

MONTANA'S



MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Explore Roads Less Traveled





Warm welcome from a young rider south of Jordan | Rick and Susie Graetz

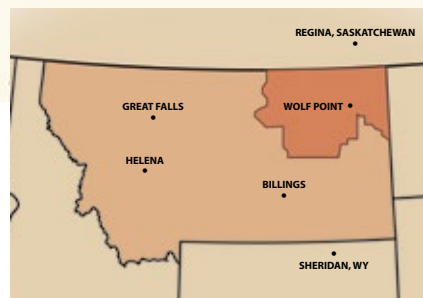
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Cover photo: Hiking in the Sand Arroyo Badlands CMR National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz

Montana's Missouri River Country



CONTENTS

An Invitation.....	5
Under Montana's Biggest Sky.....	6
And Indeed, this is Big Sky Country.....	8
Roadways & Byways of MT's Missouri River Country....	10
Highway 191.....	12
Highway 2.....	20
Highway 200.....	34
Montana State Map (center spread).....	42
Highway 16.....	44
Highway 24.....	52
Highway 248 and 5.....	54
Highway 13.....	58
County Fairs and Rodeos.....	61
Birding Trail.....	62
The Night Skies of Missouri River Country.....	63
Native Americans.....	65
Wildlife of Missouri River Country.....	66
Hunting & Fishing.....	69
Dinosaur Trail.....	74
Lewis and Clark.....	76
Accommodations.....	80
Information Sources.....	82

Miles from Wolf Point to:

Bismarck, ND	292
Regina, Sask.	211
Minneapolis, MN	714
Spokane, WA	703
Sheridan, WY	421
Billings, MT	294
Helena, MT	411
Great Falls, MT	321

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The Missouri River Country Website

Every two years, an updated travel planner is issued, new information is researched, compiled and added to the website.

Our goal is to develop a website for you that can serve as an encyclopedia to northeast Montana. The Missouri River Country site contains past travel planners, numerous essays on all aspects of this corner of Montana, and photography. We welcome you to use it along with this current edition as your guide to a beautiful and uncommon territory on roads less traveled.

LEARN MORE • PLAN MORE • SEE MORE
AT MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY'S NEW WEBSITE

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Snow Creek in the CMR | Rick and Susie Graetz



Daniels Co. Rodeo roper. | Daniels County Ledger

Explore Roads Less Traveled...

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

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

Bev Harbaugh

Bev Harbaugh
President Missouri River Country Board of Directors





Under Montana's Biggest Sky...This is Missouri River Country

Heading toward the sunrise and leaving the abrupt wall of the Northern Rocky Mountains behind, one approaches the most magnificent prairie country in the nation, the northeast quadrant of the Big Sky—Missouri River Country—an uncommon piece of geography.

Island mountains, buttes, river breaks and canyons, badlands and a largely untouched landscape are the hallmarks of this big territory. If Lewis and Clark went up against the current of the big Missouri today, 200 years later, they would still recognize much of what they viewed back then.

Missouri River Country is where Montana's first known history was played out. Millions of bison migrated through the territory and nomadic Plains Indians followed them. The shaggy beasts sustained these great Indian Nations by providing food, clothing and shelter.

Much of early-day Montana deserves the description the Wild West, but the Little Rocky Mountains and the country rolling south into the Missouri Breaks in the western sectors of MRC was perhaps the epitome of the Old West etched on movie screens. A little over 100 years ago, the characters of those times...cattle barons, gold seekers, outlaws, cowboys, vigilantes, rustlers and horse thieves went about their way here.

Northeast Montana's centerpiece is the Missouri River. As a route of western expansion, it had few equals and became Montana's lifeline. These landscape descriptions are but a few of a territory fitted with awesome prairie scenery. And places like the Charles M. Russell and Medicine Lake national wildlife refuges not only encompass incredible beauty, but are home to wildlife populations unparalleled on the high plains.

Towns are the essence of this territory where the natural forms capture attention. Social and commercial activities interact within them in a way that is all but disappearing across America. A genuine welcoming atmosphere prevails.

Let the adventure begin...

A high plains hike near Fort Peck Lake | Tony Bynum

And indeed— this is *Big Country!*

Not only in terms of its enormous sprawling landscape, but also in the depth and color of its past, legends, wildlife populations and in the smiles of its people!

Harboring unique landforms, grand scenes intermingle with an abundance of simple grandeur. Space, much of it undisturbed, is one of its greatest commodities and the feeling of no borders or confinement where one can stretch and breathe prevails.

Missouri River Country is an impressive swath of Montana's northern prairie, and big enough to contain distinct regions corralled under one banner.

We, the residents of this quiet corner of Montana, invite you to explore Missouri River Country's diverse landscape and to discover our rich history. The words that follow capture the essence of Missouri River Country. Let them, along with the colorful images, entice you to create new life experiences on your journey through a very uncommon portion of Montana.

Looking north into the Missouri River Breaks from the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Graetz









The Roadways and Byways of Montana's Missouri River Country

Northeastern Montana's Missouri River Country occupies a vast swath of geography—a powerful landscape under an expansive sky—it is about 125 miles from the Canadian border to its southernmost bounds and as the prairie falcon flies, nearly 250 miles from its sunset side to “Dakota.”

Many of the roads through this region of Big Sky Country follow historic routes created by: indigenous peoples as they pursued massive bison herds, intrepid pioneers making their way West over rutted wagon train trails, the dauntless Pony Express, and cowboys following the Texas and Chisholm trails driving cattle north into Montana to winter on the nutritious tall prairie grasses of what is now Missouri River Country.

Today's traveler wanting to explore new, colorful, and historic territory on roadways that are etched in the antiquity of the west has just that opportunity in Missouri River Country—a place long on prairie beauty and short on human intrusion.

**The Old West can still be imagined here—
follow along and see why!**

Riders on the Sand Creek Clydesdales Ranch—Jordan | Rick and Susie Graetz



US HWY 191

Missouri River Country's Western Frontier



With the Judith Mountains in your rear-view mirror heading north on US Hwy 191, about 16 miles from where the highway coming out of Lewistown turns abruptly left, the road reaches a high point before descending to the Missouri River and the far southwest corner of Missouri River Country. Here the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR), sprawls before you in all compass directions and presents one of the most magnificent views in this territory...river breaks, rolling hills of short-grass prairie, a mighty river, scattered plots of pine forests. And straight ahead the Little Rocky Mountains are in sight. Your adventure in the wide-open spaces of what was once the true Wild West of history has just begun!



The Missouri River at the Fred Robinson Bridge | Rick and Susie Graetz

Some of the most colorful tales of the American West were acted out in the mountains, coulees, river breaks and sweeping grasslands of this northern prairie landscape. At one time it provided habitat for dinosaurs and other primeval critters, and it also experienced the worst of the brutal winter of 1886-1887 that put an end to the open range cattle industry.

Its wildlife population was legendary—and it still is today. With the exception of grizzly bears and bison, every species that was in residence when the Corps of Discovery came up the Missouri more than 200 years ago, continues to call the western reaches of the CMR home.





The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

One of America's great prairie wilderness landscapes and the crown jewel of the nation's wildlife refuge system, it is 1.1 million acres surrounded by 2 million acres of public BLM lands and it completely encompasses Fort Peck Lake. It is the undisputed pride and joy of Missouri River Country. Looking eastward from the Fred Robinson Bridge, the CMR extends for 145 miles. About halfway across Missouri River Country.

Before descending to the river, don't miss an opportunity to visit the Sand Creek Wildlife Station to get a map that shows the byways you can take from this region of the CMR.

What to do and see:

- **CMR Auto Tour Route**—north side of the Missouri.
- **Slippery Ann**—CMR autumn elk viewing—north side of the Missouri.
- **Missouri River Crossing at Kipp Landing**—James Kipp Recreation Area—camping and boat launch.
- **Buffalo Camp Campground**
Managed by the American Prairie Preserve, this public campground is located 40 miles east of US 191 on the Dry Fork Road. Coming from the south, it is directly across from the first road that leads to Zortman. 13 sites, electricity available, access to the CMR, possible wildlife sightings.

On the Matador Ranch. | Rick and Susie Graetz

The Little Rockies

From a distance they resemble atolls rising from the prairie sea of north central Montana. Although not very lofty, the highest point is 5,720-foot Antoine Butte, they reach 2,500 feet above the surrounding plains and can be seen from 75 miles away. Native Americans migrating through this territory called them “the Wolf Mountains.” And before they were forced off the land, the free-roaming Plains Indians hunted enormous bison herds that passed in the range’s shadow.

During the years 1870-1900, this was the setting for the true Old West. Here, the characters of those times—cattle barons, gold seekers, outlaws, cowboys, vigilantes, wood hawks, trappers, whiskey traders, rustlers and horse thieves—went about their business.

Add a visit to these mountains and the towns of Landusky and Zortman to your travel plans.

Right: Gold panning in the Little Rockies | Carla Hunsley

Below: Little Rockies vista | Rick and Susie Graetz





What to do and see:

- **Explore Zortman and Landusky**—Towns of the Old West.
- **Gold panning**, camping, hiking, ATV use, skiing and snowshoeing, scenic views and drives.
- **Fort Belknap Indian Reservation** in the Little Rockies is home to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Nations. The tribe maintains the Mission Canyon scenic drive reached from the west side of these mountains.

For information on tribal lands, contact the Fort Belknap Indian Community (406-353-2205).





MALTA

Reaching Malta, Hwy 191 continues pointing north to the Canadian border and the Port of Morgan. This 51-mile stretch of roadway traverses scenic hill country and passes stretches of the Milk River and Whitewater Creek.

Staying in Malta overnight allows plenty of time to backtrack to the Little Rockies or explore to the north.

Important note:

Port of Morgan—MT Hwy 191

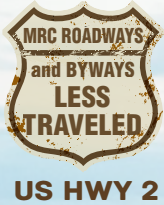
June 1–Sept 15, 8:00am-9:00pm

Sept 16–May 31, 9:00am-6:00pm
(406-674-5248)



Above: Elk bedding down for a nap. | Rick and Susie Graetz

Left: Enjoying a swim just south of Malta. | Rick and Susie Graetz



US Hwy 2— The Route of the Empire Builder



US Hwy 2 descends from the rise of the Northern Rockies and begins its journey to the east, it now takes on the name, the Hi-Line. A less-used title is the Route of the Empire Builder—so named for James Hill, who developed the Great Northern Railroad from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Seattle. In Montana, the roadway often parallels the tracks. From Malta and the beginning of your journey on Hwy 2 across Missouri River Country to the North Dakota line, you will log about 195 miles. Along the way...

MALTA

Malta serves as a base for following US Hwy 191 to the south and for the start of your exploration eastward along the Hi-Line. This, the seat of Phillips County, represents the Old West and New West at its best. Proud of its heritage, Malta was originally a siding for the Great Northern Railway—it became Siding 54 on August 13, 1887. Malta was also the destination for many of the herds following the cattle trails up from Texas. After a winter on the open range, the cattle were driven to town and shipped off on the rails to Chicago. Overworked cowboys, free of their duties, had time to celebrate in town.

After the days of the open range came to an end, it was the railroad that helped the ranchers thrive. In 1910, through the Homestead Act, thousands of would-be farmers flocked to the area. While farming is important to the area today, it is still primarily considered cow country.

What to do and see:

- **The Phillips County Museum** (406-654-1037).
- **H.G. Robinson House and Gardens**—Built in 1898.
- **Milk River Bird Sanctuary Trail**
- **The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum & Field Station**
- **Trafton Park**





- “M” Walking Trail
- Marian Hills Golf Course
- Phillips County Motor Sports and the Hi-Line Drag Strip—Races on various weekends from June to Sept.
- Fourchette Bay—Access from Malta to designated water recreation sites, including boat launch facilities at Fourchette Bay, is via several seasonal roads that pass through the CMR. Primitive routes lead to hiking in the Larb Hills and Iron Stake Ridge, offering wildlife sightings, expansive views of the Missouri River, the breaks to the south, and badlands topography.

Information sources:

The Malta Chamber of Commerce is located at 405 N 1st Ave E. Call (406-654-1776) for information on all of these Malta highlights and more.

Left: Great Plains Dinosaur Museum photo Above: North of Malta. | Rick and Susie Graetz

The Valley of the Milk River

The Milk River country's geography ranges from rolling hills and badlands to low buttes and shallow valleys. It has a rugged, primitive beauty composed of windswept plains once covered by glaciers. The Milk River first touches Missouri River Country near Malta. For the most part, the river plays hide and seek with US Hwy 2 while providing irrigation water for crops and livestock. This is big ranch country and the back roads branching off Hwy 2 take you through grazing lands and river bottoms—the kind of stuff seen in western movies of old. Public river access sites are limited, so most fishermen float the water.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

Seven miles east of Malta on old Hwy 2, the refuge is one of the best nature viewing areas in Montana. More than 230 different species of birds and waterfowl have been identified. Bowdoin is considered a prime place to see pronghorn antelope in their natural habitat.



Great Plains Dinosaur Museum greeter | Rick and Susie Graetz

What to do and see:

- 15-mile circular tour route.
- Wildlife sighting opportunities on the tour route and also on a 1/2 mile-long walking trail.

Information sources:

Bowdoin NWR (406-654-2863) | e: bowdoin@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/bowdoin









Nelson Reservoir

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

Enjoy a soak at the "Oasis on the Hi-Line," between Malta and Saco on Hwy 2. Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs Resort includes multiple pools, sauna room, fully-furnished cabins, RV camping and a food court to enjoy. For reservations, visit the hot springs website at www.sbhotsprings.com or call (406-527-3320).



