

# HUNTING & FISHING GUIDEBOOK

MONTANA'S



---

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

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MONTANA'S  
MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY



Andy Austin

Welcome to Missouri River Country, where there is more room to roam, more land to hunt, more waters to fish and more time to leave your worries in the dust. Nestled in the Northeastern corner of Montana, Missouri River Country is home to dynamic landscapes, friendly communities, big skies and big game. We take hunting and fishing seriously because we have some serious bragging rights. Deer, elk and antelope outnumber people 10 to 1. Thousands of pheasants and grouse roam our prairies, and waterfowl such as ducks and Canada geese migrate through our skies each year. More than 50 species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake and the three rivers that crisscross our region. Simply put, if you are a hunter or angler, Montana's Missouri River Country of Northeast Montana is heaven on earth. Let us help you plan for your next outdoor adventure. Discover new territory and have the experience of a lifetime.

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## Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Events



- February TBA-Ice Fishing Derby
- 1st Weekend in June- Milk River Catfish Days
- 3rd Weekend in June- Longest Dam Race
- 3rd Wednesday of the Month- June-Sept.- Hump Day & Alive At Five
- 2nd Weekend in July- Montana Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament
- Saturday of Fair-July/August- NE MT Fair Concert
- 2nd Saturday in August- Colbrese Cup Red Ball Golf Scramble
- September/October TBA- Scottie Homecoming
- 2nd Friday in October- NE MT Ag. EXPO
- First Saturday in December- Christmas Stroll & Parade of Lights

Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture  
406-228-2222 Website: [www.glasgowchamber.net](http://www.glasgowchamber.net)



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## COMMUNITIES

Missouri River Country is home to more than massive game and record-setting fish. The communities dotted throughout our spectacular landscape are full of history, warm welcomes and some of the best people you would ever want to meet. Each town has something unique to offer hunters and anglers, from dining and lodging options to accessibility to the great outdoors and camping. Regardless of your plan, you will find your perfect fit in one of our many charming communities.

	FOOD	LODGING	CAMPING	GAS
Bainville	✓			✓
Brockton	✓			✓
Brockway	✓			✓
Brusett		✓	✓	
Circle	✓	✓	✓	✓
Culbertson	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dodson	✓			✓
Fairview	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flaxville	✓			✓
Fort Peck	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frazer	✓			
Froid	✓			✓
Glasgow	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hinsdale		✓		✓
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landusky	✓		✓	✓
Lambert	✓			✓
Malta	✓	✓	✓	✓
Medicine Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mosby		✓	✓	
Nashua	✓			✓
Opheim	✓			✓
Plentywood	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poplar	✓		✓	✓
Saco	✓	✓		✓
Sand Springs	✓		✓	✓
Savage	✓		✓	✓
Scobey	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sidney	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westby	✓		✓	✓
Wolf Point	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zortman	✓	✓	✓	✓



Jodi Schock

## CALENDAR

### Hunting and Fishing Seasons

Plan and prepare for your trip. Below are the approximate timelines for hunting and fishing in Missouri River Country. Please note that exact dates can be found online at [www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting) for hunting and [www.fwp.mt.gov/fish](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/fish) for fishing.

#### Antelope

Archery: *Mid-September to Mid-October*  
General: *Mid-October to Mid-November*

#### Bighorn Sheep

Archery: *Early September to Mid-September*  
General: *Mid-September to Early December*

#### Bison

*Mid-November to Mid-February*

#### Canada Goose

*Late September to Early January*

#### Deer and Elk

Archery: *Early September to Mid-October*  
General: *Late October to Early December*

#### Duck

*Late September to Early January*

#### Fishing

*All year*

#### Ice Fishing

*January to March, weather dependant*

#### Grouse

General: *Early September to Early January*

#### Hungarian Partridge

*Early September to Early January*

#### Pheasant

*Mid-October to Early January*

#### Moose

*Mid-September to Early December*

#### Sandhill Cranes

*Late September to Late November*

#### Turkey

Spring: *Mid-April to Mid-May*  
Fall: *Early September to Early January*

#### Upland Game Bird

*Early September to Early January*

#### Waterfowl

*Mid to late September to Early January*

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Rick and Susie Graetz

## FISHING

Fishing in Northeast Montana is the ultimate dream come true for any enthusiast. Make Montana's Missouri River Country in Northeast Montana your next destination. You'll take home a fishing experience to last a lifetime.

In the lakes, reservoirs, and rivers of Northeastern Montana, anglers will discover hundreds of fish species. The walleye fishing is world-class. Chinook salmon, lake trout, northern pike, perch, catfish, and smallmouth bass are a few popular fish that draw anglers to our waters, along with the prehistoric paddlefish.

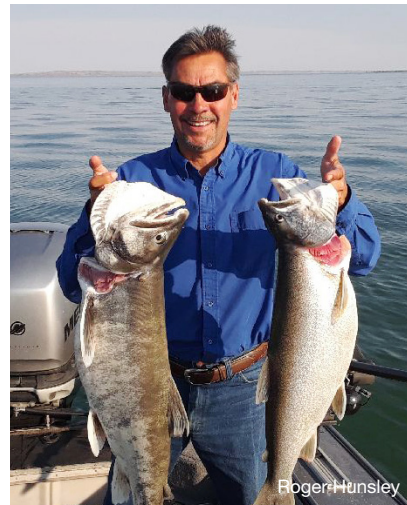
A Montana fishing license is required for all fishing and a secondary special license is required for paddlefish. Two-day and ten-day fishing licenses are available for nonresidents. Before heading out on the water, check the Montana fishing and boating regulations at: [www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing)

## Where to Fish

### Fort Peck Lake

More than 50 species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake, and they all have room to grow including walleye, smallmouth bass, northern pike and Chinook salmon. Fort Peck Lake boasts more miles of shoreline than the California coast, so you can spend less time searching for a spot to fish and more time fishing. Fort Peck's diverse fishery continues to gain nationwide recognition. Stories of 5-pound bass, 10-pound walleye and 20-pound northern pike are not uncommon.

Fort Peck Lake has three marinas and nine boat ramp access areas scattered across the reservoir:



Roger Hunsley

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**Rock Creek Marina**  
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Rick and Susie Graetz

**Alkali Creek**

0.5 miles south of Malta on Hwy 191, 2.5 miles west on Hwy 363  
Day use only; no boat ramps; access for trailers; latrine.  
Bank fishing access to the Milk River. No hunting allowed.

**Bjornberg Bridge**

7 miles east of Saco on Hwy 2, 4 miles north on County Road  
Day use only; no boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine.  
Bank fishing access to the Milk River. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Cole Ponds**

10 miles northwest of Saco on Hwy 243, located inside Beaver Creek County Park  
3 campsites; no boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine.  
Open during established hunting seasons.

**Culbertson Bridge**

3 miles southeast of Culbertson on Hwy 16  
Day use only; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine.  
Open during established hunting seasons.

