3750**

Fort Peck. Eighteen miles south of Glasgow via Hwy 24, the town of Fort Peck is long on colorful history. In the late 1860s, the old Fort Peck trading post served as the Indian agency for

the Assiniboine, Sioux, and several other tribes until 1878, when it was moved to the current location in Poplar. By 1881, the dynamic Missouri River had severely undercut its riverbank, and the post was abandoned. In 1933, a new town named Fort Peck, located about 2 miles north of the original, was built to house Army Corps of Engineers' employees involved in constructing Fort Peck Dam.

The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum. Step through the doors into the lair of a "gi-normous," life-like, open-jawed T-Rex named Peck's Rex, and let the adventure begin. Get up close and personal with the inhabitants of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River as they swim through two enormous aquariums. Visit the skeletal cast of the T-Rex discovered 20 miles southeast of town and other dinosaur fossils.

Animals of the CMR Refuge, hands-on interpretive displays, the history of Fort Peck Dam, and a false-fronted, early 20th-century street scene await you.

Ask about kids' fishing and hiking trails. **(406) 526-3493**
fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell/fort-peck-interpretive-center

Fort Peck Summer Theatre. For decades, with its seating for 1,200, it was the largest facility of its kind in the state. Today, professional summer stock actors bring laughter and music back



The Fort Peck Interpretive Center | Rick and Susie Graetz

to this exotic and historic building. Open May thru Aug; show time 4:00 pm. **(406) 228-9216**

Kiwanis Park. Shady cottonwood trees, picnic shelters, restrooms, and grills make this perfect for hosting family reunions, BBQs, and other large or small events. Located in front of the Kiwanis Downstream Campground, it is within walking distance of the Fort Peck Interpretive Center. The paved, accessible three-mile Beaver Creek Nature Trail commences here and leads through wildlife habitat along the Missouri River.

Lewis and Clark Overlook. The viewpoint and interpretive signage are 1/2 mile east of the powerhouses on MT Hwy 24.

The Fortress Disc Golf Course. Eighteen holes with two layouts. Open year-round, no fees. Located next to the Downstream Campground.

Fort Peck Lake. This enormous swath of geography, encompassing more than three million acres, showcases prairie splendor. See a section in this guide for more information.

WOLF POINT

The most accepted version of how this town came to be named is quite colorful. During a miserable 1860s winter, wolfers killed several hundred gray wolves that froze before they could be skinned for their pelts. Carcasses stacked in high piles awaited the steamboats expected that spring. Before the river ice broke, Indians overtook the camp. The putrid, decaying piles left behind became a visible and scented landmark, especially to those traveling the water.

In Wolf Point:

Wolf Point Area Museum. Showcases artifacts of early settlers and Indians, including clothing, arrowheads, and weapons. Open May 15th through Sept 15th. **(406) 653-1912**

Doc’Z Missouri Breaks Brewing. Award-winning craft beer right on Main Street. **(406) 653-1467**

Airport Golf Club. A nine-hole course open to the public, except Tues, Wed, and Thurs evenings. Off of Golf Club Rd just east of town. **(406) 653-2161**

Lewis and Clark Disc Golf. A nine-hole course along the Missouri River. Head south out of a town a few miles,

turn at the Lewis and Clark Fishing Access Site.
www.lewisandclarkdiscgolf.com

Places of interest near Wolf Point:

Poplar. Headquarters for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation was named for the widespread stands of trees on the banks of the Poplar River. The reservation is home to the Dakota—Lakota-Nakota (Sioux) and Nakota (Assiniboine) nations.

Fort Peck Community College. Tribally owned and chartered by the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, FPCC is in Poplar and has a satellite campus in Wolf Point. **fpcc.edu**

Poplar City Museum. Located in the old Tribal Jail. Built in 1920, it is now on the national historic register. The old cells are used to display beadwork and quilts.

Hi-Line Community Events

Rodeos, county fairs, and pow wows are highlights of the spring and summer season in much of Missouri River Country. View each community’s website or call the chamber of commerce for up-to-date information.

Zortman: 4th of July parade through town and fireworks at night.



Something 's brewing in Missouri River Country!

Take a break from your travels and enjoy a carefully-crafted brew at one (or more!) of these independent microbreweries:.

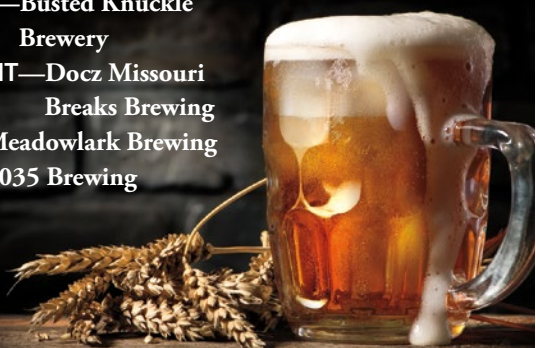
MALTA—Blue Ridge Brewing

GLASGOW—Busted Knuckle
Brewery

WOLF POINT—Docz Missouri
Breaks Brewing

SIDNEY—Meadowlark Brewing

SIDNEY—1035 Brewing



Malta: Phillips County Fair, 1st weekend in August. Pushing over 100 years, it is Montana's longest continuous running county fair. Live concert, Demolition Derby/AMX races, Indian relay races/chariot races, 4-H displays and auction, and carnival.

Dino Days, celebrating the pre-historic animals that once roamed this part of our planet. **(406) 654-1776**

Saco: The 59th annual Fun Days is always over Labor Day weekend. Lots of activities... large parade, rodeo, street dance, softball, free-will BBQ, and cornhole. **(406) 527-3434**

Hinsdale: The lively Milk River Days and Rodeo is celebrated every 4th of July.

Glasgow: Milk River Catfish Classic, 1st weekend in June.

The Northeast Montana Fair with rodeo, demolition derby, car show, concerts. **(406) 228-2222**

Fort Peck: Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament in July.
montanagovcup@nemont.net

Ice-Fishing Derby each winter.

Longest Dam Race in June. For all info, **(406) 228-2222**
glasgowchamber.net

Wolf Point: Wild Horse Stampede, 2nd weekend in July. A rodeo, parade, and carnival.

The Wadopana Pow Wow, 1st week in August, Montana's oldest traditional pow-wow. **(406) 653-2012**

Poplar: Wild West Days Rodeo is in June.

Wahcinca Dakota Oyate Celebration, 3rd weekend in July.

Indian Days Rodeo, 1st weekend in September.
(406) 768-5204

Frazer: Red Bottom Pow Wow, 3rd weekend in June.

Brockton: Badlands Pow Wow, 4th weekend in June.

Fort Kipp: Pow Wow and 4th of July celebration, 1st weekend in July.





The Great Northeast from Bitter Creek Wilderness to the Dakota Line

Horses near Dagmar, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz

Missouri River Country | 17

The Great Northeast from Bitter Creek Wilderness to the Dakota Line

The Northeast Corner: Scobey—Plentywood
Culbertson

Scobey: Opheim—Richland—Peerless—Flaxville
Whitetail—Redstone

Plentywood: Westby—Medicine Lake—Froid

Culbertson: Bainville

A stock inspector speaking of the 1920s and 30s noted in his files that *“Valley County (now split into Daniels and Sheridan counties) is the most lawless and crookedest country in the union and the Big Muddy is the worst of it. It has Indians, outlaws, horse*

and cattle rustlers, bootleggers, homesteaders, baseball rivalries, newspaper wars, political battles, communists, and car thieves.”

Two of its communities, Scobey and Plentywood, were the center of that colorful and lively era. Times have settled down since then, but there is still excitement to be found.

SCOBEY

Idyllic prairie town... clean, orderly, and picturesque. Known as the center of one of Montana’s most productive grain-growing regions, it occupies a small space in the broad Poplar River Valley. Like so many places in northeast Montana, it began late in the first decade of the 20th Century, primarily because of the railroad and the accompanying homestead era. Early on, two competing railroads—the Great Northern and the Soo Line, running seven miles apart and parallel with each other, were vying for the area’s abundant agricultural products... at least until the years of drought and depression came along.





In Scobey:

Pioneer Town. A realistic version of an early 1900's homestead village, one of the finest museums of its kind. Forty-two original structures, some 100 years old, have been brought in from nearby towns. Strolling the boardwalks, you'll wish you hadn't left your boots and spurs at home. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day: 12:30-4:30. Labor Day to Memorial Day: Fri 1-4 and by appointment (406) 487-5965 or (406) 487-2061



Daniels County Museum. Focusing on local history in all forms, including archives, a collection of antique cars, tractors, and machinery. Hours and days of operation are the same as Pioneer Town.

Daniels County Courthouse. The distinctive columned structure, built about 1913, and located on Scobey's main street, was known in its earlier days as "One-eyed Molly's House of Pleasure." Today, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Scobey Golf Club. Open from dawn to dusk, the 3,059-yard course has been called "the best-kept secret" in northeast Montana. (406) 487-5322

Granrud's Lefse Shack. 602 Main St., Scobey (406) 487-5600

Places of interest west of Scobey:

Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area Eastern. (This is described under Glasgow) For access directions to this portion of the area, ask in the town of Opheim.

Opheim. Ten miles from the Canadian border and near some of the wildest prairie country in Montana.

Places of interest east of Scobey:

A scenic drive along MT Hwy 5 through this rich wheat-growing region finds many coulees, rock formations, buttes, and small friendly communities.

Flaxville. A seven-mile side trip north on County Road 511 leads to Whitetail with a top-notch fishing hole and beautiful prairie scenery. Meals and gas are available.

Redstone. On back roads from here, you can get into the Big Muddy Country and the Outlaw Trail.







Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz

PLENTYWOOD

The landscape around these parts hardly indicates that there is wood to be found. Back in the open days' range, cowboys from the Diamond Ranch attempted to build a buffalo chip fire. Old Dutch Henry told them, "If you go a couple of miles up this creek, you'll find plenty wood." Following his advice, they found an abundance of fuel and named the creek Plentywood. In 1912, the moniker was passed on to the emerging settlement developed by the railroad and an influx of homesteaders. The main street is appealing and compact, with an assortment of businesses... a drug store, hardware store, clothing shop, cafe, newspaper office, at least one saloon, and a couple of banks.

In Plentywood:

Sheridan County Museum. Dedicated to preserving Montana's pioneer heritage, it holds a collection of early-day memorabilia and insight into all that came before in this distant part of Montana. View the longest indoor mural in the state and wander amongst the hundreds of antique tractors and threshers. **(406) 765-2145**

Plentywood Golf Course. The 5,196-yard public course is hilly, breezy, and open. Rentals are available. Tee-times from 7am-dark. **(406) 765-2532**

Box Elder Creek Lake. On the edge of Plentywood, you will find swimming, fishing, and picnicking under cabanas.

Places of interest east of Plentywood:

Westby. A hunter's paradise known nationally for its upland bird hunting, it is also one of the best birdwatching hot spots in the state. Surrounded by 20-plus federally administered Waterfowl Protection Areas, more than 200 species of birds call the area home.

Brush Lake State Park. This 280-acre park offers swimming, boating, hiking, boat ramp and dock, vault toilet, picnic tables, fire rings, and has an RV campground. The lake has no fish but quickly makes up for it with a distinctive aquamarine blue color. Perfect place to see night skies.

Places of interest south of Plentywood:

Medicine Lake. Edward Stubban established a post office and store in 1906. He named this place *Flandrem* for his hometown

in Norway. The community flourished until 1910 when the Great Northern Railway constructed the Bainville to Scobey branch line about 2 miles from town. The town moved to its present location and changed its name to Medicine Lake, after the nearby lake the Assiniboine referred to as “medicine water.”

This beautiful rural hamlet, 22 miles south of Plentywood, is host to those who come to visit the thousands of migratory and nesting birds at the Medicine Lake NWR. It offers complete services.

