



Meeting Agenda
Oct 16 – 18th, Helena, MT

Wednesday Oct 16th, 2024—DNRC Montana Room

- 8:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:00 Introductory Presentation: River Recreation Management in Montana
- 9:45 Outcomes of September Public Workshops
- 10:15 *BREAK*
- 10:30 Overview of RRAC Approach: Structured Decision Making (SDM)
- 10:45 SDM: Problem Statement
- 12:00 *LUNCH (provided)*
- 12:30 Continue Problem Statement
- 3:00 *BREAK*
- 3:15 SDM: Objectives
- 4:30 Public Comment Opportunity
- 5:00 Adjourn

Thursday Oct 17th, 2024—Montana WILD

- 8:30 Welcome and Overview of the Day
- 8:45 Continue Objectives
- 10:30 *BREAK*
- 10:45 Continue Objectives
- 12:00 *LUNCH (provided)*
- 12:30 SDM: Alternatives
- 3:00 *BREAK*
- 3:15 Continue Alternatives

- 4:30 Public Comment Opportunity
- 5:00 Adjourn

Friday Oct 18th, 2024—Montana WILD

- 8:00 Welcome and Overview of the Day
- 8:05 Feedback/Thoughts from Group
- 8:30 Revisit Problem Statement, Objectives, and Alternatives as Needed
- 10:00 *BREAK*
- 10:15 Revisit Problem Statement, Objectives, and Alternatives as Needed
- 12:00 *LUNCH (provided)*
- 12:30 Public Comment Opportunity
- 1:00 Finalize Problem Statement, Objectives, and Alternatives
- 2:00 *BREAK*
- 2:15 Finalize Problem Statement, Objectives, and Alternatives
- 3:15 Wrap Up, Next Steps
- 3:30 Adjourn

Montana River Recreation Management

Guiding Future Management of the Resource and the Experience



RRAC Process Design and Public Engagement

Phase 1: Advisory Council Formation & Public Engagement

Process Design & RRAC Recruitment:

- Recruit, review, and appoint 12 River Recreation Advisory Council members.
- Applications opened July 2. Closed August 2. Applications are currently in review.

Public Engagement:

- Workshops: Three virtual scoping workshops to gather broader public input.
- River recreation survey: Broader public engagement beyond workshop attendees.
- The department compiles workshop input and survey results to present to the RRAC.

Phase 2: Advisory Council Convening

- Announce and convene RRAC members.
- **Initiate and convene RRAC for three-day in-person meeting, October 16-18.**
- RRAC formulates recommendations.

Phase 3: Final Recommendations & Public Comment

Presentation & Public Comment:

- RRAC presents recommendations and collects public comment, in mid-November.
- Public comments and final recommendations provided to the Department, in mid-December.



River Recreation Advisory Council (RRAC)

RRAC Purpose: Develop a portfolio of ideas and recommendations to the Department for future considerations of river recreation management.

- Create regulatory framework
- No private property rights conferred through recommendations
- State maintains ownership
- Framework is anticipatory, predictable, and functional to address local and unique circumstances
- Provides “equitable” opportunities; reasonable, efficient, and transparent system of allocating limited opportunities, not necessarily equal distribution.
- Recommended limits on use should be well justified and include quantification and mitigation of impacts on local communities including local culture and commercial businesses.

Focus & Scope: The focus area extends to department lands, Class I waters, and similar rivers that provide for recreation opportunities, under the authority of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). This includes recreation use on and along these waters, including fishing access sites (FAS).



FWP River Recreation Management History

- 1960s-70s: Fishing Access Sites (FASs) established to facilitate angling opportunity, currently 338 sites.
- 1985: Montana Stream Access Law: Allowed for public use of waters for water-based recreation.
- 1989: Smith River Management Act.
- 1999: Department given authority to regulate recreational use of the water.
- 2001: FWP decides it needs to take a more holistic, comprehensive approach to river rec.
- 2003: River Recreation Advisory Council appointed to develop recommendations.
- 2004: River Recreation Management Rules adopted by the Commission and established a process for developing river rules and management plans.
- 2005: The first use of the river recreation rules was to evaluate the Beaverhead/Big Hole rules using a CAC adopted to manage recreational use.
- 2005: Blackfoot River SRP Program rules adopted.
- 2007: FWP issues a River Recreation Management Planning Manual to advise staff.
- 2008: Madison River Special Recreation Permit adopted.
- 2009: River recreation management rules used to update the Smith River State Park management plan.
- 2010: Big Hole and Beaverhead Recreational Use Restrictions reviewed and revised.
- 2010: River recreation management rules used to develop a plan for the Blackfoot River Management Plan.
- 2016: Study finds 51% of FAS usage involved non-fishing activities. Management to consider increased use, diverse activities, and equitable opportunity.
- 2016: Big Hole/Beaverhead rules revised
- 2018: Bitterroot River commercial use permit restrictions and rules adopted.
- 2019; Montana Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide completed, including Water Recreation and Access Program guidance
- 2021: FWP reorganization, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (POR)
- 2021: Smith River Management Plan updated.
- 2021-2023: Madison River rules reviewed and revised. CAC to establish a Management plan, management plan stalled.
- 2024: Smith River permit rules revised and adopted.



Legislative and Regulatory Framework

Regulatory Authority: The FWP Commission regulates recreational use on public waters under broad authority, balancing public access, opportunity, and resource protection.

MCA Statutory Authority for Commission Rulemaking and Department Authority

- [MCA 23-2-3 Recreational Use of Streams](#)
- [MCA 87-1-303 Rules for Use of Lands And Waters](#)
- [ARM 12.4.1 Management of Recreational Use of Rivers and Streams](#)
- [ARM 12.11 Recreational Water Use](#)
- [ARM 12.14.1 Commercial Use Permitting Requirements](#)

Scope: Class I waters and similar rivers with the capacity for river recreation use. Excluding most Class II waters.

"Class I waters" means surface waters, other than lakes, that:

- (a) lie within the officially recorded federal government survey meander lines of the waters;
- (b) flow over lands that have been judicially determined to be owned by the state by reason of application of the federal navigability test for state streambed ownership;
- (c) are or have been capable of supporting the following commercial activities: log floating, transportation of furs and skins, shipping, commercial guiding using multiperson watercraft, public transportation, or the transportation of merchandise, as these activities have been defined by published judicial opinion as of April 19, 1985; or
- (d) **are or have been capable of supporting commercial activity** within the meaning of the federal navigability test for state streambed ownership.



Class 1 Surface Waters (see handout)

Kootenai River Drainage:

- Kootenai River
- Lake Creek
- Yaak River

Flathead River Drainage:

- South Fork of the Flathead
- Middle Fork of the Flathead
- Flathead River (mainstem)

Clark Fork of the Columbia River Drainage:

- Clark Fork River
- North Fork of the Blackfoot
- Blackfoot River
- Bitterroot River
- Rock Creek

Missouri River Drainage:

- Missouri River
- Beaverhead River
- Big Hole River
- Gallatin River
- Jefferson River
- Madison River
- Dearborn River
- Sun River
- Smith River
- Marias River
- Judith River

Yellowstone River Drainage:

- Yellowstone River
- Bighorn River
- Tongue River



Acronyms & Definitions (see handout)

BLM.....	Bureau of Land Management
Commission.....	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission
CUP.....	Commercial Use Permit
DNRC.....	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
FAS.....	Fishing Access Site (FWP)
FAS Permit.....	Fishing Access Site Permit
FWP or Department.....	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
MDT.....	Montana Department of Transportation
RRAC.....	River Recreation Advisory Council
SRP.....	Special Recreation Permit Program
USFS.....	United States Forest Service



River Recreation Management Background

Developing a Management Approach

- Statewide River Recreation Rules and the River Recreation Planning Manual direct the development of specific management plans and rules for rivers and access sites.
- Department Rules
 - Public Use Rules
 - Commercial Use Permit Biennial Fee Rule
 - Annual Fee Rules (State Park and FAS)
 - Smith River Biannual Rules

Special River Recreation Management Rules and Permitting

- Beaverhead & Big Hole Rivers: Limits on outfitters, client days, and specific river sections.
- Upper & West Fork Bitterroot: Limits on outfitters and trips in designated reaches.
- Blackfoot & Madison Rivers: Special Recreation Permit (SRP) system, with no permit limits.
- Smith River: Commercial and private permit limits, group size limits, and trip length limits.



ARM 12.11.4 Statewide River Recreation Use Rules

These rules guide the development and management of river recreation, **promoting quality experiences while protecting natural resources**. They emphasize the need for public education on river issues and advocate for less-restrictive management options before resorting to rationing.

