



Gardiner Montana

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB

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Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Information Center, and Convention Visitor Bureau
Monday, June 20, 2022

Dear Gardiner,

Good evening! This is Terese, the Executive Director of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. It has been exactly one week since the historic flooding, and the damage left in its wake changing our landscape and small community forever, happened. A lot of progress has been made since then but there are still a lot of questions that simply do not have answers. Please know that our incredibly small staff and board volunteers are working almost around the clock to get everyone, regardless of your membership status, in this community the information that you need in the most efficient way possible. Please read this and all future correspondence in its entirety as my messages may be long with some repeated reminders, but it is critical news for you to know.

I understand the gravity of the situation at hand for every small business and individual in this town both personally and professionally. While the National Park Service is working hard to reopen the North Entrance of Yellowstone, our future is in limbo – a feeling that no one is comfortable with. I ask that you please be patient. Rather than pushing out information when I do not yet have all of the facts, meeting times, etc. it is essential that I only distribute when there is a firm grasp on the specifics such as details on FEMA relief, disaster recovery grants/loans, State of Montana aid etc. If I am spending my time dispelling rumors it hurts the critical on-the-ground work we are trying to accomplish. Also, I must stress that when information and programs become available even if you aren't the first to apply for them, that does not mean you will not receive aid.

Upon reading the press releases below you will see that travel to Gardiner is now open to non residents. If you have visitors coming into the area, or are a visitor reading this, Gardiner welcomes you, however, it is essential to know the following, as of June 20, 2022:

- Gardiner is under a boil water advisory. For residents under the boil advisory, a rolling boil for one minute is recommended before consuming. This means that retail food establishments operating within the in Gardiner Sewer & Water district can only serve prepackaged food and drink.
- "The Beartooth, Yellowstone and Gardiner Ranger Districts, which encompass the Paradise Valley, areas around Gardiner, the entire Absaroka-Beartooth Complex and the Crazy Mountains are under an emergency public safety closure. Engineering, Recreation and Fire staff across the Forest are focused on life, human safety, and property, including helping out local counties and assessing critical infrastructure across those three districts. Information can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin or [Custer Gallatin National Forest | Facebook](#) including full closure details and maps."
- "The Yellowstone River in Park County and Stillwater County is closed to all recreational use due to public safety risks caused by extremely high water levels, endangered and failing infrastructure, downed powerlines, exposed pipelines, and structures that may still collapse into the river as erosion continues, flooded and impassible access roads, and limited availability of search and rescue resources. All fishing access sites on the Yellowstone River in Park County are also closed from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to Springdale Bridge Fishing Access Site. Closures will be strictly enforced. The full press release can be found [here](#) and [here](#)."

Below is an outline of what we know. Our intention is to email and post afternoon/evening updates in a PDF format as new information is released and on www.VisitGardinerMT.com, Visit Gardiner MT social media platforms ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), and to the Gardiner Mammoth Community Message Board. Until then please set notification alerts for posts from Visit Gardiner MT social platforms and if you are receiving this via email please make sure that executivedirector@gardinerchamber.com is filtered to go to your inbox and not your promotions, spam, etc.

Finally, if you have reached out to the Gardiner Chamber thank you for your support – please know that we will get back to you. We have been overwhelmed with messages, our staff is extremely small, and gathering information/resources for our community is time consuming; we are doing our best to prioritize correspondence and respond to you in a timely manner, your patience and understanding is much appreciated .

GARDINER COMMUNITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Yellowstone National Park Community Call: A Gardiner/Cooke City/ Silver Gate Community call will take place Wednesday, June 22 from 12-1pm. This is **NOT** a reoccurring meeting. Future meeting dates will be shared at a later time.

- Phone: (202) 640-1187
- Passcode: 255280160#

TBD - Gardiner MARC (Multi-Agency Resource Center): Gardiner will have its own MARC later this week (week of June 19 – 25). When the Chamber is provided with this official information it will be released. The SWMT COAD (Southwest Montana Communities Active in Disasters) has been working with the Incident Command Team to put this together so that it is the most beneficial to the Gardiner businesses and residents impacted by this disaster. We strongly encourage you to **ONLY** attend the Gardiner event so that you receive the most accurate and specific Gardiner information.

GARDINER COMMUNITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION CONT.

Well Water: If you have a private well in Gardiner that was directly affected by flood waters you may pick up a testing kit from the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, 216 Park St. on Tuesday June 21 beginning at 9 am. When you pick up your testing kit you will receive two pieces of paper communicating how to complete the test. The test kits are free but there is a fee to have Bridger Analytical Lab complete the tests. **IMPORTANT:** Samples must be less than 24 hours old. Your samples can be dropped off to the Park County Health Department, 414 Callender St, Livingston, MT 59047 before noon on Wednesday, June 22nd, and they will be taken to the lab in Bozeman or you can drop them off at the Bridger Analytical Lab any day of the week. If you have any questions please contact Park County Health Department 406-222-4145

Gardiner Community Newsletter: Published weekly on Wednesday. Distributed via email, available on www.VisitGardinerMT.com, and physical copies at the Gardiner Market, Gardiner Town Station Conoco, Gardiner Sinclair, and Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. Information on community resources and fundraising events will be released in the Newsletter as able. To sign up for the Gardiner Community Newsletter [please click here](#).

Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) Property Damage Form: If you had personal property damage, even if you lost river bank due to erosion, please fill out this form: DES PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE FORM: [HTTPS://DES.MT.GOV/](https://DES.MT.GOV/)

Gardiner Businesses: If you are a business operating within Gardiner has been impacted by this catastrophic event, regardless if you are a member of the Gardiner Chamber or not, please fill out the following form: [GARDINER FLOOD 2022: BUSINESS IMPACT INFORMATION](#) It is essential to gather information in one central place. Please forward this information to other businesses.

Yellowstone National Park - Flood Recovery Operations: All information on reopening and flood recovery operations within Yellowstone can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/flood-recovery.htm>

Public Information: There is a phone line set up for the Park County 2022 Flooding Incident: 406-222-4131. Call with questions and needs.

Public Information distribution – Visit Gardiner MT (Gardiner Chamber of Commerce) will post information to the Gardiner Mammoth Community Message Board as able. We will also post paper information for those not able to access the internet at the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, Gardiner Sinclair, Gardiner Market, and Gardiner District Ranger Station.

Park County Flooding - June 2022: is the official page of the Park County Emergency Operations Center for the June 2022 Yellowstone River floods. Please follow this page for up-to-date information. Information specific to Gardiner is being posted to this page under the name Gardiner Floodinfo. If you have friends and loved ones without Facebook, please help disseminate the information as needed.

Housing: If you are in need of housing the Gardiner Baptist Church is available to help. Please call Pastor Britton Grey at 406-223-4478.

Medication: Park Country Emergency Services will not coordinate delivery of medicines to Gardiner. If you still need help acquiring medications, please call for assistance at 406-222-4131.

Free Tickets for Flood Victims and Clean Up Volunteers: The Yellowstone Ballet Gala on June 25th and June 26th is offering free tickets to flood victims and clean up volunteers to learn more about the Yellowstone Ballet Gala please visit: <http://yellowstoneballet.info/>. To learn more about free tickets please email: YBCTXS@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS, & FUND REQUESTS

Yellowstone Community Fund: "The Yellowstone Community Fund is a volunteer-led and registered 501(c)3 in Gardiner, MT. Your donations will go directly to the aid of residents and businesses impacted by the devastating flooding of the Gardner and Yellowstone Rivers, which occurred on June 13, 2022. Your donation provides immediate funding for food, temporary housing, recovering personal losses, and much more. By keeping donation dollars in the community, you have maximized your gift. Your gift helps keep Gardiner residents in the community, which is what we need to rebuild our homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and livelihoods."

- **DONATE NOW** - Donate online to the Yellowstone Community Fund.
- **Mail Donations** - Make checks payable "Yellowstone Community Fund" mail to Yellowstone Community Fund PO Box 989 Gardiner, MT 59030.
- **REQUEST FUNDS** - Request funds from the Yellowstone Community Fund.

Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund Serving Park & Madison Counties: "A new fund, the Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund - Serving Park and Madison Counties, has been created to support communities affected by the severe flooding in Park County, Madison County and other areas of Southwest Montana. The funding will provide support for immediate needs like emergency shelter, drinking water, food, clothing, food replacement from lost freezers and refrigerators, and will also help with clean-up and rebuilding efforts.

The creation of the fund is a joint effort between the Greater Gallatin United Way (GGUW) and Park County Community Foundation (PCCF) to streamline support and focus it to the areas of our region that need it most at this time. Those wishing to help people most impacted by the flooding in Southwest Montana are encouraged to donate to this fund."

- **DONATE NOW** - Donate online to the Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund.
- **REQUEST FUNDS** - Fill out this [Fund Request Form for SWMT Flood Relief Fund - Serving Park County and Southwest Montana form](#).

FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS, & FUND REQUESTS CONT.

Interested in raising funds? If your business is holding an event, silent auction, selling t-shirts, etc. we highly suggest the proceeds go to either the [Yellowstone Community Fund](#) or [Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund](#). To help promote your event via our social media channels please email press releases and information to Terese Petcoff at executivedirector@gardinerchamber.com as well as ads@gardinerchamber.com so that it can also be listed in the weekly Gardiner Community Newsletter published on Wednesdays.

VOLUNTEERING & PLANNED CLEAN UP DAYS

Saturday June 25, 2022 @ 8 AM: Let's get together and clean up Hwy 89 from the Rodeo Grounds to Arch Park. pick up trash, pull weeds, sweep sidewalks, and more! After Clean up at Arch Park: community potluck, cookies, games (cornhole, ladder golf, etc.). Contact: Aimee Dawson (406) 451-6050 Email: adawsonmt@gmail.com.