Hutslar’s Liquor Store and Museum. A study of the local history and an unusual variety of vintage toy collections and antiques.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Summer home to more than 100,000 migratory waterfowl... great blue herons, grebes, 16 species of ducks, and a colony of 10,000 entertainingly watchable, white pelicans, the refuge is a premier destination for birdwatchers. Fall brings spectacular flight migrations and attracts thousands of hunters for both waterfowl and upland game birds. medicinelake@fws.gov www.medicinelake.fws.gov

Froid. An attractive agriculture-oriented town. In 2007, it

made national headlines when Governor Brian Schweitzer gave the commencement address to the high school graduating class, which consisted entirely of one student.

Culbertson. Located at the crossroads of US Hwy 2 and State 16, the town is a center for agriculture and livestock. It has a colorful history extending back to the fur trading days on the Missouri and early day ranching. Founded in 1888, it is one of the oldest towns in Montana East of the Mountains.

The Culbertson Museum and Visitor Center. Walk back through time—say 50, 70, or even 100 years ago—and witness life as it was then. A country church, one-room school, general store/post office, doctor’s office, barbershop, a country kitchen, and living quarters. Outdoor exhibits are a blacksmith shop, wagon barn, 1923 Great Northern caboose, an authentic Sioux teepee, and dozens of antique tractors. **(406) 787-6320**

Bainville. When the post office opened in 1904, the town was named for Charles Bain, the postmaster. The Pioneer’s Pride Museum features rooms furnished as they were over 100 years ago. An old jail and a 1929 fire truck add to the attraction.



Raymond Dam | Rick and Susie Graetz

Community Events

Scobey. Pioneer Days, the last weekend in June, presents the highly entertaining Dirty Shame Show—five family-oriented variety skits starring the Dirty Shame Belles and the Dixieland Band.

Daniels County Fair. Rodeo, demolition derby, exhibits, carnival, petting zoo, music, night show, 4-H events, commercial displays, and parade—late July. **(406) 783-7371**

Plentywood. Sheridan County Fair has children's activities, livestock exhibits, live PRCA Rodeo, dog show, entertainment, music, and carnival in late July. **(406) 765-3406**

Opheim Rodeo. Occurs in late June. **Call (406) 998-6788**

Medicine Lake. For info on local events, call **(406) 789-2242**

Culbertson. Roosevelt County Fair in August. Judged exhibits, livestock auctions, Farmhand Olympics, a petting zoo, and a fun run. **(406) 787-5821**

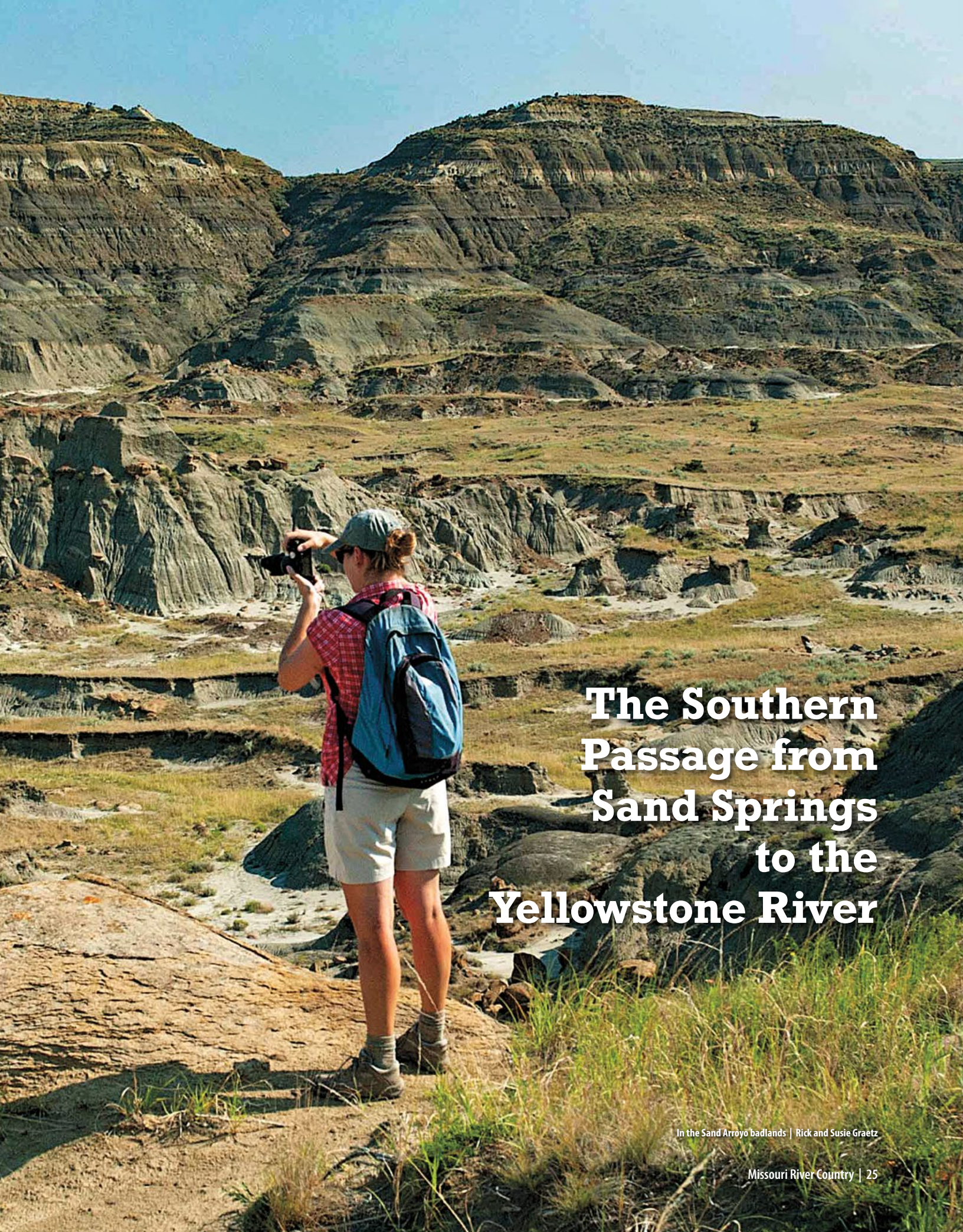
Frontier Days happen each spring. Rodeos, parade, barn dance, and concessions. **(406) 478-3118**

The Saddle Club Wagon Train happens over Labor Day weekend. **(406) 798-3712.** An "Old West" ride through Montana foothills celebrating the working cowboy's way of life. **(406) 478-7928**



Missouri River Crossing south of Culbertson, MT | John Lambing





The Southern Passage from Sand Springs to the Yellowstone River

In the Sand Arroyo badlands | Rick and Susie Graetz

Missouri River Country | 25





The Southern Passage from Sand Springs to the Yellowstone River

Hwy 200, The Southern Route:—Jordan—Circle—Sidney

Jordan: Mosby—Sand Springs—Brockway—Circle Lambert

Sidney: Fairview—Crane—Savage

If you are looking for the best examples of river breaks, badlands, and a landscape as unchanged as when Plains Indians followed the rhythm of the seasons and the patterns of the great bison herds, then this needs to be your destination. You will traverse more than three million acres of public lands magnificence! And as an added bit of color, your passage will be through one of the world's richest fossil beds—the Hell Creek Formation.

JORDAN

In 1896, Arthur Jordan settled his family in a tent on the banks of Big Dry Creek. It wasn't long before he had a crude store and trading business set up. Upon establishing a post office, Mr. Jordan became the first postmaster and named the town after a friend from Miles City, who coincidentally was also named Jordan.

The village and surrounding expanse of rangeland have retained their cowboy heritage. False fronted buildings on Main Street belie the old west flavor of the community's early days.

This seat of Garfield County is the entry to some of the most remote and beautiful mix of deep river canyons, badlands, and prairie wilderness. The most rugged of the terrain is on the Charles M. Russell NWR. Here, antelope, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, wild turkeys, sage grouse, and a variety of waterfowl make these lands their home. Many roads and trails deliver you into and through this wild country.

In Jordan:

Garfield County Museum. Dinosaur displays include a full-sized Triceratops and a T-Rex head. Vintage buildings show what prairie life was once like. **(406) 557-2517**

CMR Jordan Wildlife Station. Just off the highway on the edge of town, pick up maps, brochures, directions, and helpful information about the CMR. **(406) 557-6145**

Places of interest near Jordan:

CMR and Fort Peck Lake access. Numerous roads lead north into the refuge and to the Lake from town. Recreation sites Gilbert Creek, Hell Creek, Snow Creek, Round Butte, and Devil's Creek allow for boat launching, camping, hiking, and ATV use on designated trails. See the CMR map.

Hell Creek Marina. Twenty-six miles north of Jordan, Hell Creek Bay offers some of the best fishing on the lake. Walleyes, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and lake trout will test your line. The Marina rents out cabins. In this area, hunting for elk, mule deer, and antelope in the Missouri Breaks is allowed in the fall.



Hellcreek Marina at Fort Peck | Rick and Susie Graetz

Sand Creek Clydesdale Ranch. Where guests can be as involved as much as they want with the everyday operations of a working cattle ranch. **(406) 557-2865**

Places of interest east of Jordan:

Brockway. On Highway 200 along the Redwater River. Brockway's economy boomed by the mid-1930s as it became a major shipping point for livestock and grain. In 1934, it shipped more livestock by rail than any other town in the United States.

CIRCLE

One of the state's first big cattle ranches got its name from the shape of its brand—a circle. In 1884, the ranch on the Redwater River was named the Circle Ranch, and the nearby town became known simply as Circle.



Today, this small hamlet retains its agricultural orientation. To the south of town, the Little and Big Sheep mountains, a distinct range of high sandstone hills named after the Audubon Sheep that lived there until the early 1900s, rise to a lofty 300 feet above the adjacent country.

In Circle:

McCone County Museum. A collection of early-day buildings is just part of the thousands of items of local historical interest to see. A wildlife collection of more than 200 mounted birds and animals is displayed in their natural settings. May 1–Sept 30. Mon-Fri, 9-5. (406) 485-2414



McCone County Museum in Circle, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz



Horseback riding east of Jordan, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz



Gart Side Lake | Rick and Susie Graetz



Moon Gardens north of Jordan, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz

Places of interest to see near Circle:

CMR National Wildlife Refuge and Fort Peck Lake access.

From Circle, the eastern edge of the CMR and the Big Dry Arm are easy to reach via MT Hyws 200 and 24. Water recreation, camping, and launching facilities on the Big Dry Arm of the lake are the Nelson, McGuire, Bug, South Fork Rock, and Rock creeks' recreation areas. See the CMR map available from the CMR station in Jordan.

Lambert. Formerly a station on the Great Northern branch line, it is located near Fox Lake and Fox Creek.

Fox Lake Wildlife Management Area. Situated within an essential bird migratory route, its mixture of grass lands, marshes, and open water not only benefits waterfowl, but also a variety of bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species.

SIDNEY

Montana's Sunshine City! This is where the sun first shines its rays on the state. Situated just 14 river miles short of the Yellowstone River's marriage with the Missouri, it is the largest community in northeast Montana. Sugar beets, wheat, ranching, and oil activity form the basis for Sidney's solid economy.