Big fish in MRC's big lakes | Dan Enebo

SACO

The name Saco was derived in the same fashion as Malta's and many other railroad communities along Hwy 2. This time the finger of a Great Northern Railway employee landed on Saco, Maine. A backcountry road that can be primitive in "other places" leads south out of Saco to the CMR and Fort Peck Lake.

HINSDALE

Named for Reverend Hinsdale, a friend of James J. Hill, the builder of the Great Northern Railway, the town grew up around a railway siding. In 1898, a Milk River flood inundated the settlement and residents packed up and moved to safer ground about 1.5 miles to the west.

Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

Between Hinsdale and Glasgow a road heads north into this prairie wilderness.



Harvesting near Glasgow | Rick and Susie Graetz

GLASGOW

Getting its start as a Great Northern Railway siding, and now one the largest communities in northeast Montana, Glasgow is often called Fort Peck Lake’s “Capital Town.” It offers plenty of amenities including ample lodging, a brewery, dining and many other services including a regional medical facility with Stat Air. Fort Peck Lake and the CMR National wildlife refuge is just 19 road miles away.

The opening of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to homesteaders in 1910 and the Milk River Irrigation Project delivered droves of settlers to the area. Glasgow became a supply center. And construction work on Fort Peck Dam in the late 1930s brought in more than 10,000 workers and families.



Today, Glasgow is a stable prosperous community with an economy driven by agriculture and businesses that service a wide area of north central Montana.

What to do and see:

- **Valley County Pioneer Museum**—Exhibits and artifacts of all aspects of life on the northern Montana prairie.
- **Children’s Museum of Northeast Montana**—Provides hands-on activities for kids and the World Wildlife Experience for all ages. One hundred twenty wildlife species from across the globe can be viewed and photographed.
www.nemtchildrensmuseum.com (406-228-4FUN)



Rock Creek Canyon | Rick and Susie Graetz

- **Home Run Pond**—Free fishing for kids 14 years and under—no license required. Tackle and equipment can be checked out free of charge any time at the Cottonwood Inn & Suites located on US Hwy 2.
- **Bicycle Park**—Located adjacent to US Hwy 2, across from the Cottonwood Inn & Suites.
- **South Valley Wildlife Viewing Area**

Resources for public lands accessed from Glasgow, including the CMR and Fort Peck Lake:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
fwp.mt.gov (406-228-3700)

CMR Fort Peck Wildlife Station (406-526-3464)

CMR Office—Lewistown www.cmr.fws.gov (406-538-8706)

US Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Peck (406-526-3411)

Bureau of Land Management in Glasgow (406-228-3750)

The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages the landscapes on the Refuge and the Corps of Engineers manages the recreation areas.

Amtrak Station in Glasgow served by Amtrak's daily *Empire Builder* line. Car rental available in Glasgow. Check directory in back of this guide.



Waiting for the doors to open. | Rick and Susie Graetz

Fort Peck Lake

With a shoreline of over 1,500 miles, and a length of 134 miles, Fort Peck Lake is a stand out in the northern Great Plains and a center for recreation and wildlife viewing in Missouri River Country.

Forty species of warm water fish attract anglers from across the Nation and boating on its big waters is unparalleled. But there is more to Fort Peck Lake than its waters. This shimmering beauty is surrounded by a landscape that can be best described as prairie magnificence—the 1.1 million-acre C. M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Buttes, badlands, river breaks, canyons and sprawling vistas create outstanding habitat for what seems like countless varieties of wild critters.

What to do and see:

- **Fort Peck Town**—In the late 1860s, Fort Union, just across the border in today's North Dakota, held sway as the most important fur trading post on the Upper Missouri. But, roughly 180 river miles upstream, the old Fort Peck trading post was a close second. Besides being a successful post, it served as the Indian agency for the Assiniboiné, Sioux and several other tribes until 1878 when the agency was moved to its current location in Poplar.

In 1934, a new town named Fort Peck, located about 2 miles north of the post, was built to house Army Corps of Engineers' employees involved in the construction of the Fort Peck Dam.

- **The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum**—18,000 square feet of pure entertainment featuring paleontology, wildlife and the construction of Fort Peck Dam. Two of



Glasgow Home Run Pond | Rick and Susie Graetz

Montana's largest aquariums show off the inhabitants of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River. In the phenomenal Exhibition Hall, a skeletal cast of the Tyrannosaurus Rex discovered 20 miles SE of town towers over everything.

Also included are other dinosaur fossils, present-day and historical animals of the CMR National Wildlife Refuge, hands-on interpretive displays, and a false-fronted, early 20th century street scene. Ask about kid's fishing and hiking trails (406-526-3493).

- **Fort Peck Summer Theatre**—Built during the depression to help entertain the dam workers, the theater has seating for 1,200. Today, through the talent of professional summer stock actors, laughter and music ring from the rafters of this exotic and historic building. May thru Aug, Fri–Sat at 7:30pm and Sun at 4pm (406-228-9216).
- **Montana Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament**—2nd weekend in July.
- **Lewis and Clark Overlook**—1/2 mile east of the dam powerhouse on Hwy 24. Interpretive signage, picnic area and restroom facilities are handicap accessible. Continue East on Hwy 24 and you will cross the dam's spillway. To the left is the road to the Milk River Observation Point and Hiking Trail. This is a great chance to get out of the car, stretch your legs and see the cream colored water of the Milk River enter and stream parallel with the Missouri.
- **Kiwanis Park**—Surrounded by shady cottonwood trees, picnic shelters, restrooms and grills, this a perfect place to host BBQs, family reunions, and other large or small events. Conveniently located in front of the Kiwanis Downstream Campground, it is within walking distance to the Fort Peck Interpretive Center.



Above: Rodeo entertainment in Circle | Jana Hance Below: Fort Peck Interpretive Center | Rick and Susie Graetz





Missouri River near Oswego | Rick and Susie Graetz

FRAZER

Home to the famous annual Red Bottom Pow Wow the 3rd weekend in June.

WOLF POINT

Wolf Point is on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and sits in a bend of the Missouri River. There are several accounts of how Wolf Point came to be named. The most accepted version claims that, during a miserable 1860's winter, "wolfers" killed several hundred gray wolves that froze before they could be skinned for their pelts. The carcasses were stacked in high piles at their camp along the Missouri waiting for the steamboats coming up river that spring. Indians took over the landing and camp before the skins could be removed; the putrid piles remained. They became a visible and scented landmark, especially to the steamboats traveling the river.

What to do and see:

- **Wolf Point Area Museum**—Displays artifacts of the area's early settlers and Indians, including period clothing, arrowheads, and weapons. Free admission, open Memorial Day thru Labor Day, Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm (406-653-1912).
- **Airport Golf Club**—A private 9-hole course accessible to the public. The seasonal, partially wooded links are playable from daylight to dark (406-653-2161).
- **Wild Horse Stampede**—Montana's oldest rodeo is a three-day event including a PRCA sanctioned rodeo that brings the best cowboys to town. There is a parade each day, along with a carnival, the Human Stampede Run/Walk, the world famous wild horse race, kids' stick-horse rodeo, street dances and cowboy church services. Chamber of Commerce www.wolfpointchamber.com (406-653-2012)





POPLAR

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

What to do and see:

- **Fort Peck Community College**—Tribally owned and chartered by the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, it has a satellite campus in Wolf Point. www.fpcc.edu

What to do and see:

- **Culbertson Museum**—Guided tours show early-day businesses, church, school and home. Open daily May thru Sept, 8am–6pm, free admission (406-787-6320).
- **NE Montana Threshing Bee**—4th weekend in Sept.

BAINVILLE

A bit north of the Missouri and east of Culbertson on Hwy 2 is Bainville, a place



Kayaks on the Nelson Reservoir | Zach and Addison Ulrich

- **City Museum**—Located in the old Tribal Jail built around 1920 and now on the National Historic Register. Collections are displayed in the cells. Open June 1–Labor Day, Mon–Fri, 11am–5pm, free admission (406-768-5223).

BROCKTON

Invites you to celebrate the Badlands with a powwow the fourth weekend in June.

CULBERTSON

One of the oldest towns in Montana east of the mountains, Culbertson got its start about 1888.

of note. This is the eastern-most Montana town on the “Hi-Line,” the road that stretches across the entire northern tier of the state. It’s 641 miles from Bainville to Troy the western-most Montana community on the route—the road’s entire length in Montana is 667 miles.

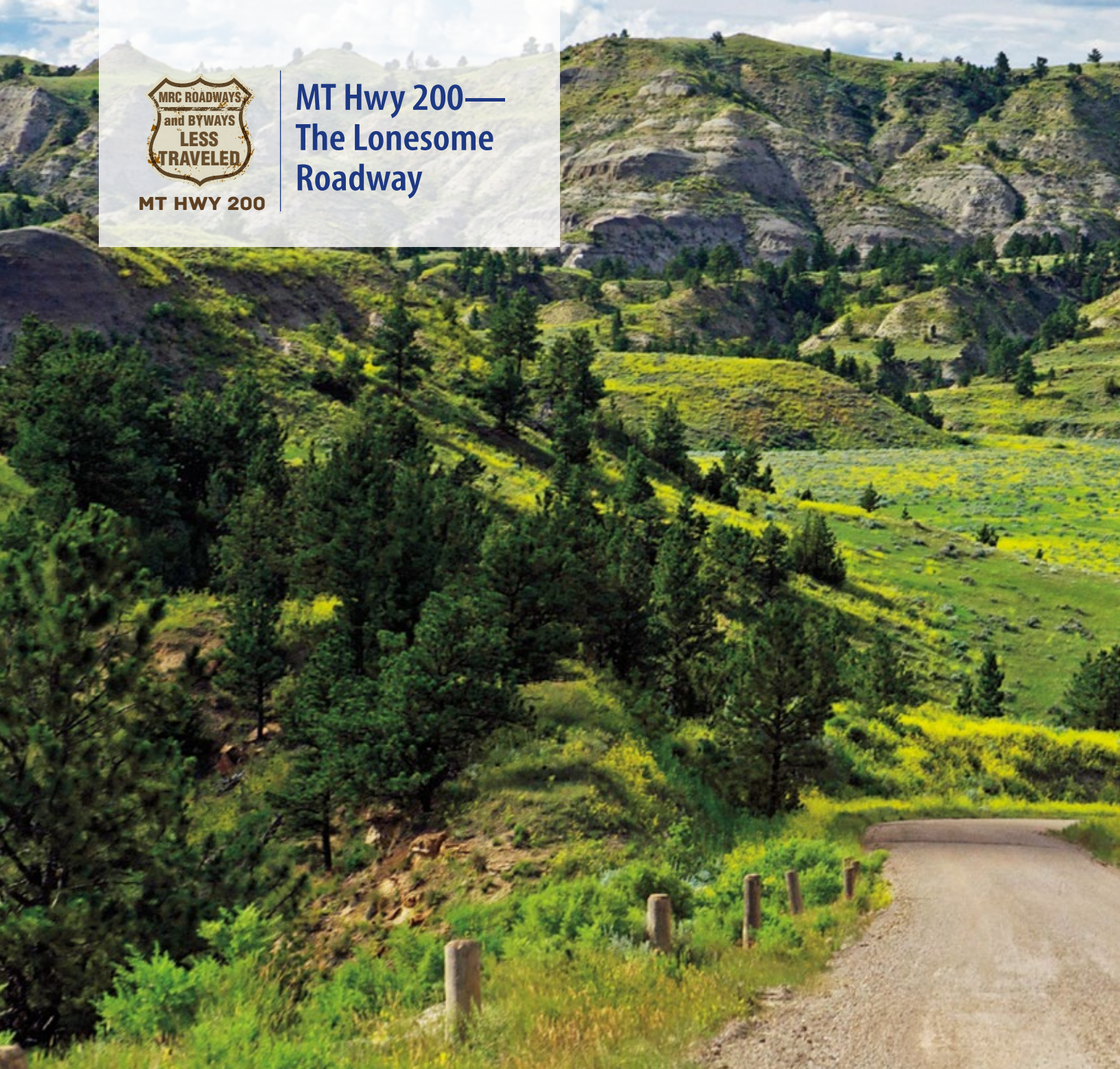
What you will find...

Pioneer Pride Museum—Features rooms furnished as they were still in the days of the pioneers. An old jail and a 1929 fire truck add to the attraction. Open Memorial Day–Labor Day, Tues–Sun, 1:30pm–4:30pm, free admission (406-769-2067).



MT HWY 200

MT Hwy 200— The Lonesome Roadway



Like its counterpart to the north—US Hwy 2, Montana Hwy 200 extends across the state from the Idaho border to the North Dakota line and in doing so collects 706 miles. MRC claims 206 of the total miles from the Musselshell River crossing at Mosby to Fairview. In between, it gathers all the glory the prairie has to offer—hilly short-grass country, river bottoms, pine forests valleys, badlands, wheat fields, pleasing towns, ranches, farms and the Sheep Mountains.

Sometimes referred to as Lonesome Hwy 200, travelers can go for long stretches and only occasionally see another vehicle. Instead, they have easy-on-the-mind prairie scenery to view, a big sky above, and a minimal human imprint.



In the Piney Buttes | Rick and Susie Graetz

Along the way...

- **Musselshell River crossing at Mosby**—Once a thriving Homestead Era community, this ghost of its former self features an RV Park and eastward and up the rise, a new rest area with interpretive signs, restrooms and a picnic area.
- **Hill Ranch Oasis**—A ranch family owned and operated bed and breakfast.

- **Sand Springs**—Was a bustling town with a newspaper and a stop over for cowboys on the range. Now the modern-day traveler will find a convenience store, gas, post office, RV park, school and a church.

