

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report

Second Edition, August 20, 2012

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Introduction

Through the national forests of Montana flow some of the most beautiful and ecologically vital rivers and streams in the nation. Born from high elevation glaciers and snowpack, these cold, clean waters are home to a host of native fish species including westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout and federally threatened bull trout. Their canyons and valleys provide habitat to a stunning array of wildlife ranging from grizzly bears and Canada lynx to prized big game animals like elk, deer and moose. Anglers, paddlers and hikers come from across the country and around the world to explore Montana's incomparable rivers and streams. For many residents, their backyard rivers and streams provide the water they drink, the wildlife they hunt, and the scenery that enriches their lives.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed to protect the ecological and social values of our nation's last best rivers. The Act serves as a tool for agencies to recognize and prioritize special rivers and streams under their management. Agencies are charged with determining which streams are "eligible" for Wild and Scenic designation:

"A wild, scenic or recreational river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream and the related adjacent land area that possesses one or more of the values referred to in section 1271 of this title. Every wild, scenic or recreational river in its free-flowing condition, or upon restoration to this condition, shall be considered eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system..."¹

These eligibility determinations are created and updated by the USFS through discrete inventories or through the forest planning process. They are cataloged in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, and in each forest plan. Once found eligible, the USFS is charged with protecting the specific values of each stream that could one-day lead to designation.

In reviewing the current, and in some cases proposed, inventories of eligible streams, the authors of this report recognized that certain streams, and the values of certain streams, were missing from the current US Forest Service inventory. This report is intended to fill those gaps, as well as be a comprehensive inventory of the rivers and streams that are eligible for Wild and Scenic designation in western Montana. This report is the Second Edition of what will certainly be a living document. In the coming years we hope to learn a great deal from citizens, scientists, and managers about these streams and others, and will continue to add to and refine this report.

Based on our analysis, each river and stream listed in this report is eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

¹ Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, § 1273 (b)

About this Report

This report was generated by a team of experts in fisheries and wildlife biology, river ecology, hydrology, recreation and other related fields. Team members have extensive direct experience with the streams of Montana and specifically with the streams in this report. This report is based on a combination of placed-based experience and scientific knowledge. A scientists’ workshop was held at the Flathead Lake Biological Station in October 2010 at which nearly two-dozen prominent scientists helped shape the direction of this report.

The authors of this report relied on a wide array of sources in drafting this report, including but not limited to:

- Final Bull Trout Critical Habitat Designation (September 30, 2010).
- Montana Fisheries Information System.
- Current and draft forest plans.
- The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI).
- The National Whitewater Inventory.
- Google Earth and a variety of geospatial resources.

The Report is organized by National Forest, and then alphabetically by eligible stream name. The stream name is followed by the reach description and by a corresponding table with the following fields, described below:

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
A	B	C	D

- A) This field describes the body of water which the eligible stream flows into. In cases where the stream flows into a tributary of a larger river, the field is filled out as follows: “Large River (tributary that the eligible river flows into)”
- B) This field describes the estimated length of the river reach
- C) This field indicates if the reach is currently protected as eligible under an existing forest plan and the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) (Yes or No).
- D) This field indicates the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) associated with the reach. ORVs are abbreviated as follows: Cultural (C), Fisheries (F), Geological (G), Historical (H), Recreation (R), Scenic (S), Wildlife (W), and Other (O).

Additional photographs and supplementary information are available upon request.

² <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/FinalCH2010.html>
³ <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/mFish/>
⁴ <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/states/mt.html>
⁵ <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/state-summary/state/MT/>

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1 Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Covering 3.35 million acres, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is the largest national forest in Montana. It spans a vast ecological range characterized by broad, grassland valleys surrounded by high peaks, providing superb habitat for native fish and wildlife. This national forest includes the Big Hole, Clark Fork, Jefferson, Madison, and Ruby river watersheds. These rivers and their tributaries offer high quality habitat for several sensitive fish species including westslope cutthroat trout and, in the case of the Big Hole River, the last population of fluvial Arctic grayling in the Lower 48 states.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

1.1 Bear Creek (Source to confluence with Nicholia Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Red Rock River (Nicholia/Big Sheep Creeks)	4	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** Bear Creek is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

1.2 Big Lake Creek (Source to Forest Boundary, includes Twin Lakes)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Big Hole River	10	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Big Lake Creek is the tributary and outlet stream of Twin Lakes. This system supports a variety of rare and sensitive fishes, including adfluvial and fluvial migrant Montana Arctic grayling, a nearly pure westslope cutthroat trout population, headwater type burbot, and rare form of lake trout endemic to Twin Lakes. The catchment sits largely within an extensive roadless area on the Big Hole-Lemhi Divide, accounting in part for the exceptional water clarity and productive habitat conditions for native species.
- **Recreation:** The stream and lake and surrounding corridor are popular among anglers, campers, and hikers, and big game hunters. The stream is accessed by the Twin Lakes Road and a maintained trail system.

1.3 Browns Canyon Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Painter Creek	4	Yes	F

- **Fisheries:** Home to genetically-pure population of native westslope cutthroat trout.

1.4 Canyon Creek (Source at Canyon Lake to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Big Hole River	11	Yes	R, S, W

- **Scenery:** Varying scenery from open sagebrush along canyon bottom to steep, rocky peaks.

1.5 Carpp Creek (Includes S. Fk., Source to Middle Fork Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (Middle Fork Rock Creek)	12	No	E, R

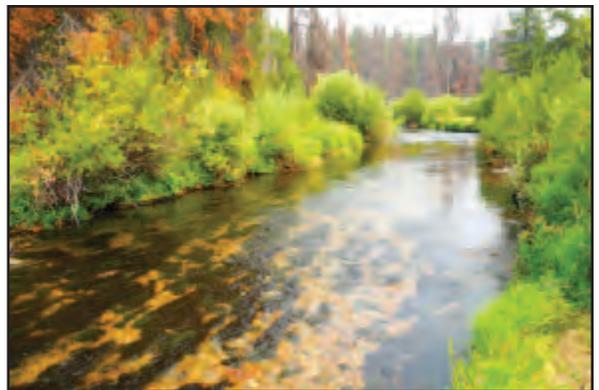
- **Fisheries:** A consistent source of cold, clear, superb quality water to Rock Creek system, Carpp Creek supports abundant spawning fluvial (stream-migrant) and juvenile bull trout and abundant, likely genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** Carpp Creek's two major forks, accessible by popular hiking trails, drain an extensive roadless catchment abutting the northern margin of the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness.



1.6 Copper Creek (Source to Middle Fork Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (Middle Fork Rock Creek)	12	No	E, R

- **Fisheries:** Copper Creek drains an extensive area of roadless uplands from the crest of the Pintler Range north to extensive beaver pond complexes at its confluence with the Middle Fork of Rock Creek. A consistent source of cold, clear, superb quality water to Rock Creek system, Copper Creek supports spawning fluvial (stream-migrant) and juvenile bull trout and possibly genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Beyond its contribution to Rock Creek in general, Copper Creek is a productive fishery in its own right.
- **Recreation:** Copper Creek is accessible from a stream-parallel road and a popular hiking route access to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. Copper Creek is a popular fishing destination.



1.7 Deadman Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Big Sheep Creek	10	Yes	C, H, R, W

- **History:** Two prehistoric hunting camps with numerous points: possibly eligible for National Historic Registration.
- **Recreation:** Rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing.

1.8 Elk River (Gravelly Range Road to West Fork Madison River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	14	Yes	F, S, W

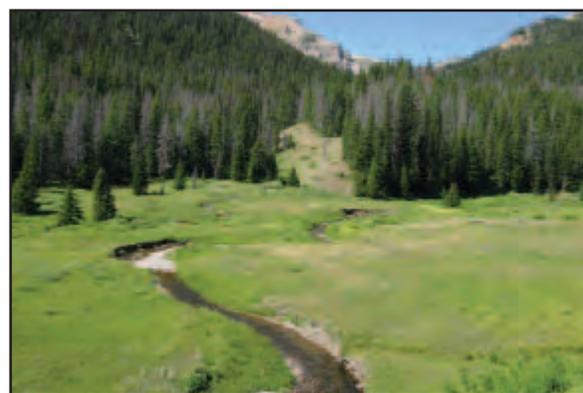
- **Fisheries:** Important tributary for fish recruitment to West Fork of Madison and main Madison River. (NRI)
- **Recreation:** The Madison River (and its tributaries) is internationally known as a “Blue Ribbon” trout stream.



1.9 Horse Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	8	No	E, W

- **Fisheries:** The headwaters of Horse Creek harbor native westslope cutthroat trout, a USFS sensitive species.
- **Wildlife:** Excellent edge habitat (forest/meadows) that supports elk, moose, pronghorn summer range, grizzly bears, gray wolves, and wolverines. Rare high elevation summering area for pronghorn.



1.10 Little Sheep Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Red Rock River	12	No	E, S

- **Fisheries:** Little Sheep Creek is home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

1.11 West Fork Little Sheep Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

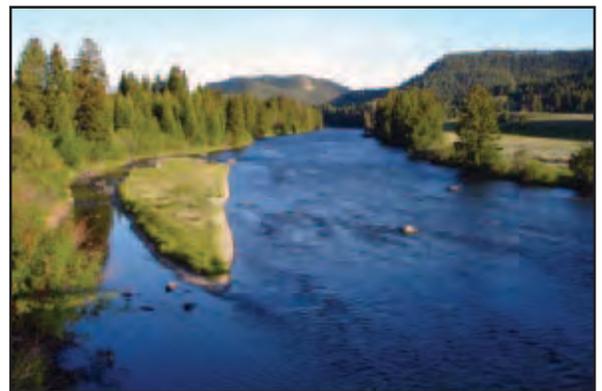
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Little Sheep Creek	8	No	E, S

- **Fisheries:** The West Fork of Little Sheep Creek is home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

1.12 Madison River (Reynolds Pass to confluence of West Fork Madison River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	8	No	F, R, S, W

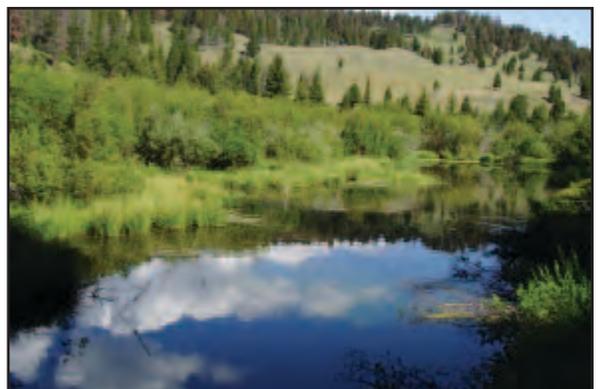
- **Recreation:** This section of the Madison River, which includes the famous Three Dollar Bridge public fishing access, is one of Montana’s most popular wild trout fisheries.



1.13 West Fork Madison River (Fossil Creek to Madison River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	20	Yes	F, R

- **Fisheries:** The headwaters of the West Fork are home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



1.14 Meadow Creek (Dexter Creek to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (East Fork Rock Creek)	4	No	F

- Fisheries:** Meadow Creek supports spawning of migratory bull trout in Rock Creek and a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout.



1.15 Mill Creek (Source at Upper Branham Lake to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Ruby River	7	Yes	H, S

- History:** Smuggler Mine is cultural resource with potential historic values, as do several mining-related earthworks in vicinity. (NRI)
- Scenery:** Scenic waterfalls, small lakes, and rugged peaks. (NRI)

1.16 Miner Creek (Source to Forest Boundary, includes Lower Miner Lakes)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Big Hole River	13	No	F

- Fisheries:** Miner Creek and Lakes supports a remnant of the unique fish fauna of the Upper Missouri and Big Hole drainages, including migratory and resident Montana Arctic grayling and headwater burbot. Native western pearlshell mussels have also been reported.
- Recreation:** The stream and lakes are popular with anglers, campers and hikers, and wildlife watchers.

1.17 Nicholia Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Big Sheep Creek	10	No	F, S

- Fisheries:** Nicholia Creek is home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

1.18 Middle Fork Rock Creek (Copper Creek to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (Rock Creek)	7	No	F, R, W

- **Fisheries:** The Middle Fork of Rock Creek supports a popular fishery of mixed native and introduced trout species. It is an important migratory, foraging, and rearing area for native bull trout.
- **Wildlife:** The stream traverses extensive beaver pond complexes and willow bottoms that support moose and other wildlife.



1.19 West Fork Rock Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (Rock Creek)	11	No	F, R, W

- **Fisheries:** The West Fork is home to federally threatened bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Accessed from Skalkaho-Rock Creek Road, this stream offers a beautiful whitewater creek run of rare moderate difficulty and easy access. The West Fork also offers abundant angling, moose-watching, and hiking opportunities.



1.20 Ross Fork (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (West Fork Rock Creek)	19	No	F, R, W

- Fisheries:** Within the reaches of Ross Fork offer a productive mixed-species trout fishery, with abundant spawning population of migratory bull trout; upper reaches offer refugia for genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.
- Recreation:** The stream is paralleled and accessed by a popular trail connecting West Fork of Rock Creek south and west to Sleeping Child Divide.
- Wildlife:** Ross Fork of Rock Creek drains one of the largest unprotected roadless areas in western Montana, an area with extensive low elevation bottoms and middle-elevation mixed conifer forests, rich in native fish and wildlife.



1.21 Ruby River (Source to Forest Boundary at Forest Road 1244)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Jefferson River	17	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** The Upper Ruby River is home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. It is also home to a re-introduced population of regionally rare native grayling.
- Recreation:** Regionally significant angling, big game hunting, and wildlife viewing area. One of the few large, low elevation, ecologically intact, public lands, river valleys that is easily accessible for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.
- Scenery:** A beautiful, meandering river with cobble bars, willow riparian areas, cottonwood stands, sloughs, and riffles, and spectacular views of the Snowcrest Range.



1.22 Sand Basin Creek (Source to West Fork Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (West Fork Rock Creek)	6	No	F, R, W

- **Fisheries:** Sand Basin Creek is a rare middle-elevation, gently sloping forested catchment. The stream supports stable hydrology and excellent water quality and fish habitat, with abundant spawning population of migratory bull trout and genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** The stream is well-accessed by a forest road and trail system.
- **Wildlife:** Moose, elk, and other wildlife are especially abundant and visible in this transitional area between higher elevation uplands of the Pintler Range and Sapphire Mountains.



1.23 Standard Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	10	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Native westslope cutthroat trout habitat, a USFS sensitive species.
- **Recreation:** A popular and regionally significant fishing and hunting area, providing access to high elevation, alpine backcountry.