In Sidney:

Breweries in Sidney: Meadowlark Brewing 117 S. Central Ave. (406) 433-2337 and 1035 Brewing 1035 S. Central Ave. (406) 499-3055

Mondak Heritage Center Museum. One of the finest museums in Montana East of the Mountains! An authentic, reconstructed 1910 version of the town with a schoolhouse, bank, post office, train depot, and an original homesteader's shack sharing the limelight. Two art galleries with regularly changing exhibits, an art library, and a research library with local history, photos, and genealogical records ensure a worthwhile visit. themondak.org

Sidney Country Club. An 18-hole championship golf course, open to the public. (406) 433-1894

Places of interest north of Sidney:

Fairview. Founded in 1906, the town has the notoriety of being a community with a split personality, as the Montana-North



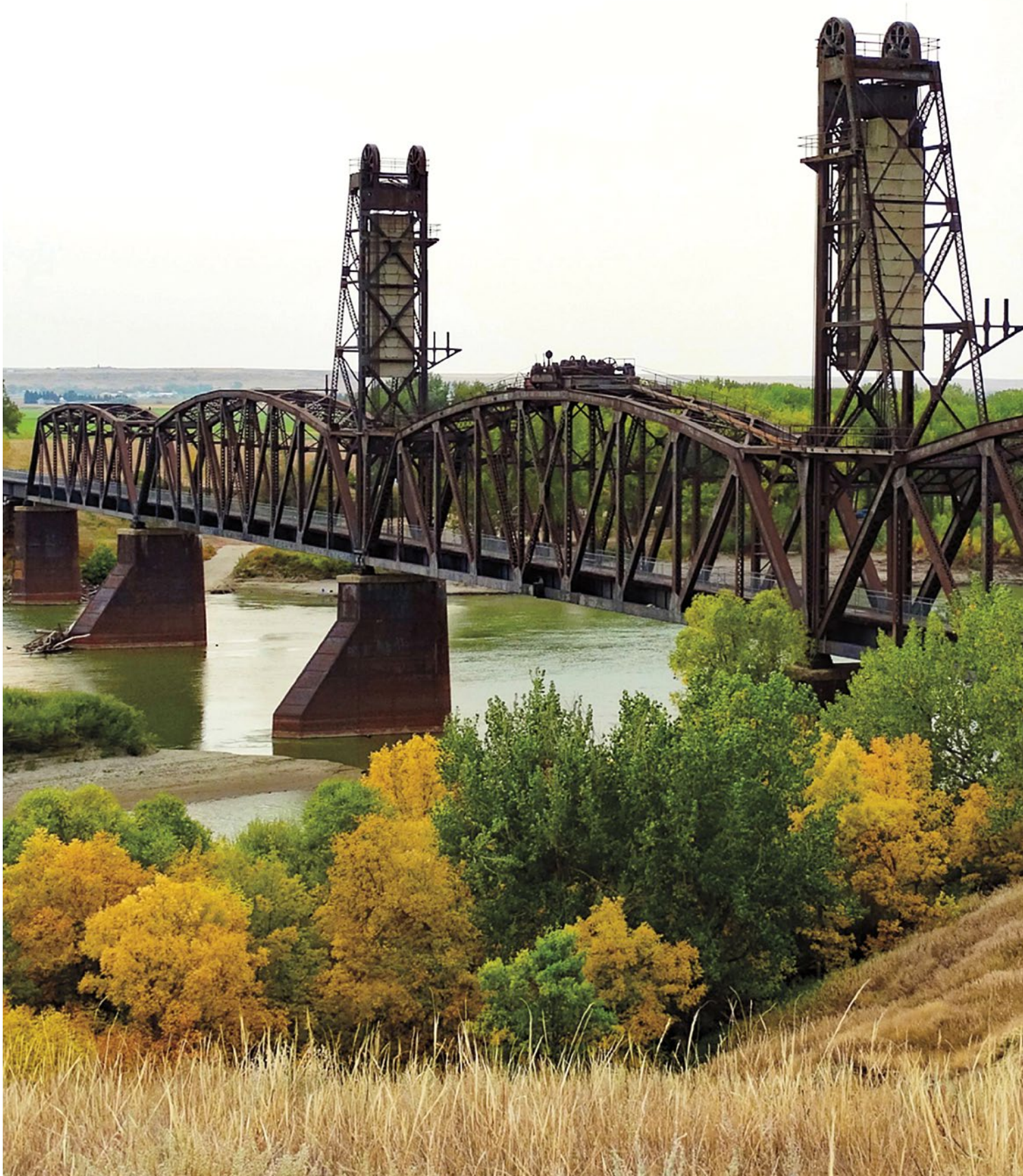
Dakota border runs straight down "State Street." It also is known as the Sugar Beet Capital of Montana and North Dakota.

Fort Union. In 1828, due to its access to many native tribes and rogue trappers, John Jacob Aster chose to establish Fort Union at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. His American Fur Company was a lucrative business, and as it had to supply the needs of 100 to 200 employees, it resembled a small town. From 1828 to 1867, Fort Union was an enormous success in controlling the fur trade on the upper Missouri River.

Today, the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is an exact replica of what it was in 1851. For anyone interested in the fabled Missouri and Yellowstone rivers and the beginnings of Montana, this should be on your trail. And over June's third weekend the Fort Union Rendezvous is held as the days of the Fur Trade Era are relived.

Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Train Tunnel. Both historical and unique in its design, the bridge was built to accommodate cars and trains—though not at the same time!

The 1,458-foot long tunnel was completed in 1913. While most of the digging was done by hand, horse-and-mule-drawn machinery and blasting materials were also used. The bridge and the tunnel trail are now open to pedestrians and cyclists to cross the Yellowstone River. Although located just a few miles east of Fairview, they are in North Dakota.





Fairview Bridge | Jeremy Krieger

Snowden Lift Bridge. A close duplicate of the Fairview Bridge, it spans the Missouri River between Fairview and Bainville.

Note: Two bridges, only 10 miles from each other, cross two different rivers in two different states. These twin-like structures were built by the Great Northern Railroad for its Montana Eastern Railway, which was never finished.

Places of interest south of Sidney:

Savage and Crane. Two small human outposts along a 15-mile stretch of the Yellowstone River. In 1909, a diversion dam was built above Savage for the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project. When the work was completed, nearly 400 miles of canals and ditches carried Yellowstone water to croplands, including sugar beet fields.

Elk Island, Seven Sisters Wildlife Management areas and Crittenden Island. A popular floating stretch of the Yellowstone is home to whitetail and mule deer, upland game birds, ducks, geese, eagles, blue heron, and all manners of birdlife.

In this area, agates, mixed among the rocks and stones along the banks and sand bars of the Yellowstone, are beautiful treasures waiting to be found.



Agate treasure | Rick and Susie Graetz

Community Events

Brockway. Each July, the Dairy Day Rodeo, one of Montana's oldest rodeos, brings action, excitement, and fun!

Circle. McCone County Fair and PRCA Rodeo, August each year. Town & Country Days: The largest event held in Circle every year.
(406) 485-4782 for both

Sidney. Richland County Fair and PRCA Rodeo, the first week in August. Live music, carnival rides, magicians, street performers, petting zoo, and exhibits. **(406) 433-1916**

Fort Union. Fort Union Rendezvous celebrates the days of the Fur Trade Era. Third weekend in June.

Jordan. The Matched Bronc Ride, a sanctioned PRCA Xtreme Broncs rodeo, is every Father's Day. jordanxtremebroncs@gmail.com Call Garfield C of C **(406) 853-2731**



Map provided for general information only.
 Consult the Official Montana Highway Map for accurate and detailed information.

MONTANA

State Capital: Helena
 Montana Population: 1,104,271*
 *2021 U.S. Census Estimate

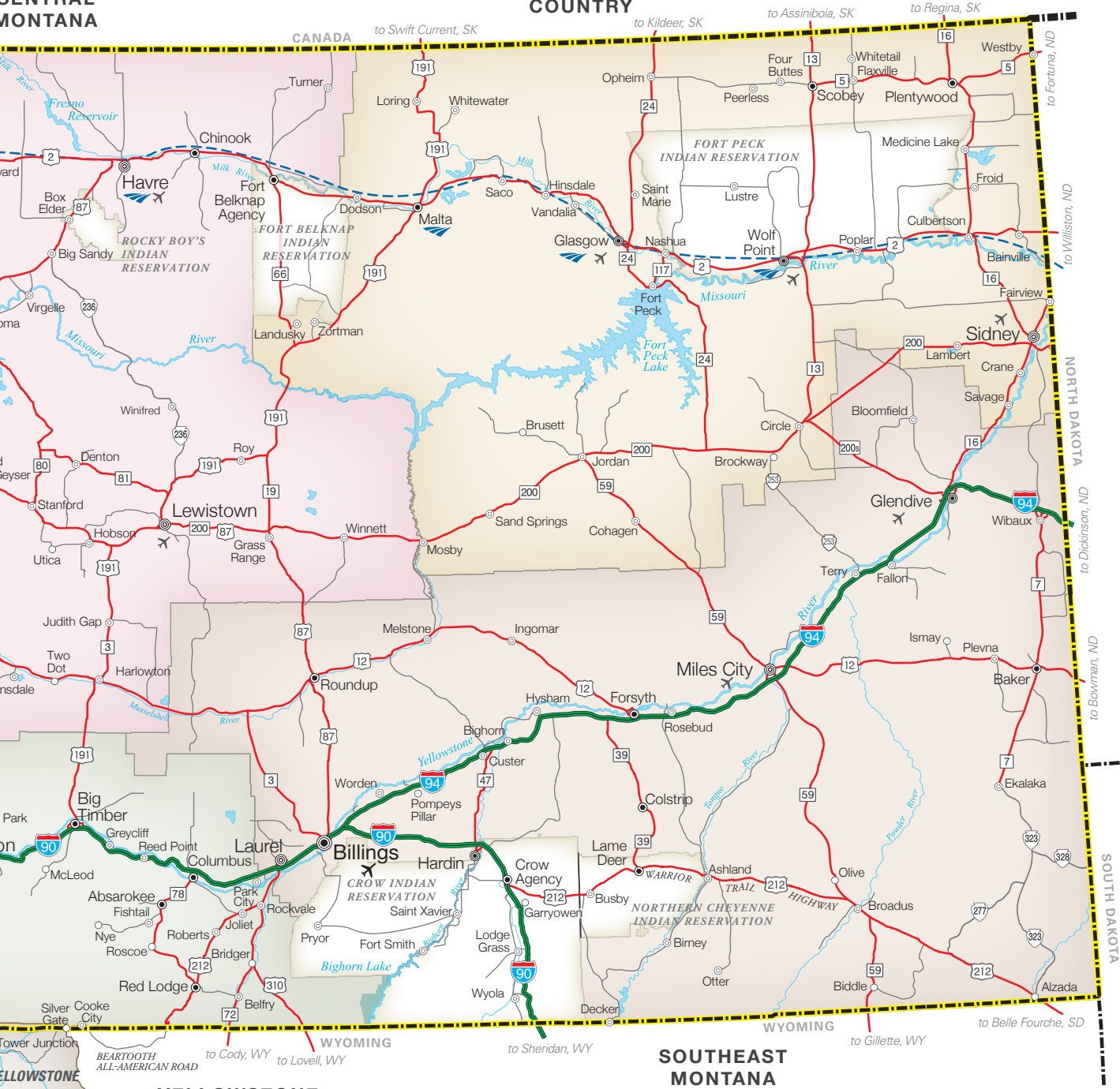
Land Area: 145,392 sq. miles
 Water Area: 1,746 sq. miles
 Total Area: 147,138 sq. miles