**Diamond Willow**

Hwy 16, 1.5 miles south of Sidney, 2.5 miles east on Hwy 23, 7 miles northeast on county road, 1 mile north on County Road  
Day use only; hand launch only for small craft; access for trailers. Primitive site. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Devils Creek**

55 miles West of Jordan on Brusett Road  
Picnic Shelter

**Duck Creek**

2 miles northwest of Fort Peck town site on Duck Creek Bay of Fort Peck Reservoir  
Day use only; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; ADA accessible latrine. Fish cleaning station nearby. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Elk Island**

Hwy 16, 1 mile north of Savage, east 2 miles on County Road  
Day use only; gravel boat launch. Limited access for trailers and RV's. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds**

5 miles northeast of Fort Peck town site on Hwy 117  
Day use only; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; ADA accessible latrine. Closed to overnight use. Open 6 am to 10 pm. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Gartside Reservoir**

Hwy 16, 1 mile north of Crane, west 1 mile on County Road  
Day use only; primitive boat launch; access for trailers; latrine. ADA accessible latrine and fishing platform. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Glasgow Base Pond**

20 miles north of Glasgow on Hwy 24  
4 campsites; hand launch only; access for trailers; latrine. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Intake Dam**

Take exit 213 off I-94 at Glendive, 16 miles northeast on Hwy 16, 2 miles east on County Road. 15 campsites-fee charged; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine. Potable water available 5/15 thru 10/1. Archery and shot gun only during established hunting seasons.

**Johnson Reservoir**

21 miles north of Glendive on Hwy 200 south to Lindsay, north 6 miles on County Road 470, east 2.5 miles on County Road. Day use only; primitive boat ramp. Limited access for trailers-tight and narrow entrances at the cattle guard. Parking for about 8 vehicles. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Lewis and Clark**

6 miles southeast of Wolf Point on Hwy 13  
Open 6 am to 10 pm; Day use only; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine. Shotgun only during established waterfowl and upland game bird seasons.

**Missouri, Milk and Yellowstone Rivers**

The Missouri, Milk and Yellowstone Rivers in Northeast Montana are thick with their own possibilities, including the chance to land more than a 100 pound paddlefish. Fish along the Yellowstone, near Sidney, the Missouri between the Fred Robinson Bridge and Fort Peck Lake, and the Milk, a tributary of the Missouri that ends just outside of Fort Peck Lake.

**Nelson Reservoir**

Nelson Reservoir near Malta is home to record-setting pike, yellow perch and walleye. In open water or on the ice, Nelson Reservoir can produce some awesome fish and send you home with stories to tell about your experience in Northeast Montana.

**Rock Creek**

30 miles south of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, 7 miles west on North Rock Creek County Road. 3 campsites; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine. Fish cleaning station nearby. Open during established hunting seasons.

**School Trust**

6 miles northeast of Fort Peck town site off of Hwy 117. Day use only; gravel/river bottom boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine. Limited access for RV's and trailers. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Sidney Bridge**

1.5 miles south of Sidney on Hwy 16, 1.5 miles east on Hwy 23  
Day use only; concrete boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine. Hunting prohibited. Seven Sisters 11 miles south of Sidney on Hwy 16, 1.5 miles east from Crane on County Road. 1 campsite; hand launch only. Open during established hunting seasons.

**Snowden Bridge**

Approximately 12 miles north of Fairview, 25 miles north of Sidney, 32 miles southeast of Culbertson and 27 miles west of Williston, ND. The site can be reached from Hwy 2 by taking 153 Ave. South (approximately five miles east of the Montana-North Dakota border). Turn right onto Hwy 1804 West. Turn left onto Hwy 58 South. Turn left onto 38th street NW (approximately 1.5 miles south of the Missouri River Bridge Crossing). 3 campsites; gravel/river bottom boat ramp; access for trailers; latrine

**Whitetail Reservoir**

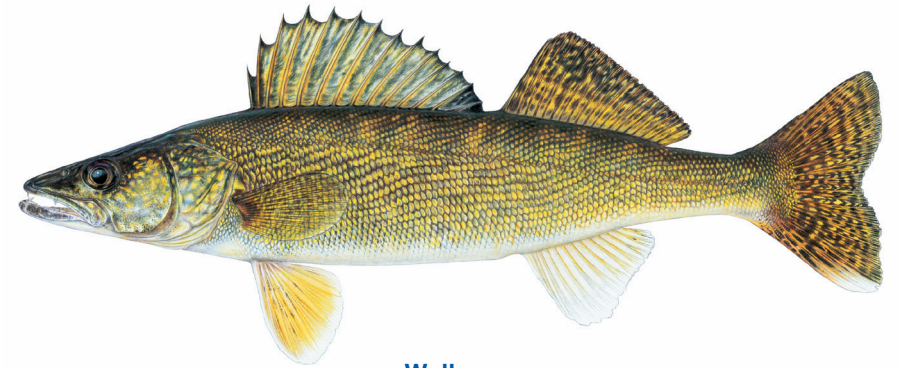
7 miles north of Flaxville on Hwy 511  
Day use only; hand launch only; latrine. Limited access for RV's and trailers. Open during established hunting seasons.

If you are an angler, Montana's Missouri River Country in Northeast Montana is heaven on earth. This is the land where men built a dam across the mighty Missouri River creating the largest body of water in Montana, known as Fort Peck Reservoir.

More than 50 different species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake and they all have room to grow. The walleye fishing is world-class and there are opportunities for catching lake trout, Chinook salmon, northern pike, sauger and smallmouth bass. Ling, prehistoric paddlefish and two species of sturgeon also inhabit Fort Peck Lake. Fort Peck's diverse fishery continues to gain nationwide recognition. Stories of 5-pound bass, 10-pound walleye and 20-pound northern pike are not uncommon.

**TYPES OF FISH**

Illustrations by Joseph Tomelleri



**Walleye**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Musselshell River, Yellowstone River



**Black Crappie**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River, stocked ponds



**Lake Trout**

Fort Peck Reservoir



**Chinook Salmon**

Fort Peck Reservoir



**Sauger**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Musselshell River, Yellowstone River



**Burbot**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River



**Northern Pike**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Medicine Lake, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River, most main tributaries, stocked ponds



**Freshwater Drum**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Musselshell River, Yellowstone River



**Shovelnose Sturgeon**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River



**Channel Catfish**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Musselshell River, Yellowstone River, most main tributaries



**Paddlefish**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River



**Smallmouth Bass**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River



**Yellow Perch**

Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Missouri River, Milk River, Yellowstone River, stocked ponds



Sean R. Heavey

## ICE FISHING

Fishing is a way of life in Missouri River Country, so when the winter arrives and the ice freezes, we do not let a little cold stop us from getting out there and spending time on the water. Check ice conditions before heading out and always put safety first. Ice fishing is a great sport for all ages. Kids and adults alike can have fun and learn a great winter sport together.

### All About Ice Fishing

**What:** Ice fishing is a sport which involves drilling holes into ice and using lines, hooks, and spears to fish through the open hole. Be sure to dress for the weather and the water. It can get quite cold on the ice in the winter.