1.24 Tendoy Creek (Source to confluence with Nicholia Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Nicholia Creek	4	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** Tendoy Creek is home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

1.25 Warm Springs Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

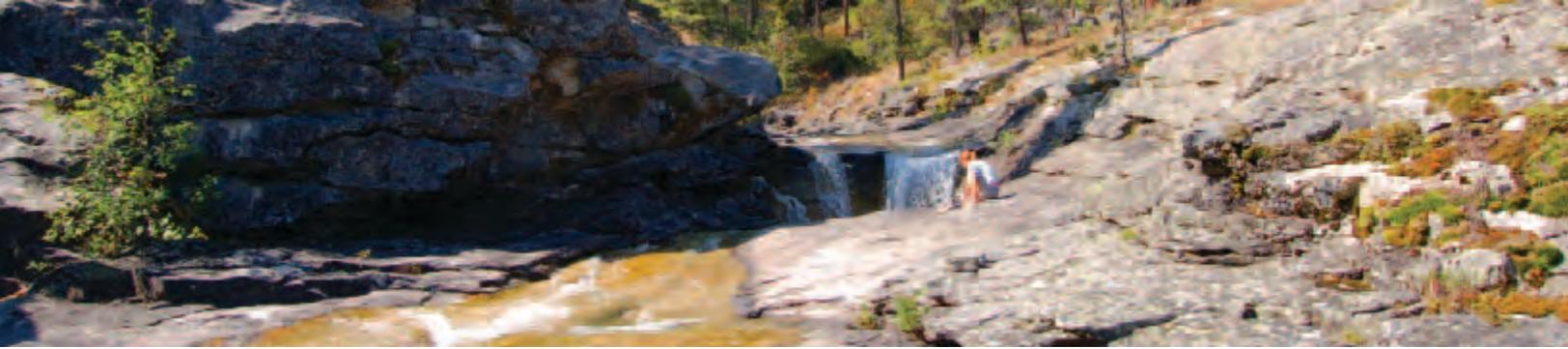
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Ruby River	6	No	G, W

- **Geology:** Warm springs in lower reaches keep stream flowing yearlong. As result of elevated temperatures, fishery and winter waterfowl activity are somewhat enhanced. (NRI)
- **Wildlife:** Rare, ice-free flows due to elevated water temperatures that support enhanced winter waterfowl activity.

1.26 South Fork Willow Creek (Granite Lake to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Jefferson River	8	Yes	F

- **Fisheries:** Only tributary of Jefferson River that has native westslope cutthroat trout. (NRI)



2 Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot National Forest encompasses 1.6 million acres in Southwest Montana, including a significant portion of the Bitterroot River’s headwaters, flowing from high alpine valleys on the Montana/Idaho border through glacially carved canyons to the valley floor. These streams deliver clean, cold water to native fish, agricultural uses, and municipal uses downstream. The dramatic glaciated canyons from which many of these streams flow are recreation destinations for hikers, boaters, climbers, hunters, and other recreationists regionally and nationally.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

2.1 Bear Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	7	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 confirms that bull trout are present in Bear Creek. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Bear Creek is one of two ultra-classic Bitterroot Creeks for whitewater kayaking in Montana. A 3-mile hike leads paddlers to a towering series of bedrock slides and drops, the grand finale of which is the multi-tier Brave Bear Rapid. The water quality, spectacular scenery, and extremely high quality rapids make the hike worth it year after year. Throughout the year the trail attracts hikers drawn to the dramatic glaciated valley and waterfalls.



2.2 Big Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	10	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 confirms that bull trout are present in Big Creek. It is also home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** A popular hiking trail leads visitors up a massive glaciated valley with big walls, big views, and in the upper watershed big water slides and rapids. Below the trailhead Big Creek offers paddlers a nice Class IV paddling experience.



2.3 East Fork Bitterroot River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	21	No	F, R, W

- **Fisheries:** While not designated critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers the East Fork of the Bitterroot a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species, including genetically pure populations in headwater reaches within the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Area. While reaches of the East Fork downstream of Mink creek are heavily impacted by the highway, this segment upstream is marked by diverse and high-quality river and riparian habitat.
- **Recreation:** The lower and middle reaches of this segment support a popular and productive fishery of mixed native and introduced but naturalized trout species. Star Falls and its canyon on the East Fork are a fabulously scenic and popular hiking destination on the East Fork. The river is accessible from the East Fork Highway and the major western-portal trail access to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. Big game hunting is popular along the river bottom in season. The road-accessible reaches of the river are a popular float for local recreationists during the runoff season.
- **Wildlife:** Abundant willow bottoms support moose, beaver, river otters, and other wildlife.

2.4 West Fork Bitterroot River (Nez Perce Creek to Painted Rocks Reservoir - see NRI)

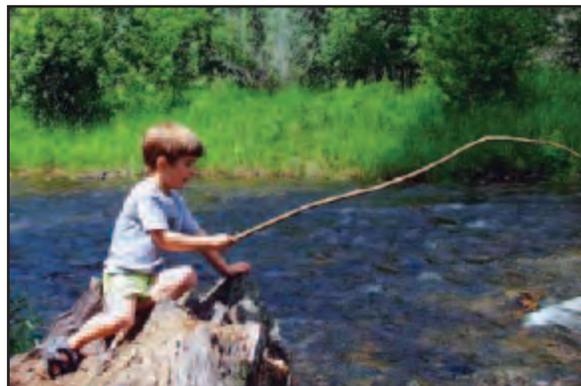
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	7	Yes	F, G, R

- **Fisheries:** The upper West Fork of the Bitterroot is critical habitat for bull trout, and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. A substantial headwater catchment area in roadless area along the Lemhi Divide helps support high water quality and productive fish populations. This segment supports a popular and accessible small-stream fishery accessible from the West Fork Road.
- **Recreation:** The West Fork provides an excellent float trip for anglers and beginner whitewater paddlers. Easy road access, mild rapids, and great water quality define the trip.

2.5 Upper West Fork Bitterroot River (Source to Deer Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	13	Yes	F, W

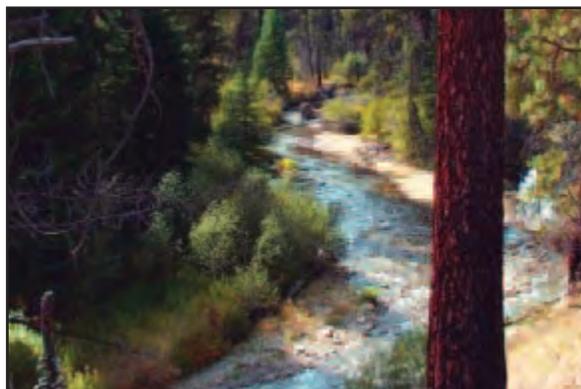
- Fisheries:** The upper West Fork of the Bitterroot is critical habitat for bull trout, and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. A substantial headwater catchment area in roadless area along the Lemhi Divide helps support high water quality and productive fish populations. This segment supports a popular and accessible small-stream fishery accessible from the West Fork Road.
- Wildlife:** Wildlife viewing is popular on the Upper West Fork of the Bitterroot River, with beavers and beaver dams common and moose frequently observed in the willow bottoms.



2.6 Blue Joint Creek (Source to TR 614 Trailhead)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	9	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Blue Joint Creek is critical habitat for bull trout, and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also home to genetically-pure native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. An expansive headwater catchment in roadless condition, undisturbed springs, and a relatively intact natural forested floodplain help produce Blue Joint's stunning water quality and productive fishery.
- Recreation:** A trail leads hikers, anglers, and carry-in paddlers along the creek through this scenic rocky valley.



2.7 Blodgett Creek (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	14	Yes	F, G, H, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Blodgett Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Geology:** Towering glacier polished rock walls and spires surround the valley, offering the most dramatic example of the Glaciated Bitterroot River tributaries.
- **History:** Blodgett Creek provided a major trapping route into the Wilderness beyond the Bitterroot Valley for horse packers and hikers.
- **Recreation:** Blodgett Creek's canyon offers high quality paddling, rock climbing, horse packing, hiking, angling, and other activities. The Creek forms the centerpiece of many of these activities.
- **Scenery:** Blodgett Creek sports clear water running through granite bedrock rapids and glacial erratics, set beneath towering granite walls and spires reminiscent of the Yosemite Valley, sporting stunning views during every season.



2.8 Boulder Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	8	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Boulder Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Boulder Creek boasts a powerful final gorge just upstream of the trailhead that thrills Class V kayakers and hikers alike. A trail follows Boulder Creek into its precipitous headwaters on the flanks of Trappers Peak, passing numerous large falls and drops.



2.9 Chaffin Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

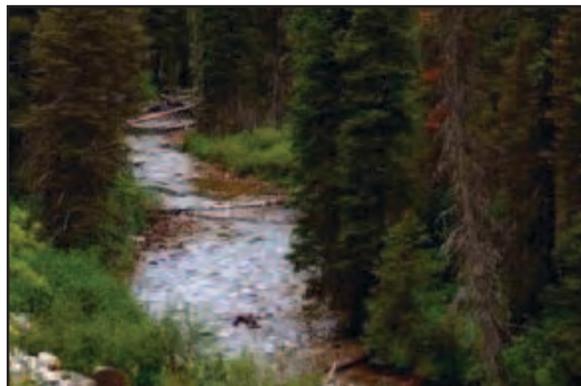
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	10	No	F, R

- **Recreation:** From its headwaters at Chaffin Lake cirque in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area, Chaffin Creek tumbles steeply over glacial boulders and through narrow canyons to its alluvial fan in the Bitterroot Valley south of Darby, MT. Accessible through its entire length by Chaffin Creek Road and Chaffin Lake Trail, Chaffin Creek is a popular close-to-town small-stream fishery and hiking destination.
- **Fisheries:** Chaffin Creek supports a mixture of native and introduced trout, including resident bull trout and some pure-strain westslope cutthroat trout.

2.10 Daly Creek (Source to South Fork Skalkaho Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River (Skalkaho Creek)	11	No	F, S

- Fisheries:** Throughout its length Daly Creek, an important tributary of Skalkaho Creek, supports a genetically pure native westslope cutthroat trout population, and is also home to an abundant population of resident (nonmigratory) bull trout.
- Scenic:** Its lower reaches are a key scenic feature along the Skalkaho Highway, and support a popular and productive small-stream wild trout fishery. A substantial portion of Daly Creek lies within a large, undisturbed roadless area along the Skalkaho Divide, helping compensate for the local effects of the highway on highly sensitive and erosion-prone soils. In its lower miles Daly Creek traverses a series of tumbling boulder stairsteps in between gently sloping alluvial flats.



2.11 Deer Creek (Source to West Fork Bitterroot River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	13	No	F

- Fisheries:** This little-known but biologically important tributary to the Upper West Fork drains an extensive unprotected roadless area between Deer Creek Point and Razorback Mountain. Deer Creek has maintained high water quality and excellent fish habitat in the face of extensive wildfire. It is accessible by the Deer Creek trail along its entire length. Deer Creek supports resident and migratory bull trout and a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout, and because its natural connection to the Upper West Fork remains intact, it contributes vitally to the productivity of the West Fork's fishery.

2.12 Fred Burr Creek (Reservoir to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Mill Creek	3	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Fred Burr Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for genetically-pure westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Scenery:** A well maintained trail provides views of the stream and towering glaciated rock walls
- Recreation:** A popular trail offers easy access to spectacular views, angling, and occasionally paddling opportunities.

2.13 Kootenai Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	7	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 confirms that bull trout are present in Kootenai Creek. It is also a stronghold for genetically-pure westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Kootenai Creek is a major destination for hikers, rock climbers, and paddlers from the Missoula and Bitterroot valleys. The Creek forms the centerpiece of these experiences with its roaring bedrock gorge just a short walk from the trailhead. For Missoula paddlers Kootenai is the closest creek-boating opportunity and certainly one of the best. Rapids like skinny hips and the falls dish out plenty of trailside excitement in a remarkable natural setting.
- Scenery:** The trail up Kootenai Creek treats visitors to beautiful granite waterfalls, framed by soaring cliffs early on, followed by rock-studded pools surrounded by trees. Seasonal shifts bring roaring waterfalls and blooming wildflowers in the spring, clear pools of cold water in the summer, multi-colored leaves in the fall, and finally icefalls and icicles in the winter.



2.14 Lost Horse Creek (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	15	Yes	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Lost Horse Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also home to native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Lost Horse Creek has the distinction of being the only glaciated valley in the Bitterroots with a road extending its length. This road provides access to great bouldering, rock climbing, hiking, and paddling. Several Sections of Lost Horse Creek offer paddlers Class III-V bedrock rapids in a subalpine setting.

2.15 Moose Creek (Reservoir to East Fork Bitterroot River, includes Reynolds Creek Fork)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
East Fork Bitterroot River	12	No	F, R

- Fisheries:** Moose Creek supports abundant resident (non-migratory) bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. With its excellent water quality and fish habitat conditions, the Moose Creek system contributes materially as a spawning and nursery stream to the productivity of the East Fork Bitterroot fishery.
- Recreation:** This important tributary to the East Fork Bitterroot River drains roadless lands south of Frog Pond Basin on the Rock Creek Divide. Both forks are accessible by forest roads and trails, and the valley is popular with anglers, hunters, and hikers.

2.16 Nez Perce Fork (Sheephead Creek to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	8	No	F, R

- Fisheries:** Nez Perce Fork is a popular fishery accessible throughout its length from Nez Perce-Magruder Road. It supports native westslope cutthroat trout and smaller numbers of bull trout, as well as a mix of introduced trout species. Because of its accessibility, size, favorable gradient, and natural surroundings, the lower miles of the Nez Perce Fork see early-season use by boaters.
- Recreation:** Because of its accessibility, size, favorable gradient, and natural surroundings, the lower miles of the Nez Perce Fork see early-season use by boaters.

2.17 Skalkaho Creek (South Fork Skalkaho Creek to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	6	No	F, R

- Fisheries:** Skalkaho Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for genetically-pure westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. Skalkaho Creek is a popular and highly productive trout fishery both within and downstream of the designated segment.



2.18 Sleeping Child Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

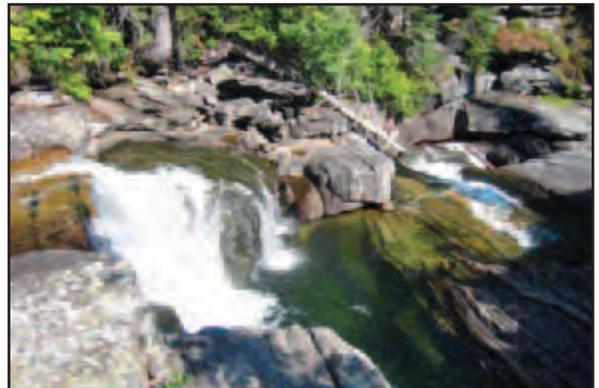
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	16	No	F, R

- Recreation:** Sleeping Child Creek is a popular close-to-town, small-stream fishery. It is accessible by way of Sleeping Child Road and a Forest Service hiking trail through the extensive un-roaded headwater portion of the upper basin.
- Fisheries:** Sleeping Child Creek supports both a productive fauna of naturalized nonnative trout and native species, including bull trout and genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.