CENTRAL MONTANA

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

SOUTHEAST MONTANA

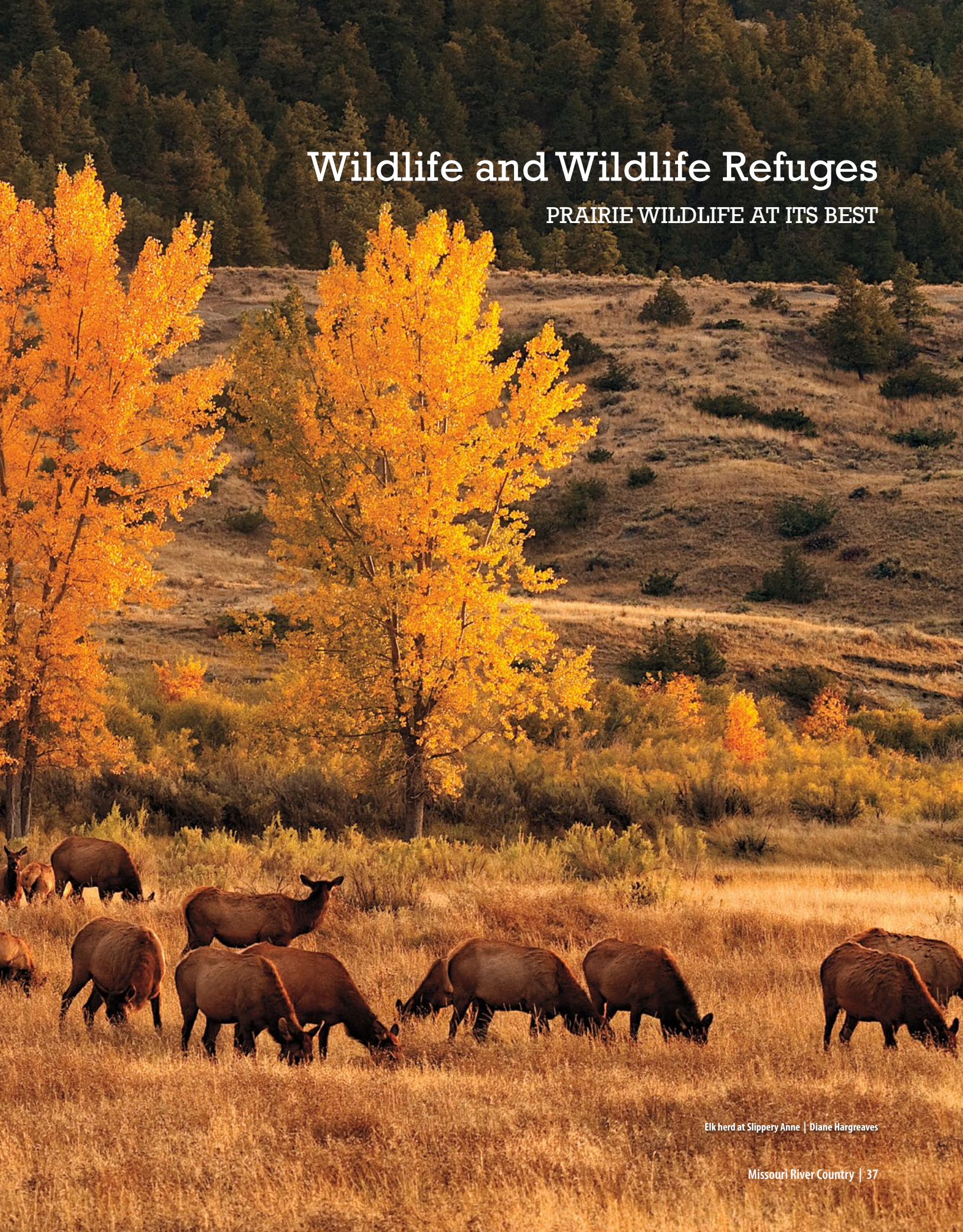


CITY/TOWN	POPULATION	HIGHWAYS	MAP SYMBOLS AND OTHER FEATURES
○	Under 50	Interstate Route	State Boundary
⊙	50-1,000	Principal Highways	Major Airports
●	1,000-2,500	Other Highways	Secondary Airports
⦿	2,500-10,000	ROUTE MARKERS	Amtrak Line
⊗	10,000-25,000	Interstate	Amtrak Station
⊕	Over 25,000	U.S. Route	
★	State Capital	State or Provincial Route	
		Other Route	



Wildlife and Wildlife Refuges

PRAIRIE WILDLIFE AT ITS BEST



Elk herd at Slippery Anne | Diane Hargreaves



Ring-necked Pheasant | Tom Koerner, USF&WS



American Avocet | Diane McDuff, USF&WS



Pronghorn antelope | Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Northeast Montana's sprawling prairie geography is nationally known as home to an enormous population of both large and small animals and winged creatures. Turkeys, burrowing owls, white pelicans, elk, osprey, deer, blue herons, pronghorn antelope, Canada geese, sandhill cranes, cormorants, mountain lions, bobcats, ducks, foxes, eagles, bighorn sheep, pheasants, coyotes, Hungarian partridge, grouse, prairie dogs and more than 200 species of birds are just some of its wild residents.

The crown jewel of the US wildlife refuge system—the 1.1 million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge—holds court over ten other areas here that are part of the National Watchable Wildlife program. Missouri River Country's designated places are Bitter Creek, just 20 miles northeast of Hinsdale, Elk Island at Savage just south of Sidney, Fox Lake Wildlife Management Area at Lambert west of Sidney, the Little Rocky Mountains around Zortman, Manning Corral Prairie Dog Town also near Zortman, the Missouri River Downstream Recreation Area at Fort Peck, the Pines Recreation Area 30 miles south-west of Fort Peck, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge and the CMR.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Just 22 miles south of Plentywood, Medicine Lake NWR is one of Northeast Montana's most alluring gems. And early spring

is a delightful time to explore it. Mid-May at about 5 a.m., the lifting fog, a product of a cold night, catches the first light of a mellow sunrise. The tall grass and reeds take on a gold and orange hue while the surrounding water gathers all the colors of the sky, transforming its surface into a pastel painting. The crisp air is noisy, as the entire neighborhood chats in profusion. Grouse, performing their mating ritual, add a distinct sound to the excitement. The previous weeks witnessed a raucous homecoming—a tradition carried out each year as tens of thousands of geese, ducks and birds fill the spring sky on their way back to Medicine Lake creating one of the great wildlife spectacles in America.

More than 100,000 migrating waterfowl make Medicine Lake their warm weather habitat. Great blue herons, white pelicans, geese, grebes and 10 different species of ducks share this prairie ecosystem with countless other birds. Each year as many as 30,000 ducklings are produced, and every fall more than 10,000 sandhill cranes spend a week here. Foxes, raccoons, pheasants, and deer also populate the area. The refuge boasts the largest pelican rookery in Montana and third largest in the nation. More than 2,000 white pelicans are born each season.

The piping plover, a rare bird, actively breeds in the lake's wetlands. Their flute-like call is one of the great sounds of nature. Geese are the first to arrive. Showing up in February and March, they set up their territory and prepare for nesting even



Medicine Lake at sunset | Rick and Susie Graetz

before the ice melts. It's usually late April before Medicine Lake thaws, just in time for the summer dwellers to arrive. All the winged creatures leave by around the first of November when the lake begins to freeze.

Although wildlife is there throughout the summer, May, June and October are the best months to see Medicine Lake. July and August can get quite hot. Montana's warmest temperature on record was documented here when the thermometer reached 117° F on July 5, 1937.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

Best known for its nesting colonies of white pelicans, this series of wetlands and lakes eight miles east of Malta, is the habitat for more than 230 different species of birds and waterfowl.

The names of all the neighbors who live here throughout the

warm days are too numerous to mention. Included though in the population are double-crested cormorants, whitetail deer, great blue herons, ring-necked pheasants, sandpipers, sharp-tailed grouse, coyotes, osprey, an occasional bald eagle, all kinds of hawks, falcons, numerous ducks, tundra swan, loons, owls, the yellow-rump warbler, and the yellow-billed Cuckoo.

From the time the "transient residents" arrive for the summer until they gather in autumn to begin their southern sojourn, constant chatter fills the air; there is much to "talk" about and do as new life is created.

Early morning and late afternoon in the spring and fall are the best times to visit the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. Its 15,500 acres can be seen via a 15-mile circular route. This special natural community is easily reached from Malta. Call **(406) 654-2863** for information.





Mule deer | US Fish & Wildlife Service



Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz





The Skies of Missouri River Country

AN EVER-CHANGING PANORAMA OF LIGHT, CLOUDS AND STARS

The northern lights at Fort Peck Lake | Amy Lynne Nelson



Night skies, bright tents | Andy Austin



Day's end in Missouri River Country, east of Jordan, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz

The Skies of Missouri River Country

From the moment the sun bursts onto the eastern horizon of Missouri River Country, Montana's biggest sky becomes a canvas for artful displays of billowing clouds, fast moving storms, and breathtaking sunrises and sunsets. With nightfall, an astronomer's dream of varied nocturnal displays takes center stage. Brilliant, twinkling diamonds crown the heavens over



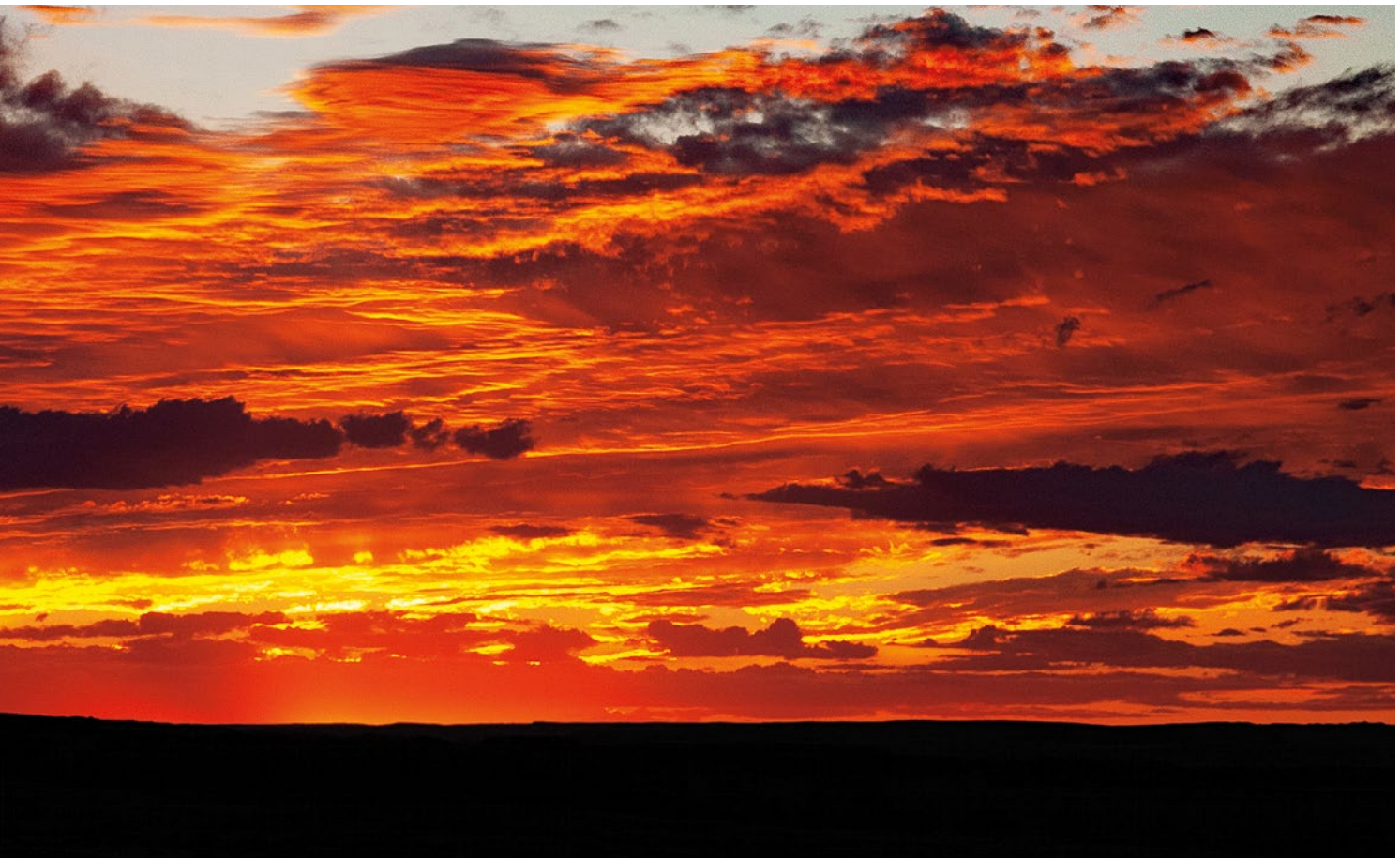
Fort Peck Lake, a full moon illuminates the snow-covered hills between Scobey and Plentywood, and meteors streak off in all directions. In a landscape free of competing lights, one might attend a performance of the color changing Northern Lights as they swirl and leap across the night sky.

