

Montana's Missouri River Country



Discover New Territory



Red Bottom Powwow, Fort Peck Reservation | Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development

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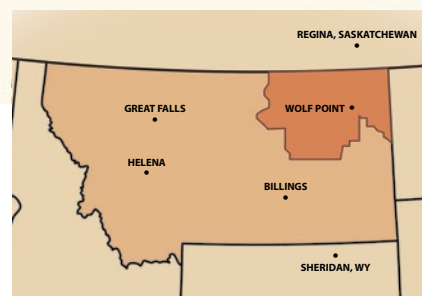
Cover photo: Missouri River Country | Bradley Castaneda

Montana's Missouri River Country



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

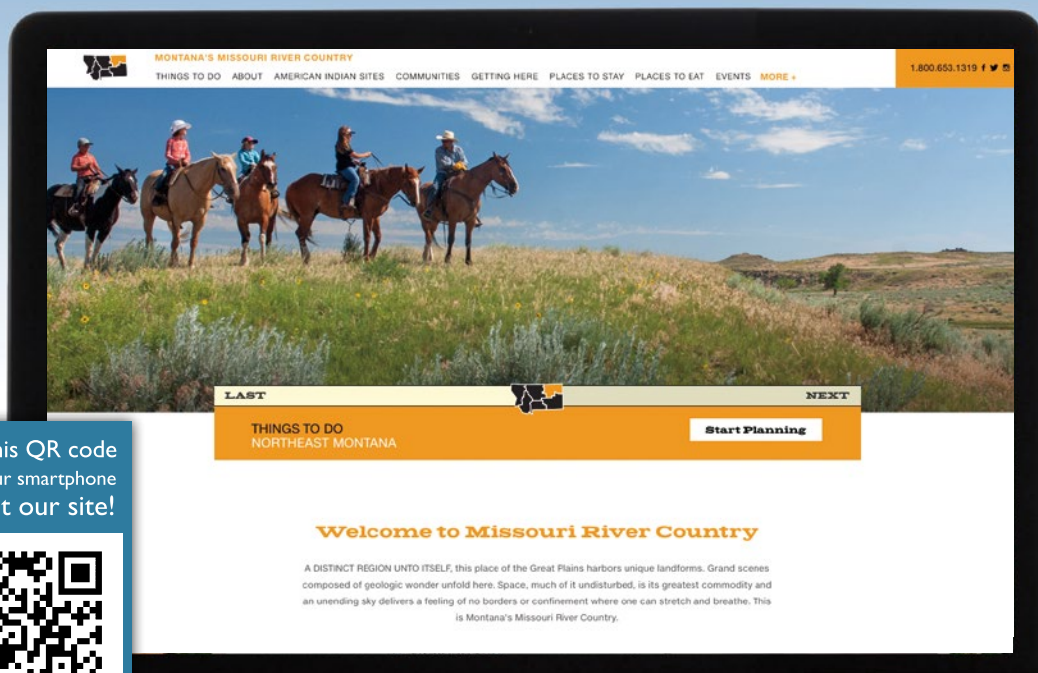
Our website is an encyclopedia to Northeast Montana. The Missouri River Country site contains numerous articles on all aspects of this corner of Montana, spectacular photography, trip planning ideas, places to stay and eat, activities, things to do and see, and events. We welcome you to use it along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

LEARN MORE • PLAN MORE • SEE MORE

AT MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY'S NEW WEBSITE

www.MissouriRiverMT.com

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



Follow us on:





Hinsdale Milk River Park | Rick and Susie Graetz



Daniels Co. Rodeo roper. | Daniels County Leader

More Room to Roam...

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

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

Bev Harbaugh

Bev Harbaugh
President Missouri River Country Board of Directors

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a vast, open plain under a dramatic sky. The foreground is a grassy hillside with patches of green and yellow vegetation. The middle ground shows a flat expanse of land with scattered small hills and a few small bodies of water. The background is a distant horizon line. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and the lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting with warm, golden light.

Under Montana's Biggest Sky...



This is Missouri River Country

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

Nowhere on the North
American continent can one
find such a magnificent gath-
ering of simple grandeur—
river breaks, island ranges,

buttes, badlands—as to be
found in Montana's piece of
the Great Plains.

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

This is Northeast Montana...
This is Missouri River Country





Wildlife & Their Refuges

WILDLIFE HABITAT AT ITS FINEST

Sage Grouse | US Fish & Wildlife Service

Missouri River Country | 7



Mule Deer | Tom Koerner USFWS

Wildlife and Wildlife Refuges

Prairie Wildlife at its Best

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

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

Prairie Dog Town, also near Zortman; the Missouri River Downstream Recreation Area at Fort Peck; the Pines Recreation Area 30 miles 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 three are major wildlife havens.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Just 22 miles south of Plentywood, Medicine Lake NWR is one of Northeast Montana's most alluring gems. And early spring is a delightful time to explore it. Mid-May at about 5 a.m., the lifting fog, a product of a cold night, catches the first light of a mellow sunrise. The tall grass and reeds take on a gold and orange hue



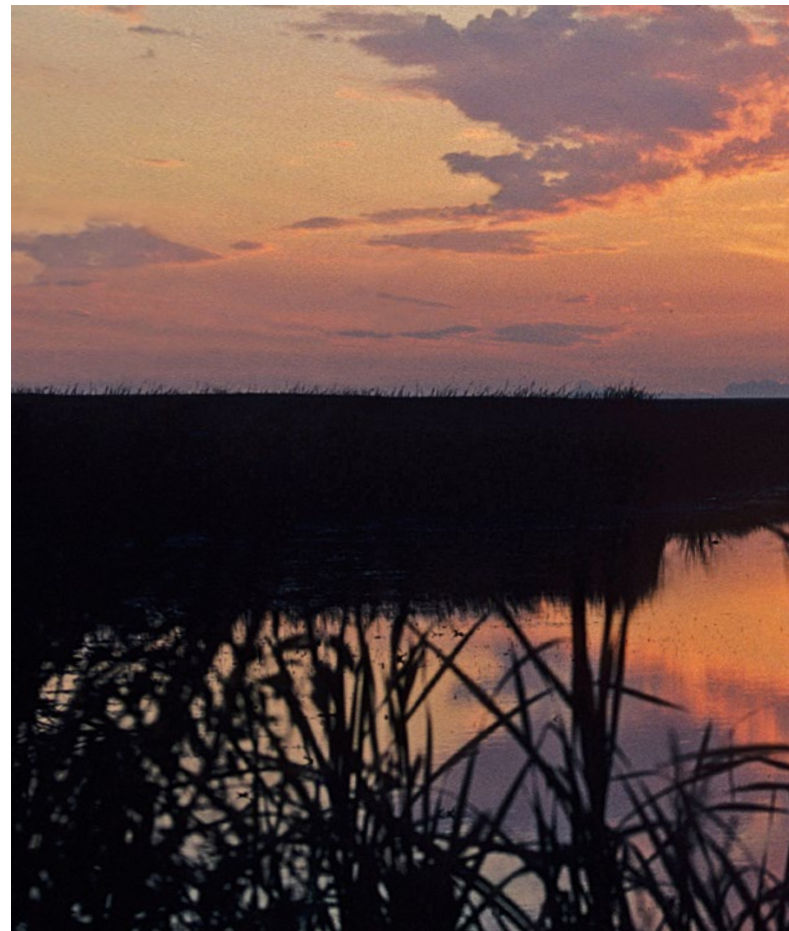
Canada geese in early spring | Krista Lundgren USFWS



White pelicans | Rick and Susie Graetz



Sharp-tailed grouse | Rick Bohn USFWS



Medicine Lake at sunset | Rick and Susie Graetz

while the surrounding water gathers all the colors of the sky, transforming its surface into a pastel painting. The crisp air is noisy; the entire neighborhood chats in profusion. Grouse, performing their mating ritual, add a distinct sound to the excitement. The previous weeks witnessed a raucous homecoming—a tradition carried out each year as tens of thousands of geese, ducks, and birds fill the spring sky on their way back to Medicine Lake creating one of the great wildlife spectacles in America.