**Where:** Missouri River Country has some great options for ice fishing in the winter. The best place to start is Fort Peck Lake and its many marinas. The Lakeridge Tackle Shop, Fort Peck Marina, Hell Creek Marina, Rock Creek Marina, and Nelson Reservoir are a few great places to get started and get the best fishing tips.

**When:** Ice greater than 4 inches thick is considered strong enough for fishing on foot. Ice thicker than 5 inches can support a snowmobile or ATV, and ice 8 inches thick or more can support a small truck or car. Ice 12 inches thick or more can hold a medium truck. Contact a local shop or marina to check ice conditions as cold temperatures do not always mean thick ice.

**How:** There are many ways to experience ice fishing in Missouri River Country. If you would like to learn from the pros, a number of marinas can assist you with guided tours. Experience the culture around ice fishing by planning a visit around an ice fishing tournament. Nelson Reservoir hosts a tournament each year.

## WORDS FROM A FISHERMAN

### Ice Fishing Fort Peck

By Jason Mitchell

Fort Peck Reservoir has long infatuated me: a massive body of water that produces big fish. I have often joked that Fort Peck reminds me of Jurassic Park. Many of the fish are just so big — so old that you want to believe these fish are prehistoric. Fishing Fort Peck is also like traveling back in time: we seldom see many people, especially on the ice. What I love about Fort Peck is that you just never know what you will catch. For many ice anglers traveling from outside the area, Fort Peck can be intimidating because of the sheer size. Ice conditions can vary and cell phone service can be limited in some areas. From my experiences, we didn't necessarily have to travel far on the ice to find good fishing.

Most winters, an ATV is desired for accessing good fishing locations but there have been a few recent winters where the amount of snow on the ice required a snowmobile or tracks. However, heavy snow on Fort Peck is somewhat unusual. There have been many years where there was virtually no snow on the ice. Ice conditions can vary dramatically, and anglers must be diligent with ice safety. Moving water and fluctuating water levels can vary ice thickness. Methane gas can also create pockets of bad ice. Cracks can open overnight. A GPS with a map chip showing contour lines is desirable for not only navigation but also finding structure.

I would argue that the winter lake trout fishery on Fort Peck is the best fishery in the United States. On most fisheries, catching four or five lake trout in a day of fishing would be a great day. On Fort Peck, you can do much better if you hit the bite right. Fort Peck is also one of the best places in the country for the opportunity at catching a walleye through the ice that is over 12-pounds in weight. There are many places where you can catch nice walleye, but not many places that rival Fort Peck for producing that double-digit fish of a lifetime. Big pike are also abundant, and again, Fort Peck would be considered a top tier fishery for producing pike over forty inches in length. Each of these species would put Fort Peck on the angling map but when you combine the opportunities for all three of these species, the possibilities on this reservoir are extremely noteworthy. Ice anglers would be hard pressed to find a better fishery if the goal is trophy class predator fish.

Fort Peck remains one of my favorite destinations because of the lack of people, it's remoteness and the quality of fish. For many Midwest anglers traveling from the east, the lake trout fishery is something that is unique and exotic.



Jason Mitchell Outdoors





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**GOVERNOR'S CUP**

The Montana Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament, located on Fort Peck Lake, is a signature "Hallmark" event for Northeast Montana, providing a lasting impact in the lives of event participants.

**The Annual Governor's Cup is held annually in the 2nd weekend of July.**

The Montana Governor's Cup is not just about tournament fishing— it is an opportunity to share first-rate angling experiences, have a family vacation time, educate our youth about angling, and maybe even catch a whopper.

The participants of the Montana Governor's Cup are seasoned and novice anglers alike, who come not only to catch fish, but to experience the natural wonders of Fort Peck Lake and the unspoiled landscape of the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge.

Our anglers and visitors appreciate getting off the beaten path to enjoy an event that is held in a small, charming, friendly community with simple values, genuine people and breathtaking experiences.





Andrew McKean

## FISHING THE MIGHTY MILK RIVER

Forty-one different species of fish roam the “Mighty Milk,” but none more prominent than the channel catfish. Channel catfish, stone cat, and black bullhead are present in this body of water. The Milk River is the home to the current state record stone cat, and a previous state record channel cat. The stone cat, a 0.54-pound beauty, was caught by Dale Bjerga on June 16th, 1996.

A prior state record for channel cat, broken in 1984, was a 23-pound 4-ounce giant caught by Larry Hamilton. Although you will be hard-pressed to see fish like that, it is reasonable to catch a dozen cats in the 2 to 4-pound range, and have a great shot at one over 6 pounds on a typical afternoon outing. It is safe to say that the average channel cat is about 2.5 pounds, a 6-pound cat is really nice, and a 10-pound cat is considered a “trophy” on the lower Milk.

The Milk is very volatile due to its contracted use for irrigation purposes and often times fish growth is dictated by flow and water levels. Since the early 2000’s, with increasingly wet years throughout Canada and Northern Montana, water has been great on this river and the native channel catfish has thrived. In what used to be a 1 to 1 1/2-pound average has now grown to a 2.5-pound average and above. It is possible for a seasoned angler with knowledge of the area and small river catfish tendencies to land 30 to 35 pounds of five fish in a single evening. This 6 to 7-pound average would have been unheard of just 20 years ago.

The river is most accessible above Vandalia Diversion Dam and is even navigable with a prop boat for a 28-mile stretch of river during average stream flows. There is a concrete ramp at Milk River Park in the community of Hinsdale with a public dock. Below Vandalia dam, a jet boat is nearly a necessity with access at only farm and ranch crossings, irrigation pump sites, or via the mouth by way of four lower Missouri River ramps below Fort Peck Dam.

There are eleven “feeder” creeks downstream of Nelson Reservoir that can all house cats at different times of the year. Most notably, Frenchman Creek and Beaver Creek, where fishing is often superb during pre-spawn and cats can grow into the low teens.

This river is also host to the annual Milk River Catfish Classic held in Glasgow, Montana on the first Saturday of every June.

*Above information provided by Montana Cats Staff.*

For more information on fishing adventures on the lower Milk River, please visit: [www.montanacats.com](http://www.montanacats.com)

“The water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with a mixture of a tablespoonful of milk. From the colour of its water we called it Milk River.”