It is as expansive a dome of sky as any on the planet and often brings an early morning and evening light so beautiful that no painter or photographer could ever duplicate it.

Subdued topography allows the sky top billing. Summer thunderstorms build to a towering collection of plump white and gray clouds that are then swept by the wind up into Canada or out onto the plains of the Dakotas, leaving glimmering sunshine over the prairie, often only to be replaced by another storm with intense lightning displays. In winter, northern born blizzards roll like turbulent waves across the uncluttered skyline depositing a quiet comforter of snow in their wake.

These are the skies of Northeast Montana!

Trail to the Stars: trailtothestars.com



Missouri River Country's Dinosaur Trail

Since the late 1800s, paleontologists have scoured across Montana searching here for fossils and clues to uncovering the ancient world of the dinosaurs. And given the wide-open spaces, river breaks, and badlands—especially here in northeastern Montana—it's not hard to imagine these long-ago monsters living in this incredible landscape.

Millions of years before the Missouri River formed, *Triceratops*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* (*T. rex*), *Pachycephalosaur*, *Edmontosaurus*, *Brachylophosaurus*, and numerous other kinds of dinosaurs and extinct lifeforms roamed and lived in what would one day be Missouri River Country. In 1902, the first scientifically recognized *T. rex* was found in the badlands of the Hell Creek Formation near Jordan. And one of the most complete *T. rex* specimens ever found was discovered around Fort Peck Lake in 1990. In fact, more *T. rexes* have been discovered in Montana than any other state.

A huge swath of Missouri River Country is part of the well-studied and explored Hell Creek Formation, an area of exposed rocks upper Cretaceous to lower Paleocene in age. For the most

part, with the exception of a portion contiguous to the Missouri's north side south of Malta, it is confined to the south side of Fort Peck Lake and north of Jordan. This region is considered to be one of the richest fossil localities in the world, and indeed numerous amazing discoveries have been made there.

North of the Milk River Valley, the geologically older Judith River Formation is exposed. In the summer of 2001, near Malta, a *Brachylophosaurus* named "Leonardo" was discovered. "Leonardo" is scientifically unique for being a Guinness Book of World Record holder for being the most complete "mummy" dinosaur. That means that the majority of "Leonardo's" skin, muscles, and organs fossilized, giving paleontologists an intimate look into the body parts that rarely survive.

Along the western edge of Missouri River Country, on the eastern slopes of the Little Rocky Mountains near Zortman, the Jurassic Period preserves ancient marine life that once lived in a shallow seaway. During the Mesozoic Era, inland seaways occurred numerous times in the western US. These warm, shallows seas would have given the adjacent land a very humid and subtropical climate, very similar to the Gulf States today.



Fort Peck Interpretive Center display | Rick and Susie Graetz



Just outside of Zortman (even in the town dump!), these titled Jurassic layers reveal a plethora of ancient marine life. Oyster shells (the oyster *Gryphaea*, commonly referred to as “devil’s toenails”) and belemnites (the bullet-shaped internal hard part from extinct squids) quite literally litter the ground. Who knew you could visit the ocean in Montana?

North and east along the Canadian border, the old Missouri River gravels date back to the Miocene. Though being approximately 23-5 million years old, these rocks are geologically much younger than those from the Hell Creek Formation (66 million years ago). By the Miocene, the dinosaurs were long gone, but prehistoric camels, rhinos, and elephants were among the many animals that called Northeast Montana home. Certainly, an odd menagerie when one thinks of “typical” Montana animals today!

In the eastern part of Missouri River Country, the Fort Union Formation covers much of the terrain. This was laid down following the demise of the dinosaurs and is largely devoid of animal fossils, but fossil leaves are abundant in the mudstones exposed along road cuts and in the shales used for the “red roads” in the oil fields.

Each year brings new finds and exhilarating information and enlightenment about what this land was like until an errant asteroid ended the reign of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. The impact engulfed the Earth—darkening the sky with dust and debris, causing vast wildfires and tsunamis, and likely triggering increased volcanic activity. Certainly not a good day to be on Earth.

Museums and their displays of both ancient land and sea dwellers are found throughout Missouri River Country. The newest, the Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum at Fort Peck, just south of Glasgow, is world class. Exhibits include wildlife dioramas, huge native/game fish aquariums, fossils, and stunning mounts of *T. rex*, *Edmontosaurus*, and *Ornithomimus*—all dinosaurs that once lived right there!

If you would like to follow the entire Dinosaur Trail, you could begin and end anywhere, but let’s use Glasgow as a starting point. With the Fort Peck interpretive Center just 17 miles away, this would be perfect for your first introduction to the fascinating world of super-sized predator/prey species.

West of Glasgow, in Malta, the Phillips County Museum and the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum house many rare fossil dinosaurs, fish, invertebrates, and plants. They offer real dinosaur digs that participants can sign up for to learn how paleontologists find and excavate the fossils.

Additionally, they offer an educational program for youngsters that teaches them about regional geology and paleontology out at an active fossil locality.

For more information on all of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum’s activities: www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org, dinosaur@itstriangle.com, or (406) 654-5300.





Big Waters: Lakes and Rivers

OF MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Fort Peck Lake looking east from the Overlook | Rick and Susie Graetz

Fort Peck Lake

A Montana and Prairie Treasure...

This enormous swath of geography encompassing more than three million acres, much of it public land, is a showcase of prairie splendor.

If you love big water recreation, fishing, wildlife sightings, prairie and arid land topography, paleontology and just plain being in a landscape that gives you the feeling you are the only human being for many miles around then a journey to Fort Peck Lake and its surrounding prairie geography to explore this incredible expanse of territory should be on the top of your travel wish list.

Nearly 1,600 miles of shoreline, 134 miles long, a landscape that hasn't changed since Lewis and Clark passed this way more than 210 years ago, and some of the nation's best warm water fishing are just a few of Fort Peck's impressive claims!

This lake's magnitude assures recreationists solitude if they want it. It's possible to pull into bays rarely visited by a boat for your own private fishing, or to hike ridges and coulees above the water that experienced hooves of Indian ponies, follow tracks of fur traders and explorers and set foot on a high point where Sioux hunters watched for clouds of dust to tell them that a huge herd of migrating bison were nearby.

Plains Indians once roamed this country following enormous bison herds. Places where they camped along the river, and later the area the Corps of Discovery walked, are now well into the waters of Fort Peck Lake. But the land rising above the waters, haven't changed over time and it's still possible to imagine all that took place here in the long ago.

Access

Access to the lake and its surrounding lands is from several Missouri River Country towns. In the north, roads from Malta, Glasgow, and Fort Peck point south. From Hwy 200 on the southern perimeter, several roads from Jordan reach deep into the Missouri River Breaks and to Fort Peck Lake. Many of the routes take you to developed campgrounds, boat launches and other conveniences. Other roads and trails deliver you into and through wild country. Before striking out, inquire at the CMR National Wildlife Refuge office in Jordan or the one in Fort Peck. They can advise you on conditions and the best routes to follow. It's very important to get good information to make the most of your time.

While there are many places to launch a boat on Fort Peck Lake, two of the most popular are on the north side, Rock Creek Marina out of Fort Peck (signs on the road from Glasgow point the way), as well as Fort Peck Marina, and on the south side, Hell Creek Marina out of Jordan (ask for directions at any Jordan business).



Big Dry Arm on Fort Peck Lake | Rick and Susie Graetz



But there is more to Fort Peck Lake than its waters. This prairie beauty is surrounded by the crown jewel of the nation's wildlife refuge system, the 1.1 million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, a landscape that can be best described as prairie magnificence.

Fort Peck, the lake's "capital town"

The town of Fort Peck, long on colorful history and 18 miles south of Glasgow via Hwy 24, is this region's and the lake's eastern post. One of the wonderful things about the village of Fort Peck is that it is the only town on Fort Peck Lake and the only one on the edge of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. You can't get any closer to two of Missouri River Country's biggest destinations.

The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum

Like Alice in Wonderland falling down the rabbit hole, from the moment you step through the museum's doors into the lair of a "gi-normous," life-like, hungry-looking, open-jawed, steely-eyed *T-Rex* named Peck's Rex, you know you are in for an adventure. Ahead of you is 18,000 square feet of pure entertainment featuring paleontology, wildlife, and the construction of Fort Peck Dam. Two of Montana's largest aquariums show off the inhabitants of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River. In the phenomenal Exhibition Hall, a skeletal cast of the *Tyrannosaurus Rex* discovered 20 miles southeast of town towers over everything. Also included are other dinosaur fossils, present-day and historical animals of the CMR National Wildlife Refuge, hands-on interpretive displays, and a false-fronted, early 20th century street scene. Ask about kid's fishing and hiking trails. (406) 526-3493

Fort Peck Summer Theatre

Built during the depression to help entertain the dam workers, the theater, with its seating



for 1,200, was for decades the largest facility of its kind in the state. Today, through the talent of professional summer stock actors, once again laughter and music ring from the rafters of this exotic and historic building. May thru Aug, performances Fri.–Sat at 7:30pm and Sun at 4pm. (406) 228-9216 | pecktheatre.org

Lewis and Clark Overlook

The viewpoint is 1/2 mile east of the dam powerhouse on Hwy 24. Interpretive signage, picnic area and restroom facilities are handicap accessible. Continue East on Hwy 24 and you will cross the dam's spillway. Then to the left is the road to the Milk River Observation Point and Hiking Trail. This is a great chance to get out of the car, stretch your legs and see the cream-colored water of the Milk River enter and stream parallel with the Missouri.

Kiwanis Park

Surrounded by shady cottonwood trees, picnic shelters, restrooms and grills make this a perfect place to host family reunions, BBQs and other large or small events. Conveniently located in front of the Kiwanis Downstream Campground, it is within walking distance to the Fort Peck Interpretive Center.

The Beaver Creek Nature Trail

An easy three-mile-long hiking path starts at the campground downstream from the dam and leads through wildlife habitat along the Missouri River. A self-guided wildlife-viewing autoroute... the Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Exhibit takes off from near the Fort Peck Summer Theater.

NELSON RESERVOIR

One of northeast Montana's most popular water recreation and fishing areas, Nelson Reservoir is the number one walleye spot in the state. Stocked with yellow perch, walleye, and northern pike, it produces record class fish. In winter, ice fishing is a draw, enticing many anglers from all across the state. Camping, swimming, boating, picnic shelters, RV sites, restrooms, showers and year-round fishing may be enjoyed.

The reservoir is reached from US Hwy 2 from Malta on the west and Saco on the east. A clearly marked turn off leads the way just a short distance to the north.



Milk River Observation Point | Jamie Blotsky

BRUSH LAKE STATE PARK

Sandy beaches surrounded by grass fields and stands of spring wheat frame its sparkling waters. This 280-acre state park offers public access for swimming, boating, hiking, a day-use area, boat ramp and dock, vault toilet,

picnic tables, fire rings and has an RV campground. Due to the mineral make-up of Brush Lake, there are no fish. Aside from its distinctive aquamarine blue color, Brush Lake looks like many other lakes that dot this prairie pothole region, however beneath its surface the lake is full of superlatives.



Being a deep lake (65 feet) in a closed basin, Brush Lake contains a sediment record of value to the scientific study of climate change. Since it first saw daylight 10,000 years ago, Brush Lake has accumulated 45 feet of sediments. Much like tree rings the lake annually deposits a layer of light and dark sediment that can be used to construct

a timeline. These layers contain pollen and distinct minerals that allow scientists to determine variations in climate since the ice age. Currently, sediment cores are being studied by a collaborative team of scientists who are funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

Enjoying a summer day on Brush Lake | Dona Osksa



Brush Lake | Dona Osksa



The Missouri River, looking towards the Fred Robinson Bridge area | Rick and Susie Graetz

THE MISSOURI RIVER

In Missouri River Country

The Missouri

For Montana, it was a lifeline...a moving highway that gave birth to the state. On the way to the nation's heartland, it collects the state's memories and history. It is Montana's great river.