2.19 Tin Cup Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	11	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Tin Cup Creek is home to native westslope cutthroat trout and the occasional bull trout.
- **Recreation:** Tin Cup Creek is home to introduced brook trout as well as native species, which support a popular close-to-town, small-stream fishery. Tin Cup Creek is accessible throughout much of its length inside the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area by way of Tin Cup Lake Trail.
- **Scenery:** Tin Cup Creek tumbles scenically over huge glacial boulders and stepped bedrock waterfalls.



2.20 Trapper Creek (Source to West Fork Bitterroot River, includes North Fork)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	20	No	F, R

- **Recreation:** From the north flank of Trapper Peak in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, the forks of Trapper Creek descend steeply and in parallel eastward to the West Fork Bitterroot River. While the North Fork is remote, the main fork is accessible by trail popular with day hikers.
- **Fisheries:** Trapper Creek supports westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.



2.21 Woods Creek (Source to West Fork Bitterroot River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
West Fork Bitterroot River	7	No	F, R, W

- **Fisheries:** Woods Creek supports native bull trout and genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout populations, and contributes as a spawning and nursery area to the productivity of the Upper West Fork Bitterroot fishery.
- **Recreation:** Accessible from Woods Creek Road, Woods Creek is a popular small-creek angling destination. The riparian zone along Woods Creek is a popular berry-picking and wildlife viewing area.



3 Custer National Forest

The rivers and streams of the Custer National Forest range from frigid whitewater cascades plunging off of the 12,000-foot high Beartooth Plateau to small hidden streams flowing from island ranges like the Pryor Mountains. Native Yellowstone cutthroat trout are largely restricted to protected headwaters areas and naturalized brown and rainbow trout predominate the fishery. Due to their steep gradient and excellent water quality, the streams cascading off the Beartooth Plateau are a prime destination for whitewater boaters in search of adventure and solitude.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

3.1 Black Canyon Creek (NRA Boundary to Bighorn Reservoir)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bighorn River	1	Yes	F, G, W

- **Geology:** Towering limestone cliffs, abundant forest, and vegetation. (NRI)
- **Wildlife:** A variety of large mammals including black bear, and a variety of fish including trout. (NRI)

3.2 Crooked Creek (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bighorn River	8	Yes	C, F, G, O, S

- **Fisheries:** Crooked Creek is home to a critical geographically outlying population of genetically pure Yellowstone cutthroat trout.
- **Geology:** Flows through deeply incised limestone canyons in Pryor Mountains. Eastern most location of Douglas fir in Montana. (NRI)

3.3 Rock Creek (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	13	Yes	R, W

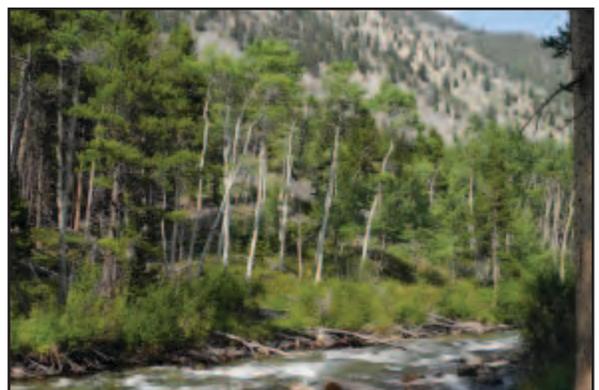
- Recreation:** Popular coldwater trout fishery. Flows through large “U” shaped glacially scoured valley. High mountain peaks and plateaus border the valley. Flows through most popular developed campground complex in Beartooth Ranger District. (NRI)



3.4 Lake Fork Rock Creek (Source to Rock Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	8	Yes	G, S

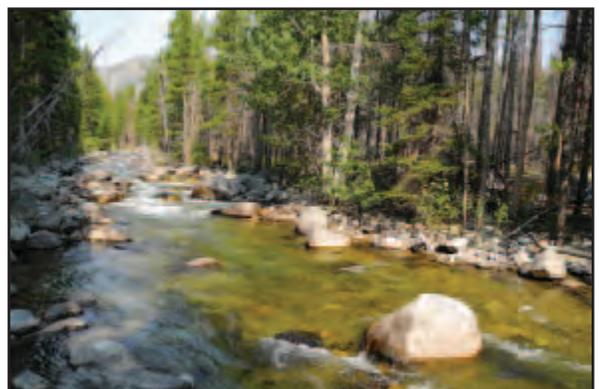
- Geology:** Drainage is a glacially scoured, “U”-shaped valley, separating two large, high elevation plateaus.
- Scenery:** Scenic, glacially carved valley with several lakes, falls, and sweeping vistas.
- Recreation:** A popular Forest Service trail runs alongside the Lake Fork and accesses the iconic Beartooth Plateau. It is popular with hikers, anglers, and horsepackers.



3.5 West Fork Rock Creek (Source to Rock Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	10	Yes	G, R, S

- Geology:** The drainage is a glacially scoured, “U”-shaped valley, with a number of picturesque falls and lakes located in the drainage.
- Recreation:** A popular Forest Service trail accesses the iconic Beartooth Plateau for hikers, anglers, and horsepackers from the West Fork Rock Creek.
- Scenery:** Scenic, glacially carved, granite valley with several lakes, falls and meadows, with high peaks soaring overhead.



3.6 East Rosebud Creek (East Rosebud Lake to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Rosebud Creek	13	Yes	G, H, R, S

- **Geology:** Drainage is a glacially scoured, “U”-shaped valley, with a number of large waterfalls and glacial lakes located in the drainage.
- **History:** The historic miner’s trail to Cooke City, “The Beaten Path,” follows East Rosebud Creek up to the top of the Beartooth Plateau and down the other side to Cooke City. It is one of the most popular hikes in the region.
- **Recreation:** East Rosebud Creek is perhaps the best Class V creek on the east side of the Montana Beartooth Mountain Range. East Rosebud offers 3 miles of continuous, non-stop Class V without any big falls. The fishery in this reach is comprised brown and rainbow trout and is popular among anglers.
- **Scenery:** Incredibly scenic, glacially carved valley with high granite faces, alpine lakes and large waterfalls, and snow-capped peaks, similar to a view in the Alps - truly extraordinary for the region.



3.7 West Rosebud Creek (Source to Mystic Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Rosebud Creek	8	Yes	G, R, S

- **Geology:** Drainage is a beautiful, glacially scoured, “U”-shaped valley, with a number of glacial lakes located in the drainage.
- **Recreation:** West Rosebud Creek is the traditional and popular access point to reach Froze to Death Plateau on the route to climb Granite Peak (12,807 feet), the highest peak in Montana. The climb draws many regional and national visitors annually.
- **Scenery:** Hikers on the way to Granite Peak, Montana’s highest peak, are treated to the granite wonderland of Upper West Rosebud Creek. Vistas of the stream and valley are impressive.



3.8 Stillwater River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	27	Yes	F, G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** The Stillwater offers paddlers a unique and challenging multi-day kayaking adventure, as well as several more accessible sections ranging from Class I to Class V.



3.9 West Fork Stillwater River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Stillwater River	15	No	R, S

- **Recreation:** From its origins at Mount Douglas and Lake Mountain in the Absaroka Range, The West Fork Stillwater River pitches north and east to join the main Stillwater River near Nye, MT. The majority of the catchment lies inside the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Area, with the lower miles accessible by Nye Road and the upper miles via West Fork Stillwater Trail. The river is popular with anglers, hikers, and floaters. Important features within the segment include the step granite chutes of Sentinel and Calamity Falls and Quinnebaugh Meadows.



4 Flathead National Forest

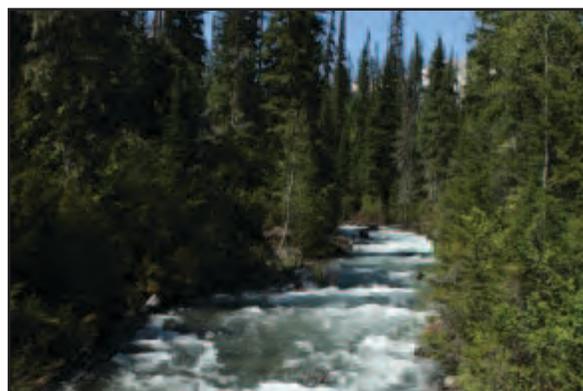
The Flathead watershed contains some of the largest expanses of federally protected Wilderness in the Northern Rockies, fringed by equally pristine but unprotected roadless lands. Combined with the fact that it encompasses such a wide elevational range – from alpine glaciers to broad alluvial floodplains – and it is a battleground between maritime and continental climates, this watershed is home to an incredible diversity of fish and wildlife. Many of the watershed’s rivers are blue-green in color like their Canadian counterparts, mountain vistas are stunning, and the country is rugged and lush. Visitors are confronted with devil’s club, grizzly bears, and wild weather. Rivers range from meandering valley rivers like the Spotted Bear and the North Fork of the Flathead to cascading streams like Graves Creek careening over ledges and coursing through boulders. The sheer size and largely intact hydrologic integrity of the Flathead watershed make it one of the most important strongholds for native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout in the Lower 48 states. Its spectacular scenery, exceptional water quality, diversity of fish and wildlife, and protected areas make the Flathead an international outdoor recreation destination.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

4.1 Aeneas Creek (Source to Graves Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	9	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Aeneas Creek supports a nearly pure population of westslope cutthroat trout, and is an important fish nursery stream for Graves Creek and Hungry Horse Reservoir.
- **Recreation:** Aeneas Creek drains the popular Jewel Basin Hiking Area
- **Scenery:** This system drains steep terrain on the east slope of the beautiful Swan Range. The aptly named Jewel Basin lies at its headwaters.



4.2 Basin Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	5	Yes	F, S

- **Fisheries:** Basin Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.3 Big Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	18	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Big Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.4 Big Salmon Creek (Source to South Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	10	Yes	F, H, R, S

- Fisheries:** Big Salmon Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Big Salmon Creek offers paddlers a remote and inaccessible whitewater adventure, and hikers and horse packers views of scenic waterfalls.



4.5 Bunker Creek (Headwaters to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	20	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Considered an “outstanding” fisheries resource by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Bunker Creek was designated critical habitat for bull trout in 2009, and is home to genetically pure Westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** A Forest Service road along lower Bunker Creek provides access for paddling, angling, and hiking opportunities.
- Scenery:** Beautiful, large tributary to the SF Flathead flowing out of the picturesque Swan Range



4.6 Clack Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	2	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Clack Creek is critical habitat for bull trout. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.7 Coal Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	19	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Coal Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.8 South Fork Coal Creek (North Fork Flathead River Tributary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	7	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** The South Fork of Coal Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.9 Cyclone Creek (Cyclone Creek to Coal Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	5	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Cyclone Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.10 Danaher Creek (Limestone Creek to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	14	Yes	C, F, H, R, S

- Fisheries:** Danaher Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Danaher Creek forms the centerpiece of this iconic remote and scenic valley in the heart of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Danaher offers hiking, horse packing, and pack rafting access to the South Fork Flathead down a scenic and remote valley.



4.11 Dean Creek (Source to Spotted Bear River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Spotted Bear River	9	No	F

- Fisheries:** Dean Creek is an important but little-known tributary to the Spotted Bear River in the Great Bear Wilderness. Paralleled by a Forest Service trail, Dean Creek supports native fish including bull trout and likely genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout.

4.12 Dolly Varden Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River)

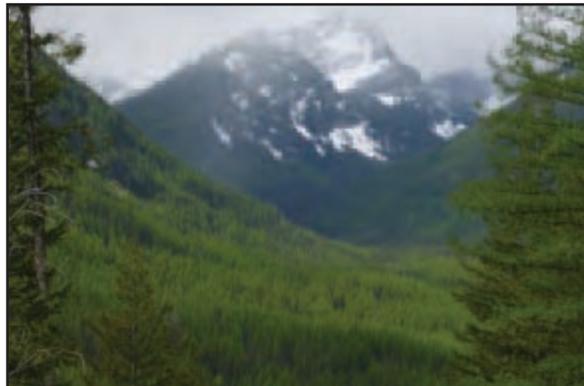
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	21	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Dolly Varden Creek supports excellent water quality and habitat with an abundant population of spawning migratory bull trout, and abundant westslope cutthroat trout of likely pure genetic character.
- Recreation:** Dolly Varden Creek is paralleled by a popular trail linking the Great Bear Wilderness to the Bob Marshall Wilderness trail system in the vicinity of Pot Mountain and the Spotted Bear River headwaters.

4.13 Elk Creek (Source to Swan River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	11	No	F, R, S, W

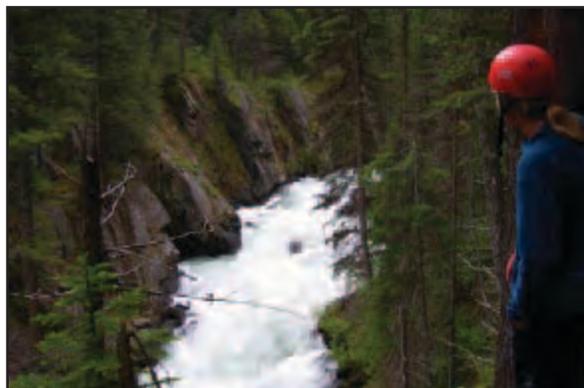
- Fisheries:** Elk Creek is a critical and highly productive spawning tributary for the Swan River bull trout metapopulation, with a large, roadless catchment area supporting very high water quality and excellent stream habitat.
- Recreation:** Elk Creek offers paddlers a Class III-V run alternating between open valleys with incredible views of the Mission Mountains and high quality bedrock and boulder-strewn rapids in a relatively large stream. Elk Creek has a long paddling season and few or no mandatory portages. Forest Trail #300 provides access for hikers. While difficult to access, the meadows in between the bedrock canyons offer excellent cover and substrate for fish in an open and meandering river. Presumably angling would be quite good.
- Scenic:** Meandering wetland complexes alternate with bedrock and boulder sections under a backdrop of the Mission Mountains.
- Wildlife:** Wildlife is abundant in the relatively remote and untrammed stream canyon, which serves as a key wildlife corridor across the Swan Valley linking the Mission Mountain Wilderness Area to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.



4.14 Gorge Creek (Source to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	14	No	F, R

- Fisheries:** Gorge Creek is home to both federally-threatened bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** A scenic Forest Service trail follows the left bank of the creek, providing excellent access for paddlers, anglers, hikers, and photographers. Considered a treasured, high-quality kayaking run by expert paddlers in the region.
- Scenic:** Moss-draped limestone gorge filled with pools, riffles, and falls greet the hiker, photographer, angler, and paddler a short walk from the trailhead.



4.15 Glacier Creek (Glacier Lake to Outlet of Glacier Slough - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	6	Yes	F, H, R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** Glacier Creek is home to both federally-threatened bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** A popular trail leads hikers along the waterfall-studded Glacier Creek to the high elevation lakes that form its dramatic headwaters in the Mission Mountains. Kayakers explore the creek itself and enjoy several clean bedrock drops.
- **Wildlife:** Glacier Creek traverses an important and habitat rich corridor for grizzly bears and other wildlife that migrate from the Mission Range to the Swan Valley and disperse to and from the Swan Range and Bob Marshall complex.