- Meriwether Lewis May 8th, 1805



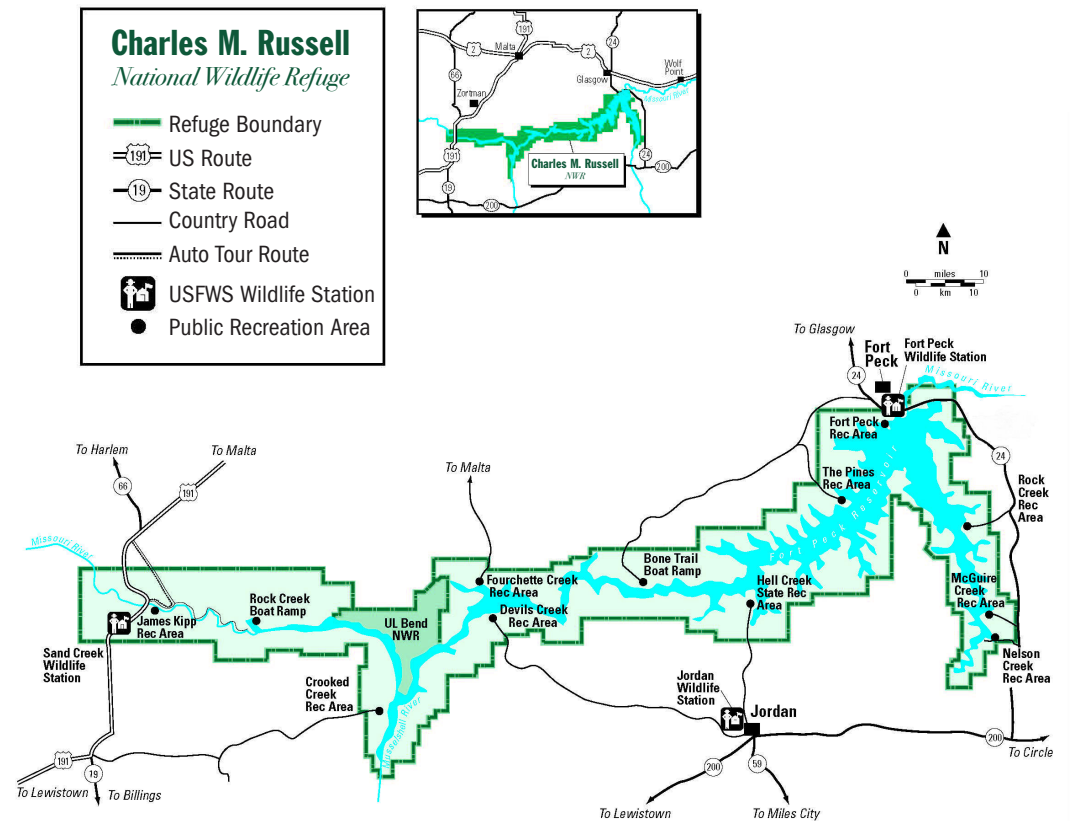


## CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Together, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge encompass an area of 1.1 million acres that span about 125 air miles along the Missouri River, from the Fort Peck Dam west to the boundary with the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Located within the boundary of CMR Refuge, UL Bend is, in essence, a refuge within a refuge. The Service manages these refuges as one.

Given the size and remoteness of CMR, the area has changed very little from the historic voyage of the Lewis and Clark expedition, through the era of outlaws and homesteaders, to the present time. Elk, mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, sage and sharp-tailed grouse, and bald eagles make the refuge home. Visitors will find spectacular examples of native prairie, forested coulees, river bottoms, and “breaks” badlands so often portrayed in the paintings of the colorful artist for whom this refuge is named.

Credit to: [www.fws.gov/refuge/Charles\\_M\\_Russell/about.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Charles_M_Russell/about.html)



# FISHING, BOATING, AND CAMPING

	Open all Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
<b>Bjornberg Bridge FAS</b> On Milk River 7m E of Saco on Hwy 2, 4m N on City Rd.	✓			✓	✓	✓
<b>Bone Trail COE</b> S of Glasgow on Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd., SW to river	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Cole Pond, NNW FAS</b> 10m NW of Saco on Hwy 243	✓			✓		✓
<b>Crooked Creek COE</b> N of Winnett via Drag Ridge Trail	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Culbertson Bridge FAS</b> 3m SE of Culbertson on Hwy 16	✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>Devils Creek COE</b> NW of Jordan via Brusett	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Diamond Willow FAS</b> On Yellowstone River, between Sidney and state line	✓				✓	
<b>Downstream Campground COE</b> N of Fort Peck Dam				✓		✓
<b>Duck Creek FAS/COE</b> 2m SW of Fort Peck on reservoir; nearby campground	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Elk Island FAS</b> 1m N of Savage on Hwy 16, E 2m on City Rd. 344	✓	✓				✓
<b>Flat Lake COE</b> Hwy 24 NE of Fort Peck Dam	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Floodplain COE</b> NE of Fort Peck Town site on Hwy 117	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Fort Peck Dredge Cuts COE</b> 1m NE of Fort Peck on Hwy 117	✓			✓	✓	✓
<b>Fort Peck Dredge Cuts FAS</b> 3m NE of Fort Peck on Hwy 117	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Fort Peck Marina Private</b> 406.526.3442	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Fort Peck West 1, 2, &amp; 3 COE</b> 1m S of Hwy 24 off Duck Creek Rd.	✓			✓		✓
<b>Fourchette Bay COE</b> 60 mi S of Malta on City Rd.	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Gartside Reservoir FAS</b> 1m N of Crane on Hwy 16, W 1m on City Rd. 116	✓	✓			✓	✓

	Open all Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
<b>Hell Creek State Park MFWP</b> N of Jordan on Fort Peck Lake	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Hell Creek Marina Private</b> 406.557.2345 - 25m N of Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>James Kipp BLM</b> SW of Malta on Hwy 191			✓	✓		✓
<b>Lewis and Clark Bridge FAS</b> 6m SE of Wolf Point on Hwy 13	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>McGuire Creek COE</b> Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 41m SE of Fort Peck - Hwy 24	✓			✓		✓
<b>Nelson Creek COE</b> Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 49m SE of Fort Peck - Hwy 24	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Nelson Dredge COE</b> 6m NE of Fort Peck townsite on Hwy 117	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Nelson Reservoir BOR</b> 19m E of Malta, turn N off Hwy 2 at Sleeping Buffalo	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Rock Creek Marina Private</b> 32m SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, W at m 27		✓	✓			✓
<b>Rock Creek FAS</b> 30m S of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, 7m W on City Rd.	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>Roundhouse Point COE</b> Hwy 117 N of Fort Peck Dam	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>School Trust FAS</b> 6m NE of Fort Peck townsite of Hwy 117	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>Seven Sisters FAS</b> 1m E of Crane on City Rd. 115	✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>Sidney Bridge FAS</b> 1.5m S of Sidney on Hwy 16, 2.5m E on Hwy 23	✓	✓			✓	✓
<b>Snowden Bridge FAS</b> 14m NW of Fairview on City Rd.	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>The Pines COE</b> S of Glasgow Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd. to Pines Rd.	✓	✓	✓			✓
<b>West End Campground COE</b> 2m W of Fort Peck on Hwy 117, NW on Hwy 24, S on Duck Creek				✓		✓
<b>Whitetail Reservoir FAS</b> 7m N of Flaxville on Hwy 511	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓



Carla Hunstey

# CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS), including diseases, are easily spread from one water body to the other. Anglers, boaters, construction workers, pond owners, gardeners, seaplane pilots, field workers — virtually anyone who works or plays in or around water can unknowingly transport these pests on their boats and equipment or allow them to spread via improper management practices. It takes only one mistake to potentially infest a new water body. To protect Montana’s waters and native aquatic species, please follow these rules and guidelines: Clean. Drain. Dry.