Known for its prairie scenery, wildlife, fishing, hunting, and water recreation, the Missouri and the geography it touches in northeast Montana attracts folks from across the nation. Consider that from Missouri River Country's western edge at Fred Robinson Bridge and US Hwy 191, following a straight course, a watercraft will have eclipsed 145 miles when it reaches Fort Peck Lake and the Fort Peck Dam. Fort Peck Lake with its nearly 1,600 miles of shoreline allows the big river to rest. From here, the boat's occupants can survey the sculptured landscape of the more than one-million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge that edges the river and completely surrounds the lake.

Leaving Fort Peck Lake through the dam's spillway, the Missouri River runs clear again much as it did from its birthplace.

Within ten miles of exiting Fort Peck and after regaining its channel, the Missouri meets the Milk River. Strong-armed to the

side by the Missouri's formidable flow, the overly silt-laden waters of the Milk create a light colored banner along the Missouri's north bank until finally, the Milk gives up and succumbs to the mightier river.

Meriwether Lewis, May 8, 1805, wrote, *"the water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with the admixture of a table-spoonfull of milk. from the colour of it's water we called it Milk river. we think it possible that this may be the river called by the Minitares (Hidatsa) 'the river that scolds at all others'."*

Lewis also noted the Milk River Hills that rise nearly 700 feet above the floodplain of the Milk and Missouri. These can be reached via MT Hwy 24 across Fort Peck Dam. From this point, one can view much of the terrain Lewis and Clark described, both along the Missouri on the north side of the hills and southwest out over the lake.

As the river rolls eastward, the meanders, as well as the sand bars and islands, increase. While the Missouri is dynamic through its final 185 miles, it doesn't have the strength it once had before Fort Peck Dam was completed. Looking a bit more civilized than the segment between Fort Benton and Fort Peck, it is still, for the most part, void of people.



A couple of miles southeast of Culbertson, the Hwy 16 bridge crosses the Missouri. The sweeping river view from here is a favorite of photographers. Beyond the bridge, with 34 miles left before the Missouri prepares to leave Montana and take on the Yellowstone River, it rolls through a beautiful mix of bluffs, canyons, and badlands. Continually impressed with the pleasant appearance of the landscape, William Clark declared, *“the Country on both Sides have a butifull appearance.”*

A few miles before exiting the state, the Missouri passes the historic Snowden Bridge. Near here, on April 27, 1805, Lewis and Clark and their crew spent their first night in what would become Montana. As Lewis began writing in his journals that night, the words he put on paper represent the initial written history of Montana.

Once this historic spot is passed, the Missouri appropriates the Yellowstone just beyond our border with North Dakota. As the river bids adieu, it leaves the finest landscapes of its journey behind in Montana.

The Yellowstone

In Missouri River Country

The Missouri takes top billing in northeast Montana, but the Yellowstone River isn't just a bit player. While it only logs 50 miles in the territory, it takes in some exquisite landscapes and carries much Montana history with it. Gathering some of the finest mountain and prairie topography on the planet, Montana's Yellowstone drains a 70,000-square-mile piece of the west in grand fashion. The 670-milelong waterway remains the nation's longest undammed river.

Once also serving as “a moving highway” into the wilderness, this unique river mirrored the passage of millions of bison, the travels of the Corps of Discovery, creation of the nation's first national park, and the foundations of a state.

Savage and Crane, Montana, create small human outposts along a 15-mile stretch of the Yellowstone. Above Savage, in 1909, a diversion dam was built for the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project. When the work was completed, there were nearly 400 miles of canals and ditches carrying water to croplands, including widespread sugar beet fields.



The Yellowstone River north of Sidney | Rick and Susie Graetz





The Yellowstone River and the Seven Sisters area near Savage, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz



From Savage to Sidney, nearing the end of its run, the river provides a popular floating stretch amid the Elk Island and the Seven Sisters wildlife management areas and the state-owned Crittenden Island. Elk Island—actually three islands in high water and one in low, is near Savage, while Crane provides access to the small islands named Seven Sisters that legendary Yellowstone steamboat Captain Grant Marsh entitled in honor of his siblings.

Floating from Elk Island to the Seven Sisters is a great way to see this special length of the Yellowstone, home to whitetail and mule deer, upland game birds, ducks, and geese and since the river moves slowly here, sightings of eagles, blue heron and all manners of birdlife are a strong possibility.



Kayaking Dredge Cuts below Fort Peck Dam | Carla Hunsley

Downstream from Savage, the river shows wide bottoms crowded with islands, sandbars, and a profusion of cottonwoods. The terrain on the river's east side becomes rugged. Badlands and river breaks intermix and ascend well above the floodplain. Juniper, small ponderosa pine, and green ash give a warm color to a harsh soil.

Sidney, the main port of call for the river in northeast Montana, is about a mile west of the Yellowstone and 14 river miles short of its marriage to the Missouri. A few river miles north of Sidney, the Yellowstone zips across the North Dakota line, then abruptly changes her mind and rushes back into Montana. Finally, three miles from the eastern edge of Montana and Fort Union, the big, wide, silt-laden Yellowstone concedes her independence. Together, under the flag of the Missouri, a mighty river lunges toward a rendezvous with the Mississippi River.

The geographic history of the Yellowstone-Missouri Confluence is also worthy of note. The original site the Corps of Discovery witnessed is about two miles to the southwest of the current junction. A huge 1930's flood forcibly moved it.





Hunting & Fishing

BIG GAME, BIG BIRDS & BIG WATER FISHING

Taking a break near the Breaks | Justin Sliter



Woman bow-hunting in the Missouri River Breaks | Burnt Image Photography



Elk at Slippery Anne | Jackie Withchum, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Hunting

Hunters should set their sights high before taking aim in Missouri River Country, as big game animals, upland birds and waterfowl all make their homes in the wide-open land of northeast Montana. This is a true sportsman's landscape. Pronghorn, mule and trophy whitetail deer wander these prairies and drainages and elk with racks six points on a side roam the million-acre CMR. From fertile river bottoms, through prairies of grass to stark badlands, this country teems with wildlife just as it did when Lewis and Clark wrote of the area in 1805.

With an abundance of waterways, CRP and cropland, here is an environment built for bird hunting. Situated right under the Central Flyway, Missouri River Country has some of the best migratory bird hunting in the nation. Grain fattened geese, more duck species than we can name, colorful ring necked pheasants, native sharp-tail grouse and Hungarian partridge and one of the healthiest populations of sage grouse in the United States await you.

If you have a narrow window of time to seek your animal, professional outfitters' and guides' services are options to insure your success. Should you choose to venture out on your own, one of Missouri River Country's greatest attributes is the locals' knowledge of the area and their willingness to share it with all visitors.

For Licenses and Special Permits:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/drawings/appdeadlines.html>

Hunting Information

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov, or the Region 6 office in Glasgow, (406) 228-3700, is where to turn for the last word on regulations and license applications, but any authorized license outlet also can help. Area offices of the Federal Bureau of Land Management are invaluable places for maps. Keep in mind that additional regulations also apply when hunting on the CMR Wildlife Refuge. For information on public and private land access, contact the Montana Department of Natural Resources. For regulations applying to hunting on the CMR, contact the refuge office. See the resource page in this guide for all pertinent phone numbers and addresses. Call the FW&P folks to ask about the Block Management Hunting program.

Fishing

Those considering fishing in Missouri River Country should think big. Defined by sandstone formations, fields of grain and abundant river bottoms, here, shorelines go on for more than a thousand miles and fish grow to more than 100 pounds. This is the land of the Fort Peck Reservoir.

More than 50 different species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake, and they all have room to grow. The reservoir is 134 miles long and as much as 220 feet deep. Along its 1,600 miles of shoreline and under its 240,000 acres of surface area, walleye, northern pike, small-mouth bass, lake trout and Chinook salmon are waiting. Curious looking ling, prehistoric paddlefish and two species of sturgeon abide there too.

Fort Peck's diverse fishery continues to gain nationwide recognition. Stories of five-pound bass, ten-pound walleye and 20-pound northern pike continue to pique interest. To accommodate all of the use, three marinas and nine boat ramp/access areas are scattered along the reservoir.

With the exception of space, the most profuse feature of Fork Peck may be its walleye fishery. The popular game fish can be

found throughout the reservoir, but experienced anglers suggest focusing efforts on the bays and points of the reservoir and Big Dry Arm. Trolling with bottom bouncers and spinners tipped with minnows, leaches, or night-crawlers, or using crank bait and jigs are advised as successful approaches for luring walleye from the reservoir to your net.

Anglers looking for a fight may want to target the reservoir's abundant small-mouth bass—possibly the scrappiest freshwater game fish that can be caught anywhere. These guys are so aggressive they will bite on just about anything...jigs, crank bait, spinners, or flies. Look for them near rocky areas around the points and islands between Devil's Creek and Hell Creek. While most of the bass remain between two and three pounds, it is not uncommon to find a five-pounder on the line and a fight on your hands.

Another favorite among locals is the northern pike, which were first planted in the lake in the 1950s. Expect four-to-eight-pound pike and hope for one of the 20 pounders in the Big Dry Arm Bay and lower parts of Fort Peck. Then there are all the rest... lake trout—more easily taken in the spring and fall, ling that look too much like eels to become too popular and Chinook salmon that continue to be stocked.



Family fun boating and fishing on Fort Peck Lake | Jamie Blotsky

Fishing Missouri River Country isn't just about Fort Peck Reservoir. The Missouri and Yellowstone rivers both are thick with their own possibilities, including the chance to land more than 100 pounds of something harkening back to another time. Ancient paddlefish of enormous size can still be found in both rivers. On the Yellowstone, seek them out near Sidney; on the Missouri, look between the Fred Robinson Bridge to the head of Fort Peck Reservoir. Fishing for these creatures requires an additional state license, big treble hooks, heavy weights, and a deep-sea rod.

Sharing space with the paddlefish are two species of sturgeon. The pallid sturgeon is listed as an Endangered Species and must be immediately released if caught. The smaller shovelnose sturgeon may be kept if it weighs no more than 16 pounds. The experts' pick for the best walleye fishing in Montana and home to record-setting pike and yellow perch is Nelson Reservoir near Malta. From one end to the other, Missouri River Country is a place of enormous fishing opportunities. Newcomers to Fort Peck are advised to seek out local fisherman for advice on where to go and what fishing techniques to use.

Fort Peck Lake is the ultimate dream come true for any fishing enthusiast, luring anglers from around the world. Make Fort Peck Lake your next destination. You'll take home a fishing experience to last a lifetime.

Fishing Information

A Montana fishing license is required for all fishing in MRC; however a secondary special license is required for paddlefish. Two-day and ten-day fishing licenses are available for non-residents. Before heading out on the water, check the Montana fishing and boating regulations www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing.

For information on Montana fishing licenses, regulations, areas to fish and outfitters and guides, contact: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (406) 228-3700, and the CMR National Wildlife Refuge (406) 538-8706. The US Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Peck (406) 526-3411, can provide additional information on Fort Peck Lake.

In order to help keep our lakes healthy, we ask you to remember that with three steps you can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, like plants, mussels and whirling disease. Inspect. Clean. Dry.