4.16 Goat Creek (Source to Swan River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	10	No	F, W

- **Fisheries:** Goat Creek is one of the more important spawning tributaries for migratory bull trout in the Swan River system. It also comprises part of an important wildlife migration and dispersal corridor between the Swan Range and Swan Valley and Mission Mountains to the west.

4.17 Gordon Creek (Headwaters to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	18	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Gordon Creek was designated critical habitat for bull trout in 2009, and is home to genetically pure Westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Gordon creek is large enough to packraft and is popular with anglers. Forest Service Trail #35 parallels the left bank up to the headwaters.
- **Scenery:** Beautiful, large tributary to the South Fork Flathead flowing out of the Swan Range from the flanks of Waldbillig Mountain.



4.18 Granite Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

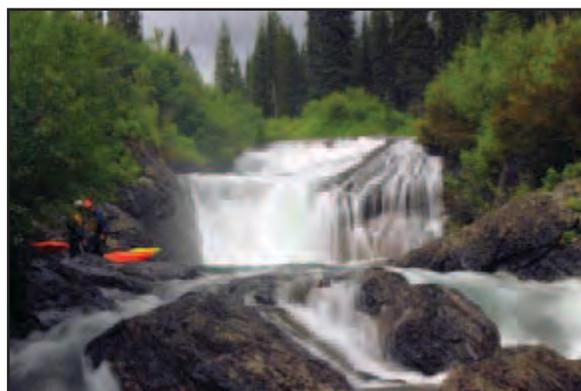
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	8	Yes	F, H, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Granite Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Paddlers regularly float down the class II Granite Creek as the beginning of multi-day Middle Fork Flathead adventures. The creek provides a valuable way to explore the Wilderness by boat without requiring a backcountry flight. A popular hiking trail accessing the Great Bear Wilderness reaches of the Middle Fork Flathead parallels Granite Creek.

4.19 Graves Creek (Source to Hungry Horse Reservoir)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	5	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Graves Creek is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Waterfalls, slides, and rapids awe hikers and paddlers alike - and even those driving by - on this Hungry Horse Reservoir tributary. A hiking trail provides access to the high country along the Swan Range crest. While newly discovered, Graves Creek is quickly becoming known as one of the absolute best steep creeks for kayaking in the state.
- **Scenic:** Waterfalls, slides and rapids make an awe-inspiring site from the road, trail, or the creek itself.



4.20 Hallowat Creek (Source to Big Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Big Creek)	7	Yes	F

- **Fisheries:** Hallowat Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.21 Lake Creek (Scott Lake to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	4	Yes	G, H, S

- **Geology:** 30ft + waterfall
- **Scenery:** A trail leads Middle Fork Flathead paddlers and others through the intact watershed.

4.22 Unnamed Fork Lake Creek (Flotilla Lake to Scott Lake - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River (Lake Creek)	1	Yes	G, S

- **Geology:** Flotilla Lake formed by mass failure, which dammed the creek. Outlet of the lake is underground and surfaces as a big spring 1 mile below the lake. (NRI)

4.23 Langford Creek (Mud Lake to Big Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Big Creek)	2	Yes	F

- **Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers Langford Creek home to a local population of bull trout. Essential spawning habitat for westslope cutthroat trout.
- Recommend considering Langford Creek as “Ineligible.” Langford Creek is a two-mile long stream that originates from a small reservoir/augmented lake (“Mud Lake”), and is surrounded by roads and clear cuts. Potential for restoration if fisheries values still exist.



4.24 Lion Creek (Source to Trailhead - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	7	Yes	F, H, R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** Lion Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. Lion Creek is paralleled by a popular trail accessing the Bob Marshall Wilderness at Lion Creek Pass south of Swan Peak.
- **Recreation and Scenery:** a relatively popular trail leads hikers along the creek to a high divide.
- **Wildlife:** Lion Creek comprises part of an important wildlife migration and dispersal corridor between the Swan Range and Swan Valley and Mission Mountains to the west.

4.25 Little Salmon Creek (Source to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	13	Yes	F, H, R

- **Fisheries:** Little Salmon Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It also is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** The Little Salmon offers hiking, horse packing, and pack rafting access to the South Fork Flathead down a scenic and remote valley.



4.26 Logan Creek (Star Meadow Road to Talley Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Flathead River	5	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Logan Creek is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Logan Creek is featured in a paddling guidebook as an enjoyable Class IV-V run.

4.27 North Fork Lost Creek (Forest Boundary to Swan River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	7	No	F

- **Fisheries:** The North Fork of Lost Creek is home to federally threatened bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.28 South Fork Lost Creek (Source to Swan River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River	3	No	F, R, S, W

- Fisheries:** The South Fork of Lost Creek is home to federally threatened bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Wildlife:** The headwaters support unusually abundant populations of the coldwater-dependent Rocky Mountain tailed frog, as well as grizzly bears, black bears, and other wildlife species. The stream traverses an important wildlife migration and dispersal corridor between the Swan Range and Swan Valley and Mission Mountains to the west.
- Recreation and Scenery:** The headwaters drain an extensive, pristine roadless catchment contiguous with the Bob Marshall Wilderness, paralleled by a well-worn trail accessing the Bob Marshall Wilderness near Thunderbolt Mountain. On its descent to the Swan River the stream wends through deep cataracts and an unusually well-preserved mosaic of old growth spruce and cedar-hemlock forests.



4.29 Mathias Creek (Source to Coal Creek)

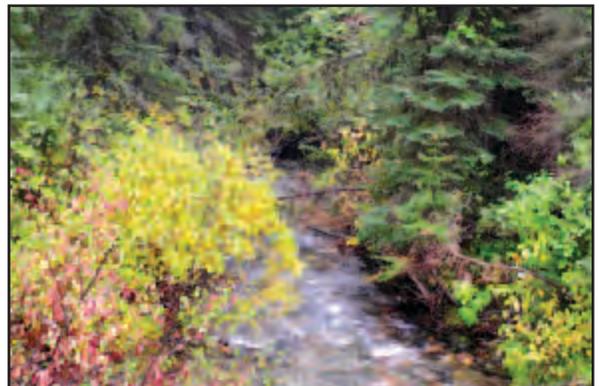
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Coal Creek)	1	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Mathias Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.30 Moose Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	6	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers bull trout present in Moose Creek. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.31 Morrison Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	5	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Morrison Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.32 Nokio Creek (Source to Trail Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Trail Creek)	1	No	F

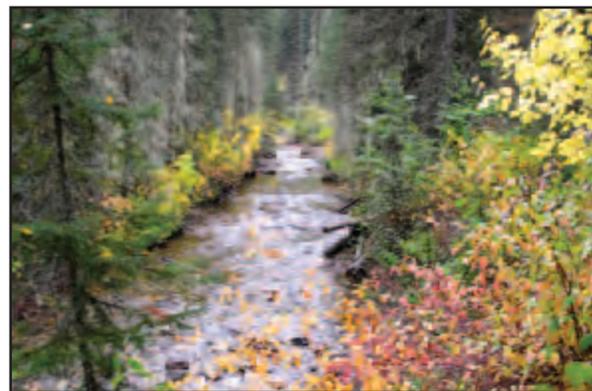
- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers Nokio Creek home to a local population of bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.33 Quintonkon Creek (Source to Sullivan Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River (Sullivan Creek)	8	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Quintonkon Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.34 Red Meadow Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	12	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Red Meadow Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.35 Schafer Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	2	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Schafer Creek is critical habitat for bull trout but Region 1 does not consider bull trout present. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

4.36 Shorty Creek (Source to Whale Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Whale Creek)	3	Yes	F

- Fisheries:** Shorty Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.37 Spotted Bear River (Source to South Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	32	Yes	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Spotted Bear River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Spotted Bear offers paddlers and anglers a scenic road-accessible float trip as well as a trail-accessible backcountry reach.
- **Scenic:** Beautiful, large tributary to the South Fork Flathead with gravel bars and a short canyon section flanked by mountain views and intact forests.



4.38 Squeezer Creek (Source to Goat Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Swan River (Goat Creek)	9	No	F, S, W

- **Fisheries:** Squeezer Creek is a bull trout core area for the Swan River system and also supports native cutthroat trout and amphibians, including the Columbia spotted frog.
- **Wildlife:** Important hydrologic and wildlife habitat features include an extensive system of wet meadows and fens connected to streams through subsurface flow paths in the region where Squeezer Creek traverses a mixed checkerboard of Flathead National Forest and Swan State Forest lands. This complex of forested wetlands and streams comprises a key part of an important wildlife migration and dispersal corridor between the Swan Range and Swan Valley and Mission Mountains to the west.

4.39 Strawberry Creek (Source to Middle Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Middle Fork Flathead River	10	Yes	F, S

- **Fisheries:** Strawberry Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Scenic series of pools and drops. Good fishing for cutthroat trout. (NRI)

4.40 Sullivan Creek (Source to Hungry Horse Reservoir - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	15	Yes	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Sullivan Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Sullivan Creek offers a scenic mild float trip for small boats and angling opportunities.



4.41 Upper Swan River (Crystal Lake to Lindbergh Lake, Lindbergh Lake to Holland Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Flathead River	3, 6	Yes	C, F, R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** The Upper Swan River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species. These waters converge with Holland Creek to form the headwaters of the Swan River and give the system its characteristic high water quality that supports the river system's fishery, wildlife, and recreational resources.
- **Recreation:** The Upper Swan offers paddlers an incredible remote Class IV and V paddling adventure between Crystal Lake and Lindbergh Lake. Brilliantly clear water thunders over a long sliding falls on Crystal Lake Creek and gushes through several excellent rapids on the Upper Swan.
- **Wildlife:** A complex of wet meadows, fens, and ponds form a hydrologically interconnected mosaic of productive wildlife habitat that comprises part of an important wildlife migration and dispersal corridor between the Swan Range and Swan Valley and Mission Mountains.
- **Cultural:** Prehistoric site, historic guard station, and history of visit by Charles Lindbergh.



4.42 Lower Swan River (Swan River State Forest to Swan Lake - see NRI)

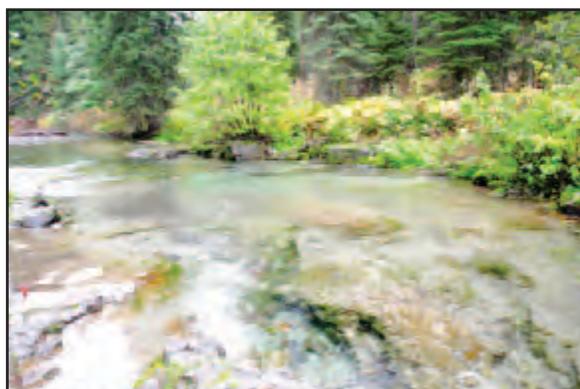
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Flathead River	11	Yes	F, R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** The lower Swan River is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species
- **Recreation:** The lower Swan River provides a superb float trip for a wide variety of paddlers, featuring excellent scenery and angling.
- **Wildlife:** The Swan River is nearly unique among Montana’s large floodplain rivers in retaining its extensive floodplain forests and largely unaltered examples of shifting river channels, floodplain ponds and springbrooks. This complex of features, historically characteristic of many Rocky Mountain rivers, provides diverse aquatic habitats for fish, amphibians, invertebrates, and water-loving birds and mammals, but also a rich and productive mosaic of terrestrial habitats for wildlife and rare plants.

4.43 Trail Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	11	Yes	C, F, G, S, W

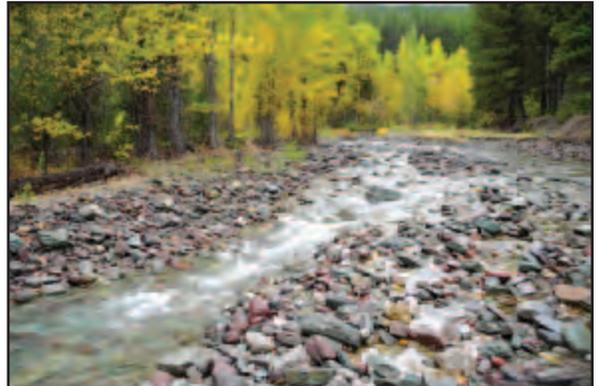
- **Cultural:** Over the Whitefish Range, prehistoric and historic routes connect the North Fork Valley with the Tobacco Valley. Indian pictographs and limestone caves along stream corridor. (NRI)
- **Fisheries:** Trail Creek is critical habitat for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Geologic:** Limestone caves and grottos are common along Trail Creek. There is also a creek-wide “sink,” wherein the entire creek goes through a subterranean cavern, with a “rise” approximately one mile downstream.
- **Scenic:** Beautiful limestone gorge overlooking rapids gives way to a high-altitude wetland and views of the Whitefish Range.
- **Wildlife:** Rare, high-altitude wetland complex near the headwaters provides moose, beaver, fish, and bird habitat.



4.44 Lower Twin Creek (Headwaters to South Fork Flathead)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	7	No	E, S, R

- **Fisheries:** Twin Creek is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species, and designated bull trout critical habitat.
- **Recreation:** Twin Creek offers a kayaking trip of moderate difficulty and high quality scenery, fishing, and hunting.
- **Scenic:** Beautiful wild tributary of the South Fork Flathead River, flowing through a limestone gorge.



4.45 Upper Twin Creek (Headwaters to South Fork Flathead)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	7	No	E, G, R

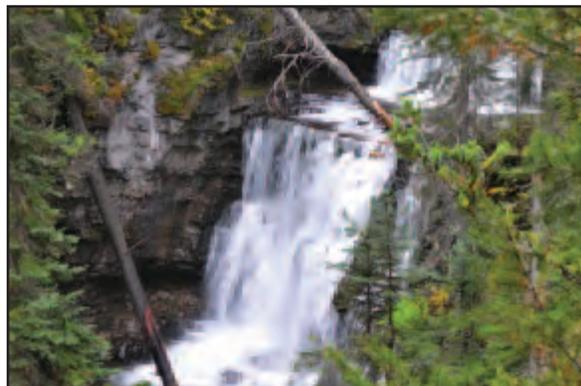
- **Fisheries:** Twin Creek is a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species, and designated bull trout critical habitat.
- **Geology:** Twin Creek passes through a natural arch that is a unique and scenic geologic feature in the region.
- **Recreation:** Upper Twin Creek offers a kayaking trip of moderate difficulty and high quality scenery. The creek also provides hiking, fishing, and hunting opportunities, accessed by a Forest Service trail system.