Management Plans and Rules:

The priority of management plans is to protect natural resources while balancing recreational experiences. **Plans must be feasible, legal, measurable, and enforceable.** They should address potential impacts of recreation and coordinate with relevant agencies.

Citizen Advisory Committee:

A **citizen advisory committee** is formed to provide input on river management plans and rules, ensuring diverse stakeholder representation and **addressing social conflicts**.

Restricting or Rationing Use:

The commission has the final say on restricting or rationing river use. **Management methods are prioritized from least to most restrictive**, and public participation is critical in identifying problems that may lead to restrictions.

Fixed vs. Non-Fixed Allocation:

- **Fixed Allocation:** Requires public input on how use is distributed among user groups. The commission can adjust allocations without creating property rights.
- **Non-Fixed Allocation:** Allocates use to individual users, with specific rules for river service providers. Public input is also sought here.

Transferability of River Use Days:

The transfer of river use days is allowed under legal compliance, with **no property rights attached to these days**. Regulations govern the use of transferred days.



FWP River Recreation Planning Manual

River Evaluation and Prioritization Checklist	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTIONS
	Step One. Complete River Evaluation Form for each FWP Region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate current resources allocated to river recreation management Assign each river a numerical rating based on frequency of social issues Describe the nature of social issues Identify work that needs to occur Identify additional resources needed
	Step Two. Prioritize rivers and identify where work will occur
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the completed River Evaluation Forms Consider input from public Consider input from the FWP Commission Assess available Department resources Assess available information and data gaps Select a river and initiate the Analysis and Decision-making Process

ANALYSIS AND DECISION-MAKING CHECKLIST	
Step One. Pre-Planning	
Assign Staff to the Planning Process	
Assess Availability of Data	
Establish a Timeline for Planning Process	
Develop CAC Charter	
Select a Facilitator	
Step Two. Scope the Issues	
Conduct Public Meetings to Identify Issues	
Step Three. Appoint the CAC	
Identify Diverse Interest Categories	
Select Committee Members	
Step Four. Develop CAC Recommendations	
Convene CAC, Review the Charter and Establish Ground Rules	
Articulate a Common Vision for the River	
Formulate Management Objectives, Specified as Indicators and Standards of Quality, the Acceptable Social Conditions	
Recommend a Range of Management Actions from Less Restrictive to More Restrictive	
Recommend Mechanisms and a Timetable for Monitor Indicators and Standards of Quality	
Submit CAC Recommendations to the Department and FWP Commission	
Step Five. Develop Draft Management Plan	
Prepare 1 st Draft and Solicit CAC Comments	
Revise Draft and Solicit Internal Comments	
Revise Draft and Solicit CAC Comments	
Complete a "Final" Draft Plan	
Step Six. Evaluate the Potential Effects on the Environment	
State Purpose and Need for Management Plan and Identify Issues Related to Management	
Prepare Alternatives and Identify Preferred Alternative	
Describe Affected Resources	
Predict Effects of Implementing Each Alternative	
Step Seven. Finalize the Management Plan	
Conduct Public Hearings and Solicit Comments	
Revise Plan Based on Public Comments	
Adopt Final Management Plan. Issue Record of Decision for Environmental Analysis D	
Step Eight. Implement the Plan	
Implement Management Plan	
Monitor Social and Resource Conditions	
Step Nine. Revise Plan	

Name of River (If necessary you can break a particular river into sections)	Please give estimates of resources currently used each year by your region to address socially driven recreation issues, problems and/or conflicts on this river		Using the definitions provided below, which number do you believe most accurately describes this river.* (CIRCLE ONLY ONE)	Please provide information that describes why you placed this particular river into either the 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 category (from the previous column) In doing so, please list and briefly describe the nature of the socially driven recreation issues, problems, and/or conflicts that are currently occurring on this particular river.	What do you think FWP needs to do IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS to address the socially driven recreation issues, problems, and/or conflicts you listed and described for this particular river? A = Nothing (no action needed) B = Conduct public meetings to begin identifying issues, problems and/or conflicts C = Gather more data in an effort to better understand issues, problems, and/or conflicts D = Establish a citizen advisory group to begin a river management planning process (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)	Excluding resource you already have, what ADDITIONAL resources do you think your region will need to do this work OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS?			
	Estimate of: FTE's (per year)	Estimate of: Operation \$ (per year)				Low End Estimate of: FTE's (per year)	High End Estimate of: FTE's (per year)	Low End Estimate of: Operation \$ (per year)	High End Estimate of: Operation \$ (per year)
Madison (Above Ennis Lake)	.10	\$500	1 2 3 4 5	River use creating conflicts between boats, floaters and wade anglers, and among wade anglers. Also conflicts between commercial/non-commercial users and among regular and situational commercial users.	A B C D Other: Public meeting in next two years will depend on level of interest expressed by the public.	.05	.10	-----	\$20,000
	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none				[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none
Madison (Below Ennis Lake)	.10	\$500	1 2 3 4 5	Receives a tremendous amount of use by pleasure floaters that cause congestion at access sites. Grey Cliff to I-90 also has limited access. Challenges to working with cooperating agencies.	A B C D Other: Coordinating with other agencies.	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none
	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none				[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none	[] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if none

1 = Socially driven recreation issues, problems and/or conflicts are *extremely infrequent* and *extremely insignificant* in nature.
 2 = Socially driven recreation issues, problems and/or conflicts are *infrequent* and *insignificant* in nature (e.g., issues, problems and/or conflicts are just beginning to be noticed, but they are relatively insignificant).
 3 = Socially driven recreation issues, problems and/or conflicts are starting to become *frequent*, however their *significance is unknown* (e.g., neither insignificant or significant).
 4 = Socially driven recreation issues, problems and/or conflicts are *frequent* and *significant* in nature.



Allocation Systems

Split Allocation (fixed)

- **Definition:** Differentiates between commercial (outfitted trips) and non-commercial (private trips) users.
- **Commercial Sector:** Space allocated to companies via pricing and reservations.
- **Non-Commercial Sector:** Allocated through lotteries, reservations, or on-site queuing.
- **Challenges:** Determining allocation amounts, managing transfers, and ensuring fairness.

Common Pool Approach (non-fixed)

- **Definition:** Allocates all use to individuals without distinguishing trip types.
- **Flexibility:** Permits allow choices between self-guided or outfitted trips.
- **Challenges:** Fair allocation mechanisms and maintaining quality outfitters.

Adjusting Split Allocation

- **Definition:** Starts with a fixed split based on historical use, adjusting allocations through user registration.
- **Challenges:** Developing registration systems and rules for adjusting allocations.

Primary Distribution:

- **Pricing and Auctions:** Based on willingness to pay; less common for public goods.
- **Reservations:** Favors advanced planners.
- **Pure Lotteries:** Equal chance for access.
- **Weighted Lotteries:** Adjusts selection for fairness.
- **Points-Based Auctions:** Based on wait time.
- **On-Site Queuing:** Claims available permits in person.

Secondary Distribution:

- **Call-in/Web Systems:** Users check for available space.
- **Notification Systems:** Inform interested users of cancellations.
- **Supplemental Auctions/Lotteries:** Operate on available permits.
- **On-Site Queuing:** For spontaneous claims.

Allocation Mechanisms



River Recreation Management Today

Staff, Information, and Education

Increased staff presence, data collection, and user education (i.e., signage, maps)

Permit Systems and Licenses

- Fishing Access Site (FAS) Permit
- Commercial Use Permits / Special Recreation Permits / FAS Permits
- Conservation & Fishing Licenses

Agreements and Coordination

Partnerships with other agencies, entities, and private landowners for planning/managing access.

- Private Landowner Agreements (PLA's)
- Collaborative groups and processes (Regional/local river groups)
- Agency agreements (i.e., SRP's)

Management Plans

- Smith River
- Blackfoot River

Data Collection and Use Monitoring

- Fisheries-related data: Angler pressure/creel surveys
- Permits and Licenses
- Commercial use reporting data (i.e., floater logs)
- Camera and vehicle counter data
- Public input and public comment
- River recreation surveys and research



Research and Data Collection

- 2024 River Recreation Use Quantification Study (Partnership with MSU)
- 2018 Survey of Montana Households Regarding the Topic of Aquatic Invasive Species and Watercraft Ownership in Montana
- 2017-18 Program Assessment for FWP's Water-Based Recreation Management
- 2016-17 Surveys of Resident and Nonresident Anglers Concerning the Upper Madison River
- 2016 Upper Madison River Listening Sessions with the Public
- 2011 Design of a Voluntary Registration Card for Blackfoot River Float Anglers and Recreational Floaters
- 2011 Management Planning Process Guidance for the Madison River (Including Development of an Online Scoping Survey)
- 2009 Madison River Onsite Visitor Survey
- 2008 Survey of Resident Anglers Concerning the Madison River
- 2008 Survey of Private Landowners Regarding Recreational Use of the Madison River
- 2006 Survey of Stillwater River Water-Based Recreationists
- 2004-05 Survey of Resident Anglers Concerning Rock Creek
- 2005 Survey of Resident Anglers Concerning the Bitterroot River
- 2003 Assistance with the Development of FWP's River Recreation Management Policy and Planning Guidelines
- 2002-03 Technical Advisory Team Membership--River Recreation Advisory Council
- 2002 Survey of Beaverhead River Anglers Concerning the Beaverhead River Biennial Rules
- 2002 Survey of Big Hole River Anglers Concerning the Big Hole River Biennial Rules
- 2002 Blackfoot River Recreational Use Survey (a cooperative survey with the University of Montana)
- 2000 Survey of Private Landowners Regarding Recreational Use of the Blackfoot River



Current Management in Practice

A spectrum of methods and tools to provide for a diversity of opportunities and experiences.