### Clean

- Completely remove all mud, water, and vegetation before leaving the access area.
- Inspect your boat, trailer and all gear. Pay attention to crevices and hidden areas.
- Remove all vegetation (by hand or sprayer).
- Remove all mud (use a pressurized power sprayer, found at most do-it-yourself car washes). The hot water kills organisms and the pressure removes mud and vegetation. No need to use chemicals or soap.
- Dispose of debris in trash or on dry land away from water or ramp.

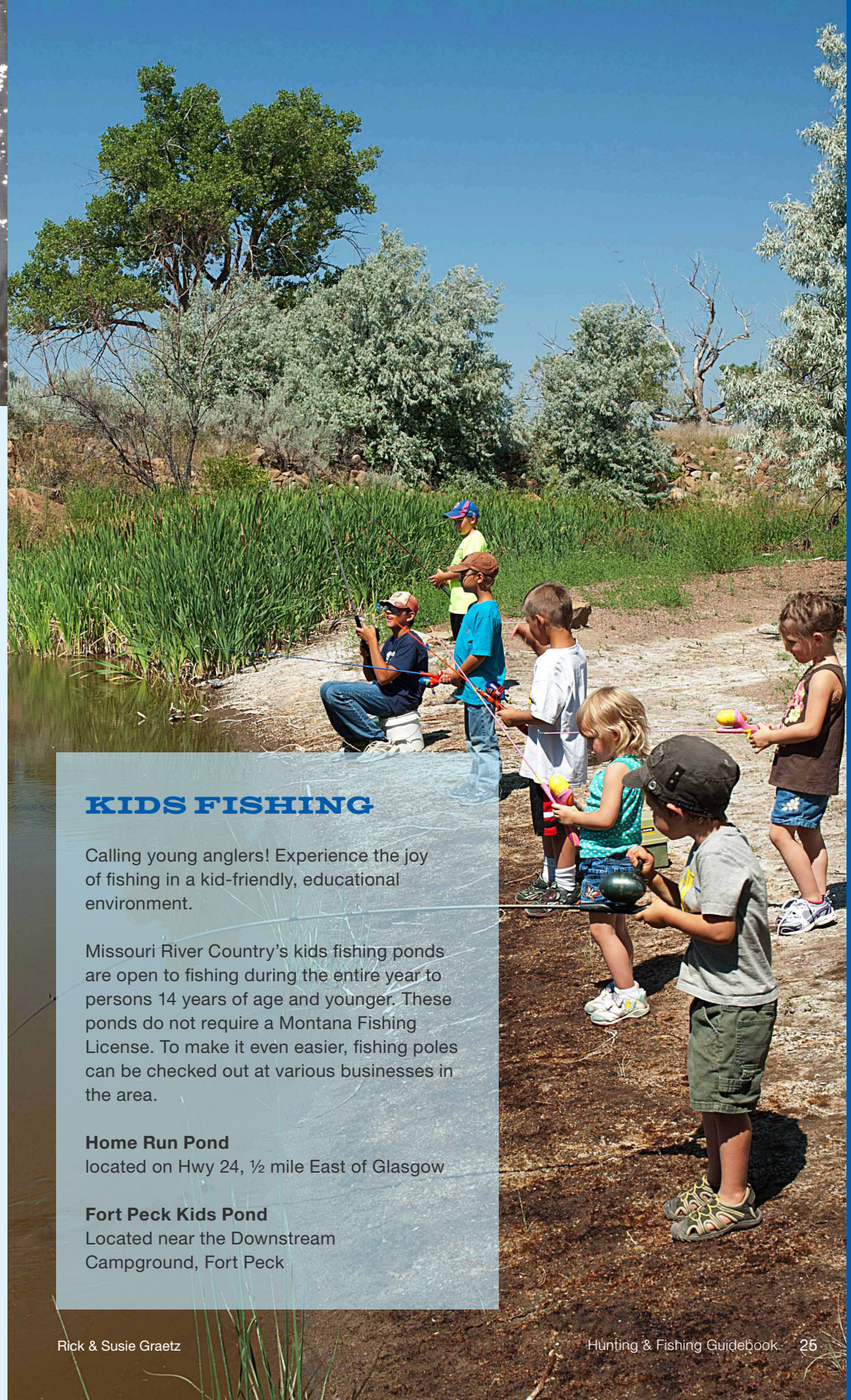
### Drain

- Drain all water from watercraft and equipment.
- Drain or remove water from boat, bilge, live well, engine, internal compartments and bait buckets by removing drain plugs before leaving the access area.

### Dry

- Aquatic invaders can survive only in water and wet areas.
- Dry your watercraft and fishing equipment thoroughly; this will kill most invasive species. The longer you keep your watercraft, trailer, waders and other equipment outside in the hot sun between fishing trips, the better.

For more information visit: [www.cleandraindry.mt.gov](http://www.cleandraindry.mt.gov)



## KIDS FISHING

Calling young anglers! Experience the joy of fishing in a kid-friendly, educational environment.

Missouri River Country’s kids fishing ponds are open to fishing during the entire year to persons 14 years of age and younger. These ponds do not require a Montana Fishing License. To make it even easier, fishing poles can be checked out at various businesses in the area.