4.46 Whale Creek (Source to North Fork Flathead River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River	14	Yes	F, O

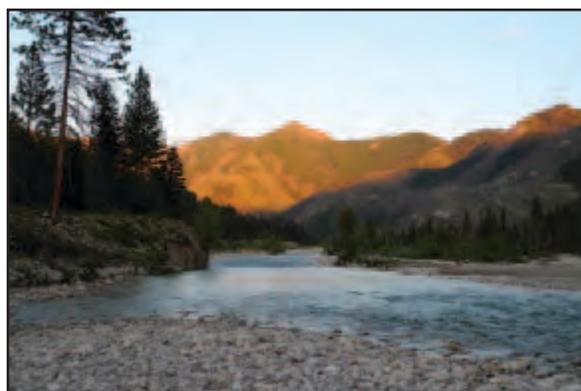
- Fisheries:** Whale Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Other:** Whale Creek is well-positioned for ecological restoration to support its fisheries, recreation, scenic, and wildlife values in the large, beautiful, low elevation valley. The drainage has seen a fair amount of timber harvesting in the past.



4.47 White River (Source to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	16	Yes	F, G, R, S

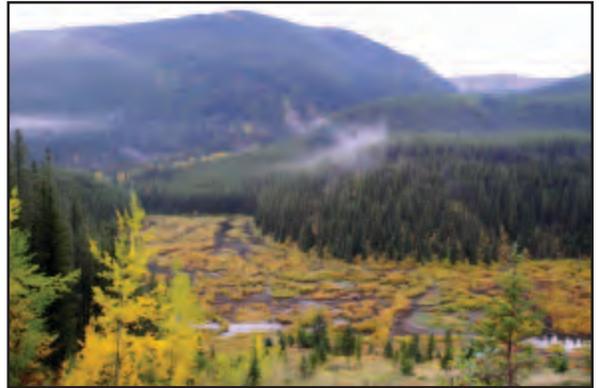
- Fisheries:** The White River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** A relatively popular pack trail follows the White River, making it a sought-after destination and travel corridor for horsepackers, anglers, backpackers, and packrafters.
- Scenery:** Scenic: The White River is a scenic landmark in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, filled with expansive wilderness views, scenic falls, and tremendously clear water that gives way to a red and white cobbled riverbed.



4.48 Yakinikak Creek (Source to Trail Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
North Fork Flathead River (Trail Creek)	5	No	F

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers it home to a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



4.49 Young's Creek (Source to South Fork Flathead River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
South Fork Flathead River	11	Yes	F, G, R

- Fisheries:** Young's Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Geology:** Geologic values, including Hole in the Wall Cave and various impressive cliff sections. (NRI)
- Recreation:** A major route for hikers, horse packers, and pack rafters to explore the Bob Marshall Wilderness and to reach the South Fork Flathead.





5 Gallatin National Forest

Part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Gallatin National Forest is world renowned for its fisheries, wildlife and world-class recreational opportunities. Home to rare and iconic species like grizzly bears and Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout, the region is an ecological treasure. The rivers of the area are no exception – attracting anglers, paddlers and sightseers from around the globe. They range from large valley rivers like the upper Madison to steep mountain streams like Big Timber Creek. The waters of these rivers generally remain clean and cold thanks to their high elevation headwaters and millions of acres of protected Wilderness and roadless lands.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

5.1 Beaver Creek (Source to Madison River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	10	No	R, S, W

- **Recreation:** A popular horsepacking, fishing, hunting, and backpacking access corridor to the Taylor-Hilgard Range.
- **Scenic:** Gravel bars, meadows, forested valleys, and views of Taylor-Hilgard Range punctuate the trail that follows Beaver Creek.
- **Wildlife:** Beaver Creek is home to a diverse array of wildlife species, including elk, moose, mountain goats, gray wolves, and grizzly bears. Elk migrating from Yellowstone National Park to the Upper Madison Valley use the lower Beaver Creek corridor.



5.2 Big Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	12	No	F, G, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Big Creek is an important spawning and nursery stream for the Upper Yellowstone River. It supports some Yellowstone cutthroat trout, although pure populations have not been identified here to date.
- **Recreation:** Big Creek is accessed by Big Creek Road and Forest Service trail along its length to the Gallatin Divide.

5.3 Big Timber Creek (Source to Big Timber Canyon day-use site)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	8	No	G, R, S

- Recreation:** Big Timber Creek is the preeminent steep creek paddling trip in Montana and in the Northern Rockies. Featured in international videos and magazines, Big Timber offers paddlers enormous slides and falls that are stacked in a dizzying array. The scenery of the Crazy Mountains is unique and spectacular. Access to the creek is by hiking up a popular trail.
- Scenic:** Views of large waterfalls, bedrock slides, and the picturesque Crazy Mountains provide the backdrop for a hike up (or paddle down) Big Timber Creek, drawing both tourists and locals alike.



5.4 Boulder River (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	27	Yes	R, S

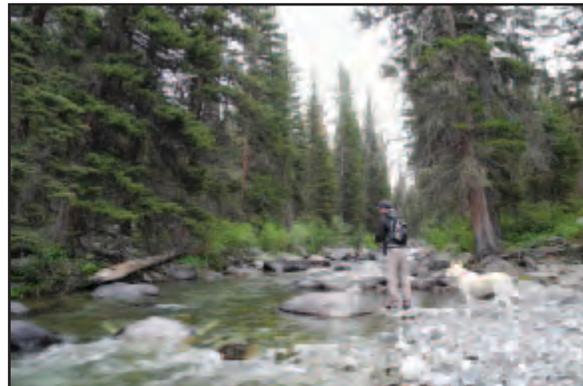
- Recreation:** The Boulder River offers a wide array of paddling opportunities with a robust summer season, all set in a stunning mountain valley. The river offers the Class IV Hells Canyon, Class III Bible Run, an easier section, and then the unique limestone gorge below falls (which have also been paddled). The river attracts many anglers, hikers, rock climbers, and sightseers.
- Scenic:** Descending steeply from the Beartooth Plateau and ringed by dramatic peaks, the Boulder River has cut beautiful meadows, pools, rapids, waterfalls, and a dramatic limestone gorge. The area is popular with visitors both regionally and nationally.



5.5 East Boulder River (Source to Dry Creek confluence)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Boulder River	5	No	F, S

- Fisheries:** The East Boulder River is a popular fishery and supports a large, minimally-hybridized population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout that by virtue of its abundance and geographic location is potentially critical to recovery and restoration of this subspecies.



5.6 West Boulder River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Boulder River	17	No	F, G, R, S, W

- Recreation:** The West Boulder is a beautiful six-mile Class IV-V paddling trip that requires a hike into the put in. Big rapids are easily viewed from a hiking trail that is shared among many types of visitors.
- Fisheries:** The West Boulder meadows in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is one of the most treasured wild trout fisheries in southern Montana, and is home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and wild brown trout.



5.7 Buck Creek (Source to Gallatin River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Gallatin River	10	No	F, S, W

- Fisheries:** Native westslope cutthroat trout occupy the headwaters of Buck Creek, making it one of just a few Gallatin River tributaries that still harbor native trout.

5.8 Buffalo Creek (Source to Wyoming State Line)

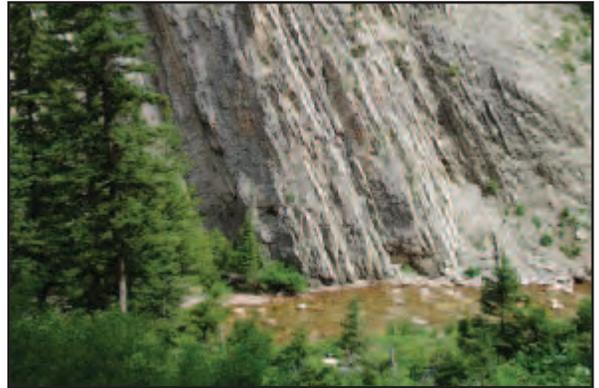
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	16	No	F, S

- Fisheries:** Buffalo Creek is home to a thriving population of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive species.

5.9 Cabin Creek (Source to Madison River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	8	No	F, G, H, S

- **Fisheries:** One of the last genetically intact westslope cutthroat trout (a USFS sensitive species) fisheries in the Upper Madison drainage. The Gallatin National Forest considers this a conservation population, and is exploring the installation of a fish passage barrier to protect it.
- **Geological and Historical:** Limestone reef and fault zone – the site of a major collapse during the 1959 earthquake that formed Quake Lake, with interpretation signs near the trailhead.
- **Scenic:** Regionally rare hike through a steep, visually stunning, limestone scarp along the creek, leading one to meadows above.



5.10 Cherry Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	5	No	F, G, S

- **Fisheries:** Thanks to one of the most ambitious native trout restoration projects in the Northern Rockies, Cherry Creek is now home to a healthy native westslope cutthroat trout population.

5.11 Lower Deer Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

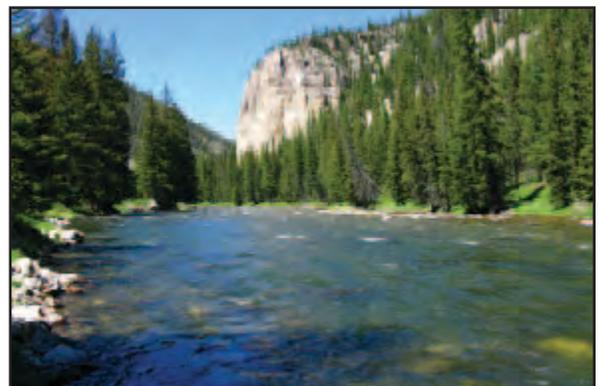
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	11	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** Lower Deer Creek is home to a genetically intact population of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, which recently was secured from encroaching nonnative fish through the installation of an impassable barrier.

5.12 Gallatin River (Yellowstone National Park to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	39	Yes	F, G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** A popular and scenic river with sections ranging from Class I to Class IV, the Gallatin is a major recreational treasure for regional rafters and kayakers. The Gallatin's long season makes it an important recreational resource. Due to its excellent public access and blue ribbon wild trout fishery, the Gallatin draws anglers from across southwest Montana and around the world.



5.13 Grayling Creek (Wyoming State Line to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Hebgen Lake/Madison River	4	No	S, W

- **Wildlife:** Grayling Creek is home to a diverse array of wildlife species including elk, moose, gray wolves, and grizzly bears.

5.14 Hell Roaring Creek (Source to Gallatin River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Gallatin River	11	No	S, W

- **Wildlife:** Hell Roaring Creek is home to abundant wildlife including elk, moose, grizzly bears and gray wolves.

5.15 Hellroaring Creek (Source to Wyoming State Line)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	22	No	R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** Hellroaring Creek is a stronghold for genetically-pure native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Hellroaring Creek offers paddlers an extremely remote and challenging river trip through spectacular scenery. The whitewater is reported to be some of the best in the region.



5.16 Hilgard/Sentinel Creek (Source to Quake Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Madison River	15	No	F

- **Fisheries:** With extensive roadless area in its catchment, this system supports a high-value wild trout fishery and serves as a fish nursery habitat for Quake Lake and Madison River.

5.17 Madison River (Beartrap Canyon)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	16	No	F, G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** Beartrap Canyon features Class III-IV whitewater and is home to one of the most popular wild trout fisheries in southwest Montana. The canyon also is an extremely popular area for hiking and hunting.
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages recreation uses in Beartrap Canyon, though the BLM, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Gallatin National Forest jointly manage the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (of which Beartrap is a part).



5.18 Madison River (Hebgen Lake Dam downstream to Forest Boundary below Quake Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	8	Yes	F, R, S

- **Recreation:** The Madison River just below Quake Lake is a regionally popular kayaking run that features Class IV-V rapids.



5.19 Madison River (Wyoming State Line to Hebgen Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	9	No	F, S, W

- **Recreation:** This section of the Madison River is popular with anglers in search of wild brown and rainbow trout that migrate upriver from Hebgen Lake.



5.20 South Fork Madison River (Source to Hebgen Lake)

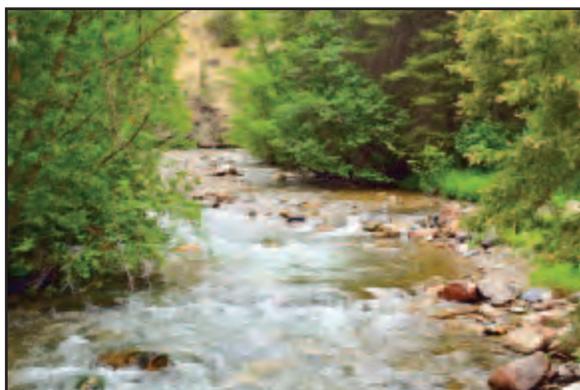
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	21	No	F, S, W

- **Fisheries:** The South Fork features healthy runs of large rainbow and brown trout that migrate up from Hebgen Lake in the spring and fall, respectively.
- **Wildlife:** The South Fork is home to a diverse array of wildlife species, most notably grizzly bears.

5.21 East Fork Mill Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Mill Creek	12	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** The East Fork of Mill Creek is home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



5.22 West Fork Mill Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Mill Creek	8	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** The West Fork of Mill Creek is home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



5.23 Pine Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	3	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Pine Creek is a stronghold for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** The steep hike to Pine Creek Falls and then up to Pine Creek Lake is one of the most popular in the Livingston area.



5.24 Porcupine Creek (Source to confluence with Gallatin River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Gallatin River	9	No	R, S, W

- **Wildlife:** Porcupine Creek is home to a diverse array of wildlife species including elk, gray wolves and grizzly bears.
- **Recreation:** The trail along Porcupine Creek is popular with hikers and mountain bikers in search of a wilderness-like experience and great views back towards Lone Mountain.



5.25 Sixmile Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	10	No	F

- **Fisheries:** Sixmile Creek is a stronghold for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.

5.26 South Fork Shields River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Shields River	6	No	F, S

- **Fisheries:** The South Fork's headwaters serve as the last best stronghold for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the entire Shields River drainage.

5.27 Slough Creek (Source to Wyoming State Line)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Lamar River	22	No	F, R, S, W

- Fisheries:** The upper reaches of Slough Creek comprise one of the last, best native Yellowstone cutthroat trout strongholds in southern Montana. Downstream, native cutthroat are hybridized with introduced rainbow trout, but these populations nevertheless support a spectacular sport fishery in Slough Creek Meadows.
- Recreation:** Slough creek is a world-renowned destination for fly anglers in search of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. It is also popular with horsepackers, backpackers, and may become a packrafting destination as well.



5.28 Spanish Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Gallatin River	16	No	S, W

- Scenery:** Beginning high in the Spanish Peaks, this crystal clear stream cascades through a dense lodgepole pine forest before emerging onto verdant grasslands on Ted Turner's Flying D ranch, where elk and bison graze by the hundreds.



5.29 Taylor Fork (Source to Gallatin River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Gallatin River	17	No	F, R, S, W

- Fisheries:** The headwaters of the Taylor Fork are home to one of the only native westslope cutthroat trout fisheries in the Gallatin drainage.
- Recreation:** The Taylor Fork is not only popular with horse-packers, hunters, anglers, backpackers, and wildlife photographers, but also provides a great Class II-III packrafting and whitewater kayaking run through a beautiful valley.
- Wildlife:** The Taylor Fork is renowned habitat for grizzly bears and migratory elk herds that cross back and forth from the Upper Gallatin drainage to the Upper Madison drainage.