Missouri River

No restrictions or use limits.

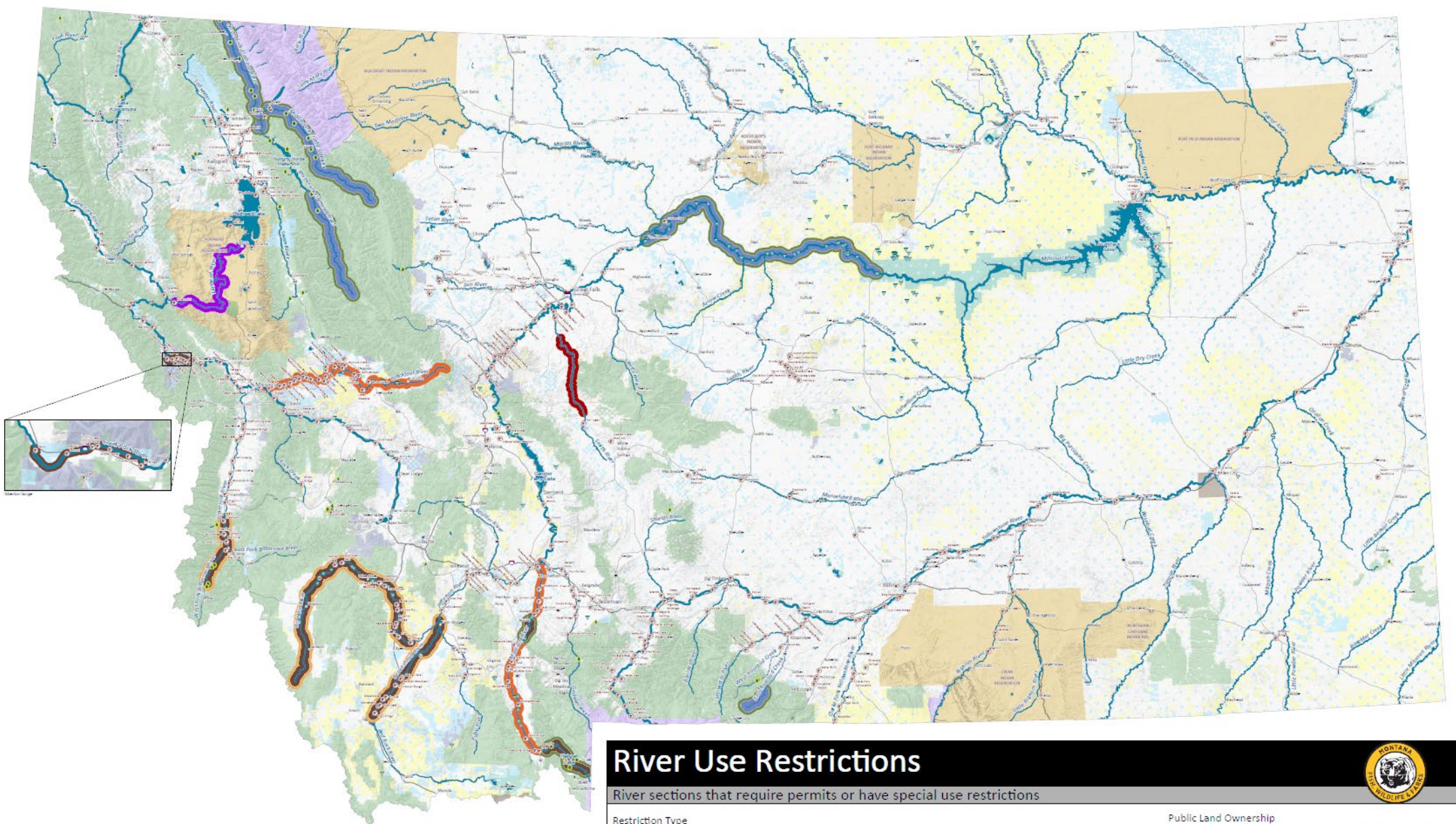
Blackfoot River

Specific rules. No use limits, minimal use restrictions.

Smith River

Specific rules. Limited use and extensive restrictions on use.





River Use Restrictions

River sections that require permits or have special use restrictions

Restriction Type

- ▬ Commercial Permits - Not Limited
- ▬ Commercial Permits - Limited
- ▬ Commercial Permits - Limited | Non-commercial Restrictions
- ▬ Commercial Permits - Limited - Federal Management
- ▬ Commercial / Non-commercial Permits - Limited
- ▬ Commercial / Non-commercial Permits - Not Limited - Tribal Management
- ▬ Wild and Scenic Rivers - Federal Management

- Fishing Access Site
- BLM Recreation Sites*
- Forest Service Recreation Sites*
- Indian Reservation

Public Land Ownership

- BLM
- National Park Service
- Other Federal Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- State Trust Lands
- Other State Lands
- Local Government

Map produced by Geographic Data Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. Date Produced: 10/9/2024.
 RVP lands data and river restrictions from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. BLM recreation sites from Bureau of Land Management. Forest Service recreation sites from U.S. Forest Service.
 *BLM and USFS recreation sites filtered to only those with water recreation attributes. All other data from Montana State Library, Helena, MT. Background Imagery from Esri.



#MontanaMindset

Preparation for a MT River Float

MONTANA FWP



Workshop Results

Workshop(s) Purpose: Share and collect information from the public on their river recreation experience, and current trends and challenges facing river recreation management in Montana. Information collected will guide and inform the River Recreation Advisory Council (RRAC).

- **3 workshops**
- **57 total participants**
- **10 questions**
 - **3 open response**

WKSHP	Participants
WKSHP 1	23
WKSHP 2	14
WKSHP 3	20
TOTAL	57

Response	Count
Q1	152
Q2	97
Q3	108
Q4	137
Q5	120
Q6	119
Q7	67
Q8	62
Q9	71
Q10	46



Q2: What aspect(s) of recreation experience do you enjoy the most?