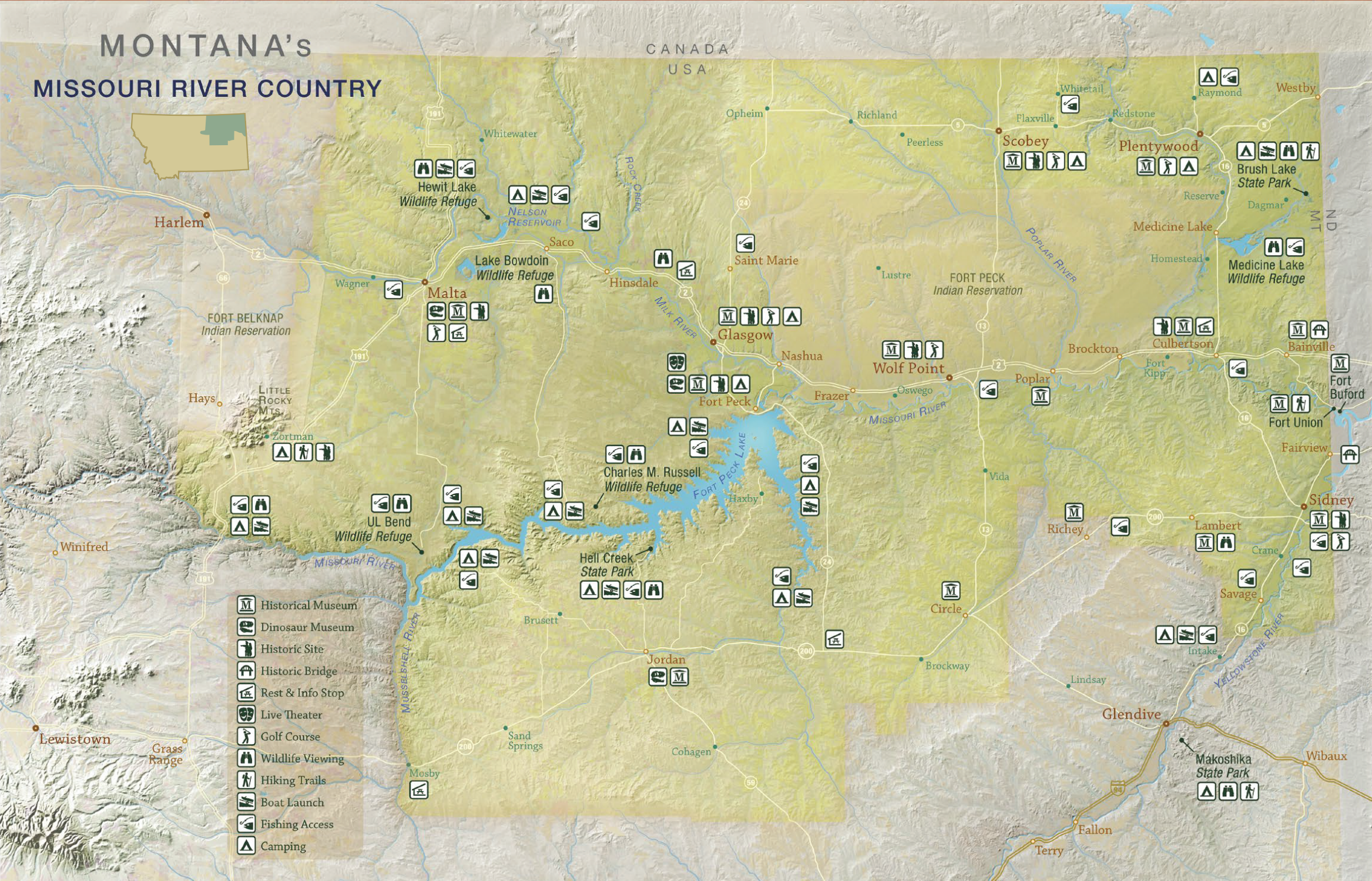
### Home Run Pond

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### Fort Peck Kids Pond

Located near the Downstream Campground, Fort Peck

# MONTANA'S MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY



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-  Boat Launch
-  Fishing Access
-  Camping



## HUNTING

There are few places in the world that provide the variety and access for hunting opportunities as Northeast Montana. When Lewis and Clark first documented the game in this region, they were astounded with both the numbers and varieties. With several million acres of public land, along with over a million acres of private landowner-enrolled Block Management and Upland Game access programs, there is room for everyone to find their own hunting paradise.

## WHERE TO HUNT

### Public Land Hunting

Montana has over 30 million acres of state and federal lands, which takes up almost one third of the state. Much of the public land provides excellent hunting opportunities. Rules and restrictions on public lands differ depending on the managing agency. Take time to research available habitat and game populations and get a set of maps to plan your successful hunt.

### Block Management

Approximately 1,200 landowners in Montana have enrolled about 7.1 million acres of land in the Block Management program, which provides free hunting access to private land. The program is funded by hunting license dollars and offers excellent hunting for waterfowl, upland birds, deer, antelope and elk. Many of the Block Management properties are accessible simply by signing into a posted box and picking up a detailed map of the property. Other cooperating landowners request hunters to contact them directly to arrange access. You can order a copy of a regional Hunting Access Guide, which details all the regional Block Management properties, by calling Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Region 6 headquarters in Glasgow at **(406) 228-3700** or Region 7. Headquarters in Miles City at **(406) 234-0900** or by visiting their website at: **www.fwp.mt.gov**. The guides are available starting Aug. 15 each year.

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Dusan Smetana

## UPLAND BIRD AND WATERFOWL

For all game bird seasons, please consult the current year's FWP upland bird and/or waterfowl regulations for the most up-to-date information, including license requirements, season dates, bag limits, and other laws and regulations.

This is a true sportsman's landscape. The abundance of waterways, grasslands and croplands create an environment built for bird hunting. Northeast Montana has some of the best bird hunting in the nation. Let our big skies surprise and amaze.

In state and out of state hunting permits can be procured online at: [www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting)



### Ring-necked Pheasant

*Mid-October to Early January*

The ring-necked pheasant is an introduced Asian bird that has been in Montana for over 100 years. They are most commonly found in cultivated agricultural areas and along river or stream corridors with plenty of vegetation. Flooded irrigation land with plenty of ditches, fence rows or tree rows commonly hold pheasants. Pheasants are found in their preferred habitat throughout Missouri River Country, although they are more concentrated along the main rivers of the Milk, Missouri and Yellowstone.



### Waterfowl

*Mid to late September to Early January*

Waterfowl are a common sight in Missouri River Country, especially during the spring and fall migrations of the Central Flyway. The large waterbodies of Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, along with the many prairie potholes and stock ponds found throughout the region, provide plenty of habitat and migration stopover sites.



### Hungarian Partridge

*Early September to Early January*

Hungarian/gray partridge or "hun" are another introduced game bird in Montana. They originated from central Europe and have likely been in Montana for over 100 years. Huns prefer a mix of cultivated and non-cultivated habitat, and numbers are often "spotty" even though they can be found throughout Missouri River Country.



### Sharptail Grouse

*Early September to Early January*

Sharp-tailed grouse are a species native to the prairies and uplands of Montana. They are locally abundant in many different types of native vegetation and in areas of good cover but can also be found in mixed agriculture areas as well. These birds are found throughout Missouri River Country.



### Greater Sage Grouse

*Early September to Late September*

The native greater sage-grouse is an icon of intact prairie and sagebrush ecosystems. As their name implies, sage-grouse prefer sagebrush habitat, though they can be found near adjoining agricultural areas during certain times of the years. Resident populations occur only in areas where large tracts of intact native grasslands and sagebrush occurs, so most sage grouse are found generally in the central area of Missouri River Country.



### Turkey

*Spring: Mid-April to Mid-May*

*Fall: Early September to Early January*

The wild turkey is likely not native to Montana, although they are native to the western United States. Efforts to introduce turkeys to Montana date back to the 1930s, but didn't become successful until the 1950's. Today, turkeys can be found in Missouri River Country, with huntable populations mainly along the Milk, Missouri, and Yellowstone Rivers.



### Mourning Dove

*Early September to Late October*

Mourning doves are a popular early-season migratory game bird for hunters. Because they migrate, oftentimes the season is quite short as they will head south at the first signs of cool fall weather. Doves can be found throughout the region, but tend to prefer riparian areas with trees near sources of water and cultivated fields.





Dana Phipps

## BIG GAME HUNTING

Spend less time hunting for open space and more time hunting. In Missouri River Country, you are surrounded by wildlife. Outnumbered, even. Fewer people means more room for elk, deer and antelope. You'll spend your autumn days surrounded by beautiful country—and you might even head home with the trophy of a lifetime. For an unforgettable hunt, bring your gear and we'll provide the paradise. Remember you must have permission to hunt on private land. You'll find plenty of public land in Missouri River Country. Maps of public land and access can be obtained from the Area Bureau of Land Management offices. A BLM map of the area you are in is essential in the country of northeast Montana.