5.30 Tepee Creek (Wyoming State Line to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Grayling Creek	10	No	F, W

- **Fisheries:** Tepee Creek is home to a small population of native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Wildlife:** Tepee Creek provides excellent habitat for a diverse array of wildlife including elk, moose, grizzly bears and gray wolves.

5.31 Tom Miner Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Yellowstone River	5	No	F, W

- **Fisheries:** Tom Miner Creek flows from its source in the roadless portion of the Gallatin Range, sustaining high water quality and supporting an important, genetically pure population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.
- **Wildlife:** The creek provides heavily used wildlife habitat in the Gallatin Range, supporting elk, grizzly bears, and wolverines

5.32 Yellowstone River (Wyoming State Line to Gardiner)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	17	No	F, R, S, W

- **Fisheries:** The Black Canyon is a stronghold for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Wildlife:** The Black Canyon is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, elk, and even rattlesnakes in its arid lower reach.
- **Recreation:** The Black Canyon is popular among early season hikers in search of solitude and anglers who fish the river for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, especially during the legendary salmonfly hatch in early July.





6 Helena National Forest

Compared to other national forests in western Montana, the Helena National Forest contains relatively few rivers and streams that are eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. With that said, several streams in the upper Blackfoot watershed offer high quality fish and wildlife habitat, and the Missouri River system offers nationally renowned angling and other recreational opportunities.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

6.1 Beaver Creek (Forest Boundary to Missouri River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	4	Yes	R

- **Recreation:** Only spawning tributary for the “Blue Ribbon” stretch of the Missouri River between Hauser Dam and Holter Reservoir. (NRI)
- **Restoration:** Beaver Creek exhibits serious downcutting, making it a potential candidate for ecological restoration.



6.2 Bighorn Creek (Source to Landers Fork Blackfoot River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Landers Fork Blackfoot River	7	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Bighorn Creek supports a known genetically pure population of native cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** The stream is paralleled by the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the Scapegoat Wilderness.

6.3 Landers Fork Blackfoot River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Blackfoot River	25	No	E, R

- **Fisheries:** The Landers Fork of the Blackfoot supports fall spawning runs of native bull trout and spring runs of westslope cutthroat trout, including genetically pure populations. Despite its seasonal surface disconnection by a reach of intermittent flow in its lower miles during the dry season, the system supports production of native and nonnative trout species and fisheries in the Upper Blackfoot system and its own fishery in the middle and upper reaches of the Landers Fork.
- **Recreation:** From the trailhead at Copper Creek, a primary trail access to the Scapegoat Wilderness parallels and provides recreational access to the Upper Landers Fork.

6.4 Copper Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Landers Fork Blackfoot River	14	No	E, W

- **Fisheries:** Copper Creek supports abundant and consistent returns of migratory bull trout, and known genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout, serving as a critical refuge for both species in the Upper Blackfoot basin.
- **Wildlife:** Paralleled by a Forest Service road, the stream is buffered by well-developed floodplains and beaver pond complexes, which afford productive wetlands and wildlife habitat.



6.5 Lookout Creek (Source to Landers Fork Blackfoot River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Landers Fork Blackfoot River	4	No	E, R

- **Fisheries:** Lookout Creek supports a known genetically pure population of native cutthroat trout. The stream is accessed by the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the Scapegoat Wilderness.

6.6 Missouri River (Hauser Dam to Cochran’s Gulch - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Mississippi River	2	Yes	F, G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** Provides nationally renowned fishing for trophy-sized brown trout. (NRI)
- **Geology:** Represents Eldorado thrust fault. Outstanding cliffs and seeps. (NRI)
- **History:** One of main travel routes for Lewis and Clark Expedition. (NRI)





7 Kootenai and Kaniksu National Forests

The Kootenai National Forest features high precipitation, lush forests, steep blue-water streams, and a full suite of native species. This unique eco-region contains species and experiences found nowhere else in Montana. The streams of the Kootenai River watershed offer refuge for rare species as well as the adventurous paddler, angler, or sightseer. While large rivers on the forest like the Clark Fork, Kootenai and Moyie are fragmented and impacted by dams in places, tributary streams in the Kootenai Watershed remain largely free of dams and diversions. Although logging has long been occurring in the area, many steep-walled river and stream corridors boast scenic and intact first or second growth forests.

We recommend the following streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

7.1 Big Creek (Confluence of North and South Forks to Lake Koocanusa)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Lake Koocanusa	7	Yes	F, R, S

- **Recreation:** Big Creek has a middle section of low gradient, followed by a Class III/IV lower section. Camping abounds along the creek. A side trail leads to a dramatic waterfall on a tributary.
- **Fisheries:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service designated Big Creek as critical habitat for Bull trout in 2010.



7.2 South Fork Big Creek (FR 255 to North Fork Big Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Lake Koocanusa	9.5	Yes	F, R, S

- **Recreation:** Big Creek has a Class IV/V upper section followed by a scenic float. Camping abounds along the creek.
- **Fisheries:** Bull trout are present in the stream, but it is not listed as critical habitat.

7.3 Bull River (Confluence of North and Middle Forks to Clark Fork River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	13	Yes	F, R, S

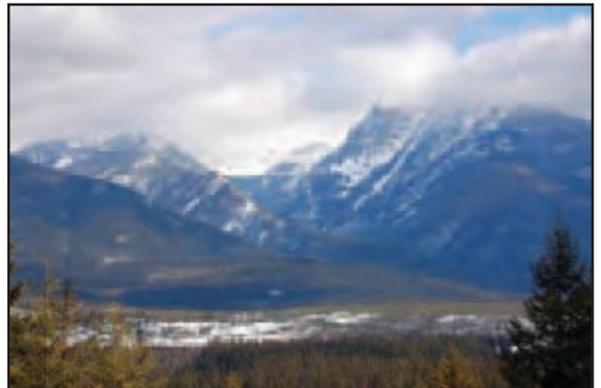
- **Fisheries:** Bull River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population.
- **Recreation:** The Bull River provides a highly scenic Class I-II float trip for kayakers and canoeists.



7.4 East Fork Bull River (Source to Bull River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	7	No	F, S

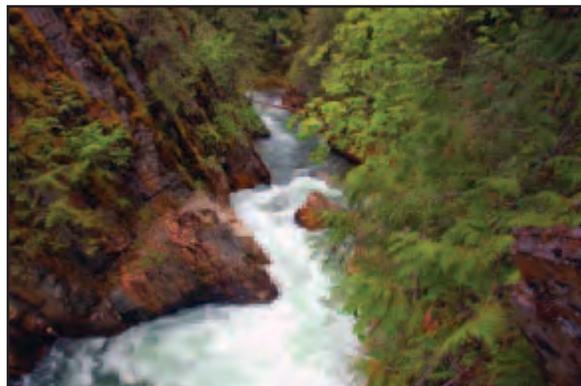
- **Fisheries:** The East Fork of the Bull River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population.
- **Scenery:** The East Fork is set in a dramatic valley in the Cabinet Mountains, with a trail leading along the creek to its source at St. Paul Lake.



7.5 Callahan Creek (FR 414 to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	7	No	F, G, H, R, S

- **Scenery:** Blue water, light colored bedrock, a towering slot canyon, and numerous rapids and falls combine to make Callahan Creek gorge unique and spectacular.
- **Recreation:** Callahan Creek offers whitewater paddlers a unique and challenging adventure as they navigate a spectacular slot canyon. A historic trail high above on river left provides hikers with sweeping views of the gorge.
- **History:** The Historical trail provides interpretive information on the history of logging in the gorge. Off-route hikers will find a myriad of cabin sites and mining relics.
- **Fisheries:** Callahan Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. Callahan is an entirely forested watershed with connectivity to the Kootenai River.



7.6 Granite Creek (Granite Lake to Trailhead for TR 136)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River (Big Cherry-Libby Creek)	7	No	F, R, S

- **Scenery:** Sweeping views of the Cabinet Mountains, A Peak, Granite Lake, Granite Creek Falls and other natural features.
- **Recreation:** A scenic designated hiking trail follows the creek, and during the spring Granite Creek provides Class IV-V paddling opportunities.
- **Fisheries:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service designated Granite Creek as critical habitat for bull trout in 2010.



7.7 Grave Creek (FR 114 to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Tobacco River	10	No	F

- **Fisheries:** Grave Creek is critical habitat for bull trout, and Region 1 considers it a local population. Grave Creek is connected to Lake Koocanusa via the Tobacco River.

7.8 Kootenai River (See NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Columbia River	46	Yes	F, H, R, S

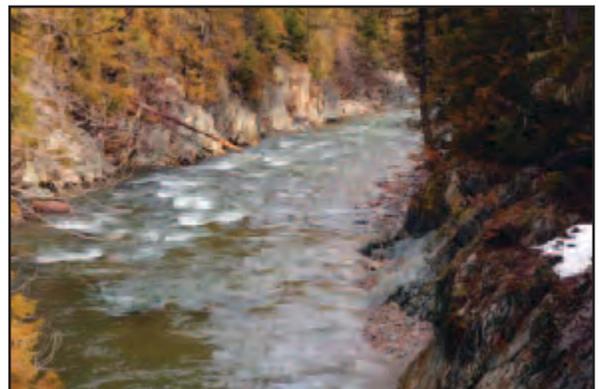
- **Recreation:** The Kootenai River at Kootenai Falls offers kayakers a high volume waterfall, freestyle kayaking opportunities on Super Wave, and challenging big water boating through the gorge below the Falls. The area also offers a short hike to a unique high-volume waterfall, and angling opportunities. The area below Libby Dam has produced state record rainbow trout and mountain whitefish.
- **Fisheries:** The Kootenai River is critical habitat for bull trout, and Region 1 confirms their presence. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has found that “suitable spawning and incubation habitats appear to exist” for the endangered Kootenai River population of the White Sturgeon in the canyon reach of the Kootenai River in Montana.⁶



7.9 Libby Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	11	No	F, R

- **Recreation:** Libby Creek boasts a high quality Class IV creek paddling experience with road access. Good rapids of moderate difficulty, beautiful scenery, and clear water welcome paddlers.
- **Fisheries:** Libby Creek is bull trout critical habitat and Region 1 confirms it possesses a local population.



7.10 Quartz Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	8	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Quartz Creek is bull trout critical habitat and Region 1 confirms it possesses a local population.

⁶ http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/Kootenai_River_white_sturgeon/pdfs/critical-habitat-2008.pdf

7.11 Rock Creek (Source to Clark Fork River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	11	No	F

- **Fisheries:** Rock Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population.



7.12 Ross Creek (Source to Bull Lake)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	8	No	B, F, R, S

- **Botanical:** Ross Creek Cedars Natural Area protects 100 acres of towering old growth cedars.⁷ Cedars line the river corridor for its entire length.
- **Fisheries:** Ross Creek is home to a documented population of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** Absent impassable log jams, the stream offers paddlers a beautiful descent through a Class IV/V gorge. Recognized in at least one guidebook, Ross Creek is one of the few steep creeks in the region that has all the characteristics that make up a desirable creek boating opportunity in Montana.
- **Scenery:** Ross Creek offers visitors views of old growth cedars, sparkling clear-blue water, 25 foot Ross Creek Falls, and a lush river corridor.



⁷ http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/kootenai/about/forest/featured_areas/ross_creek.shtml

7.13 Swamp Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	15	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Swamp Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population; Swamp Creek is also home to documented genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout, and supports high value fisheries in the tributary system and the Clark Fork River. Swamp Creek trail is a popular access point to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.



7.14 Star Creek (FR 4022 to Kootenai River)

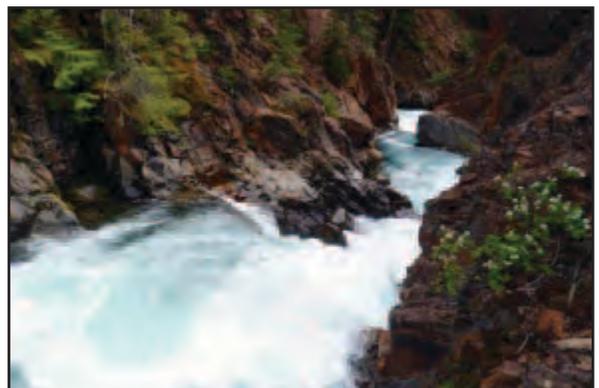
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	8	No	G, S

- **Geology:** Star Creek slides and freefalls through an impressive waterfall studded gorge. The consecutive waterfalls on Star Creek are likely the largest in northwestern Montana.
- **Scenery:** While no designated trail leads to Star Creek Falls, the falls offer a spectacular view for the intrepid hiker.

7.15 Vermillion River (Willow Creek to Noxon Reservoir - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	13	Yes	F, H, R, S

- **Fisheries:** Bull River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed.
- **Recreation:** The Vermillion River features miles of easily accessible blue-water shoals and a short section of bedrock ledges in a tight canyon. Angling and paddling opportunities exist, as well as swimming and other water-based recreation.



7.16 Wigwam River (Source to Canadian Border)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Elk River	4	No	B, F, R, S

- **Botanical:** The Wigwam River is home to 10 rare or sensitive plant species documented by the US Forest Service.
- **Fisheries:** Flowing north into Upper Kootenay drainage of British Columbia, the Wigwam River is famous in both Canada and the US as a globally significant bull trout stronghold, and is designated critical habitat for the species. Within its US reaches it also supports an extensive population of westslope cutthroat trout of likely pure genetic status.

7.17 Yaak River (Confluence of East and North Forks to Kootenai River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Kootenai River	46	Yes	F, H, R, S

- **Recreation:** The Yaak River below Yaak Falls thrills paddlers each year with powerful Class III and IV rapids, as well as the crux rapid Stone Chest which is often portaged. The large drainage area and riverbed make the Yaak enjoyable for a longer season than many nearby runs.
- **Fisheries:** While not critical habitat, Region 1 has determined that bull trout are present in the lower 8 miles of the Yaak River, below Yaak Falls.





8 Lewis and Clark National Forest

Over half of the Lewis and Clark National Forest lies within the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas, but the Forest is largely defined by one of its central geologic features: the Rocky Mountain Front. The Rocky Mountain Front is an iconic, beautiful and unique place where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. Rivers and streams flow from high elevation protected headwaters, through dramatic limestone reefs, and upon leaving the mountains are typically subject to agricultural irrigation diversions. These streams are important cold-water refugia for genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout, culturally important, and offer incredibly scenic recreational opportunities.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

8.1 Badger Creek (North Fork Badger Creek to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Marias River	8	No	R, S

- Recreation:** Badger Creek offers paddlers a remote and stunning trip through a 15 mile long canyon that culminates in rapids as the creek cuts through a classic Rocky Mountain Front limestone reef. Great water quality, mountain views, and the rare chance to paddle from the mountains to the plains characterize paddling this river.