Categories

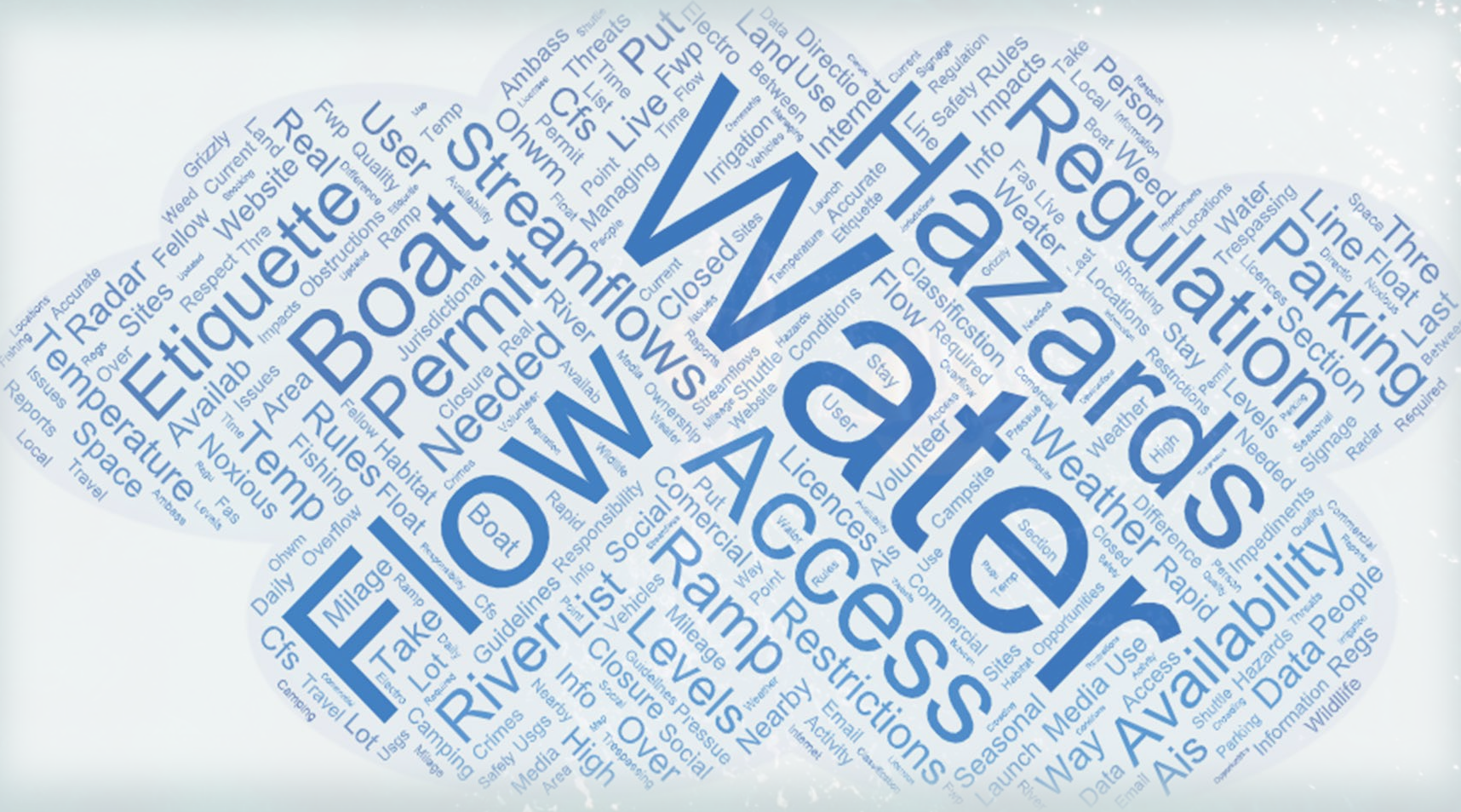
- Solitude and Relaxation
- Nature and Wildlife
- Scenic Beauty
- Community and Connection
- Outdoor Activity
- Challenge
- Environmental Awareness
- Personal Reflection



Q4: What types of information is useful and necessary to engage in river recreation activities?

Categories

- Water conditions/flows
- Access and regulations
- Safety and hazards
- Permits and licenses
- Community and communication
- Weather/environmental reports
- User responsibility/etiquette
- River management/conditions



Q7: Do restrictions on river use impact your recreation experience, if so, how?

Support for Restrictions

- To reduce crowding and promote solitude.
- Improve positive experiences.
- Enhance wildlife viewing and safety.

Access and Permit Concerns

- Difficulty obtaining permits limits opportunities.
- Unused reserved campsites lack cancellation incentives.
- Restrictions can hinder last-minute outings.

Individual vs. Resource Perspective

- Personal enjoyment should not outweigh resource health.
- Need for fair restrictions for both commercial/private use.

Unique River Management Needs

- Each river requires tailored rules and management.
- Flexibility is important, even on regulated rivers.

Economic and Commercial Issues

- Limits on commercial use impact personal access.
- Permit costs can hinder new outfitters' entry.

Environmental and Conservation Focus

- Overcrowding necessitates resource management.
- Support for protecting natural features and habitats.

General Sentiments

- Desire for smarter regulations, not just more.
- Concerns about increasing motorized boat presence.

Implementation Concerns

- Uninformed restrictions can negatively affect users.
- Call for more agency presence and effective enforcement.



Q8: How can management address conflicting interests between recreational users?

Education and Outreach

- Promote recreation ethics and user responsibilities.
- Engage the public through outreach and local coalitions.
- Clarify conservation permit requirements.

Commercial Use Regulations

- Cap permits for fishing and recreational floating.
- Limit use days for rental companies and guides.
- Enforce equitable restrictions for all users.

Data and Transparency

- Collect data on user needs and impacts.
- Ensure transparency in rule-making and enforcement.

Resource Management

- Improve water release and irrigation practices.
- Enforce conservation license requirements.

Enforcement Support

- Increase funding for effective management.
- Maintain a visible presence for conflict resolution.

Community Engagement

- Host public meetings for user involvement.
- Foster collaborations among stakeholders.

Infrastructure and Access

- Address overcrowding and improve access points.
- Enhance parking and ramp accessibility.

Additional Ideas (Other)

- Organize community events to encourage engagement.
- Consider zoning to minimize conflicts, akin to trail management.



Q9: What is the biggest challenge for river recreation management in Montana?

Environmental Impact

- Climate Change
- Resource Degradation

User Experience and Education

- Crowding
- Education and etiquette (lack of)

Management and Policy

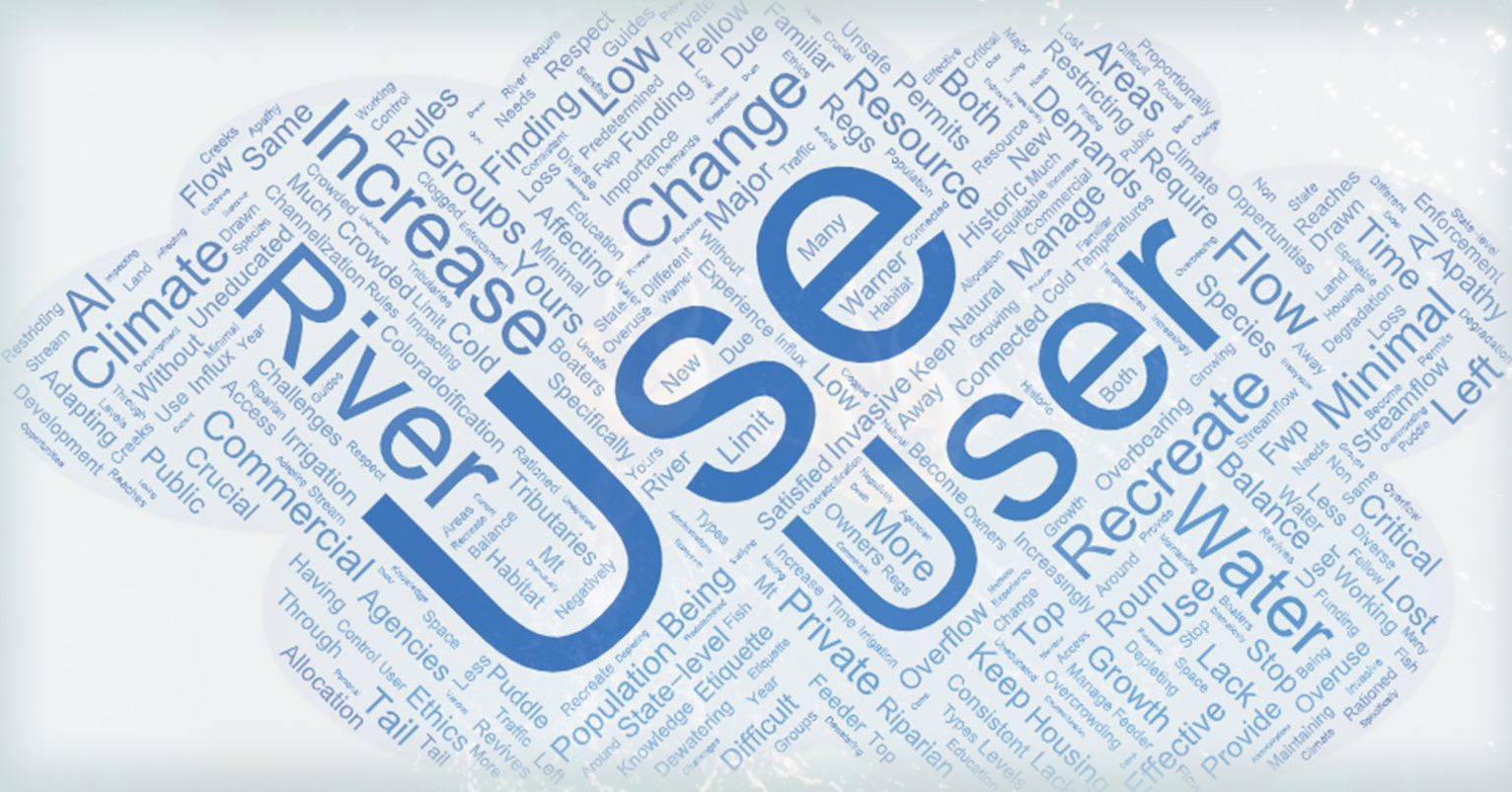
- Resource Management (balance)
- Funding and Privatization

Water Management

- Flow Management

Sociocultural Dynamics

- User Diversity and Equitable Use



Q10: What is a long-term goal for river recreation management in Montana?