A road heads north from town into the Missouri River Breaks and the CMR Wildlife Refuge.

JORDAN

This picturesque community took hold in 1896 when Arthur Jordan, a frequent hunter to the area, settled his family in a tent on the banks of Big Dry Creek. It wasn't long before he had a store and trading business in place. The town and surrounding expanse of rangeland have retained their cowboy and western heritage. False-fronted buildings on Main Street confirm the Old West flavor of the community's early days.

Jordan is the seat of Garfield County and gate to some of the most remote and beautiful mix of deep river canyons, badlands and prairie wilderness in America. The most rugged of the terrain is part of the CMR National Wildlife Refuge. Out here, antelope, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, wild turkeys, sage grouse and numerous waterfowl make their home.

North of town, the river breaks and badlands are part of the Hell Creek Geologic Formation and one of the world's richest fossil beds. Scientists have often called the area a "paleontologist's dream." Some of the planet's most impressive discoveries have made here including in the summer of 2016, a well-preserved, 2,500 lb T.Rex skull, and in 1902, the first complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton.

What to do and see:

- **A network of roads** leads from Jordan to the river breaks and badlands of the CMR and reach Fort Peck Lake at several points.
- **Boat launch, camping and recreation sites**—On this south side of the lake include Gilbert Creek, Hell Creek, Snow Creek, Round Butte and Devil's Creek. Each of these places allows for camping and hiking and ATV use on designated trails. See the CMR map.
- **CMR Jordan Wildlife Station**—Has maps, brochures, directions and information on the CMR National Wildlife Refuge—call the CMR in Lewistown, Montana (406-538-8706).
- **Garfield County Museum**—Dinosaur displays, including a full-sized Triceratops and a T-Rex head, exhibits of historic prairie (406-557-2517).



- **Sand Creek Clydesdale Ranch**—A working cattle ranch where guests are given the opportunity to be as involved as much as they want with the everyday operations of the ranch. sandcrklyds@gmail.com (406-557-2865)
- **Lodging, meals, groceries, gas and medical facilities**—Jordan has plenty of amenities for guests who are staying on or just passing through.
- **East of Jordan**—From MT Hwy 200 many "country roads" lead to the CMR and Fort Peck Lake.



Hellcreek badlands | Chuck Haney, Travel Montana

- **MT Hwy 59**—Leads southeast out of Jordan heading to Interstate 90 and Miles City 82 miles away. This open prairie country, drained by Little Dry Creek, is known for its hunting and memories of the Homestead Era as seen in the town of Cohagen. Quiet now, this community was once a thriving place boasting of a high school and a general store. A grade school, post office and community hall still serve the small population.
- **Colorful Badland scenery**—About 25 miles east of Jordan.
- **MT Hwy 24 Junction with MT Hwy 200**—37 miles east of Jordan, MT Hwy 24 heads north along the east side of the CMR to Fort Peck and Glasgow (see separate section on Hwy 24). At the junction, Flowing Wells Rest Stop offers ample parking for all sized “rigs,” restrooms, picnic tables, and interpretive signs.
- **On the way to Circle**—A picturesque, billowy and far reaching landscape of grasslands and wheat fields, bright green in early summer and gold as the warm months move towards autumn and the harvest.





Far left: Beautifully restored prairie wagon. | Rosalie Bryan Above: Haxby Road, east of Jordan | Rick and Susie Graetz

CIRCLE

One of the state's first big cattle ranches got its name from the shape of its brand—a circle. In 1884, the ranch on the Redwater River was named the Circle Ranch and the nearby town became known simply as Circle. Today, it is still very agriculturally oriented. Near town, the sandstones and shale of the Fort Union Geologic Formation contains fossils of snails and clams from an ancient time when a shallow inland sea covered this area.

What to do and see:

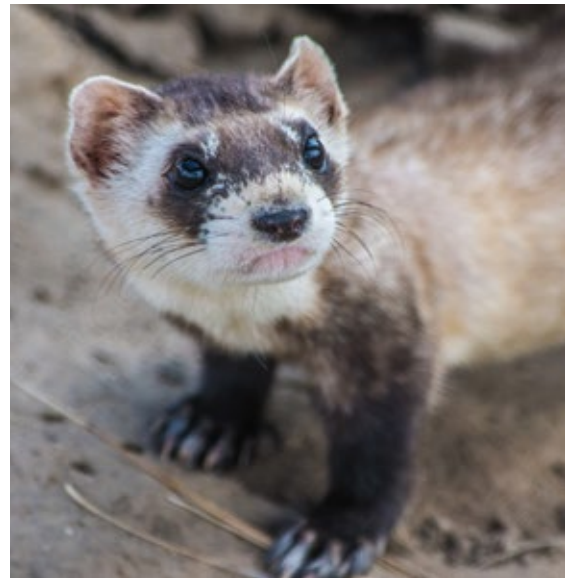
- **McCone County Museum**—An interesting collection of early-day buildings are just part of the seven thousand items of local historical interest to see. Its wildlife collection consists of more than 7,000 items mounted and displayed in their natural settings. May 1–Sept 30, Mon– Fri, 9am–5pm (406-485-2414).
- **Lodging, meals, groceries, gas and medical facilities**—Circle is well-equipped for guests who are staying in or those just passing through.
- **Big and Little Sheep Mountains**—To the south of town, the Big and Little Sheep Mountains, a distinct range of high sandstone hills named after the Audubon Sheep that lived there until the early 1900s, ascend to a lofty 300 feet above the adjacent country. They also serve as a divide for the Yellowstone and Missouri river drainages—south to the Yellowstone and north to the Missouri.
- **CMR National Wildlife Refuge and Fort Peck Lake access**—For visitors staying in Circle, the eastern edge of the CMR, as well as the Big Dry Arm (a southern extension of Fort Peck Lake), is easy to reach via Hwy 200 and 24. Water recreation, camping and launching facilities on the Big Dry Arm of Fort Lake are at Nelson Creek, McGuire Creek, Bug Creek, South Fork Rock Creek and Rock Creek recreation areas. See the CMR map available from the CMR station in Jordan.

LAMBERT

Although you wouldn't know it today, this town on MT Hwy 200 once had four grain elevators, a railroad siding, and at the height of Montana's homestead era, between 1914 and the 1920s, was the largest wheat-shipping point in the world.

What to do and see:

- **Lambert Historical Society and Museum**—Collects much of the history of Richland County, including the old Fox Lake News office and its archives of papers dating from 1914–1940s. Open mid-May through mid-Sept (406-774-3778).
- **Fox Lake Wildlife Management Area**—The lake surrounded by short grass prairie and uplands. This 1,492-acre public access area is divided into several parcels. Water in each parcel varies, depending on snowmelt or rainfall. While you can drive in on the north and south boundaries, to reach the interior, you will need to walk in. Fall attracts hunters for game birds and big game. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Glasgow, MT (406-228-3700)
- **Junction with MT Hwy 16**—See Hwy 16 section for further trip suggestions.



Black-footed ferret | Elisa Dahlberg USFWS



Moving cattle. | Jana Hance



Getting ready to harvest. | Rick and Susie Graetz



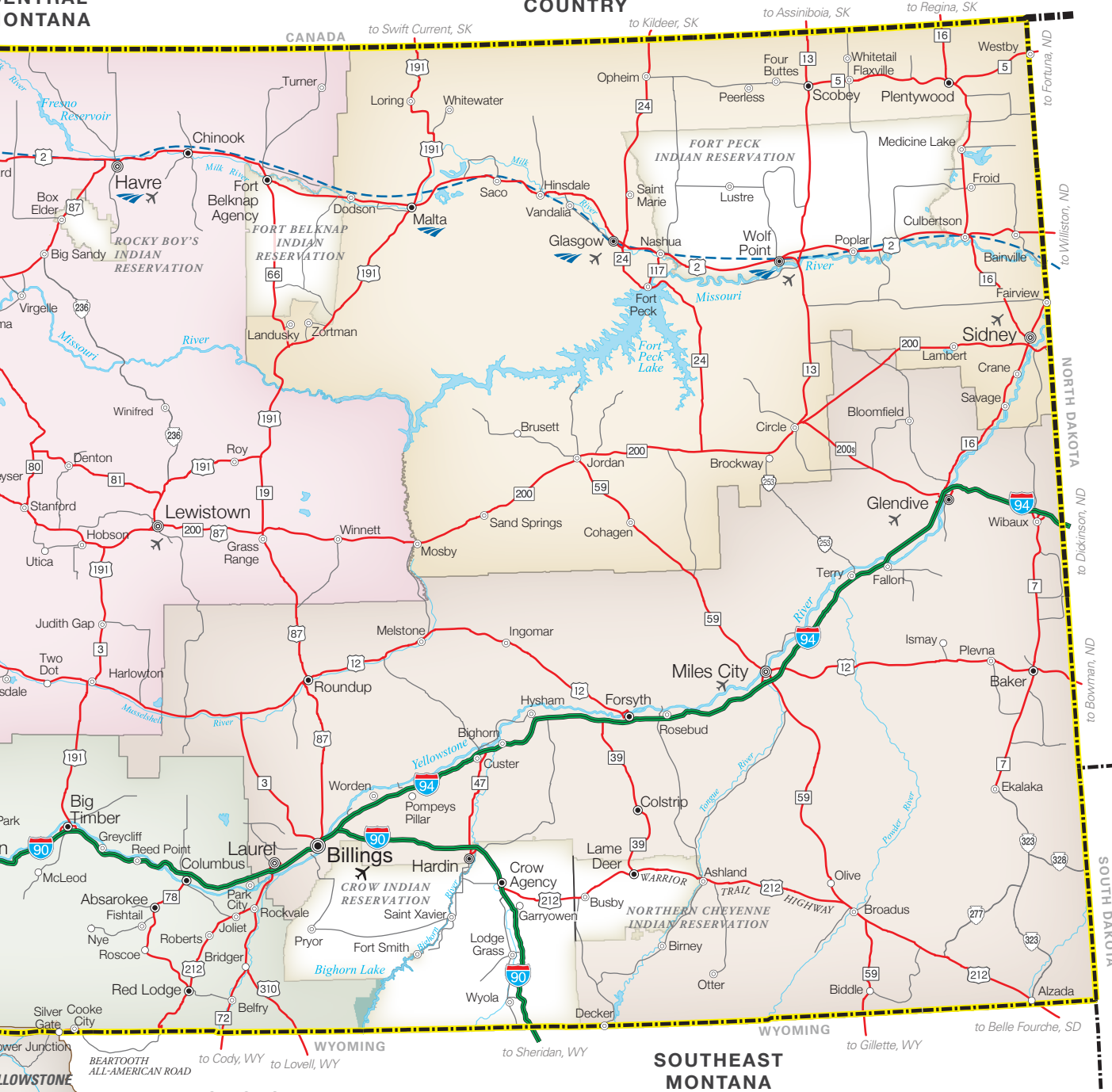
Map provided for general information only.
 Consult the Official Montana Highway Map for accurate and detailed information.

MONTANA

State Capital: Helena
 Montana Population: 1,005,141*
 *2012 U.S. Census Estimate

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

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY



YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

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



MT HWY 16

MT Hwy 16— Following MRC's Sunrise Side



Good Morning Montana!

This journey can base out of either Sidney to the south, or Plentywood to the north—both US Hwy 2 and MT Hwy 200 connect with MT Hwy 16. For 50 miles, from Savage north to Sidney, MT Hwy 16 follows the Yellowstone River as it makes its way toward a meeting with the Missouri. Like the Missouri, the lower Yellowstone garnered much of Montana's earliest history. April 25, 1805, the Corps of Discovery camped at the confluence of the Yellowstone/Missouri rivers, and on the return journey in 1806, William Clark explored the Yellowstone as he headed downriver to meet Meriwether Lewis near the confluence.

In the 1870s and beyond, mostly for military purposes, steamboats plied the river. In 1909, homesteaders by the thousands flocked to this area, and today, agate hunters and modern-day travelers enjoy spending time here.

Along the way...

- **Savage and Crane**—Create small human outposts along a 15-mile stretch of the Yellowstone. Food and gas available.
- **Elk Island and Seven Sisters Wildlife Management areas, plus Crittenden Island**—A popular floating stretch of the Yellowstone that is home to whitetail and mule deer, upland game birds, ducks, geese, eagles, blue heron, and all manners of bird life.

Agates—Mixed among the rocks and stones along the banks and sandbars of the Yellowstone, are hidden treasures waiting to be found.



Left: Sunrise near Dagmar. | Rick and Susie Graetz Above: Future rodeo cowboy in training. | Jana Hance



SIDNEY

Montana's Sunrise City, as this is where the sun first shines its rays on the state. A mile west of the Yellowstone and 14 river miles short of the river's marriage to the Missouri, it was named in 1888 for the young son of a local pioneer family. The largest town in northeast Montana, sugar beets, wheat and ranching, as well as oil activity form the local economy. Food, gas and lodging are plentiful.

What to do and see:

- **Mondak Heritage Center Museum**—One of the finest museums in Montana, east of the mountains, it features an authentically reconstructed 1910 version of the town with a schoolhouse, bank, post office, train depot and an original homesteader's shack. Two art galleries with regularly changing exhibits, an art library and a research library with local history, photos and genealogical records ensure a worthwhile visit. www.themondak.org
- **Lewis and Clark Information Center**—In the Sidney Chamber of Commerce building. Includes an interactive computer program, artifacts, publications and brochures. www.sidneymt.com (406-433-1916)
- **Sidney Country Club**—An 18-hole semi-private golf course (406-433-1894).