More than 100,000 migrating waterfowl make Medicine Lake their warm weather habitat. Great blue herons, white pelicans, geese, grebes, and 10 different species of ducks share this prairie ecosystem with countless other birds. Each year as many as 30,000 ducklings hatch, and every fall more than 10,000 sandhill cranes spend a week here. Foxes, raccoons, pheasants, and deer also populate the area. The refuge boasts the largest pelican rookery in Montana and third largest in the nation. More than 2,000 white pelicans are born each season. The piping plover, a rare bird, actively breeds in the lake's wetlands. Their flute-like call is one of the great sounds of nature.

Geese are the first to arrive. Showing up in February and March, they set up their territory and prepare for nesting even before the ice melts. It's usually late April before Medicine Lake thaws, just in time for the summer dwellers to arrive. All the winged creatures leave around the first of November when the lake begins to freeze.

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

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.fws.gov/refuge/medicine_lake/** for information.





Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge north of Jordan | Rick and Susie Graetz



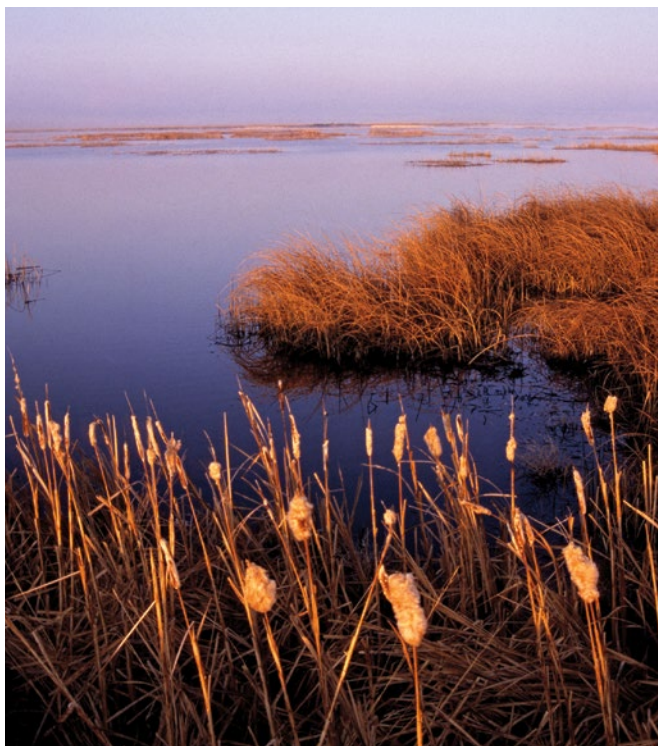
The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

The second largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states (about 1.1 million acres), the CMR, as it is commonly referred to, is one of America's eminent wilderness regions. It embraces about 229 of nearly 300 Missouri River Breaks' miles and surrounds Fort Peck Lake's 1,600-mile shoreline. Moving in a straight line from the western boundary 10 miles upstream of US 191 and the Fred Robinson Bridge near Grand Island, a plane or boat will cover 145 miles by the time it reaches the spillway of Fort Peck Dam and the eastern perimeter of the Refuge.

Legendary wildlife habitat, and one of the finest collections of prairie topography in the best describes the CMR. 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.

Flows of water, such as Seven Blackfeet, Devils, Snow, and Hell creeks, and the Musselshell River have carved this much-dissected expanse of ground. Hence the term “river breaks.”

The CMR is easily reached via numerous access roads leading from Glasgow, Fort Peck, and Malta on the north and Jordan to the south of the lake.



Medicine Lake | Rick and Susie Graetz

Access to the western edge of the Refuge is from Fred Robinson Bridge at the James Kipp Recreation Area south of Zortman and Malta. Byways into the central and eastern units of the CMR include the Crooked Creek Road near Winnett and the route to Hell Creek out of Jordan. These roads are usable in all but the wettest circumstances (two or three days of rain). Travel is slow and 60 miles might take more than two hours of drive time.

On the eastern margin of the CMR, off of Hwy 24, several routes (dry weather roads) wind to the many recreation areas and boat launches on the Dry Arm; one of the more scenic is the McGuire Creek Road. The best access to the northeast part of the Charles M. Russell is out of Fort Peck, just south of Glasgow.

Make sure to hear autumn's serenade of bugling elk at Slippery Ann on the CMR. Access points are spread around the vast landscape allowing easy entry. For maps and information, call **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.

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

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

Early morning and late afternoon in the spring and fall are the best times to visit the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. Its 15,500 acres can be seen via a 15-mile circular route. Call **406-654-2863** for information.



Antelope on the CM Russell National Wildlife Refuge | USFWS



Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge | Rick and Susie Gaetz







Recreation on the Water

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY'S BIG WATERS

Kayaks ready to go on the Nelson Reservoir | Zach and Addison Ulrich





Fort Peck Lake

A Montana and Prairie Treasure...

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

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

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

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

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



Prairie wildflower | Renny Torgerson

Sunset on Fort Peck Lake | Chuck Haney

Fort Peck Lake Access

Access to the lake and its surrounding lands is from several Missouri River Country towns. In the north, roads from Malta, Glasgow and Fort Peck point south. From Hwy 200 on the southern perimeter, several roads from Jordan reach deep into the Missouri River Breaks and to Fort Peck Lake.

Many of the routes take you to developed campgrounds, boat launches and other conveniences. Other roads and trails deliver you into and through wild country. Before striking out, inquire at the CMR National Wildlife Refuge office in Jordan or the one in Fort Peck. They can advise you on conditions and the best routes to follow. It's very important to get good information to make the most of your time.

Fort Peck and Jordan offer an outstanding introduction to this region of Missouri River Country. Lodging, dining, gas, camping and groceries are available in both places although most travelers to the northern fringes of the lake, who aren't camping, spill over into Glasgow, a bustling farming community with plenty of lodging and eateries.

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



Fort Peck Lake east of the Fort Peck townsite | Rick and Susie Graetz

Forty species of warm water fish attract fishermen from across the nation and its boating on big waters is unparalleled. But there is more to Fort Peck Lake than its waters. This prairie beauty is surrounded by the crown jewel of the nation's wildlife refuge system, the 1.1 million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, a landscape that can be best described as prairie magnificence.

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



A Fort Peck Lake walleye | Carla Hunsley



Great day on Fort Peck Lake for participants of the Warriors and Quiet Waters Winter FX (fishing experience) program | Studio MacLeod

Fort Peck, the lake's "capital town"

The town of Fort Peck, long on colorful history and 18 miles south of Glasgow via Hwy 24, is this region's and the lake's eastern post.

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. Busy as it was, by 1881, the dynamic "Mighty Missouri" had severely undercut the post's riverbank and the place was abandoned.

A new town named Fort Peck, located about two miles north of the original, was built to house Army Corps of Engineers' employees involved in the construction of the Fort Peck Dam. Designed to be temporary, the government-owned town nevertheless included many features of a permanent community, including an administrative headquarters, a hospital, stores, a 24-hour theater, a recreation hall, and other facilities.

In October 1933, construction of Fort Peck Dam began.

Completed in 1940, at the time it was the nation's largest public works project, providing at its peak in 1936 10,456 jobs. Behind one of the largest earth-filled river impediments in the world (21,026 feet in length) rests Fort Peck Lake. The dam's original purpose was not only to control floods, but also to create jobs in a depression-saddled economy.