Resource Preservation

- Protecting the Resource
- Healthy Ecosystems

User Experience and Equity

- Equitable Use
- Quality Experience

Management and Collaboration

- Integrated Management
- Data-Driven Decisions

Water Flow Management

- Streamflow Protection
- Balancing Needs: environmental/user

Education and Stakeholder Engagement

- User Education
- Stakeholder Inclusion

Access and Equity

- Access for Underserved Areas
- Balancing Access

Sustainability Goals

- Healthy River Systems
- Optimizing Usage



SURVEY RESULTS

N = 386

*Self-selected sample (not a random sample)

*Results are an indication of trends/challenges and general frequency.

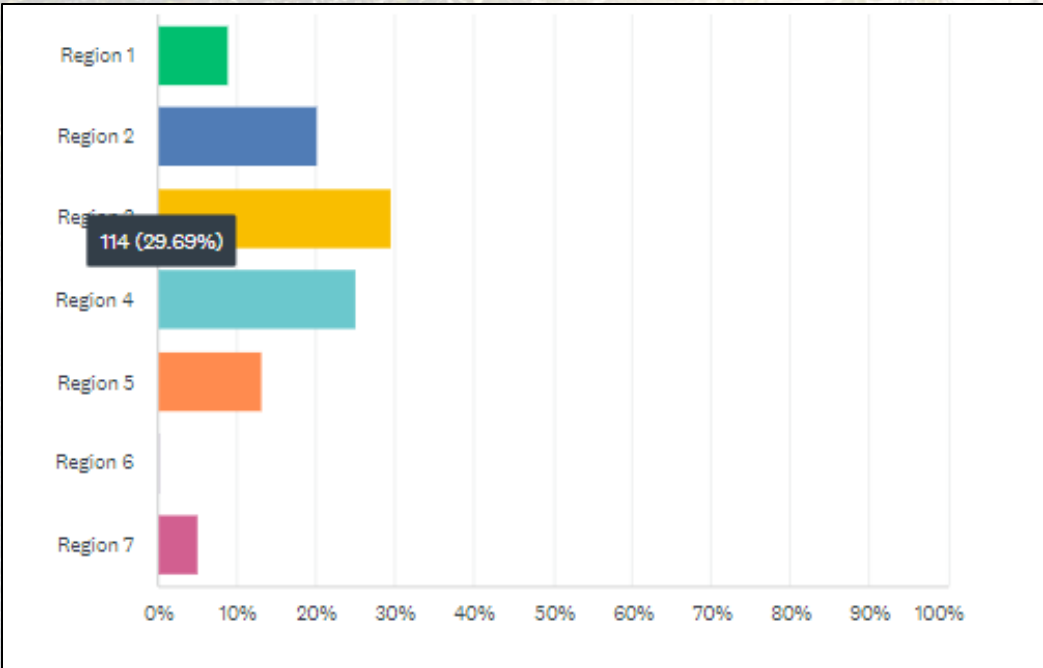
*Results for Q2 are broken down to regional level distribution scores

*Q3 open response

Note: Blue shade = result is significantly higher/lower than noted category at a 95% CI ($p = 0.05$)



Q1: During the past three years, in what FWP REGION have you spent the MOST TIME recreating on rivers in Montana? (Check only ONE below)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Region 1 (1)	8.85%	34
Region 2 (2)	20.31%	78
Region 3 (3)	29.69%	114
Region 4 (4)	25.26%	97
Region 5 (5)	13.28%	51
Region 6 (6)	0.26%	1
Region 7 (7)	5.21%	20
Total Respondents: 384		



Q2-1: Encounter other river users who were being too loud or noisy

Categories 4 & 5: 37.1%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	17.65% 6	32.35% 11	14.71% 5	26.47% 9	5.88% 2	2.94% 1	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	16.67% 13	34.62% 27	12.82% 10	28.21% 22	7.69% 6	0.00% 0	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	16.67% 19	35.96% 41	9.65% 11	34.21% 39	3.51% 4 D	0.00% 0	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	8.25% 8 E	25.77% 25	18.56% 18	31.96% 31	15.46% 15 C	0.00% 0	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	25.49% 13 D	33.33% 17	11.76% 6	23.53% 12	5.88% 3	0.00% 0	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	45.00% 9	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

16.88% 65	32.21% 124	13.51% 52	28.83% 111	8.31% 32	0.26% 1	385
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Q2-2: Encountered other river users who were displaying poor behavior and/or etiquette

Categories 4 & 5: 42.6%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	8.82% 3	38.24% 13	11.76% 4	26.47% 9	8.82% 3	5.88% 2 BD	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	7.69% 6	33.33% 26	11.54% 9	35.90% 28	11.54% 9	0.00% 0 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	10.62% 12	36.28% 41	9.73% 11	30.09% 34	12.39% 14	0.88% 1	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	5.15% 5 E	28.87% 28 E	16.49% 16	34.02% 33	15.46% 15	0.00% 0 A	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	18.00% 9 D	46.00% 23 D	6.00% 3	22.00% 11	8.00% 4	0.00% 0	13.02% 50
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	5.00% 1	10.00% 2	15.00% 3	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

10.97% 42	34.46% 132	11.23% 43	30.03% 115	12.53% 48	0.78% 3	383
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Q2-3: Experienced an unsafe situation that occurred due to the presence and/or behavior of other users

Categories 4 & 5: 15.8%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	29.41% 10	29.41% 10	17.65% 6	8.82% 3	2.94% 1	11.76% 4 BC	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	28.21% 22	33.33% 26	23.08% 18	10.26% 8	2.56% 2	2.56% 2 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	32.73% 36 D	37.27% 41	12.73% 14 D	12.73% 14	2.73% 3	1.82% 2 A	28.65% 110
Q1: Region 4 (D)	16.49% 16 CE	31.96% 31	27.84% 27 C	17.53% 17	3.09% 3	3.09% 3	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	33.33% 17 D	31.37% 16	19.61% 10	11.76% 6	1.96% 1	1.96% 1	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	65.00% 13	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

29.40% 112	32.28% 123	19.42% 74	12.86% 49	2.89% 11	3.15% 12	381
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Q2-4: Observed what you consider to be “too many people and their vehicles at a river access point”

Categories 4 & 5: 67.5%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	5.88% 2	14.71% 5	8.82% 3	44.12% 15	26.47% 9	0.00% 0	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	2.56% 2	5.13% 4 CE	12.82% 10	35.90% 28	43.59% 34 E	0.00% 0	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	7.02% 8	15.79% 18 B	9.65% 11	32.46% 37	35.09% 40	0.00% 0	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	3.13% 3	10.42% 10	10.42% 10	34.38% 33	41.67% 40 E	0.00% 0	25.00% 96
Q1: Region 5 (E)	10.00% 5	18.00% 9 B	20.00% 10	26.00% 13	24.00% 12 BD	2.00% 1	13.02% 50
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	25.00% 5	30.00% 6	25.00% 5	5.00% 1	15.00% 3	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

6.51% 25	13.02% 50	12.76% 49	32.03% 123	35.42% 136	0.26% 1	384
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Q2-5: Experienced not being able to find a parking spot at a river access point

Categories 4 & 5: 45.5%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	14.71% 5	14.71% 5 C	5.88% 2 DE	41.18% 14 E	17.65% 6	5.88% 2 BC	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	10.39% 8	11.69% 9 CE	14.29% 11	44.16% 34 CE	19.48% 15	0.00% 0 A	20.05% 77
Q1: Region 3 (C)	14.91% 17	34.21% 39 ABD	12.28% 14	27.19% 31 B	11.40% 13	0.00% 0 AE	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	9.28% 9 E	13.40% 13 CE	21.65% 21 A	36.08% 35 E	17.53% 17	2.06% 2	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	21.57% 11 D	31.37% 16 BD	21.57% 11 A	13.73% 7 ABD	7.84% 4	3.92% 2 C	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	35.00% 7	25.00% 5	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20
All regions	14.55% 56	21.82% 84	16.62% 64	31.17% 120	14.29% 55	1.56% 6	385



Q2-6: Experienced a long wait time to launch watercraft at a river access point

Categories 4 & 5: 39.2%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	2.94% 1 E	17.65% 6	17.65% 6	41.18% 14 E	8.82% 3	11.76% 4	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	10.39% 8	14.29% 11 E	25.97% 20	37.66% 29 E	7.79% 6	3.90% 3	20.05% 77
Q1: Region 3 (C)	9.73% 11	23.89% 27	19.47% 22	32.74% 37 E	8.85% 10	5.31% 6	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	12.50% 12	20.83% 20	16.67% 16	35.42% 34 E	10.42% 10	4.17% 4	25.00% 96
Q1: Region 5 (E)	19.61% 10 A	31.37% 16 B	27.45% 14	7.84% 4 ABCD	5.88% 3	7.84% 4	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	15.00% 3	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions	12.79% 49	21.67% 83	20.89% 80	30.03% 115	9.14% 35	5.48% 21	383
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Q2-7: Observed what you consider to be “too many people (who are NOT commercially outfitted/guided) float fishing a river”