Left: Yellowstone River | Rick and Susie Graetz

Below: Fishing on the river. | Maggan Walstad

SIDE TRIP ON HWY 200

Fairview—Founded in 1906, Fairview has the notoriety of being a town with a split personality, as the Montana-North Dakota border runs straight down "State Street." It also is known as the Sugar Beet Capital of Montana and North Dakota.

Fort Union—In 1828, because of the access to many native tribes and rogue trappers, John Jacob Aster established Fort Union at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. A successful enterprise, it had 100 to 200 employees and resembled a small town. From 1828 to 1867, the fort controlled the fur trade on the upper Missouri River, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana.

This grand place attracted famous men of the day, including artists, naturalists and royalty. In 1867, when the fashion trends changed and fur was no longer in demand, the US Army bought the fort and had it torn down. Much of the material was moved to aid in the expansion of Fort Buford downriver on the Yellowstone.

Today, the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is an exact replica of what it was in 1851. For anyone interested in the fabled Missouri and Yellowstone rivers and the beginnings of Montana, this should be on your trail. The Fort Union Rendezvous is held the 3rd weekend in June.

Yellowstone River Valley agriculture—nearby confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers—Fairview Bridge over the Yellowstone River—Cartwright Train Tunnel—Snowden Lift Bridge are all interesting sites.

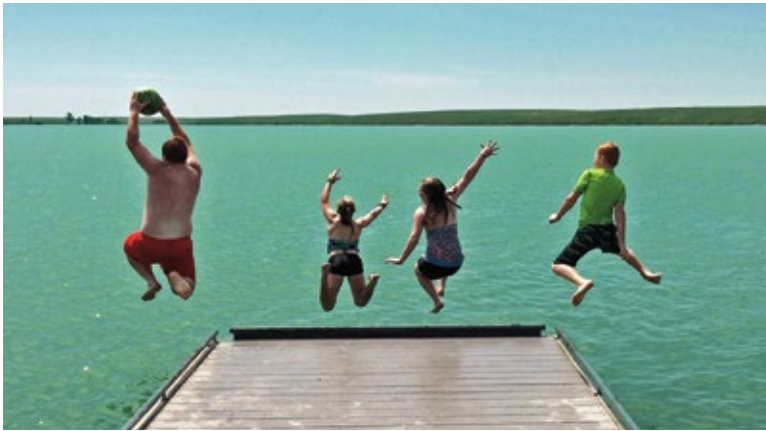


BACK ON HWY 16

Scenic Missouri River crossing—Just before Culbertson.

Culbertson—Founded with the arrival of rail service in 1877, the town has evolved from horse ranching to the agriculture and livestock center it is today.

Culbertson Museum—Guided tours show early-day businesses, churches, school and homes. Open daily May thru Sept, 8am-6pm, free admission (406-787-6320).



Brush Lake southeast of Plentywood. | Ken Heppner

Medicine Lake—Established in 1910, and named in honor of the nearby lake the Assiniboine Indians referred to as “medicine water,” this beautiful rural town is host to those who come to visit the thousands of migratory and nesting birds at the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge. It offers full services to hunters and visitors alike. Hutslar’s Store with its museum of local history and an unusual and varied vintage toy collection is an attraction. Gas and food available.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge—This northeast Montana gem was established in 1935. Protecting more than 31,000 acres, it shelters thousands of nesting white pelicans and nearly a million migrating waterfowl. Gas, food and lodging are available.

Plentywood—The surrounding landscape hardly indicates that there is any wood to be found. In the open range days, several cowboys from the nearby Diamond Ranch outfit were attempting to build a buffalo chip fire. Old Dutch Henry told them, “If you go a couple of miles up this creek, you’ll find plenty wood.” Finding an abundance of fuel, they named it Plentywood Creek. In 1912, the moniker was passed on to the emerging settlement developed by the railroads and an influx of homesteaders. Gas, food and lodging are available.

Right: American white pelicans | Kendal Allen, USFWS









What to do and see:

- **Sheridan County Museum**—Early 20th century remembrances from the original Dooley Post Office boxes, to depression era typewriters, irons, radios, a 1920s general store, as well as photographs of a colorful and historic past. And ask about the rocks facing the building—quite a story. Open daily Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10pm-5pm (406-765-2145) or (406-765-3411).
- **Sitting Bull's surrender site**—Ask at the museum.
- **Box Elder Creek Reservoir**—Managed for recreation and fishing by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- **Brush Lake State Park**—In town ask for directions to this 280-acre, day-use area that offers public access for swimming, a boat ramp, dock, RV hookups, vault toilet, picnic tables, and fire rings.

East of Plentywood, a side trip on MT Hwy 5 leads to the ecologically important prairie pothole country and a critical breeding migration area for North American wetland and grassland birds. The Nature Conservancy of Montana's Comertown Pothole Prairie Preserve is the ultimate destination resort for breeding waterfowl, shorebirds, and grassland birds. If the warm season is wet enough, wildflowers cover the green hills and birdsong echos across the many ponds.



Westby—On the sunrise fringe of this area and once part of North Dakota, it is as far as you can go in northeast Montana. Like much of the region, Westby came into being when homesteaders began to filter in from 1903 to 1908.

A hunter's paradise, Westby is nationally known for its upland bird and deer hunting. And, if your weapon of choice is a camera or binoculars, this is the place for you. Surrounded by more than 20 federally administered Waterfowl Protection Areas, it is one of the premiere bird watching hot spots in the state. Gas is available.

Port of Raymond—MT Hwy 16

Open 24 hours all year (406-895-2664)

Left: Fantastic show of wildflowers near Plentywood. | TNC of Montana American Avocet | Diane McDuff, USFWS



MT HWY 24

MT Hwy 24— Passage Through the Heart of MRC

This journey can base out of Jordan or Circle on the south and Fort Peck or Glasgow in the north.

Hwy 24 commences pointing north from its junction with Hwy 200, 37 miles east of Jordan and 29 miles west of Circle. Visit the Flowing Wells Rest Stop before heading toward the next town—Fort Peck 66 miles away. Good interpretive signs and a nice place for a respite. This roadway visits a mix of ranch lands, badlands and just pretty prairie scenery.

Along the way...

Access to the Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake for boating and fishing. In order from south to north they are: Nelson Creek Recreation Area, McGuire Creek Recreation Area, Bug Creek Road, South Fork Rock Creek Road, North Fork Rock Creek Road, Sand Arroyo Badlands, and Bear Creek Recreation Area. See if you can tell when you cross over Wild Horse Pass (just

north of McGuire Creek) and Snuff Gap (north of the Rock Creek Road). It would be best to get a Charles M. Russell NWR map for this area. www.cmr.fws.gov

CMR Fort Peck Wildlife Station (406-526-3464)

CMR Headquarters—Lewistown (406-538-8706)

Fort Peck and Fort Peck Lake—See the Hwy 2 section for information on this area. More boating and fishing access west of the dam and The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum with 18,000 square feet of pure entertainment are the highlights of this area.

GLASGOW

Lodging and dining—See Hwy 2 for more information. Here, just east of Glasgow, Hwy 24 meets Hwy 2 and then proceeds north through wide-open prairie lands and wheat fields. The views are extensive.



Eastern edge of the Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area—Inquire in Glasgow for access routes.

OPHEIM

Named for Alfred Opheim—one of the first to settle there, the place grew as a result of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909. The new town prospered when the Great Northern Railway built a branch line from Scobey, thus connecting it to points east. At one time, the community supported a bank, several stores, a bakery, a lumberyard and a saloon.

Granrud's Lefse—Makes homemade-style Norwegian Potato Lefse (866-765-3250).

Port of Opheim—MT Hwy 24
June 1-Sept 15, 8am-9pm
Sept 16-May 31, 9am-6pm

Left: Autumn along CMR east side. | Sam Espeland

Below: Opheim Rodeo | Rick and Susie Graetz





MT HWYS 248 & 5

MT Hwys 248 & 5 Across the North Opheim-Scobey-Westby





Continue on from Hwy 24 at Opheim pointing your vehicle east for this road trip. Scobey is 46 miles away.

Along the way...

Rolling hills of agriculture, wetlands, the Four Buttes, and wildlife—hawks, pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, whitetail deer, mule deer, and antelope. This route also requires a hand at the top of the steering wheel for a quick wave at oncoming traffic.



Dirty Shame Belles | Daniels County Leader

SCOBEY

The center of one of Montana's most productive grain-growing regions and surrounded by low hills and buttes, it occupies a small space in the broad Poplar River Valley. Like so many places in northeast Montana, the town began in the early 20th Century, primarily as a result of the railroad and the accompanying Homestead era. A spur of the Great Northern Railroad reached Scobey in 1913, providing a catalyst for growth.

Top: Canola fields near Scobey. | Rick and Susie Graetz

Bottom: In the Big Muddy. | Rick and Susie Graetz

What you will find...

- **Pioneer Town**—A re-creation of an early 1900's homestead hamlet and one of the finest museums of its kind. Forty-two original structures, some more than 100 years old, have been brought to the site from nearby towns. Pioneer Days, the last weekend in June, features the highly entertaining Dirty Shame Show. The Saturday and Sunday performances are a family-oriented variety show starring the Dirty Shame Belles and Dixieland Band. Throughout the summer, for guided tours of Pioneer Town call (406-487-5965).
- **Daniels County Museum**—Focuses on local history in all of its forms including archives, antique cars, tractors, and machinery. Visit the gift store for Montana memories. Open Memorial Day thru Labor Day.
- **Daniels County Courthouse**—Built about 1913 as a hotel with a bordello reputation. Located on Scobey's main street, the wood frame building became a courthouse in 1920 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Stop in and see the barely changed courtroom on the second floor.
- **The Scobey Golf Club**—called "the best-kept secret" in northeast Montana. Open from dawn to dusk, the 9-hole course has a bar and restaurant. RV campsites available (406-487-5322).
- **Lions Club RV Campground**—Located just off Hwy 13 at 11 Railroad Avenue East. Drive into a parking space and pay at the sheriff's office across the street.
- **A swimming pool and city park**—Make a relaxing atmosphere on summer afternoons and evenings. A movie theatre operates year-round on Friday nights and weekends.



- **Lodging, meals, groceries, gas, pharmacy and medical facilities**—Scobey is well-prepared to meet travelers’ needs.

- **Port of Scobey—MT Hwy 13**

June 1–Sept 15, 8am–9pm

Sept 16–May 31, 8am–6pm

(406-783-5375)

Pointing east from Scobey on Route 5 it’s 43 miles to Plentywood. That short distance holds a magnificent collection of high plains topography—rolling wheat fields, coulees, buttes, badlands, and big vistas. When the Great Northern and other railroads first came through the northern prairie, sidings and depots were established about every six miles and small communities grew up around them. Most have long since disappeared and others are ghosts of their former selves.

FLAXVILLE

Flaxville continues to provide food and gas. On the west edge of town, Duck Stamp dollars have helped establish a waterfowl production area. Gas and food are available. From Flaxville, a seven-mile side trip north on County Road 511 leads to the hamlet of Whitetail, once a stop on the Soo Line, a competitor of the Great Northern. Whitetail Reservoir, open year-round, provides fishing and gravel boat ramps. Be prepared to hook a northern pike.

REDSTONE

Redstone, east of Flaxville, takes its name from the red shale in the area. Notorious outlaws such as “Dutch Henry” once ruled, but now it’s bucolic cattle country. Poke around some of the back roads near Redstone, especially in the badlands of Big Muddy Creek to the north. The Outlaw Trail, named by Butch Cassidy and used to move stolen horses and cattle to Canada, meandered through the coulees of the Big Muddy.



Scobey swimming pool | Daniels County Leader

Beyond Redstone, Hwy 5 eases into the valley of Big Muddy Creek heading east toward Plentywood.

PLENTYWOOD

See the Hwy 16 section for more on Plentywood and east on Hwy 5 to Westby and the North Dakota line.



Above: East of Plentywood | Rick and Susie Graetz Below: Scobey Pioneer Town visitors | Rick and Susie Graetz





MT HWY 13

MT Hwy 13— Redwater River Valley to Canada





Highway 13 takes you from Circle and the Redwater River Valley to Scobey and Canada. An overnight stay in Circle and the ranch country of the Redwater River Valley allows for a good start for this tour to the north. As the road leaves Circle you'll be on a Big Sky Backcountry Byway and pass through pleasant open prairie geography. It's 50 miles to Hwy 2 and Wolf Point from Circle.

Along the way...

CIRCLE

Circle, the county seat of McCone County offers plenty of comforts for the traveler including lodging. See the Hwy 200 section for more on this Missouri River Country community.

VIDA

Vida, 27 miles from Circle, was once a thriving Homestead Era town. Today, a post office and a school serve its fewer than 300 people. Gas is available. Beyond Vida, a massive steel structure, the historic Wolf Point Bridge—official name the Lewis & Clark Bridge—interrupts the skyline.

Dedicated on July 9, 1930, a celebration with fireworks and speeches was held. And during its construction, a camp was located on the north side of the river and included a powerhouse, workshops, office, a dance hall, bunkhouse and several small cottages to house workers families. At 1,074 feet long, it is one of the longest and most massive bridges in Montana.



No longer used, it stands today as an historic site. Six miles beyond the bridge and the Missouri, Hwy 13 intersects US Hwy 2 and continues north through the Fort Peck Indian Reservation covering 50 miles before reaching Scobey.

Scobey—See Hwy 248 and 5 section for more on Scobey, your next overnight stop. Scobey also accesses Canada via Hwy 13.