In state and out of state hunting tags can be procured online at: [www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting)



### Mule Deer

*Archery: Early September to Mid-October*  
*General: Late October to Early December*

Mule deer will utilize open farmland and river bottoms for feeding. Except for hunting district (HD) 652, mule deer can be hunted in any district in Northeast Montana with a "general deer license" or "A" tag, which is valid for either species and either sex of deer. General deer licenses can be purchased over the counter for residents but are acquired through a drawing for nonresidents with the application deadline being April 1. In most years, additional "B" licenses are available for mule deer does, with the application deadline being June 1.



### White-tailed Deer

*Archery: Early September to Mid-October*  
*General: Late October to Early December*

White-tailed deer can be found throughout Northeast Montana but are generally confined to riparian areas and farmland. Numbers can reach higher densities along the Milk, Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, where both riparian habitat and irrigated farm fields can be found. Like mule deer, white-tailed deer can be hunted region-wide with a general deer license. When numbers are adequate, additional region-wide white-tail doe "B" licenses available as well.



### Elk

*Archery: Early September to Mid-October*  
*General: Late October to Early December*

Although essentially eradicated in eastern Montana by the early 1900s, Yellowstone-area elk were re-introduced to the Missouri breaks in the 1950s. In the breaks hunting districts, elk opportunities are issued on limited draw permits. There are both either-sex archery-season and rifle-season permits available for specific districts, with application deadlines of April 1. There are also various cow licenses available through drawings with the deadline of June 1. Most areas outside the breaks can be hunted with a "general elk license" and are good for either sex.



### Antelope

*Archery: Mid-September to Mid-October*  
*General: Mid-October to Mid-November*

A prairie icon, antelope can be found in the more open, sagebrush country throughout the region. Their bright colors make them an interesting contrast to the backdrop of prairie vegetation, and their incredible speed is a wonder to behold. Antelope hunting opportunity is obtained by applying for licenses by the June 1 deadline. Hunters can opt for an archery-only license that is good across the state and starts on August 15, or they can apply for a general antelope license that is valid for both archery and rifle in specific districts. There are also doe antelope licenses available through the drawing as well.



### Bighorn Sheep

*Archery: Early September to Mid-September*  
*General: Mid-September to Early December*

Another species that was eliminated and then recovered in the Missouri breaks is the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Many historians describe a variety of sheep known as the "Audubon" that occupied the breaks and badlands areas of central and eastern Montana. Several districts along the breaks offer bighorn sheep opportunities for either sex or ewe licenses.



### Moose

*Mid-September to Early December*

Although a relatively new visitor to Northeast Montana, Canadian moose are beginning to establish small populations on the prairie. Moose tend to stick to the heavy riparian areas and in thick shelter-belts throughout the farmland in the extreme reaches of northeast Montana. For the last few seasons, up to six moose licenses have been available through a drawing with the application deadline of May 1.



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**MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY**

By Andrew McKean

Whether you're an upland hunter with dreams of flushing ringnecks, a deer or elk hunter on a mission to bag a heavy-antlered buck or bull, or a waterfowler waiting on ducks and geese to drop into your decoys, you'll find your game in Missouri River Country.

Thanks to its varied topography, the region has some of the most diverse hunting of any area in the country. Thanks to its abundant public land and cooperative landowners, it also has some of the most accessible sporting opportunities of anywhere.

Let's start with big game. With the exception of mountain goats and bison, the region boasts all of the big game hunting opportunities in Montana. Both whitetail and mule deer are well-distributed across the region. Antelope are found across our extensive prairies, and the Missouri River Breaks are among the most legendary units for trophy bighorn sheep on the continent. A growing number of moose are found here, too, and are available to hunters with special permits. Elk are abundant in the Missouri River Breaks, Bears Paw Mountains and the rougher country both north and south of the Missouri River.

Our diversity of big game is a reflection of our diverse landscapes. You'll find whitetail deer and pheasants in the irrigated bottomlands of the Milk and Missouri rivers, along with the dozens of tributary streams. The rougher uplands are home to mule deer, and the wide-open prairies are where antelope, which rely on prodigious eyesight for protection, feel at home. The rough Missouri River Breaks of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge—the second-largest refuge in the lower 48—is home to elk, bighorn sheep and wide-racked mule deer. And moose, deer and antelope are found in the area's extensive upland grain and CRP acres.

The region is home to some of the most abundant upland bird populations in the state. You can hunt sage grouse for the month of September in the area's extensive sagebrush sea, and sharptail grouse are found in the coulees and shelterbelts near



small-grain production. You'll also encounter coveys of explosive Hungarian partridge almost anywhere you find sharptails. Wild turkeys are found in scattered flocks along the Milk and lower Missouri rivers, and mourning doves fill our fields the first weeks of September.

Waterfowling for ducks, geese and even bigger game such as sandhill cranes and tundra swans depends on the weather. Early season can be great for locally produced ducks and geese on smaller ponds and reservoirs, and if the flight arrives while those pocket waters are still ice-free, you can have an epic day on northern birds. Later-season waterfowling is confined to the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam and other open waters, but if geese and mallards don't fly south, you can have quick limits fat, grain-fed birds.

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## HUNTING ETHICS

Hunters have a special connection to the land—it provides, it challenges and it constantly inspires. We are stewards of these lands, whether we are residents or visitors, and for this reason hunters are encouraged to participate in certain land stewardship practices while hunting. Below are just a few of the things that hunters and all outdoor enthusiasts should be aware of when enjoying our resources:

**Standing crop:** avoid hunting, walking or driving in fields that have not been harvested yet.

**Littering:** not only is littering careless and unsightly, it is against the law. This includes toilet paper, and the proper management of human waste.

**Leave gates as you find them:** If a gate is closed, close it behind you. If it is obviously open (pulled all the way back to the fence), leave it open. If you are unsure, contact the landowner or public land agency.

**Know your target and beyond:** Hunters must be sure of what they are shooting at (species, sex, etc.), and know what lies beyond their target (houses, outbuildings, livestock, vehicles, other hunters).

**Prevent fires:** Be aware of fire danger at all times and use precautions.

**Be weed free:** Check clothes, dogs, ATV's, and vehicles for weeds and weed seeds to help prevent the spread to other private and public lands.

**Avoid driving on muddy roads:** Unless it is a well-graveled road, walk.

**Avoid ridge driving and driving to overlooks:** Not only is this a poor strategy while hunting, it is considered as driving off road if it is not already an established trail.

**Do not park on roads:** Move well off of roads to avoid folks moving farm equipment. Find a designated parking area or an approach that is clearly not being used for equipment.

**Driving off road:** While hunting on private property, a person may not drive off established roads or trails without landowner permission. Off-road travel on public land, including game retrieval, is prohibited unless designated as open. Consult appropriate land agency or land maps for specifics.

**Ask for permission to hunt:** Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property.

**Completely fill out BMA slips:** If a hunter doesn't correctly fill out a block management slip, they are hunting without permission.