Categories 4 & 5: 28.2%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	26.47% 9	17.65% 6	23.53% 8	20.59% 7	5.88% 2	5.88% 2	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	14.29% 11	29.87% 23	23.38% 18	19.48% 15	10.39% 8	2.60% 2	20.05% 77
Q1: Region 3 (C)	24.78% 28 D	26.55% 30	15.04% 17 D	21.24% 24	10.62% 12	1.77% 2	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	13.40% 13 C	18.56% 18 E	37.11% 36 C	23.71% 23	6.19% 6	1.03% 1	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	23.53% 12	33.33% 17 D	23.53% 12	13.73% 7	5.88% 3	0.00% 0	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	52.63% 10	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	4.95% 19

All regions

20.89% 80	24.28% 93	24.80% 95	20.37% 78	7.83% 30	1.83% 7	383
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Q2-8: Observed what you consider to be “too many commercially outfitted/guided people float fishing a river”

Categories 4 & 5: 57%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	14.71% 5	11.76% 4	17.65% 6	26.47% 9	20.59% 7	8.82% 3 DE	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	7.69% 6 E	12.82% 10	12.82% 10	26.92% 21	33.33% 26	6.41% 5 D	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	7.02% 8 E	11.40% 13	16.67% 19	30.70% 35	30.70% 35	3.51% 4	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	9.28% 9	9.28% 9	18.56% 18	30.93% 30	31.96% 31	0.00% 0 AB	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	19.61% 10 BC	17.65% 9	19.61% 10	25.49% 13	17.65% 9	0.00% 0 A	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	35.00% 7	25.00% 5	10.00% 2	20.00% 4	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

11.66% 45	12.95% 50	15.54% 60	29.02% 112	27.98% 108	2.85% 11	386
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Q2-9: Observed what you consider to be “too many people (who are NOT commercially outfitted/guided) floating a river for recreational purposes other than fishing”

Categories 4 & 5: 33.7%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	23.53% 8 D	11.76% 4 E	17.65% 6	29.41% 10 E	5.88% 2	11.76% 4 BCDE	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	16.67% 13 DE	19.23% 15	20.51% 16	38.46% 30 CDE	3.85% 3 D	1.28% 1 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	18.42% 21 DE	21.05% 24	23.68% 27	23.68% 27 BE	11.40% 13	1.75% 2 A	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	6.19% 6 ABCE	21.65% 21	32.99% 32	23.71% 23 BE	13.40% 13 B	2.06% 2 A	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	33.33% 17 BCD	31.37% 16 A	21.57% 11	3.92% 2 ABCD	9.80% 5	0.00% 0 A	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	45.00% 9	30.00% 6	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20
All regions	18.65% 72	21.50% 83	24.35% 94	24.09% 93	9.07% 35	2.33% 9	386



Q2-10: Observed what you consider to be “too many commercially outfitted/guided people floating a river for recreational purposes other than fishing”

Categories 4 & 5: 21.2%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	17.65% 6	14.71% 5	23.53% 8	20.59% 7	11.76% 4	11.76% 4 B	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	19.23% 15	21.79% 17	25.64% 20	20.51% 16 D	10.26% 8	2.56% 2 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	28.95% 33	26.32% 30	19.30% 22 D	15.79% 18	5.26% 6	4.39% 5	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	20.62% 20	23.71% 23	32.99% 32 C	9.28% 9 B	8.25% 8	5.15% 5	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	31.37% 16	21.57% 11	23.53% 12	11.76% 6	9.80% 5	1.96% 1	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	65.00% 13	15.00% 3	20.00% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

26.94% 104	22.54% 87	24.87% 96	13.73% 53	7.51% 29	4.40% 17	386
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Q2-11: Observed what you consider to be “too many people bank/wade fishing a river”

Categories 4 & 5: 14.5%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	29.41% 10	32.35% 11	29.41% 10	0.00% 0 CDE	2.94% 1	5.88% 2	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	28.21% 22	35.90% 28	19.23% 15 D	10.26% 8	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	34.21% 39 D	30.70% 35	17.54% 20 D	14.04% 16 A	2.63% 3	0.88% 1	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	20.62% 20 CE	27.84% 27	35.05% 34 BCE	11.34% 11 A	3.09% 3	2.06% 2	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	37.25% 19 D	31.37% 16	15.69% 8 D	11.76% 6 A	1.96% 1	1.96% 1	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	45.00% 9	30.00% 6	5.00% 1	15.00% 3	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

30.31% 117	32.64% 126	20.98% 81	11.40% 44	3.11% 12	1.55% 6	386
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Q2-12: Observed large groups of people (more than 10 people in a group) who are recreating on a river

Categories 4 & 5: 39.8%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	8.82% 3 E	26.47% 9	11.76% 4	35.29% 12 E	11.76% 4	5.88% 2 C	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	8.97% 7 E	28.21% 22	11.54% 9	42.31% 33 E	7.69% 6	1.28% 1	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	15.04% 17 E	28.32% 32	15.93% 18	33.63% 38 E	7.08% 8	0.00% 0 A	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	11.46% 11 E	19.79% 19	19.79% 19	37.50% 36 E	10.42% 10	1.04% 1	25.00% 96
Q1: Region 5 (E)	33.33% 17 ABCD	33.33% 17	15.69% 8	9.80% 5 ABCD	7.84% 4	0.00% 0	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	50.00% 10	30.00% 6	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions	16.41% 63	27.34% 105	15.36% 59	31.25% 120	8.59% 33	1.04% 4	384
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Q2-13: Noticed vandalism of facilities/signs at a river access point

Categories 4 & 5: 33.1%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	11.76% 4	17.65% 6	20.59% 7	44.12% 15 CDE	2.94% 1	2.94% 1	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	15.58% 12	23.38% 18	18.18% 14	29.87% 23	11.69% 9	1.30% 1	20.05% 77
Q1: Region 3 (C)	23.89% 27	26.55% 30	17.70% 20	19.47% 22 A	10.62% 12	1.77% 2	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	16.49% 16	23.71% 23	24.74% 24	20.62% 20 A	12.37% 12	2.06% 2	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	27.45% 14	23.53% 12	23.53% 12	17.65% 9 A	3.92% 2	3.92% 2	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	50.00% 10	15.00% 3	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	15.00% 3	0.00% 0	5.21% 20
All regions	21.61% 83	23.70% 91	19.53% 75	22.92% 88	10.16% 39	2.08% 8	384



Q2-14: Noticed litter/trash along a river

Categories 4 & 5: 51.8%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	8.82% 3	29.41% 10	5.88% 2	38.24% 13	17.65% 6	0.00% 0	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	11.54% 9	19.23% 15	6.41% 5 D	34.62% 27	26.92% 21	1.28% 1	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	14.16% 16	27.43% 31 D	12.39% 14	24.78% 28	21.24% 24	0.00% 0	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	10.31% 10	14.43% 14 C	17.53% 17 B	36.08% 35	18.56% 18	3.09% 3	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	15.69% 8	23.53% 12	13.73% 7	29.41% 15	17.65% 9	0.00% 0	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	26.32% 5	42.11% 8	5.26% 1	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	4.95% 19
All regions	13.28% 51	22.40% 86	11.46% 44	31.77% 122	20.05% 77	1.04% 4	384



Q2-15: Noticed litter/trash at a river access point

Categories 4 & 5: 54.2%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	3.03% 1	21.21% 7	12.12% 4	42.42% 14 C	18.18% 6	3.03% 1	8.59% 33
Q1: Region 2 (B)	7.79% 6	14.29% 11 E	7.79% 6 C	40.26% 31 CE	28.57% 22	1.30% 1	20.05% 77
Q1: Region 3 (C)	7.89% 9	21.05% 24	21.05% 24 B	24.56% 28 ABD	23.68% 27	1.75% 2	29.69% 114
Q1: Region 4 (D)	6.25% 6	17.71% 17 E	17.71% 17	37.50% 36 C	17.71% 17	3.13% 3	25.00% 96
Q1: Region 5 (E)	7.84% 4	33.33% 17 BD	13.73% 7	23.53% 12 B	17.65% 9	3.92% 2	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	15.00% 3	30.00% 6	20.00% 4	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	0.00% 0	5.21% 20

All regions

7.55% 29	20.83% 80	15.10% 58	33.07% 127	21.09% 81	2.34% 9	384
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Q2-16: Noticed pet waste at a river access point