Totally inadequate to house the 10,000-plus workers who poured in to the region from across the USA, it was soon surrounded by numerous shantytowns, such as Wheeler, New Deal, Delano Heights, and Park Grove.

Today, outdoor opportunities nearby are many. Six recreation areas within a few miles of Fort Peck provide access for water sports, fishing, and hunting. Montana's Governor's Cup Walleye Fishing Tournament, held the second weekend in July, is a national event.

One of the wonderful things about the village of Fort Peck is that it is the only town on Fort Peck Lake and the only one on the edge of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. You can't get any closer to two of Missouri River Country's biggest destinations.



Fort Peck Dam on Fort Peck Lake | Rick and Susie Graetz



Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum | US Army Corps of Engineers



Fort Peck Theatre | Rick and Susie Graetz



Hell Creek Campground on Fort Peck Lake | Rick and Susie Graetz

Amenities

The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum

Like Alice in Wonderland falling down the rabbit hole, from the moment you step through the museum's doors into the lair of a "gi-normous," life-like, hungry-looking, open-jawed, steely-eyed *T. rex* named Peck's Rex, you know you are in for an adventure. Ahead of you is 18,000 square feet of pure entertainment featuring paleontology, wildlife and the construction of Fort Peck Dam.

Two of Montana's largest aquariums show off the inhabitants of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River. In the phenomenal Exhibition Hall, a skeletal cast of the *Tyrannosaurus rex* discovered 20 miles southeast of town towers over everything. Also included are other dinosaur fossils, present-day and historical animals of the CMR National Wildlife Refuge, hands-on interpretive displays, and a false-fronted, early 20th century street scene. Ask about kid's fishing and hiking trails **406-526-3493**.

Fort Peck Summer Theatre

Built during the depression to help entertain the dam workers, the theater, with its seating for 1,200, was for decades the largest facility of its kind in the state. Today, through the talent of professional summer stock actors, once again laughter and music ring from the rafters of this exotic and historic building. Performances May through Aug., Fri.-Sat. at 7:30 pm and Sun. at 4:00 pm **406-228-9216**.

The Beaver Creek Nature Trail

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

Kiwanis Park

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

Lewis and Clark Overlook

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



Fort Peck Lake and Dam | Larry Mayer

NELSON RESERVOIR

Number One for Walleye!

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, enticing many anglers from all across the state.

Camping, swimming, boating, picnic shelters, RV sites, restrooms, showers and year-round fishing may be enjoyed. 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.

Access

Nelson Reservoir is reached from US Hwy 2 from Malta on the west and Saco on the east. A clearly marked turnoff leads the way just a short distance to the north.



Nice catch! | Marc Kloker

BRUSH LAKE

Crystal Clear Waters and a Montana State Park

White sandy beaches surrounded by grass fields and stands of spring wheat frame the sparkling waters of Brush Lake. This 280-acre state park offers public access for swimming, boating, hiking, a day-use area, boat ramp and dock, vault toilet, picnic tables, fire rings and has an RV campground. Due to the mineral make-up of Brush Lake there are no fish. Aside from its distinctive aquamarine blue color, Brush Lake looks like many other lakes that dot this prairie pothole region, however, beneath its surface the lake is full of superlatives.

Being a deep lake (65 feet) in a closed basin, Brush Lake contains a sediment record of value to the scientific study of climate change. Since it first saw daylight 10,000 years ago, Brush Lake has accumulated 45 feet of sediments. Much like tree rings, the lake annually deposits a layer of light and dark sediment that can be used to construct a time line. These layers contain pollen and distinct minerals that allow scientists to determine variations in climate since the ice age. Currently, sediment cores are being studied by a collaborative team of scientists who are funded by a National Science Foundation grant. In a few years we should have a better understanding of how climate change has shaped this area of the Northern Great Plains.

Access

Take Hwy 16 South from Plentywood or North from Medicine Lake and follow signs to Brush Lake State Park.



Brush Lake | Dona Osksa





The Little Rockies

PRAIRIE ISLAND MOUNTAINS

The Little Rockies | John Lambing

Missouri River Country | 27





The Little Rockies

Prairie Sentinels

Resembling atolls rising from the prairie sea of north central Montana, Indians migrating through this territory called them “the island mountains.”



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. To the people in towns like Roy and Malta, this 50-square-mile mass of igneous and sedimentary rock is a favored landmark.

Above: Zortman church | Carla Hunsley

While much of early-day Montana can be described as being the Wild West, the Little Rocky Mountains and the country rolling south into the Missouri Breaks was 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 ways here. And before they were forced off the land, the free-roaming Plains Indians hunted enormous bison herds that passed in the shadow of these mountains.

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in the Little Rockies is home to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Nations.

Left: The Little Rockies from the southeast | Rick and Susie Graetz

Tucked into these prairie mountains, two towns of the Old West, Zortman and Landusky, offer opportunities for gold panning, camping, hiking, ATV use, skiing, snowshoeing, scenic views and drives. And Zortman's Annual 4th of July Celebration is an attraction of note.

Zortman

The "capital" of the non-reservation part of the Little Rockies. Experiencing it today, it is hard to believe this was once a rip snorting, die-hard mining town. Home to the successful Ruby Gulch gold mine, it is estimated that the mines in this island range produced \$125 million in gold before the shut down in 1949.

A picturesque Catholic Church on the mountainside overlooking town was built by the Whitcomb family in 1911. This historic little white building, used today by several religions, is a favorite wedding chapel for locals and visitors alike. "Main Street" features a cellblock from the first jail as well as two of the original settlement buildings, the Miner's Club and Kalal's Bar. A side trip to the old wooded cemetery is both peaceful and interesting.

Landusky

Born from the discovery of gold, it is best known for its founder Powell "Pike" Landusky's demise on December 26, 1894. While drinking in Jake the Jew's saloon, Pike was shot by Kid Curry with whom he'd been feuding. Curry and his three brothers belonged to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid's "Wild Bunch" gang. They stole horses, robbed banks and trains, ranched, and hid out in the foothills of the Little Rockies.

Walk the dusty streets, visit Pike's burial site about a mile south of town, and imagine the life this place once led.

Information: The best sources for details on lodging, camping, and other activities are the Zortman Motel and Garage

800-517-0372 or the Buckhorn Cabins and Country Store **406-673-3162**. The Buckhorn Store and the Miners Club and Café offer groceries and meals.

Right: Panning for gold near Landusky | Carla Hunsley

Below: In the Little Rockies | Rick and Susie Graetz









The Yellowstone & Missouri Rivers

MOVING HIGHWAYS OF HISTORY & RECREATION

Missouri River near Bainville | John Lambing

The Missouri

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

Speaking of its tributaries, one nameless writer said it well: *"The Missouri is all these and more... It is the Milk and the Mussleshell, the Wind and the Sun, the Big Hole and the Beaverhead and the Marias, streams of mountains and of plains moving toward their*

compulsive rendezvous with the distant ocean, carving shadows upon rocks, giving perspective to great spaces almost anesthetic in their dizzying emptiness, reflecting blazing suns and mellow moons, bordering their shores with tender trees of willows sweet to the eyes of men in a nearly treeless land."

Known for its prairie scenery, wildlife, fishing, hunting, and water recreation, the Missouri and the geography it touches in Northeast Montana attracts folks from across the nation. Consider that from Missouri River Country's western edge at Fred Robinson Bridge and US Hwy 191, following a straight course, a watercraft will have eclipsed 145 miles when it reaches Fort Peck Lake and the Fort Peck Dam. Fort Peck Lake with



Missouri River above Culbertson | Rick and Susie Graetz

its nearly 1,600 miles of shoreline allows the big river to rest. From here, the boat's occupants can survey the sculptured landscape of the more than one-million-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge that edges the river and completely surrounds the lake.