Visit our Missouri River Country website for more information on the local attractions, events, and lodging: MissouriRiverMT.com

Walleye catch on Fort Peck Lake | Roger Hunsley



Fishing, Boating and Camping	Open All Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
Bjornberg Bridge FAS	x		x	x		x
On Milk River 7 mi E of Saco on Hwy 2, 4 mi N on County Rd						
Bonetrail COE	x	x	x		x	x
S of Glasgow on Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd, SW to lake						
Cole Pond, NNW FAS	x		x		x	x
10 mi NW of Saco on Hwy 243						
Crooked Creek COE	x	x	x		x	x
56 miles N of Winnett via Valentine Road						
Culbertson Bridge FAS	x	x		x		x
3 mi SE of Culbertson on Hwy 16						
Devils Creek COE	x	x			x	x
NW of Jordan via Brusett						
Dredge Cut Trout Pond FAS	x	x		x		x
3 miles NE of Fort Peck townsite on Hwy 117						
Diamond Willow FAS	x			x		
On Yellowstone River, between Sidney and state line						
Downstream Campground COE			x		x	x
N of Fort Peck townsite						
Duck Creek FAS/COE	x	x	x	x	x	x
2 mi SW of Fort Peck on reservoir; nearby campground						
Elk Island FAS	x	x		x		x
1 mi N of Savage on Hwy 16, E 2 mi on County Rd 344						
Flat Lake COE	x	x	x		x	x
Hwy 24 NE of Fort Peck Dam						
Floodplain COE	x	x	x		x	x
E of Fort Peck townsite, Yellowstone Rd to Winter Harbor Rd Fort Peck Dredge Cuts COE						
Fort Peck Dredge Cuts COE	x		x	x		x
5 mi NE of Fort Peck on Hwy 117						
Fort Peck Marina	x	x	x		x	x
406.526.3442 - South of Hwy 24 on Duck Creek Rd						
Fort Peck West 1, 2 & 3 COE	x		x		x	x
1 mi S of Hwy 24 off Duck Creek Rd						
Fourchette Bay COE	x	x	x		x	x
South of Malta on Hwy 191 for 48 miles, then 57 miles SE on Dry Fork Road						
Gartside Reservoir FAS	x	x		x		x
1 mi N of Crane on Hwy 16, W 1 mi on County Rd 116						
Glasgow Base Pond FAS	x	x	x		x	x
20 mi N of Glasgow on Hwy 24						
FAS = Montana FWP Fishing Access Site			COE = Corps of Engineers			
BLM = Bureau of Land Management			BOR = Bureau of Reclamation			

Fishing, Boating and Camping	Open All Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
Hell Creek Recreation Area LSCT	x	x	x		x	x
N of Jordan on Fort Peck Lake						
Hell Creek Marina	x	x	x	x		x
406.557.2345 - 25 mi N of Jordan						
James Kipp BLM		x	x		x	x
SW of Malta on Hwy 191						
Lewis and Clark Bridge FAS	x	x	x	x		x
6 mi SE of Wolf Point on Hwy 13						
McGuire Creek COE	x		x		x	x
Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 41 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24						
Nelson Creek COE	x	x	x		x	x
Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 49 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24						
Nelson Dredge COE	x	x	x	x		x
6 miles NE of Fort Peck townsite on Hwy 117						
Nelson Reservoir BOR	x	x	x		x	x
19 miles E of Malta, turn N off Hwy 2 at Sleeping Buffalo						
Rock Creek Marina		x	x		x	x
406.485.2560 - 32 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, W at mi 27						
Rock Creek FAS	x	x	x		x	x
30 mi S of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, 7 mi W on County Rd						
Roundhouse Point COE	x	x	x		x	x
Hwy 117 N of Fort Peck Dam						
School Trust FAS	x	x	x	x		x
6 mi NE of Fort Peck townsite off Hwy 117						
Seven Sisters FAS	x	x		x		x
1 mi E of Crane on County Rd 115						
Sidney Bridge FAS	x	x		x		x
1-1/2 mi S of Sidney on Hwy 16, 1-1/2 mi E on Hwy 23						
Snowden Bridge FAS	x	x	x		x	x
14 mi NW of Fairview on County Rd						
The Pines COE	x	x	x		x	x
S of Glasgow Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd to Pines Rd						
West End Campground COE			x		x	x
2 mi W of Fort Peck on Hwy 117, NW on Hwy 24, S on Duck Creek						
Whitetail Reservoir FAS	x	x	x	x		x
7 mi N of Flaxville on Hwy 511						
Winter Harbor COE	x	x	x	x		x
E of Fort Peck townsite, Yellowstone Rd to Winter Harbor Rd						

Advisory: Some sites may be inaccessible because of weather conditions. Check local weather and road conditions before traveling.



Fishing on the Yellowstone River near the Seven Sisters area | Andy Austin

The Original People

In the early 1600s, Europeans displaced the ancestors of the Gros Ventre, the Assiniboine, and the Sioux from the East Coast. Nomadic hunters and fierce warriors, they headed out to the north and west in search of new land. Migrations over 200 years, coupled with mandatory moves by the US government, saw the three tribes settled in the north-central and northeastern part of Montana. At the turn of the 19th century, the decimation of their numbers by smallpox and the government's slaughter of bison forced them to consider moving onto reservations to survive.

In 1876, the Nations were instructed to move to the Fort Peck Indian Agency in the northeast corner of Montana to live with the Sioux. Many Assiniboine, who felt a cultural and language connection with the Sioux, did as they were told. The Gros Ventre and the remaining Assiniboine wanted no association with their oft-time rival. They refused, and it wasn't until 1888 that they found their home when the Fort Belknap Reservation was established.

Natives had a deep spiritual relationship with the buffalo. Central to every part of their lives, nothing was wasted. According to www.study.com, the teeth became necklaces and jewelry. Tongue: high-protein meat...the rough side was used as a comb. Horns: dishes, arrowheads, jewelry, utensils, and ground up for medicine. Brain: food, tanned hides into leather. Skull: used in sacred ceremonies. Bones: made into tools, weapons, needles, and fishhooks. Muscles: an adult bison provided 800 pounds of usable meat. Liver: food, and a tanning agent. Blood: paint, and soup thickener. Organs: dried and used as bags. Tendons: made bowstrings. Fur and hide: Used for blankets, clothing, tepee covering. Hair: braided into ropes and halters. Hoofs: glue, made into rattles. Droppings: fuel for fires.

Nearly 30 million bison once roamed free across the plains; by 1900, less than 1,000 remained. One small herd in Yellowstone National Park became today's answer to both reservations' quest

to return the honored buffalo to their land and re-establish its spiritual and cultural relationship with their people.

In 2012, the first genetically pure, direct descendants of the last bison saved from the mass slaughter arrived at the Turtle Mound Buffalo Ranch on the Fort Peck Reservation. A year later, 34 wild bison made a powerful entrance onto the Fort Belknap Reservation. The reintroduction of these buffalo has led to the gifting of herds to other Montana and out-of-state Indian Reservations.



Red Bottom Celebration | Carla Hunsley

Fort Peck Reservation—The Assiniboine & Sioux Nations

Poplar is the center for tribal activities and hosts the Assiniboine and Sioux Cultural Center and Museum and the Fort Peck Community College.

Powwows celebrating family, friendship, and Indian culture occur throughout the year. The reservation is home to fascinating artifacts and historical places, including tipi rings, buffalo jumps, and sacred sites. If you are interested, contact the tribal office at (406) 768-2300. Sensitivity issues and tribal customs must be considered and respected.

Fort Belknap Reservation—Gros Ventre & Assiniboine Nations

Situated half in the Central Montana tourism region and half on the western edge of Missouri River Country, tribal celebrations and events mostly take place on the western reaches of the reservation.

Missouri River Country's Birding Trail

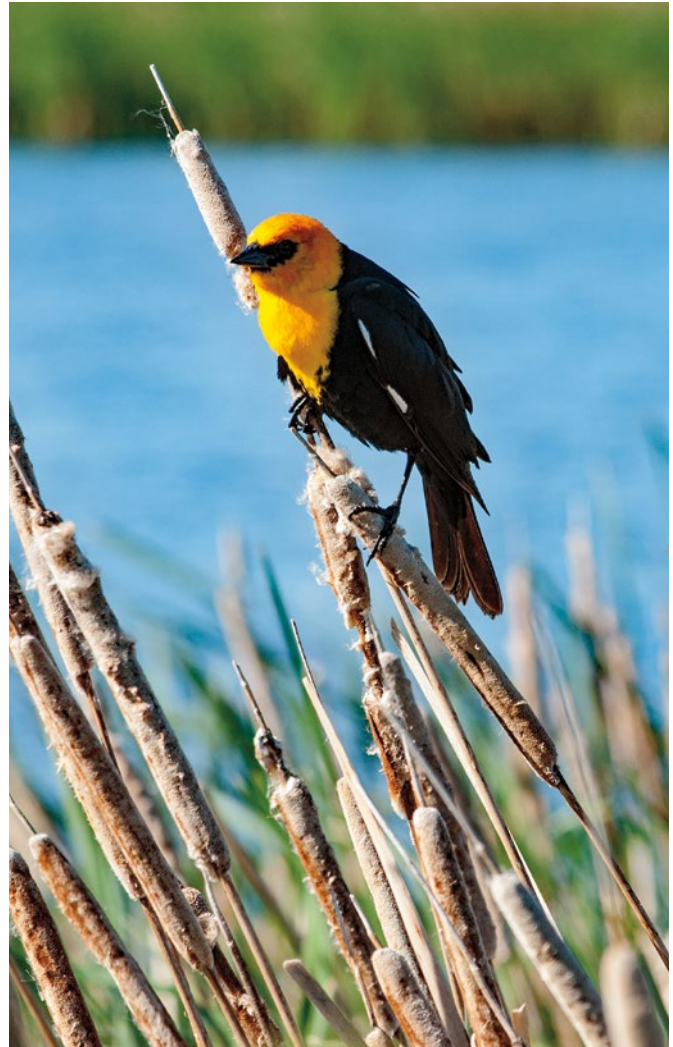
Come encounter the diverse song, color and bird species of Montana's Missouri River Country. From the expansive prairie, to the marshes and reservoirs, to the hills of the badlands, to the woodlands of the river breaks, a rewarding experience awaits you. Western meadowlarks with their golden-colored throats serenade travelers along roadways, and the shy and endangered piping plovers hide in the pothole regions of Missouri River Country's northeast corner.

American white pelicans, taking off from some of the world's largest breeding colonies, soar in military fashion over rivers and lakes. Curlews and great blue herons hunt the shorelines, hawks and grouse make their living amid the sagebrush and grass-covered prairie. While owls patrol the night sky, eagles command the day.

You can listen to the soulful call of a loon or the tap of a woodpecker, catch the brilliant flash of a lazuli bunting or, if you are very lucky, spot a rare hummingbird appearance.

There is much to delight and captivate both the amateur and the veteran birder; so grab your binoculars and get ready to discover the myriad of winged-folk who inhabit the amazing landscape along the Birding Trail of Missouri River Country.