8.2 North Fork Badger Creek (Pool Creek to Badger Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Marias River	8	Yes	F, R

- Fisheries:** Provides exceptionally high quality habitat for one of largest populations of pure strain westslope cutthroat trout east of Continental Divide. (NRI)
- Recreation:** Offers a spectacular and remote paddling experience through limestone mountains.

8.3 South Fork Badger Creek (Source to Badger Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Marias River	4	Yes	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Provides high quality habitat for one of largest populations of pure strain westslope cutthroat trout east of Continental Divide. (NRI)
- **Recreation:** Offers a spectacular and remote paddling experience through limestone mountains.



8.4 Belt Creek (US 89 to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	9	No	G, R

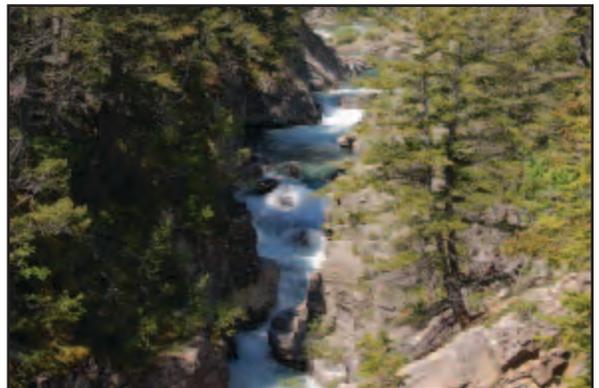
- **Recreation:** Belt Creek courses through a narrow slot canyon on its descent to the Missouri River. While most creeks in such a tight canyon possess intimidating rapids, Belt Creek is a mild Class II float.



8.5 North Fork Birch Creek (Source to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Marias River	7	Yes	G, S

- **Scenery:** Interesting rock formations and diverse vegetation. Series of waterfalls, rapids, and pools are accentuated by spectacular views of rugged mountains in horizon. (NRI)



8.6 Dearborn River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	11	Yes	R, S, W

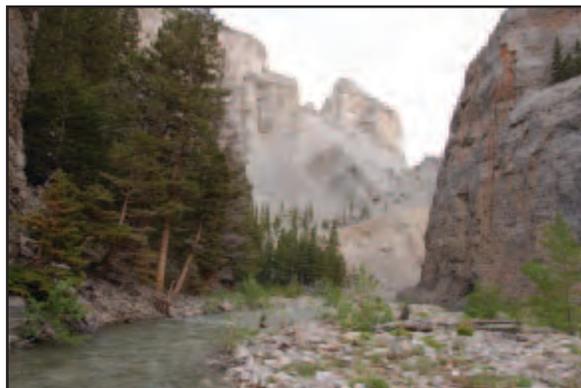
- **Recreation:** The Dearborn River is a sought-after hike-in paddling trip that dishes out numerous Class V rapids and small drops as it cuts through the limestone reefs of the Rocky Mountain Front. After leaving the mountains the Dearborn enters an extremely unique and scenic canyon suitable for intermediate paddlers.
- **Wildlife:** The Dearborn River provides both habitat and a migration corridor for wildlife, and is home to river otters, beavers, bald eagles, and grizzly bears.



8.7 North Fork Deep Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River (Teton River)	6	No	G, S

- **Scenery:** The North Fork of Deep Creek cuts one of the most incised and tortured paths through the Rocky Mountain Front of any Montana stream. Limestone walls tower over the stream as it twists through a tight canyon.



8.8 Judith River (Ming Coulee to Anderson Bridge - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	27	Yes	G, R, S, W

- **Scenery:** Meandering channel and steep valley cliffs. Pristine riparian ecosystem. Wildlife diversity. (NRI)

8.9 Middle Fork Judith River (Arch Coulee to Forest Boundary - see NRI)

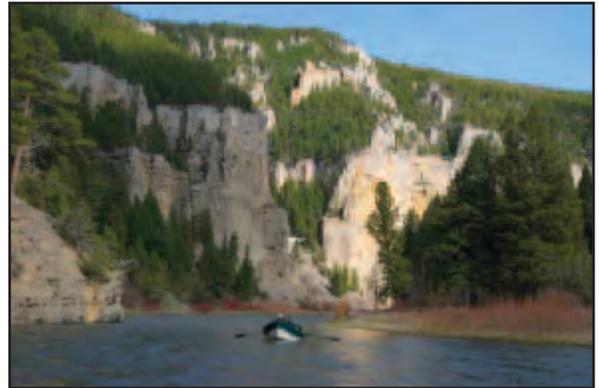
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	5	Yes	C

- **Cultural:** Eight recorded historic sites. Eligible for National Register of Historic Places. (NRI)

8.10 Smith River (Tenderfoot Creek to Deep Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	12	Yes	F, G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** Classic permit limited float trip with great angling opportunities.
- **Scenery:** Winding and meandering of river provides constantly changing spectacular view of rock exposures, arches, caves, pinnacles, and other natural features. (NRI)



8.11 Green Fork Straight Creek (Source to Straight Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Sun River	4	Yes	G, S

- **Scenery/Geology:** Result of snow meltwater from Scapegoat Plateau flowing into sinkhole and carried by vast underground system of limestone caverns. Waterfalls and glacial cirque box canyon. (NRI)

8.12 North Fork Sun River (Pool Creek to South Fork Sun River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	26	Yes	R, W

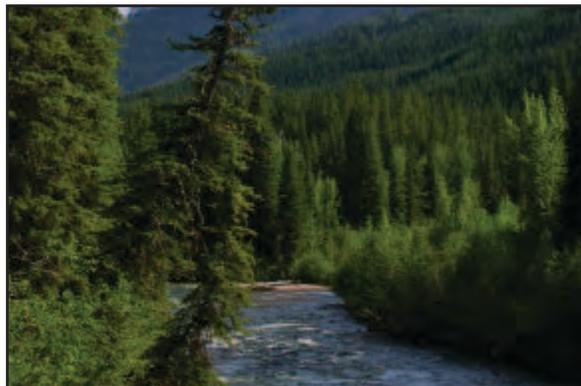
- **Recreation:** Rare opportunity for mild pack raft trip, great wildlife viewing and hiking.



8.13 South Fork Sun River (Sun Lake to North Fork Sun River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	26	Yes	R

- **Recreation:** Incredibly scenic float trip for a wide array of users, great wildlife viewing and hiking.



8.14 Tenderfoot Creek (Falls to Smith River - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Smith River	5	Yes	F

- **Fisheries:** Critical spawning and rearing tributary for Smith River. (NRI)

8.15 Teton River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Missouri River	15	No	G, R, S, W

- **Recreation:** The Teton River offers paddlers a spectacular and accessible trip on swift blue water through towering limestone reefs. Travel on the adjacent road also offers impressive vistas of the stream and its canyon.
- **Wildlife:** The Teton River supports amazingly diverse edge habitats including meadows, fens, and ponds in between canyon and forested sections. It is home to wildlife such as moose, grizzly bears, and osprey.





9 Lolo National Forest

The Lolo National Forest forms a significant part of the backyard playground for Missoula and many smaller towns in Western Montana. The lower Clark Fork watershed has long been a haven for native fish and other species, as well as outdoor recreationists. Streams vary from bluewater streams flowing from inland rainforest and alpine environments to arid valley rivers. To the south, the Lolo National Forest contains Rock Creek, an important native fish stronghold and recreation destination in the middle Clark Fork watershed.

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

9.1 Alder Creek (Source to Rock Creek)

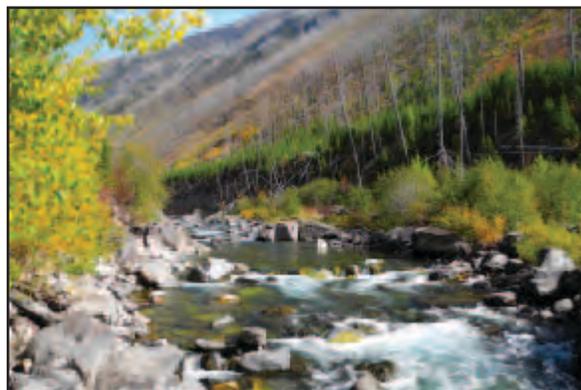
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Rock Creek)	6	No	F

- Fisheries:** Alder Creek supports a spawning population of fluvial (stream migrant) bull trout in the Rock Creek system well out of proportion to its drainage area, and hosts a known genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout population. A substantial portion of the headwaters is in roadless condition, buffering this tributary from the effects of fire and roads in the northern portion of the catchment.

9.2 North Fork Blackfoot River (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Blackfoot River	26	Yes	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** The North Fork Blackfoot is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** The North Fork offers a high quality Class IV hike-in paddling opportunity. A popular hiking and pack trail follows the creek into its headwaters in the Scapegoat Wilderness.
- Scenery:** A hike of just over five miles yields views of the spectacular series of falls on the North Fork.



9.3 Cache Creek (Source to Fish Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Fish Creek)	11	Yes	F, R

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers it home to a local population. Cache Creek flows into the South Fork of Fish Creek, and is a superbly beautiful place. It supports both spawning bull trout as well as genetically pure westslope cutthroat. Because it's within a roadless area, this creek provides high quality habitat for fish. The entire Great Burn has been identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as critical habitat for bull trout, a threatened species under the ESA. The Forest Service has recommended protection of 211,600 acres of the Great Burn as wilderness in their Forest Plans (Clearwater National Forest - 113,000 acres and Lolo National Forest - 98,600 acres).



- Recreation:** Cache Creek lies within the Great Burn Roadless Area, a vast expanse of wild country along the Montana/Idaho border west of Missoula, Montana in the northern Bitterroot Mountains. This primeval landscape burned heavily in the Great Fire of 1910. People can access the high cirques and clear lakes and creeks via the Cache Creek Trail, which parallels Cache Creek, weaving through the "Great Burn" of 1910. Due to abundant wild habitat and clean water, big-game hunting and fishing are the most popular recreation activities, with cross-country-skiing, snowshoeing and backpacking also popular activities.

9.4 Clark Fork River (Siegel Creek to Tamarack Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Pend Oreille River	13	Yes	F, R

- Fisheries:** The Clark Fork is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it home to bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** The Clark Fork offers high quality angling opportunity for float fisherman and shore-based anglers alike.



9.5 Clearwater River (Source to Seeley Lake - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Blackfoot River	13	Yes	F, O, R, W

- Fisheries:** The Clearwater River is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it home to bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** The Clearwater offers a popular flatwater canoe trail as well as a scenic Class II lower trip through a short canyon.



9.6 Fish Creek (Forks to Clark Fork River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	9	No	F, R

- Fisheries:** Fish Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for the species. Fish Creek is the primary drainage for bull trout spawning and rearing in the Middle Clark Fork River. It is also a stronghold for westslope cutthroat trout, and a critical source of trout recruitment for the Clark Fork River fishery. The two major spawning areas for bull trout in the Fish Creek drainage are in the West Fork and North Fork of Fish Creek within the proposed Great Burn wilderness area. Most of the Forks are in roadless area, while the main stem runs through state land (DNRC and FWP) with some US Forest Service lands. The main stem is a superb fishery, and now a State Wildlife Management Area since completion of the Montana Legacy Project.
- Recreation:** Fish Creek is a popular trout fishery with over 2,000 angler days per year. A moderate amount of boating recreation occurs on the creek, as well.



9.7 North Fork Fish Creek (Source to Fish Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Fish Creek)	15	No	F, G, O, R

- **Fisheries:** The North Fork of Fish Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population (see Fish Creek). It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** A trail leads hikers and anglers deep into the Great Burn WSA through a scenic and remote valley.



9.8 South Fork Fish Creek (Cache Creek to Fish Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Fish Creek)	10	No	F, G, O

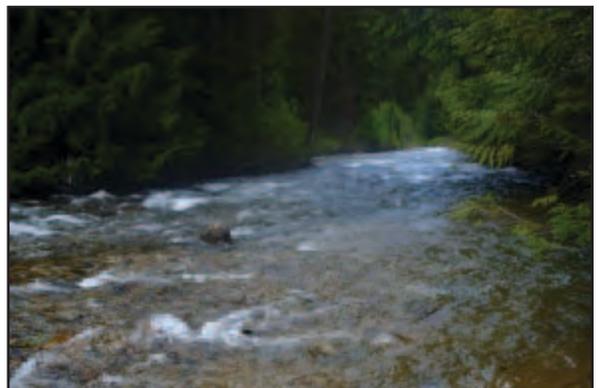
- **Fisheries:** The South Fork of Fish Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout (see Fish Creek and Cache Creek). It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



9.9 West Fork Fish Creek (Source to Fish Creek - see NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Fish Creek)	9	Yes	F, G, O

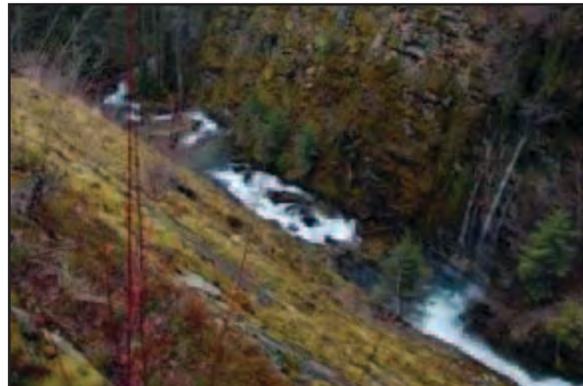
- **Fisheries:** The West Fork of Fish Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population (see Fish Creek). It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Geology:** Rare crystals occur at head of Cedar Log Creek. Ancient groves of cedar that survived 1910 fire exist on upper reaches. (NRI)



9.10 Grave Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Blackfoot River	13	Yes	F, O, R, W

- **Fisheries:** Grave Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Scenery:** The creek tumbles over numerous rapids and Graves Creek Falls in a scenic yet accessible gorge.



9.11 Jocko River (Headwaters to Tribal Land Boundary)

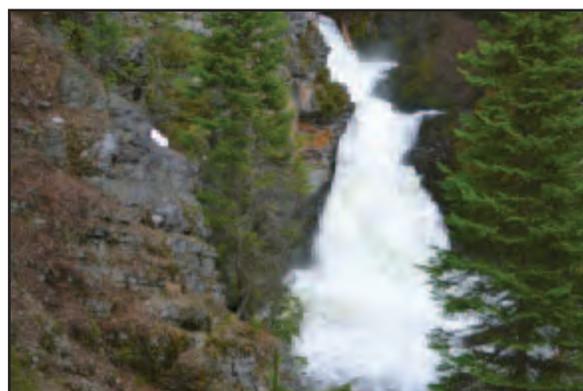
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Flathead River	20	No	C, F, R, S

- **Cultural:** The Jocko River is of cultural significance to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- **Fisheries:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Jocko River as critical habitat for bull trout in 2010.
- **Recreation:** The Jocko River is a popular access point to the southern Mission Mountains Wilderness and Tribal Area
- **Scenic:** Large river cutting through a forested valley with stunning views of the Mission and Rattlesnake Mountains above.