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

Within 10 miles of exiting Fort Peck and after regaining its channel, the Missouri meets the Milk River. Strong-armed to the side by the Missouri's formidable flow, the overly silt-laden waters of the Milk create a light colored banner along the

Missouri's north bank until finally, the Milk gives up and succumbs to the mightier river.

Meriwether Lewis, May 8, 1805, wrote, *"The water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with the admixture of a tabelspoonfull of milk. from the colour of it's water we called it Milk river. we think it possible that this may be the river called by the Minitaires (Hidatsa) 'the river that scolds at all others'."* Lewis also noted the Milk River Hills that rise nearly 700 feet above the floodplain of the Milk and Missouri. These can be reached via MT Hwy 24 across Fort Peck Dam. From this point, one can view much of the terrain Lewis and Clark described, both along the Missouri on the north side of the hills and southwest out over the lake.



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

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

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

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

Tundra Swan | USFWS





The Yellowstone

The Missouri takes top billing in Northeast Montana, but the Yellowstone River isn't just a bit player.

While it only logs 50 miles in the territory, it takes in some exquisite landscapes and carries much Montana history with it. Gathering some of the finest mountain and prairie topography on the planet, Montana's Yellowstone drains a 70,000-square-mile piece of the west in grand fashion. The 670-mile-long waterway remains the nation's longest undammed river.

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

Long stretches haven't changed since its not-so-long-ago yesterdays. While human presence has grown along the river, much of the water continues to surge through clean space.

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

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

The Yellowstone River above Sidney | Rick and Susie Graetz



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



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

Sidney, the main port of call for the river in Northeast Montana, is about a mile west of the Yellowstone and 14 river miles short of its marriage to the Missouri.

A few river miles north of Sidney, the Yellowstone zips across the North Dakota line, then abruptly changes her mind and rushes back into Montana. Finally, three miles from the eastern

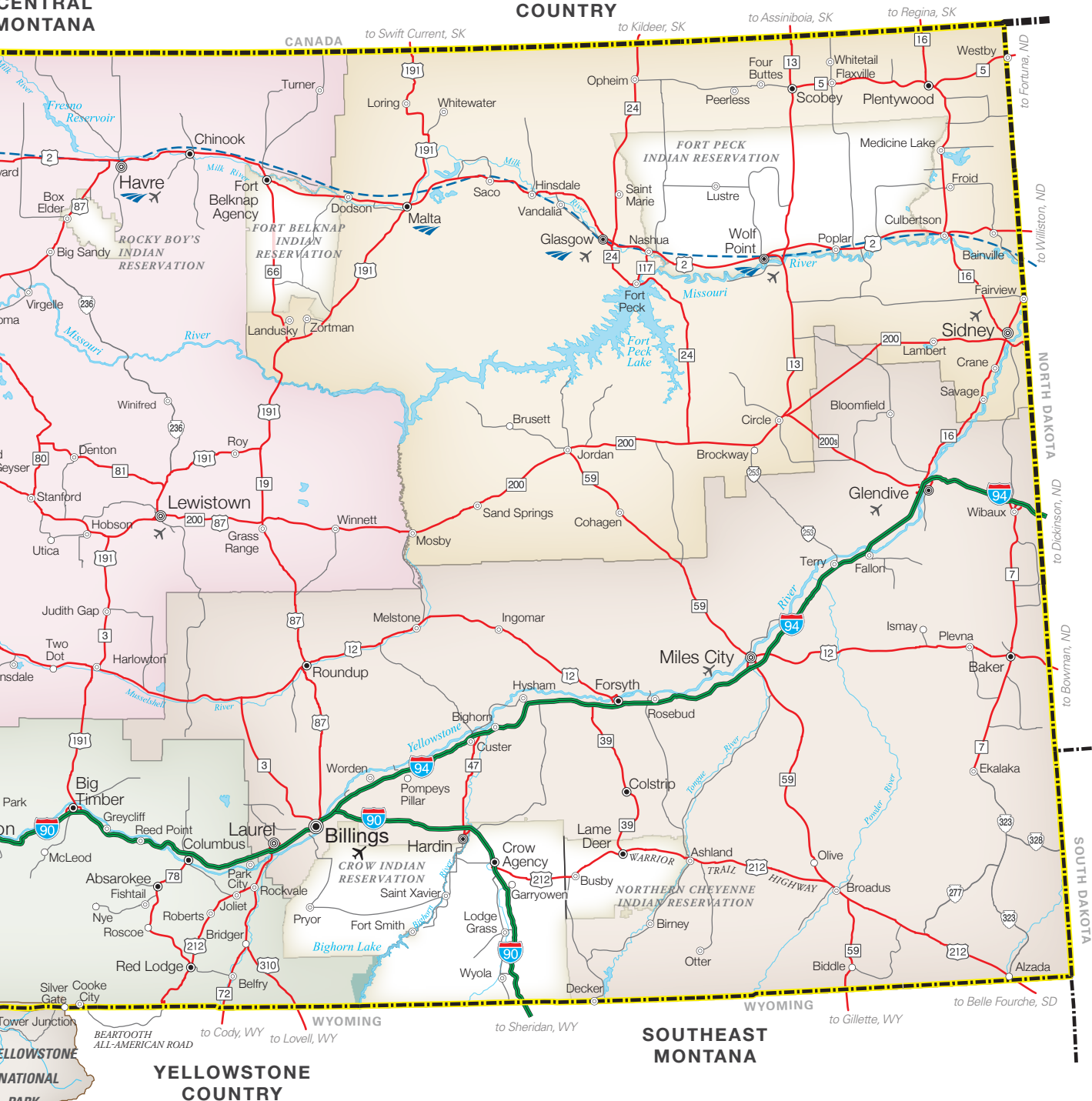
edge of Montana and Fort Union, the big, wide, silt-laden Yellowstone concedes her independence. Together, under the flag of the Missouri, a mighty river lunges toward a rendezvous with the Mississippi River.

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

Far left: Spotting birds on a summer float | V.I. Levi

Below: Yellowstone-Missouri confluence | Larry Mayer





YELLOWSTONE
COUNTRY

SOUTHEAST
MONTANA

CITY/ TOWN	POPULATION
○	Under 50
⦿	50-1,000
●	1,000-2,500
⦿	2,500-10,000
⦿	10,000-25,000
⦿	Over 25,000
★	State Capital

HIGHWAYS
Interstate Route
Principal Highways
Other Highways
ROUTE MARKERS
Interstate
U.S. Route
State or Provincial Route
Other Route

MAP SYMBOLS AND OTHER FEATURES
State Boundary
Major Airports
Secondary Airports
Amtrak Line
Amtrak Station





An Ever-changing Panorama of Clouds, Light & Stars

Sunset on the Yellowstone River near Sidney | John Lambing



Night skies | Bradley Castaneda

The Skies of Missouri River Country

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



Nighttime splendor | Emily Heidi

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

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

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

These are the skies of Northeast Montana!



Billowy summer clouds west of Opheim | Rick and Susie Graetz





Landscapes & Geologic Features

UNCOMMON GEOGRAPHY

Off Haxby Road, east of Jordan | Rick and Susie Graetz



Where Wonders Never Cease!