Glasgow Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Yearly Events

February-Ice Derby
 1st weekend in May-Blues & Brews
 3rd weekend in June-Longest Dam Race
 2nd weekend in July-MT Gov Cup Walleye Tourney
 NEMT Fair in Glasgow-Live Concert
 October-NE MT Ag EXPO

GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMM. & AG. BOX 832 . GLASGOW, MT 59230 . 406-228-2222 . WWW.GLASGOWCHAMBER.NET

County Fairs and Rodeos in Missouri River Country

Phillips; located in Dodson. Early August. Includes open rodeo, live music, AMX Racing, carnival rides and exhibits.

Northeast Montana Fair, Glasgow. Early August. PRCA Rodeo Northern Prairie Auto RAM Rodeo Series, Old Mill Ranch Rodeo, Kids Rodeo, live music/concert.

Daniels; located in Scobey. Late July. This fair features rodeo action, demolition derby, music, a night show, 4-H events, open class exhibits, carnival, petting zoo, commercial exhibits and parade.

Sheridan. Last week of July. PRCA Rodeo. Food, live music, exhibits, and fun run.

Roosevelt County Fair; located in Culbertson.

The fair is held mid-August. Food, exhibits, petting zoo, fun run, and ranch rodeo.

Threshing Bee

The Northeast Montana Threshers and Antique Association Show is held in late September each year. The Association was founded in 1963 to preserve and demonstrate farm machinery and items used by yesterday's generations. The show features 1900's horse drawn machinery and equipment, lumber planer and lumber sawing, large display of old time tractors, stationary engines, antique cars and equipment with different models added each year. There are concessions on the grounds, space provided for a flea market and places to park your camper or RV.

Saddle Club Wagon Train Labor Day

For over a quarter of a century the Culbertson Saddle Club has sponsored the Labor Day Trail Ride and Wagon Train. For the real feel of the Old West, folks bring their covered wagons or bring saddle horses to ride through Montana foothills imagining the working cowboy's way of life over 100 years ago.

The cost of the weekend includes great food, entertainment, and hay for the horses. The wagon train brings people from Montana,



Wild Horse Stampede | Rick Madsen

North & South Dakota, Idaho, California, West Virginia, Texas, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Alberta, Canada. Some years there have been up to 30 wagons!

Frontier Days

Each spring finds Culbertson playing host to the Saddle Club's Frontier Days. With the help of the Chamber of Commerce, two full days of western hospitality and fun includes rodeos in the Saddle Club's unique tiered rodeo grounds, a parade on Saturday, a barn dance, and concessions on the grounds.

The McCone County Fair is held in mid-August. PRCA rodeo.

Circle Town & Country Day is held in mid-September.

Richland County Fair & Rodeo. Early August in Sidney. PRCA Rodeo, live music, carnival rides, magicians, street performers, petting zoo, and exhibits.

Mid-June for the **Annual Matched Bronc Ride** in Jordan, Montana.

Hindsdale; Milk River Days. July 3rd & 4th. Rodeo, picnic, parade and street dance.

Ophiem Rodeo. End of June.

Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede. PRCA rodeo. Mid-July.

Poplar Wild West Days. 2nd week in June. Rodeo with NRA rules, parade and dance.

Brockway Dairy Day. Third Saturday in July. Rodeo.

Missouri River Country's Birding Trail

Come encounter the diverse song, color and bird species of Montana's Missouri River Country. From the expansive prairie, to the marshes and reservoirs, to the hills of the badlands, to the woodlands of the river breaks, a rewarding experience awaits you.

Western Meadowlarks with their golden-colored throats serenade travelers along roadways, the shy and endangered Piping Plovers hide in the pothole regions of Missouri River Country's northeast corner.

American White Pelicans, taking off from some of the world's largest breeding colonies, soar in military fashion over rivers and lakes while curlews and Great Blue Herons hunt the

shorelines, hawks and grouse make their living amid the sagebrush and grass-covered prairie and while owls patrol the night sky, eagles command the day.

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

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

Information on each featured stop can be found at: www.montanabirdingtrail.org



Male Sage Grouse | USFWS



Bald Eagles | USFWS



Cedar Waxwing | Renny Torgerson



Red Tailed Hawk | Gary Eslinger | USFWS



Ringnecked Pheasant | Tom Koerner/USFWS

The Night Skies of Northeast Montana



Starry night and northern lights. | Amy Nelson



Nighttime splendor. | Emily Heidi

A grand uncluttered landscape gives the vivid colors of the rising and setting sun a large stage to play on, but once the sun drops below the horizon, the main characters of the night take their positions. The performance begins with only the brightest celebrity, the Evening Star, visible. Little by little, as the theatre darkens, a chorus of millions of twinkling lights arrive filling in the backdrop of space.

Later, the Milky Way captures the spotlight enacting the Native American belief that it is along the “spirits’ path,” the souls of the departed enter heaven. And if you are lucky, a short-lived falling star and perhaps a comet will dash across the stage. If the solar wind storms are strong enough, the brilliant Aurora Borealis will appear and dance across the northern sky. So, bring a telescope or powerful binoculars along on your exploration of Northeast Montana. To enjoy the northern lights, get an aurora forecast by going to www.aurora-service.org.

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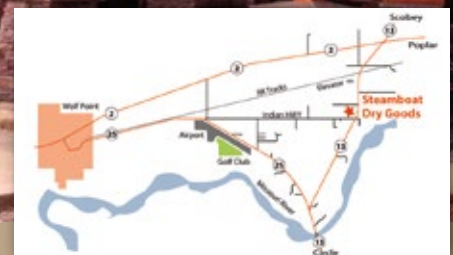
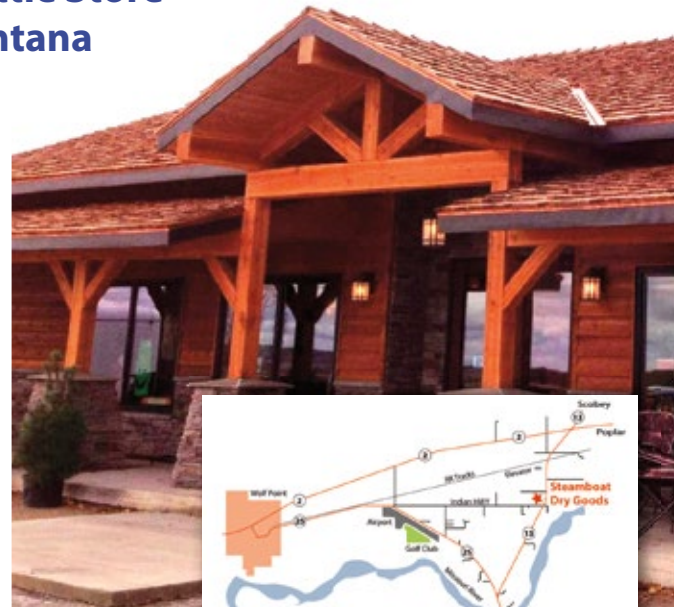
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The Original People of Missouri River Country

Fort Peck Reservation—The Assiniboine and Sioux Nations

It stretches across the low hills and sprawling prairie of the northeast quadrant of Missouri River Country. Millions of bison once migrated through this landscape, historic trails crisscrossed it and Lewis and Clark walked through on the shores of the big Missouri River...welcome to Montana's second largest reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux nations, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

In the early 1600s, Europeans displaced the ancestors of the Assiniboine and Sioux from the east coast. By the end of the century, the Sioux had migrat-



Red Bottom Pow-wow | Montana Department of Tourism

ed west to central Minnesota. Known as a large and powerful nation, they were comprised of seven bands (the people of the Fort Peck Reservation belong to the Nakota band), all of who spoke a language of Siouan descent. In the mid 1700s, the Nakota band divided with one contingent leaving for the Missouri River Valley region and taking on the name *Lower Assiniboine*.

Smallpox decimated their size by nearly 2/3rds, making them vulnerable to other Plains tribes. Unable

to defend their hunting grounds, the Lower Assiniboine eventually joined with the Yanktonai Sioux who had migrated to northeastern Montana.

The town of Poplar is the center for tribal activities and hosts the Assiniboine and Sioux Cultural Center and Museum and the Fort Peck Community College. Reservation life is rich with traditions. Powwows are held to renew and strengthen family and friendships as well as to celebrate tribal culture. The reservation is home to many fascinating artifacts and historical places including tipi rings, buffalo jumps, and sacred sites. If you are interested, contact the tribal office as sensitivity issues and tribal customs must be considered and respected (406-768-5156).

Fort Belknap Reservation—The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Nations

Populated by two different tribes—the Gros Ventres and the Assiniboine—the Fort Belknap Reservation rests half in Central Montana (west side) and half in Missouri River Country (east side) of the little Rocky Mountains. Like many tribes, the Gros Ventre has a long history of moving from one home to another. As forces from the east grew, the natives were pushed farther north and west. After smallpox dramatically cut their population and therefore their strength, pressure from tribes, who had connections with the larger Sioux nation, compelled them to move once again, this time—about the turn of the 19th century—into Montana.

In 1826, along the Missouri River, German explorer Prince Maximilian and artist Karl Boedmer documented their presence in the state. By 1855, the Gros Ventre had formed an alliance with the powerful Blackfeet tribe. Now, both the Gros Ventre, who signed as members of the Blackfeet nation, and the Assiniboine, agreed to a treaty to set aside land from the Rocky Mountains to the mouth of the Yellowstone River as common Indian hunting grounds. In 1876, they were told by the US government to relocate to the agency at Fort Peck—land frequented by the Sioux. Many of the Assiniboine, who shared language and old connections with the Sioux, moved eastward to join them, but the Gros Ventre and some Assiniboine refused to live on land they would have to share with old adversaries. Finally, the Fort Belknap Reservation, officially established in March 1889, became the land of the Gros Ventre and those Assiniboine who refused to locate with the Sioux.

For the most part, tribal celebrations and events take place on the western reaches of the reservation in the Central Montana tourism region of Montana.

The Wildlife of Missouri River Country

If wildlife viewing is the primary reason you are in Missouri River Country or planning to be our guest, then you'll not be disappointed! This Montana prairie land is home to an enormous population of both large and small animals and winged creatures. Turkeys, burrowing owls, white pelicans, elk, osprey, deer, blue herons, pronghorn antelope, Canada geese, sandhill cranes, cormorants, mountain lions, bobcats, ducks, foxes, eagles, bighorn sheep, pheasants, coyotes, Hungarian partridge, grouse, prairie dogs and more than 200 species of birds are just some of its wild residents.

Northeast Montana is nationally known for its wild critters. The crown jewel of the US wildlife refuge system—the 1.1 million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge—holds court over ten other areas here that are part of the National Watchable Wildlife program. Missouri River Country's designated places are Bitter Creek, just 20 miles northeast of Hinsdale, Elk Island at Savage just south of Sidney, Fox Lake Wildlife Management Area at Lambert west of Sidney, the Little Rocky Mountains around Zortman, Manning Corral Prairie Dog Town also near Zortman, the Missouri River



Elk pair | Steve Perry | USFWS

Downstream Recreation Area at Fort Peck, the Pines Recreation Area 30 miles southwest of Fort Peck, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge and the CMR.

Spring, early summer and fall are the prime times to see the refuges and wildlife sanctuaries. As an added benefit, all these areas gather some of the finest prairie landscapes in the nation. While each of the 11 is worthy of visiting and will provide memorable experiences, the following four are major wildlife havens.



Left: Red-tailed Hawk | Rick Bohn, USFWS Above: Geese in flight. | Jana Hance Below: Antelope pair | USFWS

THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL National Wildlife Refuge

The second largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states (about 1.1 million acres), the CMR is one of America's eminent wilderness regions, as well as a wildlife refuge. It embraces about 229 of nearly 300 Missouri River Breaks' miles, surrounds Fort Peck Lake with its 1,500 miles of shoreline and is approximately 125 miles long.

Remote, and spectacular, canyons—some a thousand feet deep, buttes, hills, coulees and river bottoms harbor elk, bighorn sheep, antelope, deer and prairie dog towns. More than 200 species of birds and 40 species of mammals have been identified on the refuge. Make sure to hear autumn's serenade of bugling elk on the CMR at Slippery Ann. Access points are spread around the vast landscape allowing easy entry. For maps and information, call the CMR (406-538-8706).

MEDICINE LAKE National Wildlife Refuge

Just south of Plentywood, this body of water is a prairie gem and a summer home to more than 100,000 migratory waterfowl. It's a place of high wildlife activity highlighted by a pelican rookery and the thousands of sandhill cranes that stop here in October. A self-guided hiking tour and an 18-mile long driving route

provide ample access to the refuge. Call (406-789-2305) or go to www.medicinelake.fws.gov for information.

UL BEND National Wildlife Refuge

Big game, as well as all the lesser critters, roam here. Isolated and beautiful, this refuge is located deep in the Missouri River Breaks about 50 miles south of Malta and 40 miles southeast of Zortman. Visitors need to negotiate rough roads to reach the UL Bend and the passages are often impassable in wet weather. The UL Bend refuge is contiguous to the UL Bend Wilderness and the CMR. For information, call CMR (406-538-8706).



BOWDOIN National Wildlife Refuge

Best known for its nesting colonies of white pelicans, this series of wetlands and lakes eight miles east of Malta, is the habitat for more than 230 different species of birds and waterfowl. There are many entry points to the heart of the refuge and a 90-minute auto route enables you to see much of this haven. Call (406-654-2863) for information.



Daniels County Museum & Pioneer Town



Hours of Operation
Memorial Day - Labor Day:
Daily 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Labor Day - Memorial Day:
By Appointment

7 West County Road
PO Box 133
Scobey, MT 59263

Located on 20 acres just west of Scobey, Montana, is the Daniels County Museum & Pioneer Town. Thirty-five historic buildings have been restored to depict a town in the early 1900's. The museum has a collection of antique cars, tractors, and machinery.