9.12 Lodgepole Creek (See NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Dunham Creek	4	No	F, S

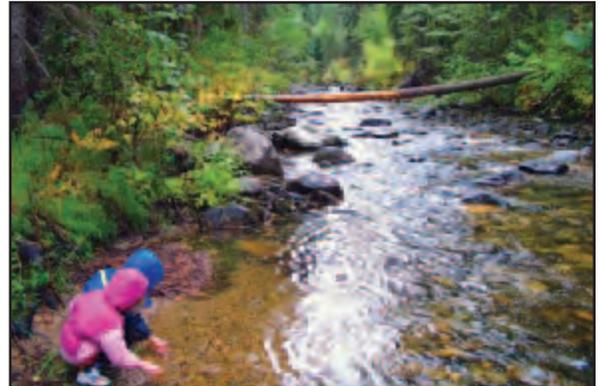
- **Fisheries:** Lodgepole Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Scenery:** Lodgepole Creek tumbles over numerous sheer waterfalls in a tight rocky canyon. While there is no trail, the views of the angular geological strata and waterfalls are worth the scramble.



9.13 South Fork Lolo Creek (See NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Bitterroot River	12	Yes	F, G, R

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers it home to a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.



9.14 Lost Creek (Source to Cedar Creek)

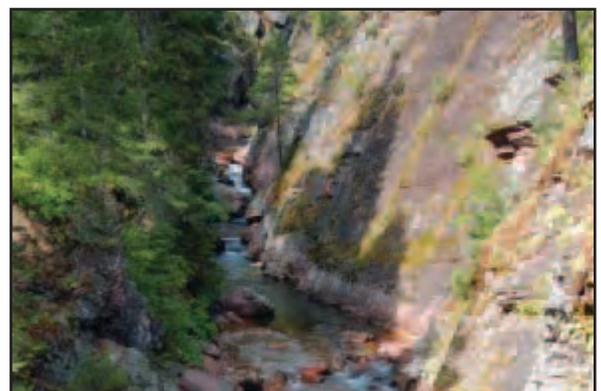
TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Cedar Creek	5	No	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** Lost Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** A popular hiking and fishing destination in the Great Burn proposed wilderness area. Illegal ATV use of the area continues to be an issue.
- Scenery:** Two tiers of waterfalls and glacial tarns, all in a beautiful subalpine setting, make this river a popular destination for scenery buffs

9.15 Monture Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Blackfoot River	17	No	F, R, S

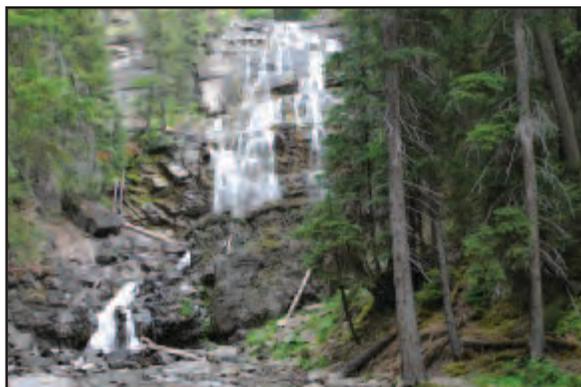
- Fisheries:** Monture Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Scenery:** Monture Creek courses through a vertical canyon of reddish rock along a popular hiking and pack trail. The mountain and canyon views are impressive.
- Recreation:** The trail up Monture Creek is a major backcountry route into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and is a highly scenic and remote adventure.



9.16 Morrell Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clearwater River	7	Yes	F, R, S

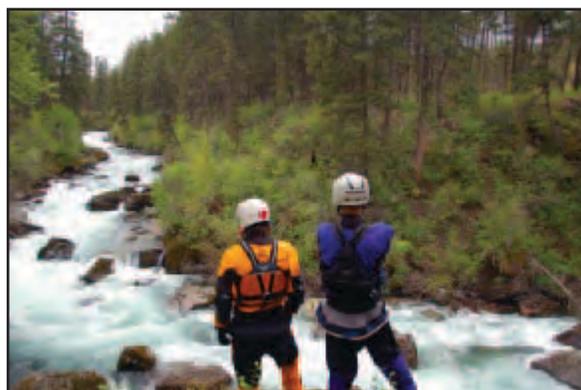
- Fisheries:** Morrell Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Spectacular waterfall and hanging glacier valley above falls. Huge old growth larch, cedar and spruce line middle reaches. (NRI)



9.17 Prospect Creek (Source to Clark Fork River)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	20	No	F, R

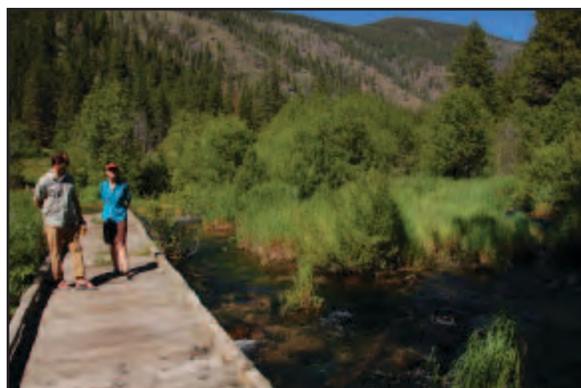
- Fisheries:** Prospect Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Recreation:** Prospect Creek offers paddlers a thrilling Class IV and V paddling experience that is readily accessible and is easy to catch with ideal flows thanks to a USGS gage.



9.18 Ranch Creek (Avon Creek to Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Rock Creek)	10	No	F

- Fisheries:** An important spawning and nursery tributary for migratory bull trout in Lower Rock Creek, Ranch Creek also hosts native westslope cutthroat trout in its headwaters that are likely genetically pure. Introduced trout species that underpin Rock Creek's Blue Ribbon trout fishery also spawn in lower Ranch Creek.



9.19 Rattlesnake Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	19	Yes	F, R, S

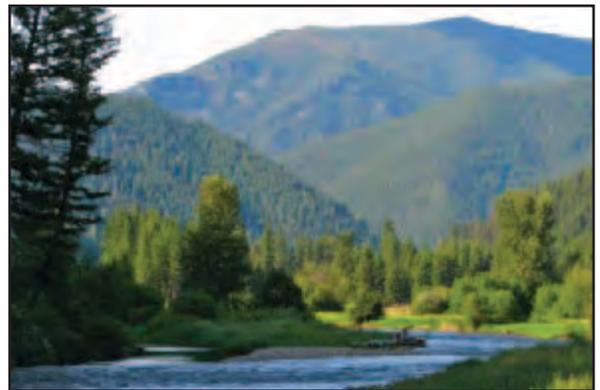
- **Fisheries:** Rattlesnake Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Rattlesnake Creek offers a backyard Wilderness experience for Missoula hikers, anglers, backpackers, mountain bikers, skiers, and paddlers. The creek itself is the centerpiece of the recreation experience.



9.20 Rock Creek (See NRI)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	35	Yes	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Rock Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a priority restoration watershed for bull trout. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Rock Creek is a nationally-renowned blue-ribbon trout stream that experiences high levels of use.



9.21 West Fork Rock Creek (Headwaters to Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Rock Creek	7	No	F, R, S

- **Fisheries:** West Fork Rock Creek is designated as critical habitat for bull trout and is a stronghold for westslope cutthroat trout.
- **Recreation:** Popular fishing and hiking access in the Rock Creek drainage and Skalkaho Pass area, accessed by a Forest Service road.
- **Scenic:** Large, crystal clear creek cutting through a high-elevation meadows and forests with stunning views of the Skalkaho Pass region.



9.22 Stony Creek (Source to Rock Creek, includes West Fork Stony Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Rock Creek)	12	No	F, R

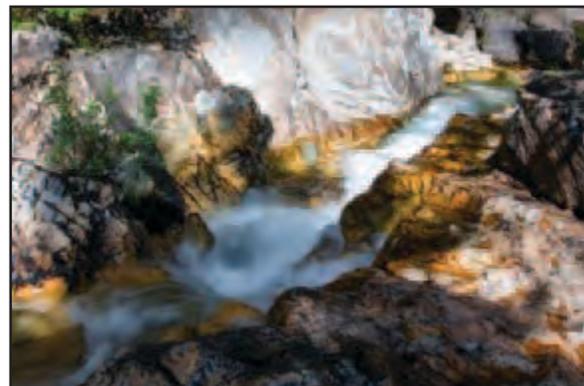
- Fisheries:** A biologically rich, cold, very high quality tributary of the middle reaches of Rock Creek, Stony Creek supports an abundant spawning population of migratory bull trout and slightly hybridized population of native westslope cutthroat trout. Stony Creek’s spectacular water quality and biological productivity are a function of natural groundwater-rich hydrology and abundant surface springs, coupled with the undeveloped, roadless condition of most of its watershed and a relatively intact natural floodplain along its lower miles.
- Recreation:** The lower miles also serve as a nursery for naturalized brown, brook, and rainbow trout that sustain much of Rock Creek’s famed fishery. Stony Creek is paralleled and is directly accessed by Stony Creek Road and a hiking trail that connects to Stony Lake and Skalkaho Pass.



9.23 Straight Creek (Source to North Fork Fish Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River (Fish Creek)	8	Yes	F, R, S

- Fisheries:** While not critical habitat for bull trout, Region 1 considers it home to a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- Scenery:** Straight Creek plummets off of several moderate sized waterfalls and through unique bedrock gorges.
- Recreation:** A trail offers beautiful views of numerous waterfalls and rapids. Kayaking is also a possibility.



9.24 Trout Creek (Source to Forest Boundary)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork River	13	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** Trout Creek is critical habitat for bull trout and Region 1 considers it a local population. It is also a stronghold for native westslope cutthroat trout, a Forest Service sensitive fish species.
- **Recreation:** Trout Creek provides a highly valued creek-boating opportunity within an easy drive of Missoula. Several vertical drops are peppered through a relatively long technical river trip.



9.25 Welcome Creek (Source to Rock Creek)

TRIBUTARY OF:	MILEAGE	USFS ELIGIBLE	ORVs
Clark Fork (Rock Creek)	7	No	F, R

- **Fisheries:** With the majority of its catchment protected inside Welcome Creek Wilderness, Welcome Creek enjoys stable flows of cold, clean, pure water that supports an abundant and easily observed population of migratory bull trout. This stream is an important contributor to the migratory bull trout population in Rock Creek and the Clark Fork River. Welcome Creek also supports a resident (nonmigratory) population of bull trout. Westslope cutthroat trout in Welcome Creek are partly hybridized with introduced rainbow trout, though in its headwaters the stream might harbor genetically pure cutthroat populations that have not yet been sampled.
- **Recreation:** The lower miles support naturalized populations of rainbow and brown trout, and provide a uniquely accessible, high quality, small-stream, wilderness fishing experience. Welcome Creek is paralleled and accessed by the principal loop trail in the Welcome Creek Wilderness.



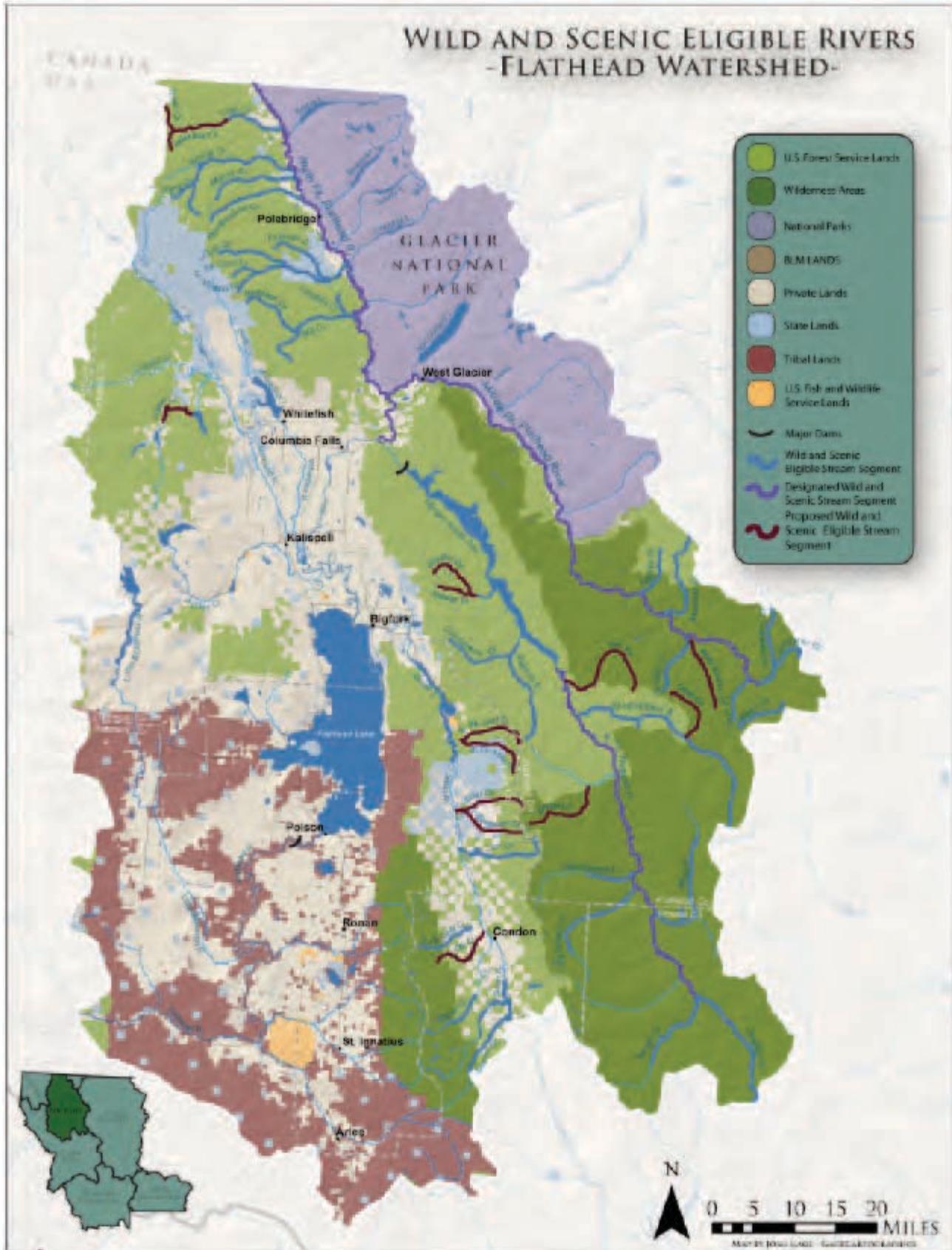
A Wild and Scenic Eligible Rivers in Western Montana



B Clark Fork Watershed



C Flathead Watershed



F Upper Missouri Watershed