Information on each featured stop can be found at:
www.missouririvermt.com/birdwatching



Yellowheaded Blackbird at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | Rick Bohn, USF&WS



Long Billed Curlew | USF&WS



Red-tailed Hawk | Rick Bohn, USF&WS

Accommodations in Missouri River Country

HOTELS AND MOTELS

CIRCLE	Traveler's Inn	\$	102 B Avenue	406-485-3323	
CULBERTSON	Hi Line Inn and Suites	\$\$	781 6th Street East	406-787-5261	www.hilineinn.com
	The Kings Inn Motel	\$\$	408 East 6th Street	406-787-6277	
FAIRVIEW	Korner Motel	\$	217 West 9th Street	406-742-5259	
FORT PECK	Fort Peck Hotel	\$\$	175 So. Missouri Avenue	406-526-3266	www.thefortpeckhotel.com
	Lakeridge Motel & Tackle Shop	\$\$	West of Fort Peck	406-526-3597	
GLASGOW	Campbell Lodge	\$	534 3rd Avenue South	406-228-9328	campbell-lodge-glasgow.booked.net
	Cottonwood Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	54250 US Hwy 2	406-228-8213	www.cottonwoodinn.net
	La Casa Motel	\$	238 1st Avenue North	406-228-9311	www.hotelmotels.info/Montana/Glasgow/LaCasaMotel
	Rundle Suites	\$\$	208 5th Street	406-228-2800	www.rundlesuites.com
	Star Lodge Motel	\$	1023 US Hwy 2 W	406-228-2494	star-lodge-motel.hotelsearchusa.com
JORDAN	Motel 200	\$	643 Leavitt Avenue	406-557-2209	
	Garfield Motel	\$	361 Main Street	406-557-6215	garfield-hotel-motel.hotelsearchusa.com
	Hell Creek Marina Lodging	\$\$	2502 Hell Creek Road	406-557-2345	www.hellcreekmarina.net
	Missouri Breaks Lodging LLC	\$\$	3646 Brusett Road	406-853-6420	
	Ryan Apartments	\$\$	722 Attix Street, Apt. 3	406-851-1877	www.ryanapartments.com
MALTA	Country Inn	\$	1568 US Hwy 191	406-654-2198	www.countryinnmalta.com
	Edgewater Inn & RV Park	\$\$	47176 US Hwy 2	406-654-1302	
	Great Northern Hotel	\$\$	2 South 1st Street East	406-654-2100	
	Maltana Motel	\$\$	138 South 1st Avenue West	406-654-2610	
	Riverside Motel and RV Court	\$	8 Central Avenue North	406-654-2881	
	Royals Inn Motel	\$	117 North 1st Street East	406-654-1150	www.royalsinnmotelmontana.com
	Sportsman Motel	\$	231 North 1st Street East	406-654-2300	
MEDICINE LAKE	Club Bar and Hotel	\$	202 West Main Street	406-789-2208	
PLENTYWOOD	Gold Dollar Lodge	\$	120 South Main	406-765-2730	
	Matilda's Properties	\$\$	515 West 1st Avenue	406-765-2810	www.sherwoodinnplentywood.com
	Sherwood Inn	\$\$	515 West 1st Avenue	406-765-2810	www.sherwoodinnplentywood.com
SACO	Saco Motel	\$	207 Taylor	406-527-3261	
SCOBEY	Smoke Creek Inn	\$\$	51 Hwy 13 South	406-487-5332	smoke-creek-inn.business.site
	Wheatland Lodge	\$\$	514 Main Street	406-487-2765	www.wheatlandlodgellc.com
SIDNEY	Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	820 South Central	406-433-4560	www.bestwesternmontana.com/hotels/best-western-golden-prairie-inn-and-suites
	Candlewood Suites	\$\$\$\$	201 6th Street NW	406-482-9692	www.candlewoodsuites.com/sidneymt
	Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	\$\$\$\$	251 West Holly Street	406-433-3200	www.hiexpress.com/sidneymt
	Lone Tree Inn	\$\$\$	900 South Central Avenue	406-433-4520	www.lonetreeinnsidney.us
	MainStay Suites	\$\$\$\$	1000 3rd Street NW	406-488-1000	www.choicehotels.com/montana/sidney/mainstay-hotels/mt095
	Microtel Inn & Suites	\$\$	1500 South Central Avenue	406-482-9011	www.microtelinn.com
	Richland Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	1200 South Central Avenue	406-433-6400	
	Wingate	\$\$	1490 South Central Avenue	406-433-3100	www.wingatehotels.com/hotels/montana/sidney/wingate-by-wyndham-sidney/hotel-overview
WOLF POINT	Homestead Inn and Annex	\$\$	101 US Hwy 2 E	406-653-1300	www.homesteadinnmotel.com
	Sherman Inn	\$\$	200 East Main Street	406-653-1100	www.shermaninn.com
ZORTMAN	Buckhorn Store, Cabins & RV Park	\$	143 Whitcomb Street	888-654-3162	
	Zortman Motel & Garage	\$	302 Main Street	406-673-3160	www.zortmanmotel.webstarts.com

BED & BREAKFAST

DODSON	Stage Road Inn	\$\$	30730 Stage Road	406-383-4410	www.stageroadinn.com
MOSBY	Hill Ranch Oasis	\$	123 Hill Road	406-429-6801	www.hillranchoasis.com
WOLF POINT	The Meadowlark	\$\$	872 Nickwall Road	406-525-3289	

HOT SPRINGS

SACO	Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs & Resort	669 Buffalo Trail	406-527-3320	www.sshotsprings.com
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OUTFITTER/GUIDED RECREATIONAL SERVICES

BAINVILLE	Montana River Ranch		406-769-2500	www.montanariverranch.com
BRUSETT	7-V Ranch	424 Burma Road	406-557-2845	www.7-vranchoutfitters.com
CULBERTSON	Timber Creek Ranch		406-798-7770	
FAIRVIEW	Mike Niles Outfitting	14478 County Rd 356	406-788-0803	www.mikenilesoutfitting.com
FORT PECK	Hi-Line Charter Fishing	6820 US Hwy 2 East	406-262-2195	www.hi-linecharterfishing.com
GLASGOW	Billingsley Ranch Outfitters		406-367-5577	www.billingsleyoutfitters.com
	Burke Ranch Outfitters	64 Keith Avenue	406-228-9727	www.burkeranchoutfitters.com
JORDAN	Landwehr Outfitters	#1 Stockyard Lane	405-219-1319	www.landwehroufitters.com
MALTA	Sagebrush Outfitters	50664 US Hwy 191 North	406-674-5271	
SAND SPRINGS	Kibler Outfitting & Charter Fishing	1239 North Lodge Pole Road	406-557-2503	www.kiblercharterfishing.com

GUEST RANCHES AND LODGES

MALTA	Tillmans Bed & Breakfast		406-670-9788	www.tillmansofmontana.com
SACO	Beaver Creek Lodge	210 Montana Avenue	406-527-3204	
SAND SPRINGS	IOU Ranch	1712 N. Lodge Pole Road	406-557-2544	

VACATION HOMES

FORT PECK	Bait & Switch LLC	80 Idlewild Drive	406-526-3241	
JORDAN	Twitchell's Sportsman Rental		406-557-2554	
ZORTMAN	Whispering Pines Vacation Homes	720 Thompson Street	406-673-3304	

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS AND MARINAS

CIRCLE	Horse Creek Trailer Court & RV	112 B Drive	406-876-4581	
CULBERTSON	Culbertson RV Park	5747 Road 1022	406-314-1597	www.culbertsonrvpark.com
DAGMAR	Sunset Camping	85 Brotherhood Hall Road		
FORT PECK	Rock Creek Marina	652 South Rock Creek Road	406-485-2560	www.rockcreekmarina.com
GLASGOW	Cottonwood & Suites RV Park	54250 US Highway 2	406-228-8213	www.cottonwoodinn.net
	Shady Rest RV Park	8 Lasar Drive	406-228-2769	
	Trails West Campground	37 Skylark Road	406-228-2778	
JORDAN	Hell Creek Marina	2502 Hell Creek Road	406-557-2345	www.hellcreekmarina.net
MALTA	Buffalo Camp at American Prairie Reserve	South of Malta	406-585-4600	www.americanprairie.org
	Edgewater Inn & RV Park	47176 US Highway 2	406-654-1302	
PLENTYWOOD	AOK Camping	509 West 1st Avenue	406-765-7951	
	Bolster Dam Campgrounds	Box Elder Street	406-765-1700	
POPLAR	Smith's Mobile Park	1502 15th Avenue East	406-768-3841	
SCOBAY	Lions Campground	11 Railroad Avenue East	701-770-4993	
WOLF POINT	Homestead RV Park	7520 US Hwy 2	406-653-1940	
ZORTMAN	Zortman RV Park & Campground	302 Main Street	406-673-3160	

SPECIAL INTEREST

MALTA	Great Plains Dinosaur Museum & Field Station	US Hwy 2 East	406-654-5300	www.mtdinotrail.org/great-plains-dinosaur-museum-and-field-station
FORT PECK	Fort Peck Interpretation Center	Yellowstone Road	406-526-3493	www.fws.gov/refuge/charles-m-russell/fort-peck-interpretive-center

VACATION PLANNING ASSISTANCE

MALTA	The Travel Haven	121 South 2nd Street	406-654-1638	
SIDNEY	Journeys by Jan Travel Company	1050 South Central Ave. #1	406-488-4450	

Information Sources

State and Federal Agencies

Montana Office of Tourism

800-847-4868 www.visitmt.com

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks:

406-444-2535 www.fwp.mt.gov

Fort Peck Tribes Fish and Game

Department: 406-768-2300

www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/

Regional Headquarters Fish Wildlife and Parks, Glasgow: 406-228-3700

BLM-U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Malta: 406-654-5100

Glasgow: 406-228-3750

www.blm.gov/

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge:

406-654-2863 www.fws.gov/refuge/

bowdoin/

CMR | Charles M. Russell National

Wildlife Refuge: 406-538-8706

www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell/

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge:

406-789-2305

www.fws.gov/refuge/medicine_lake

US Army Corps of Engineers

Fort Peck: 406-526-3411

Other Tourism Regions

Southeast Montana: 800-346-1876

www.southeastmontana.com

Yellowstone Country: 800-736-5276

www.visityellowstonecountry.com

Southwest Montana: 800-879-1159

www.southwestmt.com

Glacier Country: 800-338-5072

www.glaciermt.com

Central Montana: 800-527-5348

www.centralmontana.com

Ports of Entry

Port of Opheim

Year Around 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Port of Morgan 406-674-5248

Year Around 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Port of Scobey

Year Around 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Port of Raymond

Year Around 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Other Recreation Information

Fort Peck Indian Reservation:

406-768-2300

MT Outfitters and Guides Assoc.:

406-449-3578

Montana Historical Society:

406-444-4710

Chambers of Commerce

Circle C of C: 406-485-4782

www.circle-montana.com

Culbertson C of C: 406-787-5271

www.culbertsonmt.com

Fairview C of C: 406-742-5259

www.midrivers.com/~fairview

Glasgow C of C and Agriculture:

406-228-2222 www.glasgowchamber.net

Jordan/Garfield County C of C:

406-853-2731 www.garfieldcounty.com

Malta Area C of C:

406-654-1776 www.maltachamber.com

Plentywood/Sheridan County C of C:

406-765-8500

www.sheridancountychamber.org

Poplar C of C: 406-768-5204

Saco C of C and Agriculture:

406-527-3434

Scobey & Daniels County C of C:

406-487-2061 www.scobeymt.com

Sidney C of C and Agriculture:

406-433-1916 www.sidneymt.com

Wolf Point C of C and Agriculture:

406-653-2012

www.wolfpointchamber.com

Public Campgrounds

**UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE,
the website for all campgrounds is:**

www.campgroundreviews.com/regions/montana/fort-peck/downstream-coe-7518

Crane:

Seven Sisters 406-234-0900

Dagmar:

Brush Lake State Park 406-483-5455

<https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/brush-lake>

Fort Peck:

Bone Trail 406-526-3411

Downstream 406-526-3411

Duck Creek 406-526-3411

Flat Lake Access Site 406-526-3411

COE Campground 406-526-3224

Floodplain 406-526-3411

McGuire Creek 406-526-3411

Nelson Creek 406-526-3411

Rock Creek Fishing Access

406-228-3700

The Pines 406-526-3411

West End 406-526-3411

Jordan:

Devil's Creek 406-526-3411

Hell Creek Recreation Area

406-557-2362

Malta:

Fourchette Bay 406-526-3411

Nelson Reservoir 406-759-5077

www.usbr.gov/gp/recreation/nelrec.html

Trafton Park 406-654-1251

Saco: Cole Ponds 406-228-3700

Zortman:

Buffington Recreation 406-654-5100

Camp Creek 406-654-5100

Montana Gulch 406-654-5100

Transportation

Airlines

Cape Air: 406-228-8041 www.capeair.com

Charter Airlines

Richland Aviation: 406-482-1832

Wokal Field Valley County Airport:

406-228-4023

Rail | Amtrak

800-872-7245 www.amtrak.com

Car Rental

Way Out West Car Rentals

Wolf Point: 1-800-733-1310

Richland Car & Truck Rental

Sidney: 406-478-4930

Weather

Glasgow and Northeast Montana:

406-228-4042 www.weather.gov/glasgow

Road Conditions Statewide: dial 511

www.mdt.mt.gov



Milk River at Hinsdale, MT | Rick and Susie Graetz

MONTANA'S MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY
P.O. Box 118
Fort Peck, MT 59223

PRSR MRKTG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PLENTYWOOD, MT
PERMIT NO. 3

Gold-panning near Zortman, MT | Melynda Harrison