Geologic Splendor in Missouri River Country

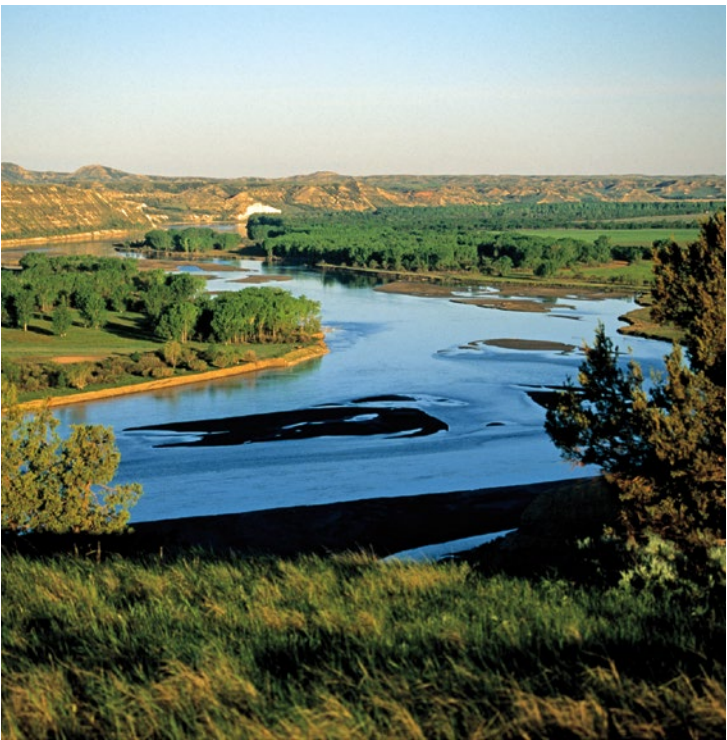
A distinct region unto itself, and one of America's great pieces of geography, this corner of the Great Plains harbors unique landforms.

Grand scenes—badlands, sculptured sandstone, river breaks, canyons, wilderness grasslands, wildlife refuges, lakes, and island mountain ranges—intermingle with smaller bits of geologic wonderment. Space, much of it undisturbed, is its greatest commodity.

Left: Northeast Missouri River near Culbertson | Rick and Susie Gaetz

Far Left: Hikers in the Sand Arroyo Badlands | Rick and Susie Gaetz

Below: Old Scraggy Peak in the Little Rockies | Rick and Susie Gaetz







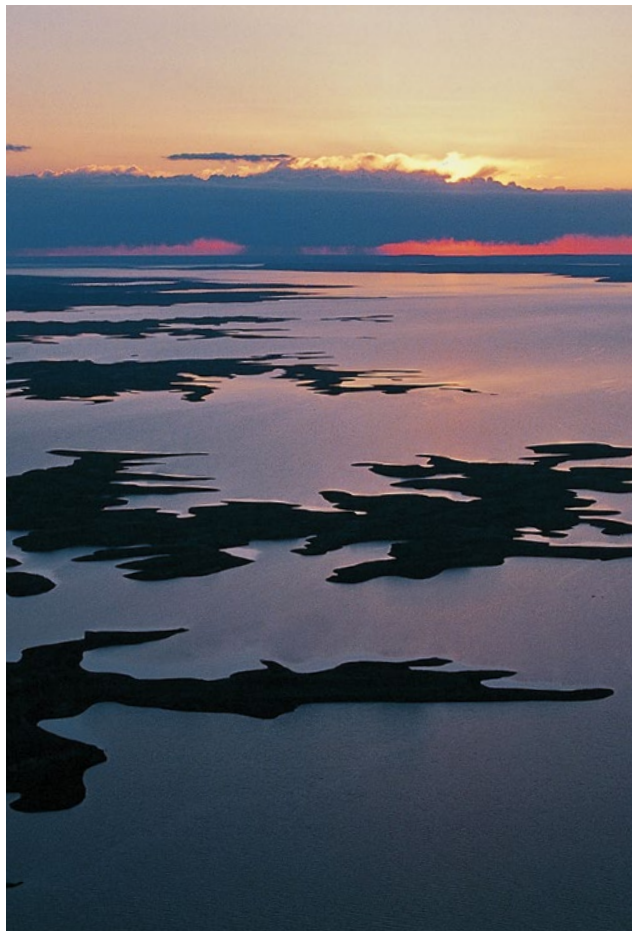
At first, the openness, the immensity, and the distances may seem overpowering. Gradually, though, you get comfortable with it all; then you notice the beauty and splendor.

Not just the imposing geologic structures, but also the abundance of simple grandeur... cottonwoods along a small creek; a lone tree silhouetted on a hillside; waves of wheat dancing in the summer wind; the first rays of sun illuminating sandstone cliffs; delicate snow patterns drifted against a weathered barn; the Northern Lights shimmering across the night sky; antelope moving quietly through sagebrush-covered prairie; and the soft fusion of earth and sky on horizons that seem endless.

This is the uncommon landscape of Missouri River Country!

Left: Ancient petroglyphs south of Malta | Chuck Haney

Below: Fort Peck Lake at dawn | Larry Mayer







Hunting & Fishing

BIG GAME, BIG BIRDS & BIG WATER FISHING

Spotting game near the Missouri River Breaks | Justin Sliter

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.



Hunting at dawn | USFWS

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, grasslands 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-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, and one of the healthiest populations of sage grouse in the United 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: www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses

Hunting Information

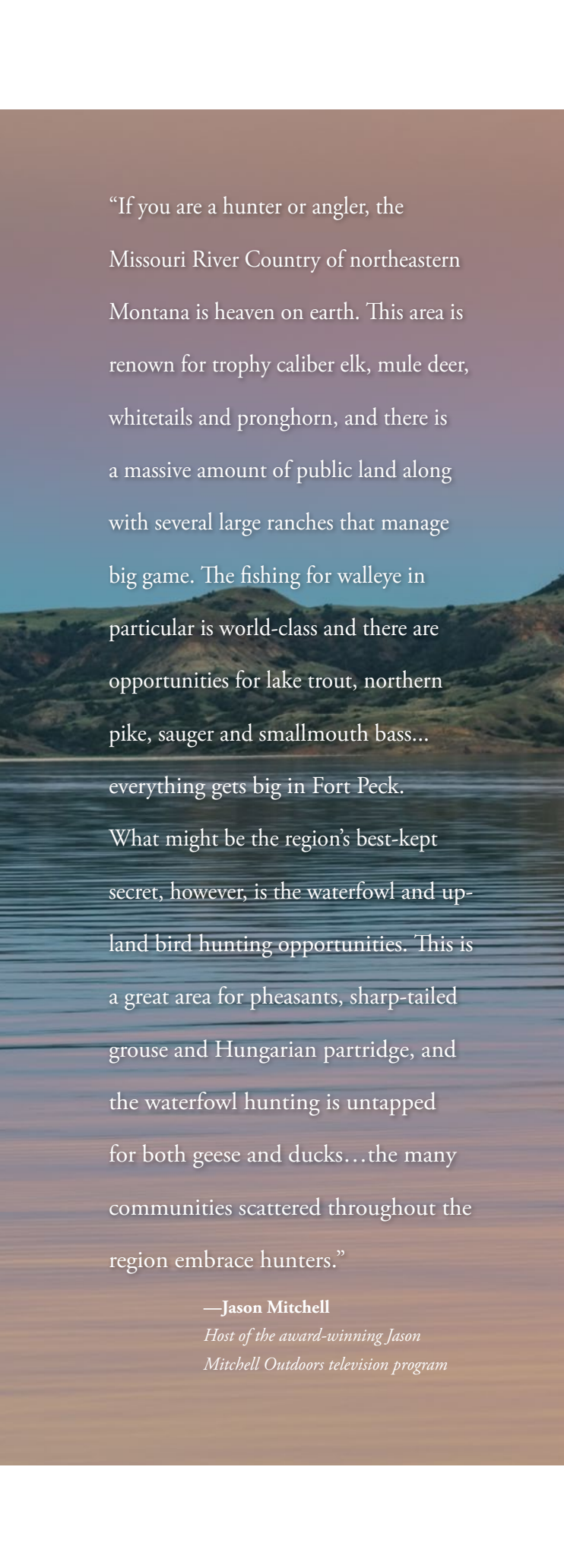
The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks www.fwp.mt.gov or the Region 6 office in Glasgow **406-228-3700** is where to turn for the last word on regulations and license applications, but any authorized license outlet also can help. Area offices of the Federal Bureau of Land Management are invaluable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



Elk at Slippery Ann | Jackie Withchum USF&WS







“If you are a hunter or angler, the Missouri River Country of northeastern Montana is heaven on earth. This area is renown 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 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 up-land bird hunting opportunities. This is a great area for pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge, and the waterfowl hunting is untapped for both geese and ducks...the many communities scattered throughout the region embrace hunters.”