Join us for Pioneer Days and the Dirty Shame Show. Always the last weekend in June.

.....
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.....

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Hunting and Fishing in Missouri River Country



Evening fishing on Fort Peck Lake. | Rick Dees

“If you are a hunter or angler, the Missouri River Country of northeastern Montana is heaven on earth.

This area is known for trophy-caliber elk, mule deer, whitetails and pronghorn, and there is a massive amount of public land along with several large ranches that manage for big game. The fishing for walleye in particular is world class and there are opportunities for lake trout, northern pike, sauger and smallmouth bass...everything gets big in Fort Peck. What might be the region’s best-kept secret however is the waterfowl and upland bird hunting opportunities. This is a great area for pheasants, sharp-tail grouse and Hungarian partridge and the waterfowl hunting is untapped for both geese and ducks...the many communities scattered through out the region embrace hunters.”

—Jason Mitchell, host of the award-winning Jason Mitchell Outdoors television program

Hunting and Fishing in Missouri River Country

Hunting

Hunters should set their sites high before taking aim in Missouri River Country, as big game animals, upland birds and waterfowl all make their homes in the wide-open land of northeast Montana. On crisp autumn mornings, spotting scopes sweep the bare, rocky ridges of the CMR, duck calls sound across the placid water of wildlife refuges and pointers, anxious to flush birds from hiding search through stubble fields, ditches and brush. This is a true sportsman's landscape.

Pronghorn, mule and trophy whitetail deer wander these prairies and drainages and elk with racks six points on a side roam the million-acre CMR. From fertile river bottoms, through prairies of grass to stark badlands, this country teems with wildlife just as it did when Lewis and Clark wrote of the area in 1805.

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

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

For Licenses/Special Permits:

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



Hunting in the Missouri Breaks | Haley Lipszyc

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Block Management Program

More than 314 ranches controlling access to 1.2 million acres are enrolled in the region six and seven Block Management Program providing free hunting access to private land.

The program, funded by hunting license dollars, offers excellent hunting for waterfowl, upland birds, deer, antelope and elk. Many of the regions Block Management properties are accessible simply by signing into a posted box and picking up a detailed map of the property. Other cooperating landowners request hunters to contact them directly to arrange access.

Block Management properties are generally open from Sept. 1–Dec. 31. You can order a copy of a *Regional Hunting Access Guide*, which details all the regional Block Management properties, by calling Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region Six headquarters in Glasgow (406-228-3700) or Region Seven headquarters in Miles City (406-234-0900). The guides are available starting August 15 each year.

Hunting Information

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (www.fwp.mt.gov) or the Region 6 office in Glasgow (406-228-3700) is where to turn for the last word on regulations and license applications, but any authorized license outlet also can also help. Area offices of the Federal Bureau of Land Management are invaluable places for maps. Keep in mind that additional regulations also apply when hunting

on Indian reservations or the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge. For information on public and private land access, contact the Montana Department of Natural Resources. For regulations applying to hunting on the CMR, contact the refuge office.

See the Information Sources page in this guide for all pertinent phone numbers and addresses.

Fishing

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

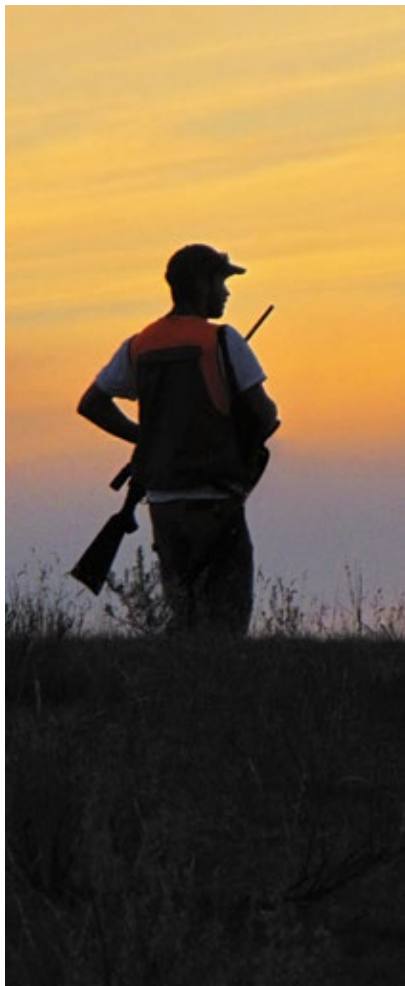
More than 50 different species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake and they all have room to grow. The reservoir is 134 miles long and as much as 220 feet deep. Along its 1,600 miles of shoreline and under its 240,000 acres of surface area, walleye, northern pike, small-mouth bass, lake trout and Chinook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

Fort Peck's diverse fishery continues to gain nationwide recognition. Stories of five-pound bass, 10-pound walleye and 20-pound northern pike continue to pique interest. To accommodate all of the use, three marinas and nine boat ramp/access areas are scattered along the reservoir. But Fort Peck remains even larger than the demand it creates and those seeking solitude and quiet waters can easily find them here.

With the exception of space, the most profuse feature of Fort Peck may be its walleye fishery. The popular game fish can be found throughout the reservoir, but experienced anglers suggest focusing efforts on the bays and points of the reservoir



Elk herd | USFWS



Jodi Schock

and Big Dry Arm. Trolling with bottom bouncers and spinners tipped with minnows, leaches or night-crawlers, or using crank bait and jigs are advised as successful approaches for luring walleye from the reservoir to your net. Expect to catch walleye between two and four pounds, but be prepared for ones weighing eight to ten pounds!



Nice walleye! | Shere Cooney

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

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

Fishing Missouri River Country isn't just about Fort Peck Reservoir. The Missouri and Yellowstone rivers both are thick with their own possibilities, including the chance to land more

than 100 pounds of something harkening back to another time. Ancient paddlefish of enormous size can still be found in both rivers. On the Yellowstone, seek them out near Sidney; on the Missouri, look between the Fred Robinson Bridge to the head of Fort Peck Reservoir. Fishing for these creatures requires an additional state license, big treble hooks, heavy weights and a deep-sea rod.

Sharing space with the paddlefish are two species of sturgeon. The pallid sturgeon is listed as an Endangered Species and must be immediately released if caught. The smaller shovelnose sturgeon may be kept if it weighs no more than 16 pounds.

The experts' pick for the best walleye fishing in Montana and home to record-setting pike and yellow perch is Nelson Reservoir near Malta. From one end to the other, Missouri River Country is a place of enormous fishing opportunities. Newcomers to Fort Peck are advised to seek out local fisherman for advice on where to go and what fishing techniques to use.

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

Fishing Information

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

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

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

Call Missouri River Country or visit our website for more information on the local attractions, events and lodging: (800-653-1319) or www.missouririver.visitmt.com.

Fishing, Boating and Camping	Open All Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
Bjornberg Bridge FAS On Milk River 7 mi E of Saco on Hwy 2, 4 mi N on Cty Rd	x		x	x		x
Bonetrail COE S of Glasgow on Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd, SW to river	x	x	x		x	x
Cole Pond, NNW FAS 10 mi NW of Saco on Hwy 243	x		x		x	x
Crooked Creek COE N of Winnett via Drag Ridge Trail	x	x	x		x	x
Culbertson Bridge FAS 3 mi SE of Culbertson on Hwy 16	x	x		x		x
Devils Creek COE NW of Jordan via Brusett	x	x			x	x
Dredge Cut Trout Pond FAS 3 miles northeast of Fort Peck Town site on Hwy 117	x	x		x		x
Diamond Willow FAS On Yellowstone River, between Sidney and state line	x			x		
Downstream Campground COE N of Fort Peck Dam			x		x	x
Duck Creek FAS/COE 2 mi SW of Fort Peck on reservoir; nearby campground	x	x	x	x	x	x
Elk Island FAS 1 mi N of Savage on Hwy 16, E 2 mi on Cty Rd 344	x	x		x		x
Flat Lake COE Hwy 24 NE of Fort Peck Dam	x	x	x		x	x
Floodplain COE NE of Fort Peck Town site on Hwy 117	x	x	x		x	x
Fort Peck Dredge Cuts COE 5 mi NE of Fort Peck on Hwy 117	x		x	x		x
Fort Peck Marina Private 406.526.3442	x	x	x		x	x
Fort Peck West 1, 2 & 3 COE 1 mi S of Hwy 24 off Duck Creek Rd	x		x		x	x
Fourchette Bay COE 60 mi S of Malta on Cty Rd	x	x	x		x	x
Gartside Reservoir FAS 1 mi N of Crane on Hwy 16, W 1 mi on Cty Rd 116	x	x		x		x
Glasgow Base Pond FAS 20 mi N of Glasgow on Hwy 24	x	x	x		x	x
FAS = Montana FWP Fishing Access Site		COE = Corps of Engineers				

Fishing, Boating and Camping	Open All Year	Boat Launch	Trailer Access	Day Use Only	Camping	Toilets
Hell Creek State Park MFWP N of Jordan on Fort Peck Lake	x	x	x		x	x
Hell Creek Marina Private 406.557.2345 - 25 mi N of Jordan	x	x	x	x		x
James Kipp BLM SW of Malta on Hwy 191		x	x		x	x
Lewis and Clark Bridge FAS 6 mi SE of Wolf Point on Hwy 13	x	x	x	x		x
McGuire Creek COE Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 41 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24	x		x		x	x
Nelson Creek COE Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Lake, 49 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24	x	x	x		x	x
Nelson Dredge COE 6 miles northeast of Fort Peck townsite on Hwy 117	x	x	x	x		x
Nelson Reservoir BOR 19 miles E of Malta, turn N off Hwy 2 at Sleeping Buffalo	x	x	x		x	x
Rock Creek Marina Private 406.485.2560 - 32 mi SE of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, W at mi 27		x	x		x	x
Rock Creek FAS 30 mi S of Fort Peck on Hwy 24, 7 mi W on Cty Rd	x	x	x		x	x
Roundhouse Point COE Hwy 117 N of Fort Peck Dam	x	x	x		x	x
School Trust FAS 6 mi NE of Fort Peck townsite off Hwy 117	x	x	x	x		x
Seven Sisters FAS 1 mi E of Crane on Cty Rd 115	x	x		x		x
Sidney Bridge FAS 1-1/2 mi S of Sidney on Hwy 16, 1-1/2 mi E on Hwy 23	x	x		x		x
Snowden Bridge FAS 14 mi NW of Fairview on Cty Rd	x	x	x		x	x
The Pines COE S of Glasgow Hwy 24, to Willow Creek Rd to Pines Rd	x	x	x		x	x
West End Campground COE 2 mi W of Fort Peck on Hwy 117, NW on Hwy 24, S on Duck Creek			x		x	x
Whitetail Reservoir FAS 7 mi N of Flaxville on Hwy 511	x	x	x	x		x
<i>Advisory: Some sites may be inaccessible because of weather conditions. Check local weather and road conditions before traveling.</i>						
BLM = Bureau of Land Management			BOR = Bureau of Reclamation			



Great day of fishing on Fort Peck Lake. | Sean Heavly

Missouri River Country's Dinosaur Trail

More dinosaurs have been discovered in Montana than in any other state, and it isn't difficult to imagine them stomping and pounding their way across the wide-open spaces, river breaks and badlands of this northeastern part of the state.

Millions of years before the Missouri River formed, Triceratops, Albertosaurs, Mosasaurs, Stegosaurus, aquatic duck-billed dinosaurs and other giant creatures roamed, fought, and populated Missouri River Country. In 1902, the first Tyrannosaurus Rex (T-Rex) fossil was discovered near Jordan in the badlands of Hell Creek. In 1990, one the most complete T-Rex ever was uncovered near Fort Peck.

A huge swath of MRC is part of the well-studied and explored Hell Creek formation, named after Hell Creek, an area of exposed rocks dating to the upper Cretaceous to lower Paleocene geologic eras. For the most part, with the exception of an area contiguous to the Missouri's north side south of Malta, it is confined to the south side of Fort Peck Lake and north of Jordan. This region is considered to be one of the richest fossil beds in the world and indeed great discoveries have been made there.

North of the Milk River Valley, the older Judith River formations are exposed. In the summer of 2001 near Malta, excavation of Leonardo, a duck-billed Brachylophosaurus who holds the distinction of being the best-preserved dinosaur ever recovered, was found. Several other duckbilled dinosaurs have also been uncovered.

Along the western edge of Missouri River Country and south of Malta, on the east slopes of the Little Rocky Mountains, a the Jurassic configuration shows fossilized marine life that lived in the once shallow inland sea that inundated this area. Inland bays of the Pacific Ocean during Jurassic times and the Atlantic Ocean during the Cretaceous period provided Montana with a hot and humid subtropical climate.

Just outside of Zortman at the town dump, a Jurassic mudflat is tilted up at a 45-degree angle exposing a jumble of fossils that have tumbled down the slope. Creatures such as "devils toenails" (oysters) and belemnites (the bullet shaped hard cores of squids, and crinoids) with their stacked button shaped stems.

North and east along the Canadian border the old Missouri River terrace gravels of Miocene times are evident. Generally



only the hard fossil parts of dinosaurs and their relatives survived the stream tumbling action, but the teeth and bones of camelids, rhinos, and protohorses are commonly found in road cuts and gravel pits. On these Miocene grasslands there was also a curious burrowing critter with small-pronged horns called a dicroceras, better known today as a jackalope!