Categories 4 & 5: 41.1%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	11.76% 4 E	14.71% 5	23.53% 8	20.59% 7	23.53% 8 E	5.88% 2 B	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	11.54% 9 E	25.64% 20	10.26% 8	30.77% 24	21.79% 17 E	0.00% 0 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	17.70% 20 E	23.01% 26	14.16% 16	26.55% 30	17.70% 20 E	0.88% 1	29.43% 113
Q1: Region 4 (D)	14.58% 14 E	15.63% 15	20.83% 20	32.29% 31 E	13.54% 13	3.13% 3	25.00% 96
Q1: Region 5 (E)	33.33% 17 ABCD	21.57% 11	19.61% 10	15.69% 8 D	5.88% 3 ABC	3.92% 2	13.28% 51
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	20.00% 4	5.00% 1	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.21% 20
All regions	18.75% 72	21.61% 83	16.41% 63	26.30% 101	14.84% 57	2.08% 8	384



Q2-17: Experienced natural resource impacts that affected the quality of your river recreation experience

Categories 4 & 5: 37.4%

	VERY INFREQUENTLY (1)	INFREQUENTLY (2)	NEITHER (3)	FREQUENTLY (4)	VERY FREQUENTLY (5)	N/A	TOTAL
Q1: Region 1 (A)	14.71% 5	29.41% 10	17.65% 6	17.65% 6	11.76% 4	8.82% 3 BCE	8.85% 34
Q1: Region 2 (B)	11.54% 9	20.51% 16	25.64% 20	28.21% 22	12.82% 10	1.28% 1 A	20.31% 78
Q1: Region 3 (C)	15.32% 17	20.72% 23	18.92% 21	25.23% 28	18.02% 20	1.80% 2 A	28.91% 111
Q1: Region 4 (D)	12.37% 12	15.46% 15 E	27.84% 27	25.77% 25	14.43% 14	4.12% 4	25.26% 97
Q1: Region 5 (E)	18.37% 9	34.69% 17 D	14.29% 7	14.29% 7	18.37% 9	0.00% 0 A	12.76% 49
Q1: Region 6 (F)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.26% 1
Q1: Region 7 (G)	31.58% 6	21.05% 4	31.58% 6	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	4.95% 19

All regions

15.26% 58	21.84% 83	22.63% 86	23.16% 88	14.21% 54	2.89% 11	380
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Q3: Are there any other “social/people” related issues you’ve experienced while recreating on Montana’s rivers during the past three years?

Overcrowding and Resource Pressure:

Respondents report frustrations with increased user numbers, particularly during peak seasons, leading to congestion on popular rivers. This affects fishing quality and overall enjoyment.

User Group Conflicts:

Conflicts arise between different groups (wade anglers, floaters, motorized boaters), often due to proximity issues and disruptive behavior. Some guides exhibit entitlement, prioritizing clients over other users, resulting in negative interactions.

Etiquette and Ethical Concerns:

A significant lack of river etiquette is noted, including improper fish handling and encroachment on fishing areas. The promotion of poor practices (e.g., "grip and grin" photos) is criticized for harming fish populations.

Environmental Concerns:

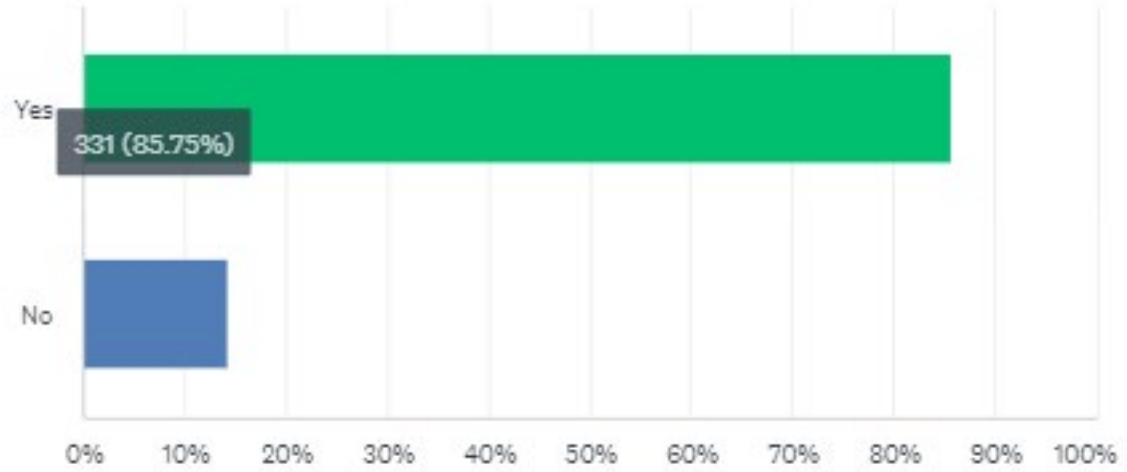
Issues like overfishing, littering, and irrigation impacts on water levels are prominent. Respondents call for stricter enforcement of conservation regulations and suggestions like capping guide numbers to manage pressure.

Safety and Regulation Needs:

Many advocate for improved law enforcement regarding conservation licenses and safety practices. Concerns about unsafe behaviors, especially at access points, are common.



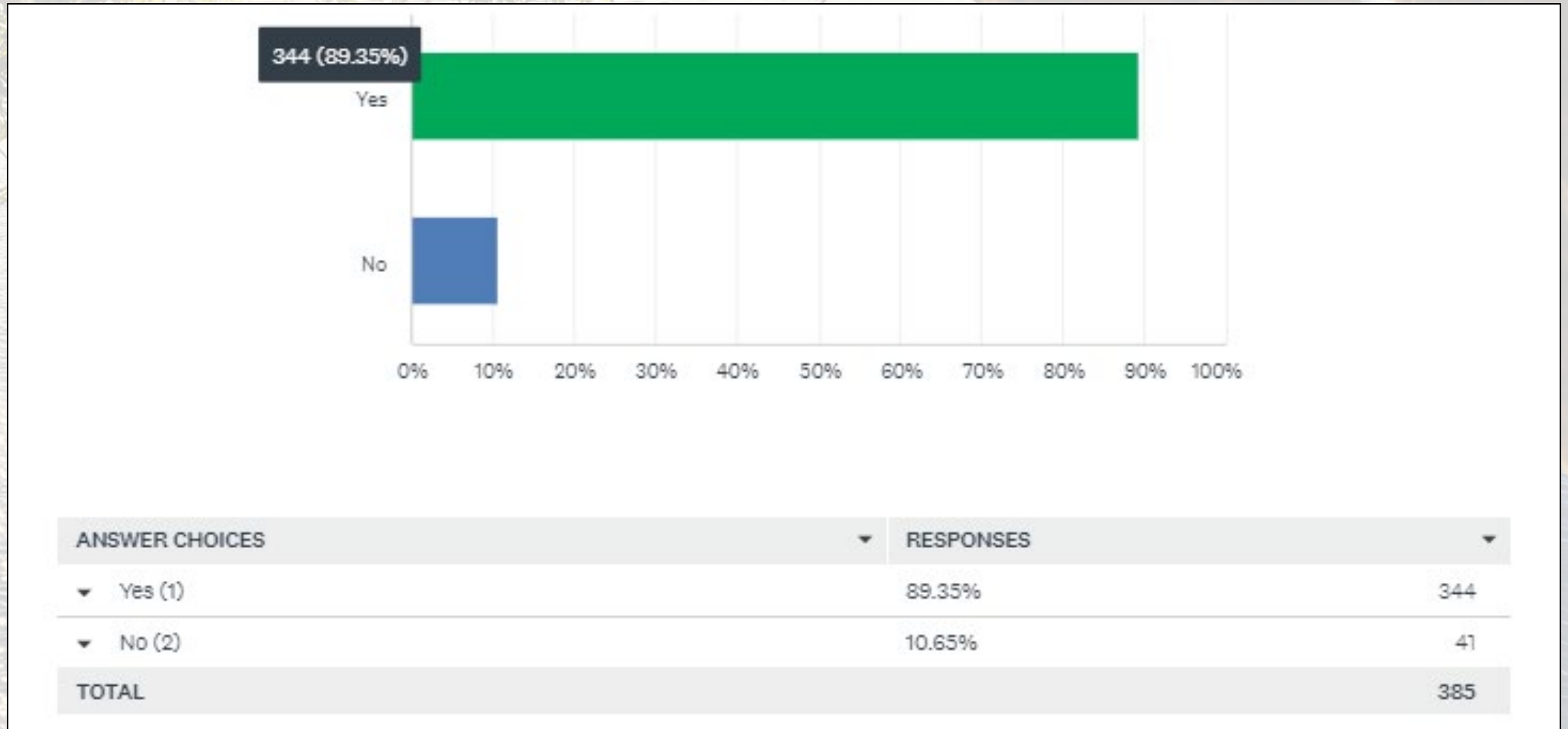
Q4: Are you a resident of Montana?