—Jason Mitchell

Host of the award-winning Jason Mitchell Outdoors television program

Fishing

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

More than 50 different species of fish inhabit Fort Peck Lake and they all have room to grow. The lake 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 5-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 lake. 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 lake, but experienced anglers suggest focusing efforts on the bays, points, and in Big Dry Arm. Advised as successful approaches for luring walleye to your net are using crank bait and jigs, or trolling with bottom bouncers and spinners tipped with minnows, leaches, or night-crawlers. Expect to catch walleye between 2 and 4 pounds, but be prepared for 8 to 10 pound ones.

Anglers looking for a fight may want to target the lake's abundant smallmouth 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 2 and 3 pounds, it is not uncommon to find a 5-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 4 to 8 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 Lake. The Missouri and Yel-

lowstone 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 Lake. 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, enticing anglers from around the world. Make Fort Peck Lake your next destination. You'll take home a fishing experience to last a lifetime.



Casting on the Milk River | Scott Redstone

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 10-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 out-

fitters and guides, contact: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks **406-228-3700** and the CMR National Wildlife Refuge **406-538-8706**. The US Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Peck **406-526-3411** can provide additional information on Fort Peck Lake.

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

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

Right: Just another great day of fishing on Fort Peck Lake | Sean Heavey

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

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







Agriculture

RANCHING & FARMING

Hereford cattle grazing near Circle | Madri Blom, Beery Land and Livestock



Agriculture

The Mainstay of Northeast Montana's Economy

As spring turns its face toward summer, new color and life come to the prairie, not only the expected greening of native grasses and appearance of wildflowers, but also the traditional symbols of the west show up—cattle and newborn calves graze on the sprawling rangelands and grains and hay rising from cultivated soil.

Estimates are 301,000 head of cattle and calves make a living on the nutrient-rich grasslands of Missouri River Country and more than 23 million bushels of various strains of wheat are harvested yearly. Many farmers are planting peas in grounds that had once been for wheat. An estimated 10 million bushels of peas now add to the agriculture economy of Northeast Montana.



Peas—many farmers are sowing peas, often called a pulse crop. Pulses are a leguminous crops harvested solely for the dry seed. Peas, lentils, chickpeas and dried beans are the most common. | USDA

The grain produced here, based on a yearly consumption of 140 lbs per person, feeds 12,768,410 folks and beef raised in these parts, assuming 60 lbs per person, takes care of 1,543,849 individuals!

Temperatures and soil quality determine the Ag activity. In the northeast corner, fertile earth left behind from retreating continental glaciers and ample moisture make for healthy fields of grain to dominate the topography. Irrigation from the waters of the Yellowstone River near Sidney allows sugar beets to thrive. The Milk River across the northern tier of Missouri River Country, from Malta to Nashua, also provides irrigation for crops.

And in Jordan country, as well as the Malta area, where the landscape and climate are less conducive to farming, ranching is a prosperous activity.

Wheat and barley, at first a delicate lime hue, transform to a darker green as they mature and “head out” before curing and turning gold. In July, mustard and canola crops add a brilliant yellow glow to nature’s evolving pageant. Difficult to tell apart – the mustard flower is a bit smaller than that of the canola - both are oil seeds used for mustard, condiments, salad oil, and a variety of other uses.

But no matter the crop, as each day heats up and the winds rise, watch as this bounty of the land dances to its own rhythm.

In this part of Montana, the terms winter wheat and spring wheat are often heard. On an average, the bushel yield per acre—if one thinks in terms of liquid, a bushel is equivalent to about eight gallons—is highest for winter wheat. But the chance for a higher yield comes with risk. The winter strain is planted in September and October in hope of catching autumn moisture to germinate the seeds, which then go dormant and will hopefully be covered by an insulating blanket of snow. If Mother Nature is kind, come spring, the crop will be hardy and have a healthy head start over spring plantings and mature enough to be harvested in early August; if she isn’t kind and there is winterkill, the entire crop is a complete loss. Less of a gamble, spring wheat is used in areas where the climate is too cold and dry and therefore, planting, depending upon the rainfall and the ability to get into the fields, doesn’t take place until April and May. The wheat has a lower yield and isn’t ready for harvest until late August.

In Missouri River Country, more moisture is available the farther east one travels. Yet at the same time it’s colder so this part of the state grows more of the spring type than farther to the west. In some cases, farmers will plant both winter and spring wheat to hedge their bets. Spring wheat is however dominant.

Left: Wheat at its summer best, southeast of Glasgow | Carla Hunsley



Young Kade Strommen in a field of wheat “headed out” and ready for harvest | Strommen photo

Mustard field in full bloom—the flower of mustard is smaller than canola otherwise they look the same | USDA



Harvesting near Glasgow | Rick and Susie Graetz

Approaching storm over canola fields | USDA



Long rectangular rows of alternating crops and bare or stubble fields is called strip farming; the purpose is to conserve moisture and bring nutrients back to the soil in the resting fields for the next season. With new planting methods—drilling seeds into the ground and less disturbance to the dirt—many farmers have abandoned strip farming and now plant “wall-to-wall.” Also, as equipment is larger and tilling no longer a practice, strips that were at one time 30 feet wide are now 100 feet in width.

Ranching is a year-round occupation and just as dependent on weather as the growing side of agriculture. The geography south of Hwy 2, throughout the western regions of Missouri River Country and around the Little Rockies, is best suited for raising livestock. Glaciers had little or no effect here and as a result the soils are thin. But nutritious grasses flourish providing good sustenance. And the rougher landscape, a result of not having been smoothed over by moving ice, holds plenty of coulees and sheltered places for livestock to find protection from the weather.

In Missouri River Country, you will notice that for the most part, the cattle are either black or red. Black Angus is by far the animal of choice followed by Red Angus. Charolaise, a white, specialty breed follows in importance. The white-faced

Hereford, a breed of cattle that once signified ranching, still remains today.

In August and often into September, agriculture related buzz and excitement occurs on the main byways and backcountry roads of Missouri River Country. As the grain harvest begins, big combines are in the fields, meals are served from the back of pickups, and trucks loaded with grain head to the elevators and silos. On the ranches, cattle are rounded up; those heading for sale are herded to waiting semi-trailers and shipped to feed lots. Local cafés are full and neighbors swap stories of the perils and pleasures of harvest season.

Agriculture then is the mainstay of Northeast Montana’s economy! Ranches and farms out here are sizeable, averaging 2,753 acres. In terms of income, wheat, hay, sugar beets, dry peas, lentils, garbanzo beans, and mustard seed lead the way, followed by livestock. While sheep and bison graze in the same habitat as cattle, they are not major players.

MRC thanks Marko Manoukian, the Phillips County Extension Agent for his help in gathering facts for this article.

Black Angus herd | Carla Hunsley





Places Not To Miss!

Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town

Known as a center of one of Montana's most productive grain growing regions, Scobey is an idyllic prairie town. Its featured attraction is Pioneer Town, a realistic re-creation of an early 1900s homestead hamlet and one of the finest museums of its kind. Strolling the boardwalks, you could imagine yourself wearing boots and spurs. Guided tours, available by appointment during the summer season **406-487-5965**.

Pioneer Days are celebrated the last weekend in June and feature the highly entertaining Dirty Shame Show—four family oriented variety shows starring the Dirty Shame Belles and the Dixieland Band. And every community has their museums... here are some to be sure and search out.

Glasgow—Valley County Pioneer Museum offers exhibits and artifacts of all aspects of life on the Montana prairie. Collections range from Native Americans to the Homestead Era and it is a worthwhile place to study the vibrant past of the land the Milk River drains. A Lewis and Clark exhibit



features the wildlife and plants they noted in their journals. See dinosaur bones and learn the history of Fort Peck Dam and local aviation **406-228-8692**.

Glasgow—Children’s Museum of Northeast Montana provides hands on activities for kids **www.thechildrensmuseumofnortheastmontana.wildapricot.org**.

Jordan—Garfield County Museum. Dinosaur displays—including a full-sized *Triceratops* and a *T. rex* head, exhibits of historic prairie life, and research opportunities **406-557-2517**.

Sidney—Mondak Heritage Center Museum is one of the finest museums in Montana, east of the mountains. Visit an authentically reconstructed 1910 version of the town featuring 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 an interesting visit for all **www.themondak.org**.

Far left: Dirty Shame Belles at Pioneer Town | Daniels County Leader

Lower left: Daniels County Courthouse, Scoby | Rick and Susie Graetz

Below: Pioneer Town, Scoby | Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development

Something New is Brewing in Missouri River Country!

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

MALTA—Blue Ridge Brewing

GLASGOW—Busted Knuckle Brewery

WOLF POINT—Docz Missouri Breaks Brewing

SIDNEY—Meadowlark Brewing

SIDNEY—1035 Brewing





Missouri River Crossing and the CMR

Wildlife Viewing, Bugling Elk and the James Kipp Recreation Area

One of America's great prairie wilderness landscapes and the crown jewel of the nation's wildlife refuge system, is the 1.1 million acres of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. The region at its far western end, in the area of the Fred Robinson Bridge carrying US Hwy 191 across the Missouri, is known as one of the finest wildlife viewing places in Montana.

Here one will find the Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area, Sand Creek Wildlife Station, CMR Auto Tour Route, James Kipp Campground, and a launching spot for fishing boats and a takeout for those who have completed a canoe trip through the 149-mile-long Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

A key attraction is autumn elk watching at Slippery Ann on the north side of the river. Breeding usually occurs in September and October and it is during this season, or rut, that nearly 500 elk congregate at the viewing area. Peak numbers of bull elk can be seen around the second and third weeks of September, when hundreds of elk return for their annual mating ritual. In this no hunting zone, bull elk compete for harems of cow elk and fend off competitors in sparring matches. Numbers continue to remain high through early October and then begin to decline as the harems break up and the bulls begin to once again feed and store up reserves for the winter ahead.

The CMR Auto Tour Route is a 20-mile-long, 2-hour, self-guided tour, which may be accessed from two points along Hwy 191 on the west side of the Refuge.

Certain rules and precautions are in place during this period of the year. Being too close to or disturbing animals can be very stressful to wildlife and unsafe. Use binoculars, spotting scopes, or telephoto camera lenses to "get closer." The use of artificial light to locate wildlife, including elk, is prohibited at all times on the CMR. This includes the use of spotlights, flashlights, and vehicle headlights. Collecting shed antlers and animal skulls is illegal.

The CMR website provides information about camping and access www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell. Also visit the Sand Creek Wildlife Station atop the hill on the south side of the river.

Left: Elk at the Slippery Ann Viewing Area | Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development

Below: On the CMR at Sand Creek | Rick and Susie Graetz





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brachylophosaur "Elvis",
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Monday thru Saturday 10AM to 5PM**

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Missouri River Country's Dinosaur Trail

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

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

A huge swath of Missouri River Country is part of the well-studied and explored Hell Creek Formation, an area of

exposed rocks upper Cretaceous to lower Paleocene in age. For the most part, with the exception of a portion contiguous to the Missouri's north side south of Malta, it is confined to the south side of Fort Peck Lake and north of Jordan. This region is considered to be one of the richest fossil localities in the world, and indeed numerous amazing discoveries have been made there. North of the Milk River Valley, the geologically older Judith River Formation is exposed. In the summer of 2001, near Malta, a *Brachylophosaurus* named "Leonardo" was discovered. "Leonardo" is scientifically unique for being a Guinness Book of World Record holder for being the most complete "mummy" dinosaur. That means that the majority of "Leonardo's" skin, muscles, and organs fossilized, giving paleontologists an intimate look into the body parts that rarely survive.

Along the western edge of Missouri River Country, on the eastern slopes of the Little Rocky Mountains near Zortman, the Jurassic Period preserves ancient marine life that once lived

Right: Fort Peck Interpretive Center display | Rick and Susie Graetz



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in a shallow seaway. During the Mesozoic Era, inland seaways occurred numerous times in the western US. These warm, shallows seas would have given the adjacent land a very humid and subtropical climate, very similar to the Gulf States today. Just outside of Zortman (even in the town dump!), these titled Jurassic layers reveal a plethora of ancient marine life. Oyster shells (the oyster *Gryphaea*, commonly referred to as “devil’s toenails”) and belemnites (the bullet-shaped internal hard part from extinct squids) quite literally litter the ground. Who knew you could visit the ocean in Montana?

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

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

Each year brings new finds and exhilarating information and enlightenment about what this land was like until an errant asteroid

ended the reign of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. The impact engulfed the Earth—darkening the sky with dust and debris, causing vast wildfires and tsunamis, and likely triggering increased volcanic activity. Certainly not a good day to be on Earth.

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

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

West of Glasgow, in Malta, the Phillips County Museum and the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum house many rare fossil dinosaurs, fish, invertebrates, and plants. They offer real dinosaur digs that participants can sign up for to learn how paleontologists find and excavate the fossils. Additionally, they offer an educational program for youngsters that teaches them about regional geology and paleontology out at an active fossil locality. For more information on all of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum’s activities: www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org, dinosaur@itstriangle.com, or 406-654-5300.

The Original People of Missouri River Country

Fort Peck Reservation—The Assiniboiné 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 Assiniboiné and Sioux nations, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

In the early 1600s, Europeans displaced the ancestors of the Assiniboiné and Sioux from the East Coast. By the end of the century, the Sioux had migrated 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), who all 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 Assiniboiné*. Smallpox decimated their size by nearly two-thirds, making them vulnerable to other Plains tribes. Unable to defend their hunting grounds, the Lower Assiniboiné 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 Assiniboiné 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 **406-768-2300** as sensitivity issues and tribal customs must be considered and respected.

Fort Belknap Reservation—The Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné Nations

Populated by two different tribes—the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboiné—the Fort Belknap Reservation rests half in Central Montana and half in 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.



Ceremonial dance at Red Bottom Days | Donnie Sexton

In 1826, along the Missouri River, German explorer Prince Maximilian and artist Karl Boedmer documented the tribe's 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 Assiniboiné, 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 Assiniboiné, who shared language and old connections with the Sioux, moved eastward to join them, but the Gros Ventre and some Assiniboiné 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 Assiniboiné 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.