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

Each year brings new finds and exhilarating information and enlightenment about what this land was like until possibly an errant asteroid ended the reign of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The impact engulfed the earth in a massive shroud of dust and debris that blackened the skies, produced widespread fires, and perhaps increased volcanic activity. So the theory goes.



Looking for fossils south of Malta. | Erin Blatzer Hammon



Greeter at the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. | Rick and Susie Graetz



Junior Dinosaur Camp | Judy Lervick

Museums and their displays of both ancient land and sea dwellers are found throughout Missouri River Country. The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum at Fort Peck, just south of Glasgow, is world class. Exhibits include fossils, scenes of the powerful surrounding landscape as well as wildlife and historical exhibits, and a cast of a giant T-Rex.

If you would like to follow the entire Dinosaur Trail, you could begin and end anywhere, but let's use Glasgow as a starting

point. With the amazing Fort Peck interpretive Center just 17 miles away, this would be perfect for your first introduction to the fascinating world of super-sized predator/prey species. West of Glasgow, in Malta, The Phillips County Museum and The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum house many rare fossil dinosaurs, plants, invertebrates and fish. The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum offers multiple educational programs for both children and adults throughout the summer. For adults, the GPDM offers educational short courses and participation on an actual dinosaur dig, June-August digs \$230/day—three or more days \$200 a day; short course \$450 total. Pre-registration required. Minimum age 11 years.

Also offered is a Junior Paleontology program June-August; ages five and up. Three hours of introductory geology, paleontology, fossil discovery, and excavation in the field, followed by a 90-minute lab portion where kids learn how paleontologists clean fossils, identify bones, and recognize various species of dinosaurs. Cost: \$120. Go to www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org for more information. Registration for all programs: (406-654-5300).

Lewis and Clark's Route in Missouri River Country

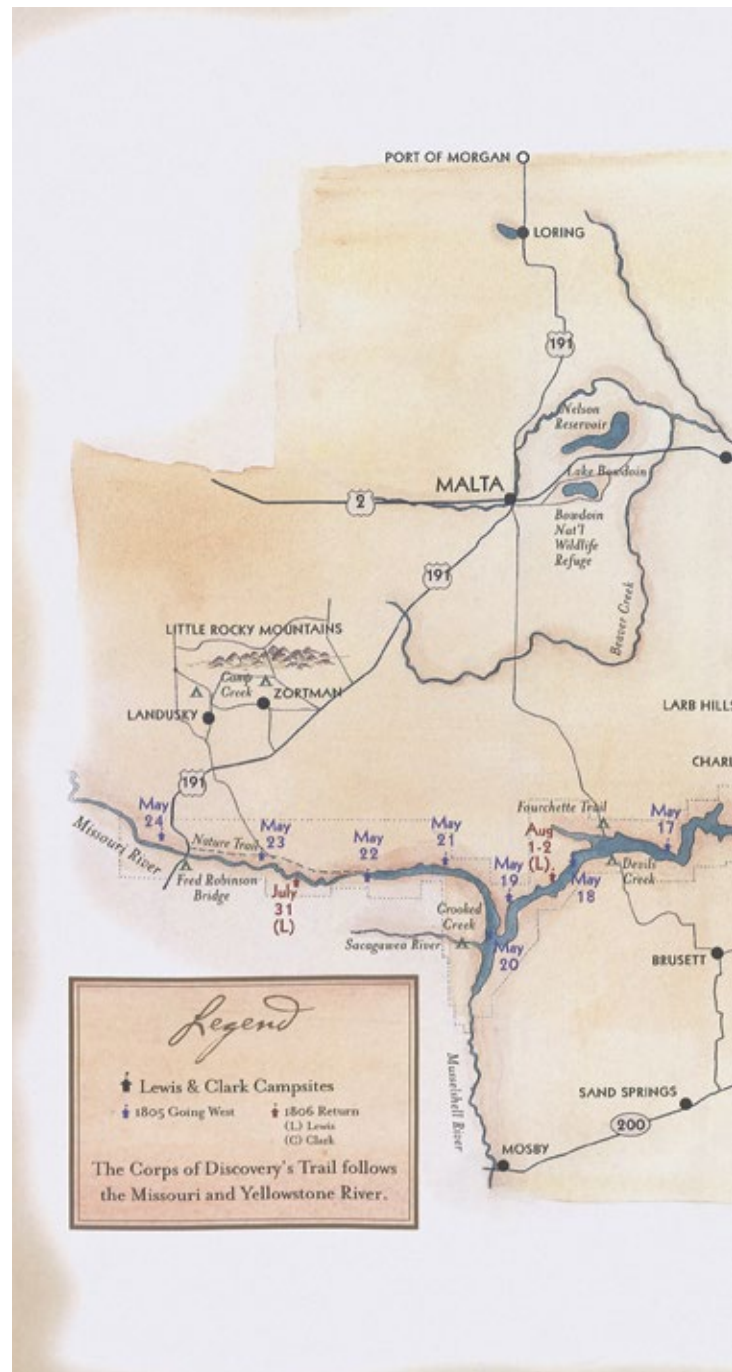
On April 27, 1805 the Corps of Discovery first stepped foot into what would become Montana and Missouri River Country near today's Snowden Bridge. That evening Captain Meriwether Lewis described the day's events in his Journal. The words he wrote represent the first written history of Montana.

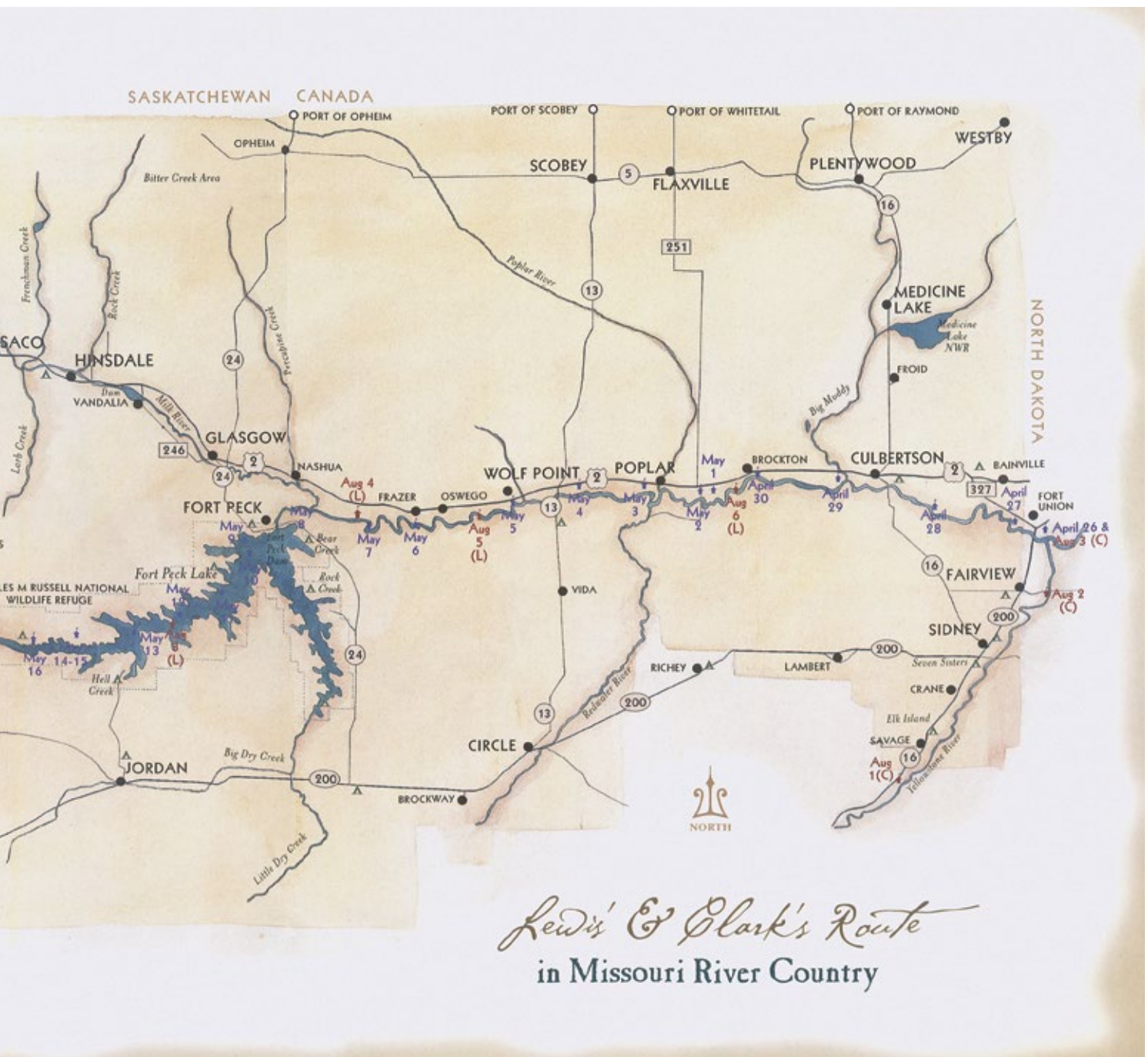
Lewis and Clark's adventure-filled historic route through Montana originates and terminates in Missouri River Country. In all, the Expedition spent more time in this state than anywhere else—close to six months. Thirty-seven of those days were in Missouri River Country, covering nearly 330 river miles and exposing them to some of the most varied and beautiful prairie country of the entire journey.

Changing little since 1805-1806, the landscape they encountered is yet today open, quiet and void of people. Experience it by vehicle, canoe, raft, motorboat, horse or on foot, and you will come away with an appreciation for this unique geography, not only from gaining a sense of history, but through the pictures you'll take in your mind and camera of the simple grandeur of northeast Montana.

To better comprehend this epic passage, first read the captains' journals, either abridged versions such as *Lewis and Clark's Montana Trail* published by Northern Rockies Publishing or the complete journals as published by the University of Nebraska. Then sit on the bank of the Missouri in Missouri River Country and imagine these explorers passing by more than two centuries ago.

In the field, the *Montana Atlas and Gazetteer* is a good companion, as it delineates public and private lands and shows the roads. Lewis and Clark campsite locations as shown on this map are only approximate and based on the captain's notes. Both the Yellowstone and the Missouri Rivers have a dynamic flow and channels, junctions and sites have been and continue to be altered with time, and at least eleven of their campsites are now under the waters of Fort Peck Lake.





“The country we passed today...is one of the most beautiful plains we have yet seen, it rises gradually from the river bottom...then becoming level as a bowling green...as far as the eye can reach...”

— Meriwether Lewis, May 6, 1805 near Frazer, Montana

In the Gilbert Creek area north of Jordan. | Rick and Susie Graetz

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MEDICINE LAKE, MT

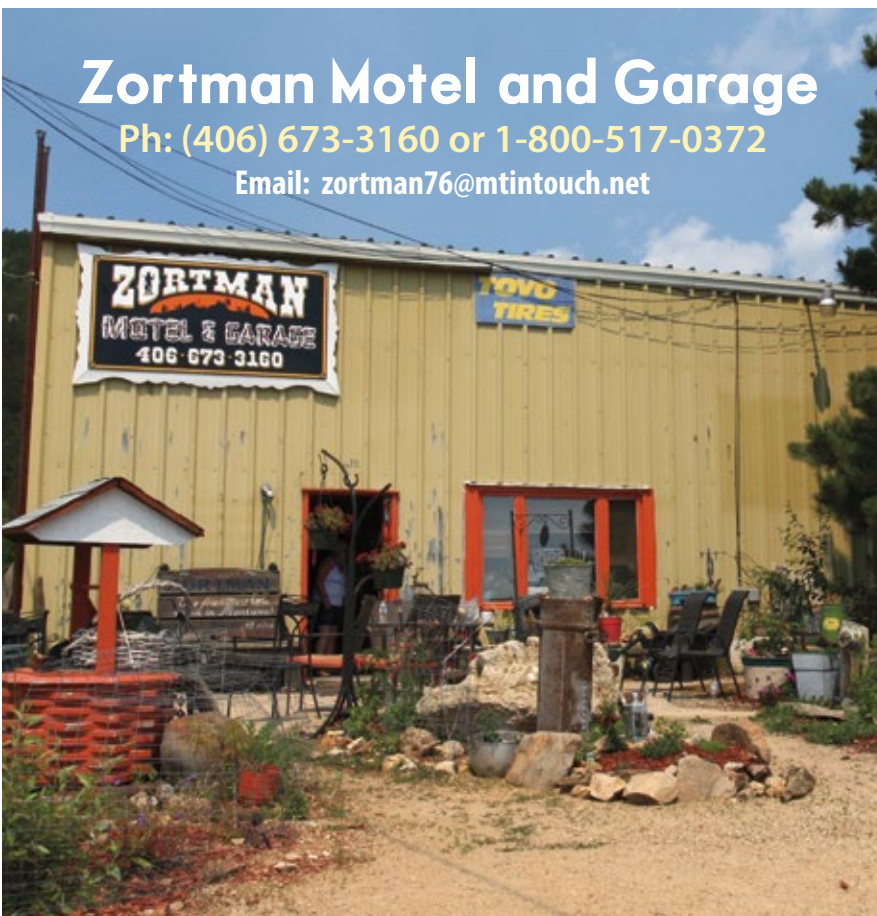
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LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

Tour "Boot Hill," a picturesque hillside cemetery full of area history. Gold panning is a must; rock hounds love our area! Trails for hiking, biking, birdwatching, and ATVs are welcome.