**Know where you are located:** Whether you are hunting public land, private land, or land enrolled in an access program such as block management, it is every hunter's responsibility to know where they are to avoid trespassing. Maps are always available, as are GPS chips and cell phone apps to aid in orientation.


**Accessing public lands:** Access to public lands (on a private road) through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

**Camping:** camping is allowed on most public lands (see agency regulations), but permission is needed to camp on private property and BMAs.


**Know the rules:** Consult BMA maps for specific rules on block management property, including: driving on roads, parking areas, no shooting zones, walk-in only areas, camping, number of hunters allowed, game retrieval, etc. Rules for most land agencies can be found on maps and/or on brochures. Go to the appropriate agency website or local office for information.

**Report violations-** report any hunting and fishing, trespassing, vandalism, or other criminal activity you see to 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).

Elk • Mule Deer • Antelope • Upland Game Birds



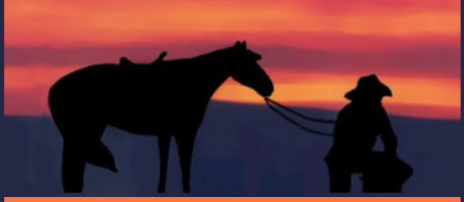
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### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), a contagious neurological disease that infects deer, elk and moose, was discovered in Montana in 2017. There is no known cure, and it is fatal to infected animals. Although there is no evidence that CWD can infect humans, animals infected with CWD should not be consumed. Hunters are encouraged to have their animals tested before eating the meat when hunting in areas where CWD is known to be present.

**Myth:** Animals with CWD look sick.

**Fact:** Animals infected with CWD may appear completely healthy. At the terminal stages of the disease, CWD symptoms include poor body conditions, excessive salivation and drooling, drooping head and ears, and disoriented behavior.

**How you can help:** Look for and report any sick-looking deer to FWP.

**Take precautions:**

- Wear rubber gloves and eye protection when field dressing your animal
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissue
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is complete
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eye, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals.

If you have any doubts or questions about the health of an animal you've harvested, please contact FWP.



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## GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS

By Tayler Michels

The outdoor opportunities in Northeast Montana are ample and diverse. The public access stretches far and wide from the Canadian border to the famed Missouri River Breaks and Fort Peck Lake. Outdoor enthusiasts flock to our landscapes and waters to experience rich adventures year round. If you're planning your first trip to the region or if it's a recurring adventure, there are many reasons to consider working with the talented guides and outfitters located right here in Missouri River Country.

Hiring a guide service to hunt or fish in this area will teach you nuances and fast track your learning curve if you plan to do it yourself down the road. Despite the upfront cost, you will save money and time in the long run getting plugged into what the patterns are and how to be successful. There's no substitute for the years of experience these outfitters have and are willing to offer. Most outfitters give all inclusive options: you show up and the hard work is done for you. Room and board is provided, as is gear. If you're fishing, rods and tackle are already in the boat. For the more experienced and equipped hunter, hiring an outfitter in many cases provides access to more exclusive hunting land. The outstanding reputation of many outfitting/guide services is built upon hard work aimed at delivering an experience of a lifetime every time.

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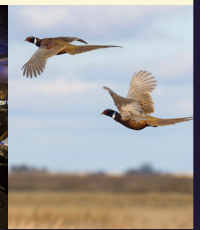
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- Aldo Leopold

Craig Miller

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Hunting on the Fort Peck Reservation

Non-Fort Peck Tribal members hunting on the Fort Peck Reservation require a valid Conservation License and appropriate stamp. For questions or concerns please call the Fish & Game Office at (406) 768-2300 ext. 2309 or (406) 768-7270 or visit their website: [www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/hunting.htm](http://www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/hunting.htm)

### Fishing on the Fort Peck Reservation

Non-Fort Peck Tribal members fishing on the Fort Peck Reservation must possess a tribal fishing license. Fishing is open year round. For questions or concerns please call the Fish & Game Office at (406) 768-2300 ext. 2309 or (406) 768-7270, or visit their website: [www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/fishing.htm](http://www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/fishing.htm)

### Buffalo Hunts

The Turtle Mound Buffalo Ranch is located twenty-five miles northeast of Poplar and includes 13,000 acres of bluffs, rolling hills, and badlands. The buffalo hunts are fair chase hunts and stalking will be required. They are not penned buffalo.

For more information, online sales and prices visit their website: [www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/buffalo.htm](http://www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/buffalo.htm)

The American Prairie Reserve offers buffalo hunts. The drawing is free to enter, and registrants awarded the opportunity to hunt are required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$300. Recipients are randomly selected.

Visit their website for more information on hunting opportunities on the Reserve: [www.americanprairie.org/hunting](http://www.americanprairie.org/hunting)

## WILDLIFE VIEWING

Regardless of the time of year, wildlife watching is a great pastime in Missouri River Country. And when wildlife outnumbers humans, finding viewing opportunities is as easy as going for a drive.

### Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge includes a 28 mile driving loop tour, located halfway between Culbertson and Plentywood. Home to geese, grouse, owls, jackrabbits, beavers, muskrats, deer and more.

### Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

A 28 mile loop located near Malta. Bowdoin is a prime example of native grasslands. Many migratory birds inhabit Bowdoin as well as mule deer, white tail deer, pronghorn and fox.

### Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Pasture

Right outside of Fort Peck lies the 230 acre Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Pasture. View a bison herd that were once native to Eastern Montana. Take the short driving tour around the pasture.

### Slippery Ann Elk Wildlife Viewing Tour

Located approximately 70 miles south of Malta the Slippery Ann Elk Wildlife Viewing Area is the best spot to watch and hear elk bugling during the rut. Get a front row seat to observe these majestic animals and experience the awe-inspiring beauty of nature.

### Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge consists of 1.1 million acres of land that spans along the western Missouri River and includes UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge. View gorgeous landscapes as Lewis and Clark would have seen them. Hundreds of mammals, fish, reptiles, butterflies and birds call this place home. The sky is the limit for exploring.



## RESOURCES

For specific details regarding tags, locations, species and guides, be sure to reach out to some of the invaluable resources in Missouri River Country.

### **Bureau of Land Management Miles City Field Office**

111 Garryowen Rd.  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 233-2800  
Email:  
BLM\_MT\_MILES\_CITY\_FO@blm.gov

### **Havre Area Resource Office**

2165 Hwy 2 East  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 265-6177  
E-mail: fwphao2@mt.gov

### **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Region 7 Headquarters  
352 I-94 Business Loop  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-0900  
Email: fwprg72@mt.gov

### **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 6 Headquarters**

1 Airport Rd  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3700  
E-mail: fwprg62@mt.gov

### **Montana's Missouri River Country**

P.O. Box 118  
Fort Peck, MT 59223  
(406) 653-1319  
(800) 653-1319  
www.missouririver.mt.com

### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Charles M. Russell  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Fort Peck Field Station**  
270 Montana Hwy 117  
Fort Peck, MT 59223  
(406) 526-3464



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