Missouri River Country's Birding Trail

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

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

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

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

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



Bald Eagles | USFWS



Male Sage Grouse | USFWS



Cedar Waxwing | Renny Torgerson



Pelicans | Carla Hunsley



Ring-necked Pheasant | Tom Koerner/USFWS



Blackfooted ferret | Elisa Dahlberg USFWS



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406-787-6320
facebook.com/culbertsonmuseum

Garfield Motel

P.O. Box 234, Jordan, MT 59337
406-557-6215
www.midrivers.com/-garfield

Smoke Creek Inn

51 Hwy 13 South, Scobey, MT 59263
406-487-5332
www.smokecreekinn.com

Way-Out-West Car Rentals

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406-653-1310 800-733-1310
www.wayoutwestcarrentals.com

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	
FORT PECK	Fort Peck Hotel	\$\$	175 So. Missouri Avenue	406-526-3266	www.thefortpeckhotel.com
	Lakeridge Motel & Tackle Shop	\$\$	West of Fort Peck	406-526-3597	
GLASGOW	Campbell Lodge	\$	534 3rd Avenue South	406-228-9328	
	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	
	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	www.midrivers.com/~garfield
	Hell Creek Marina Lodging	\$\$	2502 Hell Creek Road	406-557-2345	www.hellcreekmarina.net
	Ryan Apartments	\$\$	722 Attix Street, Apt. 3	406-851-1877	www.ryanapartments.com
MALTA	Country Inn & Suite	\$	1568 US Highway 191	406-654-2198	www.countryinnmalta.com
	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
	Sportsman Motel	\$	231 North 1st Street East	406-654-2300	
	MEDICINE LAKE Club Bar, Hotel & Restaurant	\$	202 West Main Street	406-789-2208	
PLENTYWOOD	Gold Dollar Lodge	\$	120 South Main	406-765-2730	
	Sherwood Inn	\$\$	515 West 1st Avenue	406-765-2810	www.sherwoodinnplentywood.com
POPLAR	The Jolly Swagman Inn	\$\$	150 F Street West	406-768-3287	
SACO	Saco Motel	\$	207 Taylor	406-527-3261	
SCOBEY	Smoke Creek Inn	\$\$	51 Hwy 13 South	406-487-5332	www.smokecreekinn.com
	Wheatland Lodge	\$\$	514 Main Street	406-487-2765	www.wheatlandlodgellc.com
SIDNEY	Best Western Golden Prairie Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	820 South Central	406-433-4560	www.bestwesternmontana.com/hotels/best-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
	Richland Inn & Suites	\$\$\$	1200 South Central Avenue	406-433-6400	
	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	\$\$	30730 Stage Road	406-383-4410	www.stageroadinn.com
MOSBY	Hill Ranch Oasis	\$	123 Hill Road	406-429-6801	www.hillranchoasis.com
WOLF POINT	The Meadowlark	\$\$	872 Nickwall Road	406-525-3289	

HOT SPRINGS

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

BAINVILLE	Montana River Ranch		406-769-2500	www.montanariverranch.com
BRUSETT	7-V Ranch	424 Burma Road	406-557-2845	www.7-vranchoutfitters.com/
CULBERTSON	Timber Creek Ranch		406-798-7770	
FAIRVIEW	Mike Niles Outfitting	14478 County Road 356	406-788-0803	www.mikenilesoutfitting.com
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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	Sand Creek Clydesdales Ranch LLC	756 Montana Hwy 200 East	406-557-2865	
MALTA	Tillmans Bed & Breakfast		406-670-9788	www.tillmansofmontana.com
SACO	Beaver Creek Lodge & Resort	210 Montana Avenue	406-527-3204	
SAND SPRINGS	IOU Ranch	1712 N. Lodge Pole Road	406-557-2544	

VACATION HOMES

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PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS AND MARINAS

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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
DAGMAR	Sunset Camping	85 Brotherhood Hall Road	406-480-0974	
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	
JORDAN	Hell Creek Marina	1 Hell Creek Road	406-557-2345	www.hellcreekmarina.net
MALTA	Buffalo Camp at American Prairie Reserve	South of Malta	406-585-4600	www.americanprairie.org
	Edgewater Inn & RV Park	47176 US Highway 2	406-654-1302	
PLENTYWOOD	AOK Camping	509 West 1st Avenue	406-765-7951	
	Bolster Dam Campgrounds		406-765-1700	
POPLAR	Smith's Mobile Park	150215th Avenue East	406-768-3841	
SCOBAY	Lions Campground	11 Railroad Avenue East	701-770-4993	
WOLF POINT	Homestead Inn & RV Park	101 US Highway 2 East	406-653-1940	www.homesteadinnmotel.com
	Steamboat Campground	6182 Highway 13	406-525-3288	www.steamboatdrygoods.com
ZORTMAN	Zortman Garage and Motel Campground	302 Main Street	406-673-3160	www.zortmanmotel.webstarts.com

SPECIAL INTEREST

MALTA	Great Plains Dinosaur Museum & Field Station	US Hwy 2 East	406-654-5300	www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org
FORT PECK	Fort Peck Interpretation Center	Yellowstone Road	406-526-3493	

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 and Business Development:

800-847-4868 www.visitmt.com

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks:

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

Fort Peck Tribes Fish and Game

Department: 406-768-2300

www.fortpecktribes.org/fgd/

Regional Headquarters Fish Wildlife

and Parks, Glasgow: 406-228-3700

BLM-U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Malta: 406-654-5100

Glasgow: 406-228-3750

www.blm.gov/

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge:

406-654-2863 [www.fws.gov/refuge/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bowdoin/)

bowdoin/

CMR | Charles M. Russell National

Wildlife Refuge: 406-538-8706

www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell/

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge:

406-789-2305

www.fws.gov/refuge/medicine_lake

US Army Corps of Engineers

Fort Peck: 406-526-3411

Other Tourism Regions

Southeast Montana: 800-346-1876

www.southeastmontana.com

Yellowstone Country: 800-736-5276

www.visityellowstonecountry.com

Southwest Montana: 800-879-1159

www.southwestmt.com

Glacier Country: 800-338-5072

www.glaciermt.com

Central Montana: 800-527-5348

www.centralmontana.com

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Port of Morgan 406-674-5248

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Port of Raymond

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Other Recreation Information

Fort Peck Indian Reservation:

406-768-2300

MT Outfitters and Guides Assoc.:

406-449-3578

Montana Historical Society:

406-444-4710

Chambers of Commerce

Circle C of C: 406-485-4782

Culbertson C of C: 406-787-5271

www.culbertsonmt.com

Fairview C of C: 406-742-5259

www.midrivers.com/~fairview

Glasgow C of C and Agriculture:

406-228-2222 www.glasgowchamber.net

Jordan/Garfield County C of C:

406-557-2046 www.garfieldcounty.com

Malta Area C of C:

406-654-1776 www.maltachamber.com

Plentywood/Sheridan County C of C:

406-765-8500

www.sheridancountychamber.org

Poplar C of C: 406-768-5204

Saco C of C and Agriculture:

406-527-3434

Scobey & Daniels County C of C:

406-487-2061 www.scobeymt.com

Sidney C of C and Agriculture:

406-433-1916 www.sidneymt.com

Wolf Point C of C and Agriculture:

406-653-2012

www.wolfpointchamber.com

Public Campgrounds

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

[www.campgroundreviews.com/regions/
montana/fort-peck/downstream-coe-7518](http://www.campgroundreviews.com/regions/montana/fort-peck/downstream-coe-7518)

Crane:

Seven Sisters 406-234-0900

Fort Peck:

Bone Trail 406-526-3411

Downstream 406-526-3411

Duck Creek 406-526-3411

Flat Lake Access Site 406-526-3411

COE Campground 406-526-3224

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Devil's Creek 406-526-3411

Hell Creek State Park 406-557-2362

www.stateparks.mt.gov

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

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Montana Gulch 406-654-5100

Transportation

Airlines

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

Charter Airlines

Richland Aviation: 406-482-1832

Wokal Field Valley County Airport:

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