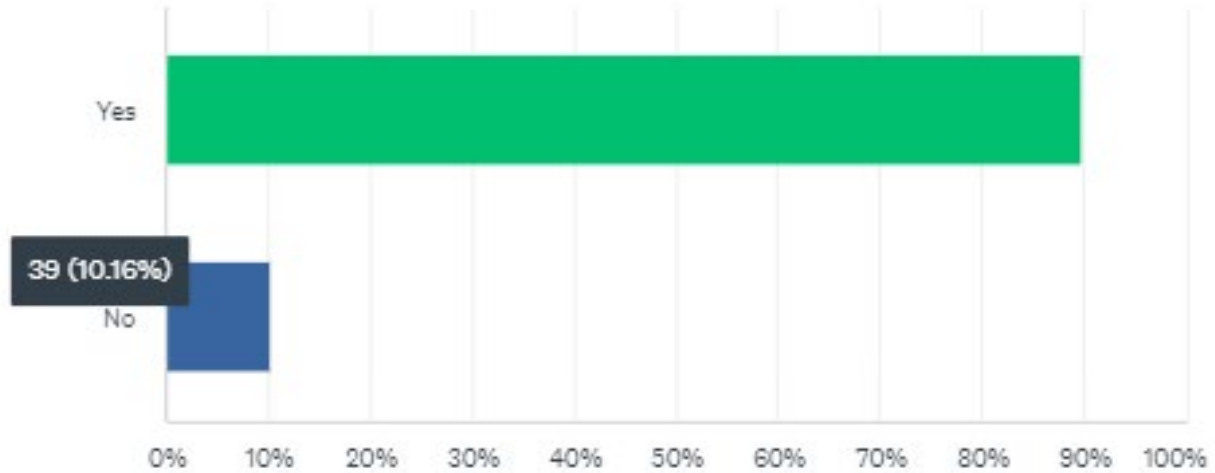
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes (1)	85.75% 331
▼ No (2)	14.25% 55
TOTAL	386



Q5: This past year, did you purchase a Montana Fishing License?



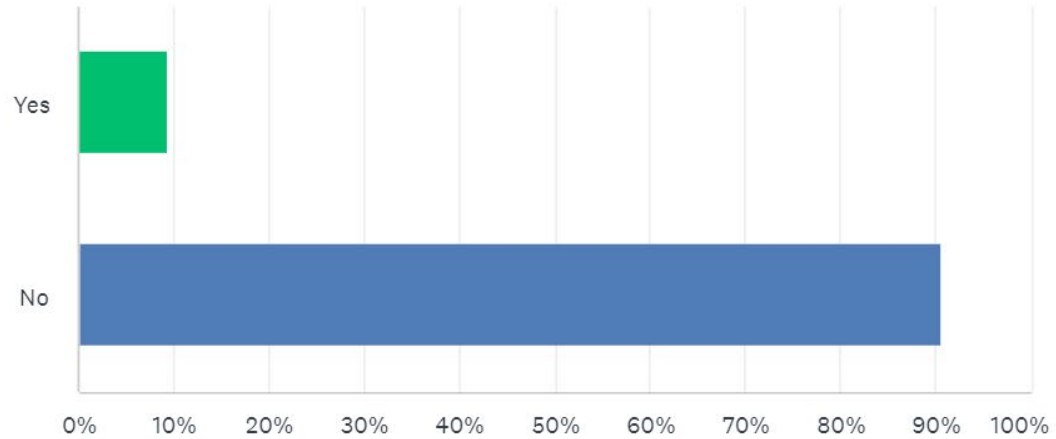
Q6: This past year, did you purchase a Montana Conservation License?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes (1)	89.84%	345
▼ No (2)	10.16%	39
TOTAL		384



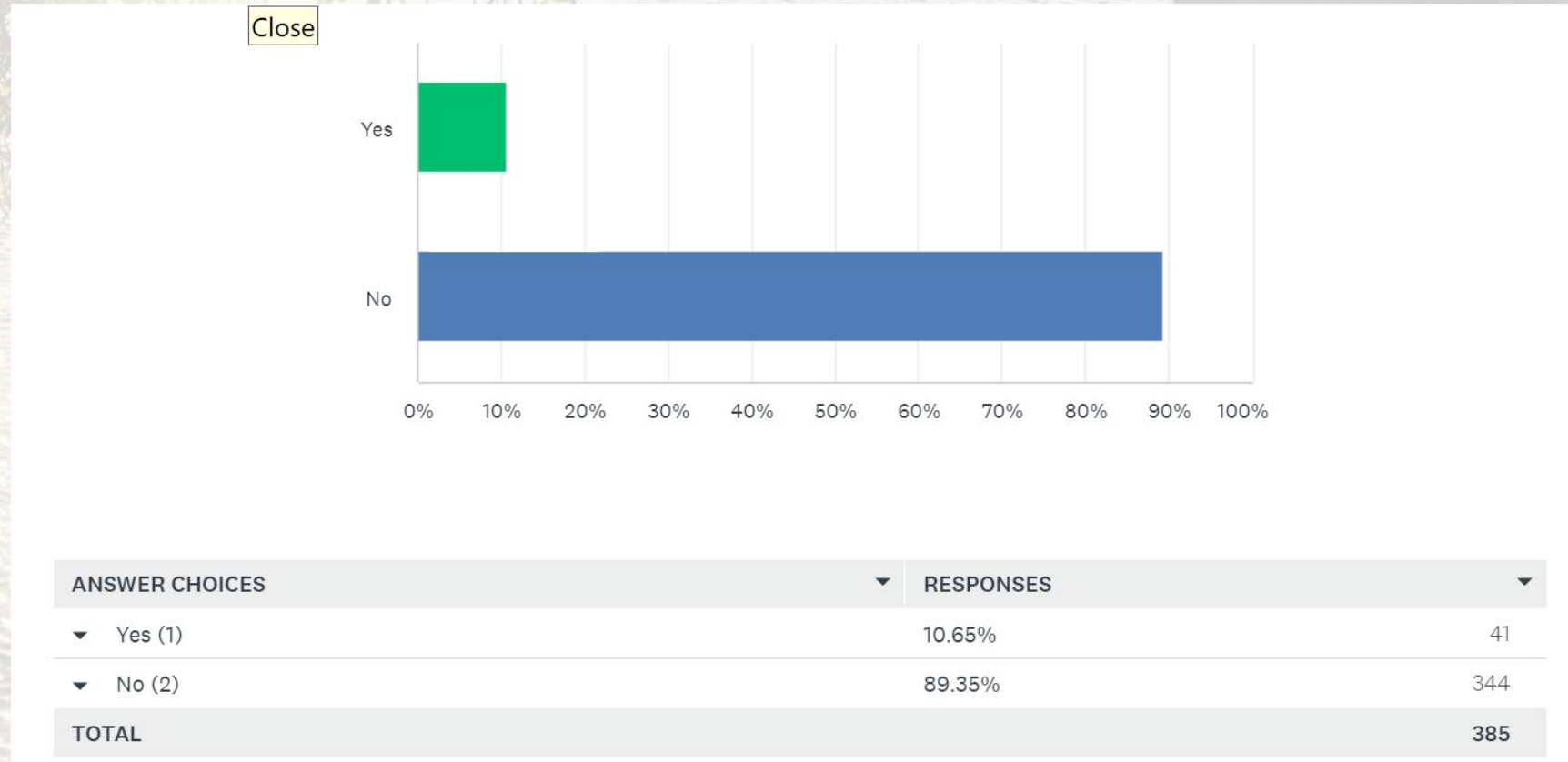
Q7: Are you a licensed guide/outfitter or water-based service provider for river recreation activities in Montana?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes (1)	9.38% 36
No (2)	90.63% 348
TOTAL	384



Q8: Do you own or work for a business that provides retail goods, accommodations, and/or other services for river recreation activities in Montana?



Thank you!

Resources and Links

- [RRAC Webpage](#)
- [FWP River Recreation Webpage](#)
- [MCA 23-2-3 Recreational Use of Streams](#)
- [MCA 87-1-303 Rules for Use of Lands And Waters](#)
- [ARM 12.14.1 Commercial Use Permitting Requirements](#)
- [ARM 12.11.4 Recreational Water Use](#)
- [ARM 12.4.1 Management of Recreational Use of Rivers and Streams](#)
- [FWP River Recreation Management Planning Manual](#)
- [Special River Recreation Management Rules and Permitting](#)

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