EVENTS:

- Annual Big Dig on Memorial Day Weekend
- Zortman 4th of July Celebration and Fund-raiser for Volunteer Fire Department
- Zortman First Annual "Little Big Dig" on Labor Day Weekend

DIRECTIONS:

Drive to the middle of town, turn right at our "historic" stoplight. *You can't miss us... watch for the numerous flowers and fairy gardens!*

Accommodations in Missouri River Country

HOTELS AND MOTELS

CIRCLE	Traveler's Inn	\$	102 B Avenue	406-485-3323	
CULBERTSON	Hi Line Inn and Suites	\$\$	781 6th Street East	406-787-5261	www.hilineinn.com
	The Kings Inn Motel	\$\$	408 East 6th Street	406-787-6277	
FAIRVIEW	Korner Motel	\$	217 West 9th	406-742-5259	www.midrivers.com/~fairview
FORT PECK	Fort Peck Hotel	\$\$	175 So. Missouri Avenue	406-526-3266	
GLASGOW	Campbell Lodge	\$	534 3rd Avenue South	406-228-9328	www.campbelllodge.com
	Cottonwood Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	54250 US Highway 2	406-228-8213	www.cottonwoodinn.net
	Koski's Motel	\$	320 US Highway 2 East	406-228-8282	
	La Casa Motel	\$	238 1st Avenue North	406-228-9311	www.nemonte.net/~lacasa
	Rundle Suites	\$\$	208 5th Street	406-228-2800	www.rundlesuites.com
JORDAN	Star Lodge Motel	\$	1023 US Highway 2 West	406-228-2494	
	Fellman's Motel Inc.	\$	643 Leavitt Avenue	406-557-2209	www.fellmansmotel.com
	Garfield Hotel & Motel	\$	361 Main Street	406-557-6215	
MALTA	Hell Creek Marina Lodging	\$\$	2502 Hell Creek Road	406-557-2345	www.hellcreekmarina.net
	Country Inn & Suite	\$	1568 US Highway 191	406-654-2198	www.countryinnmalta.com
EDGEMONT	Edgewater Inn & RV Park	\$\$	47176 US Highway 2	406-654-1302	
	Great Northern Hotel	\$\$	2 South 1st Street East	406-654-2100	www.greatnorthernhotel.net
	Maltana Motel	\$\$	138 South 1st Avenue West	406-654-2610	
	Riverside Motel and RV Court	\$	8 Central Avenue North	406-654-2881	
	Royals Inn Motel	\$	117 North 1st Street East	406-654-1150	www.royalsinnmotelmontana.com
MEDICINE LAKE	Sportsman Motel	\$	231 North 1st Street East	406-654-2300	
	Club Bar, Hotel & Restaurant	\$	202 West Main Street	406-789-2208	
PLENTYWOOD	Gold Dollar Lodge	\$	120 South Main	406-765-2730	www.golddollarplentywood.com
	Sherwood Inn	\$\$	515 West 1st Avenue	406-765-2810	www.sherwoodinnplentywood.com
POPLAR	The Jolly Swagman Inn	\$\$	150 F Street West	406-768-3287	www.thejollyswagman.com
SACO	Saco Motel	\$	207 Taylor	406-527-3261	
SCOBEY	Cattle King Motor Inn	\$\$	51 Montana Hwy 13 South	406-487-5332	www.cattlekinginn.com
	Juel Motel	\$	514 Main Street	406-487-2765	
SIDNEY	Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	820 South Central	406-433-4560	www.bestwesternmontana.com/hotels/best-westerngolden-prairie-inn-and-suites
	Candlewood Suites	\$\$\$\$	201 6th Street Northwest	406-482-9692	www.candlewoodsuites.com/sidneymt
	Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	\$\$\$\$	251 West Holly Street	406-433-3200	www.hiexpress.com/sidneymt
	Lone Tree Inn	\$\$\$	900 South Central Avenue	406-433-4520	
	MainStay Suites	\$\$\$\$	1000 3rd Street Northwest	406-488-1000	www.choicehotels.com/montana/sidney/mainstay-hotels/mt095
	Microtel Inn & Suites	\$\$	1500 South Central Avenue	406-482-9011	www.microtelinn.com
	Park Plaza Motel	\$\$	601 South Central Avenue	406-433-1520	
	Richland Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	1200 South Central Avenue	406-433-6400	
	Sunrise Motel	\$\$	2144 South Central Avenue	406-482-3826	
	Wingate by Wyndham	\$\$	1490 South Central Avenue	406-433-3100	www.wingatehotels.com/hotels/montana/sidney/wingate-by-wyndham-sidney/hotel-overview
WOLF POINT	Homestead Inn and Annex	\$\$	101 US Highway 2 East	406-653-1300	www.homesteadinnmotel.com
	Sherman Inn	\$\$	200 East Main Street	406-653-1100	www.shermaninn.com
ZORTMAN	Buckhorn Store, Cabins & RV Park	\$	143 Whitcomb Street	888-654-3162	
	Zortman Motel & Garage	\$	302 Main Street	406-673-3160	

BED & BREAKFAST

DODSON	Stage Road Inn	B\$\$	30730 Stage Road	406-383-4410	www.stageroadinn.com
MOSBY	Hill Ranch Oasis	B\$	Montana Hwy 200, MMkr #161	406-429-6801	www.hillranchoasis.com
WOLF POINT	The Meadowlark	B\$\$	872 Nickwall Road	406-525-3289	www.meadowlarkcabin.com

OUTFITTER/GUIDED RECREATIONAL SERVICES

BAINVILLE	Montana River Ranch		406-769-2500	www.montanariverranch.com
BRUSETT	7-V Ranch	424 Burma Road	406-557-2845	www.recworld.com/7vranch
CULBERTSON	Timber Creek Ranch		406-798-7770	
FAIRVIEW	Mike Niles Outfitting	14478 County Road 356	406-788-0803	www.mikenilesoutfitting.com
FORT PECK	Hi-Line Charter Fishing	6820 US Highway 2 East	406-262-2195	www.hilinecharterfishing.com
GLASGOW	Billingsley Ranch Outfitters		406-367-5577	www.billingsleyoutfitters.com
	Burke Ranch Outfitters	52 Keith Avenue	406-228-9727	www.burkeranchoutfitters.com
JORDAN	Kibler Charter Fishing		406-557-2503	www.kiblercharterfishing.com
	Landwehr Outfitters	#1 Stockyard Lane	877-622-7428	www.landwehroutfitters.com
MALTA	Sagebrush Outfitters	50664 US Hwy 191 North	406-674-5271	
SAND SPRINGS	Kibler Outfitting		406-557-2503	www.kiblercharterfishing.com

GUEST RANCHES AND LODGES

JORDAN	IOU Ranch	1712 North Lodge Pole Road	406-557-2544	www.ranchvacation.net
	Sand Creek Clydesdales Ranch LLC	756 Montana Hwy 200 East	406-557-2865	www.sandcreekclydesdales.net
MALTA	Tillmans Bed & Breakfast		406-670-9788	www.tillmansofmontana.com
SACO	Beaver Creek Lodge	210 Montana Avenue	406-527-3204	

HOT SPRINGS

SACO	Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs	669 Buffalo Trail	406-527-3320	www.sshotsprings.com
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VACATION HOMES

JORDAN	Twitchell's Sportsman Rental		406-557-2554	www.garfieldcounty.com/twitchell.html
ZORTMAN	Whispering Pines Vacation Homes	720 Thompson Street	406-673-3304	

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS AND MARINAS

CIRCLE	Horse Creek Trailer Court & RV	112 B Drive	406-939-4828	
CULBERTSON	Culbertson RV Park	5747 Road 1022	406-314-1597	www.culbertsonrvpark.com
	Diamond Coulee RV & Trailer Park	402 6th Street West	406-787-6676	www.diamondcoulee.com
FORT PECK	Rock Creek Marina	652 South Rock Creek Road	406-485-2560	www.rockcreekmarina.com
GLASGOW	Cottonwood & Suites RV Park	54250 US Highway 2	406-228-8213	www.cottonwoodinn.net
	Shady Rest RV Park	8 Lasar Drive	406-228-2769	
	Trails West Campground	37 Skylark Road B2	406-228-2778	
MALTA	Buffalo Camp at American Prairie Reserve		406-585-4600	www.americanprairie.org
	Edgewater Inn & RV Park	47176 US Highway 2	406-654-1302	
PLENTYWOOD	AOK Camping	509 West 1st Avenue	406-765-7951	
	Bolster Dam Campgrounds		406-765-1700	
	Sunset Camping	85 Brotherhood Hall Road	406-480-0974	
POPLAR	Smith's Mobile Park	150215th Avenue East	406-768-3841	
SCOBEY	Lions Campground	11 Railroad Avenue East	701-770-4993	
WOLF POINT	Homestead RV Park	US Highway 2 West	406-653-1940	
	Steamboat Campground	6182 Highway 13	406-525-3288	
ZORTMAN	Zortman Garage and Motel Campground	302 Main Street	406-673-3160	

SPECIAL INTEREST

MALTA	Great Plains Dinosaur Museum & Field Station	US Hwy 2 East	406-654-5300	www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org
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VACATION PLANNING ASSISTANCE

MALTA	The Travel Haven	121 South 2nd Street	406-654-1638	www.thetravelhaven.com
SIDNEY	Journeys by Jan Travel Company	1050 South Cental Avenue	406-488-4450	

Information Sources

State and Federal Agencies

Montana Office of Tourism:

800-847-4868 www.visitmt.com

Montana Fish, Wildlife And Parks:

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

Fort Peck Tribes Fish and Game

Department: 406-768-5305

www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/

Regional Headquarters Fish Wildlife and Parks, Glasgow:

406-228-3700

BLM-U.S. Bureau of Land Management

in Malta: 406-654-5100

Glasgow: 406-228-3750

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge:

406-654-2863 <http://bowdoin.fws.gov>

CMR | Charles M. Russell National

Wildlife Refuge: 406-538-8706

<http://cmr.fws.gov/>

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge:

406-789-2305

<http://medicinelake.fws.gov>

US Army Corps of Engineers in Fort

Peck: 406-526-3411

Other Tourism Regions

Southeast Montana: 800-346-1876

<http://southeastmontana.com>

Yellowstone Country: 800-736-5276

<http://visityellowstonecountry.com>

Southwest Montana: 800-879-1159

<http://southwestmt.com>

Glacier Country: 800-338-5072

<http://www.glaciermt.com>

Central Montana: 800-527-5348

<http://centralmontana.com>

Ports of Entry

Port of Opheim

June 1-Sept 15, 8am-9pm

Sept 16-May 31, 9am-6pm

Port of Morgan (406-674-5248)

June 1-Sept 15, 8:00am-9:00pm

Sept 16-May 31, 9:00am-6:00pm

Port of Scobey

June 1-Sept 15, 8am-9pm

Sept 16-May 31, 8am-6pm

Port of Raymond Open 24 hrs.

Other Recreation Information

Fort Peck Indian Reservation:

406-768-5155

MT Outfitters and Guides Assoc.:

406-449-3578

Montana Historical Society:

406-444-4710

Chambers of Commerce

Circle C of C: 406-485-4782

www.circle-montana.com

Culbertson C of C: 406-787-6241

www.culbertsonmt.com

Fairview C of C: 406-742-5259

midrivers.com/~fairview

Glasgow C of C and Agriculture:

406-228-2222 www.glasgowchamber.net

Jordan/Garfield County C of C:

406-557-6185 www.garfieldcounty.com

Malta Area C of C:

406-654-1776 www.maltachamber.com

Plentywood/Sheridan County C of C:

406-765-1733

www.sheridancountychamber.org

Poplar C of C: 406-768-3916

www.poplarmt.com

Saco C of C and Agriculture:

406-527-3434 www.sacomontana.net

Scobey & Daniels County C of C:

406-487-2061 www.scobeymt.com

Sidney C of C and Agriculture:

406-433-1916 www.sidneymt.com

Wolf Point C of C and Agriculture:

406-653-2012

www.wolfpointchamber.com

Public Campgrounds

**UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE,
the website for all campgrounds is:
www.nwo.usace.army.mil**

Crane: Seven Sisters

406-234-0900 <http://fwp.mt.gov>

Fort Peck:

Bone Trail 406-526-3411

Downstream 406-526-3411

Duck Creek 406-526-3411

Flat Lake Access Site 406-526-3411

Floodplain 406-526-3411

McGuire Creek 406-526-3411

Nelson Creek 406-526-3411

Rock Creek Fishing Access

406-228-3700 <http://fwp.mt.gov>

The Pines 406-526-3411

West End 406-526-3411

Jordan:

Devil's Creek 406-526-3411

Hell Creek State Park 406-234-0900

<http://stateparks.mt.gov>

Malta:

Fourchette Bay 406-526-3411

Nelson Reservoir 406-759-5077

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

Trafton Park 406-654-1251

Saco: Cole Ponds 406-228-3700

<http://fwp.mt.gov>

Zortman:

Camp Creek 406-654-5100

www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/malta_field_office.html

Montana Gultch

406-654-5100 www.mt.blm.gov/mafo

Transportation

Airlines

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

Charter Airlines

Richland Aviation: 406-482-1832

Wokal Field Valley County Airport:

406-228-4023

Rail | Amtrak

800-872-7245 www.amtrak.com

Car Rental

Way Out West Car Rentals

Wolf Point: 1-800-733-1310

Budget Rent-A-Car of Glasgow

Glasgow: 1-800-255-1472

Richland Car & Truck Rental

Sidney: 406-478-4930

Weather

State: 406-449-5204

Glasgow and northeast Montana:

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

Road Conditions Statewide: dial 511

www.mdt.mt.gov



COTTONWOOD Inn & Suites

54250 US Hwy 2, Glasgow, MT 59230



168 Hotel Rooms
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Daybreak in the Missouri River badlands. | Rick and Susie Graetz