If you are interested in volunteering please fill out this [form](#) from the Park County Environmental Council.

Volunteer efforts or clean up days not yet listed? To publicize please email ads@gardinerchamber.com

PRESS RELEASES

Please note that all press releases are separated by three asterisks (***) and in order of most recent.

Park County Flooding Update – June 20, 2022

Media contact:
Kory Johnson, incident public information officer
Kory.Johnson@usda.gov
Cell: 406-606-2086



Evening Update:

- All Park County roads are now open to the public with the following exceptions:
 - Yellowstone entrances in Park County remain closed (North-Gardiner, Northeast-Cooke City). Cooke City Silver Gate are open via Chief Joseph Highway.
 - Point of Rocks bridge on 89 S (detour using East River Road)
 - Road closure at approximately 416 Cinnabar Road due to erosion
 - 89 N Highway Bridge (detour using Old Clyde Park Road)
 - Carbella Bridge (detour using Old Yellowstone Trail S)
- Residents are encouraged to call 2-1-1 or (406) 201-1173 to create an account for Crisis Cleanup so that they can connect to disaster relief organizations. They are a collaborative disaster work order management platform that improves coordination, reduces duplication of efforts, improves efficiency, and improves volunteers' experience.
- Tuesday 6/21/22 from 2-7pm the county will be hosting a Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) to help community members connect with help. The event will be at the Park County Fairgrounds, all affected community members are welcome to attend.
- A flood resource guide has been developed and is slated to be delivered to our outlying community members in the coming days.
- Updates are posted throughout the day at the [Park County Flooding - June 2022 Facebook page](#).

Water Update:

A "Boil Water Advisory" is in place in Gardiner and Silver Gate. For residents under the boil advisory, a rolling boil for one minute is recommended before consuming. Retail food establishments in Gardiner and Silver Gate will serve prepackaged food and drink only. No open food or open drinks may be served due to risk of water contamination.

If you are on a private well and have questions about water safety or testing, please call the Park County Health Department 406-222-4145.

The Montana County Assist Team (CAT) has finished the preliminary property and infrastructure damage assessment on behalf of Park County. With the completion of this work the CAT has demobilized and handed damage assessment data to Park and Stillwater Counties. This preliminary flood damage assessment estimated that out of the 437 structures assessed (which include infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and powerlines):

- **28 structures were completely destroyed**, including 8 bridges, 7 roads, and 3 residences.
- **127 structures were partially destroyed** (moderate to major damage), including 76 residences, 16 commercial buildings, 8 roads, and 3 bridges.
- **201 were damaged** (superficial to minor damage), including 126 residences, 22 commercial buildings, 7 roads, and 3 bridges.
- **81 were undamaged**.

Flood impacted residents in Park County are strongly encouraged to **fill out a self-assessment of their property as soon as possible**. Data from this assessment will be used to determine potential eligibility for additional resources through federal or state channels. This survey will be important for determining what types of assistance programs may be available to residents. The more self-assessments that can be completed, the better the state can coordinate available resources. All homeowners, regardless of the level of damage, are encouraged to fill out the self-assessment [here](#) or by using camera to scan the QR code (to right).

County and state road crews continue to assess, repair, and improve roads and bridges across the area.

Warm weather this weekend is causing some increase in river levels but is not expected to reach flood stage. Use caution near flowing water and potentially undercut riverbanks. Live stream gage data is available here for [Corwin Springs](#), and here near [Livingston](#). The Yellowstone River is closed in Park County to all recreational use due to public safety risks caused by extremely high water levels, endangered and failing infrastructure, flooded and impassible access roads, and limited availability of search and rescue resources.

If you have services or supplies to donate, please call 2-1-1. Homeowners may also call (406) 201-1173 to connect with the Crisis Cleanup, a collaborative disaster work order management platform that can connect impacted homeowners with recovery resources. If you want to support residents, consider donating to the Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund by texting Flood22 to 41444 or go to www.greatergallatinunitedway.org.

National Park Service announces \$50 million in emergency funding; expedited plans to reopen 80 percent of Yellowstone Park also making progress to identify expedient temporary options to restore access to Gardiner and Cooke City, Montana

Date: June 20, 2022

Contact: YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov

Contact: NewsMedia@nps.gov

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. — During a visit to Yellowstone National Park and Gardiner, Montana, on Sunday, June 19, National Park Service Director Chuck Sams with Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly announced \$50 million to kick-start recovery efforts from record breaking floods.

They also announced that in addition to the park's [southern loop reopening](#) on June 22, the park's northern loop is expected to reopen in two weeks or less following completion of clean-up, repairs and final inspection of the northern loop infrastructure. This will allow visitors to access Dunraven Pass, Tower, Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris opening visitor access to approximately 80 percent of Yellowstone National Park. Additional details on access will be announced in the coming weeks.

The initial \$50 million will be used to restore temporary access to Gardiner and Cooke City, Montana and other additional sites. Plans are being finalized for improving the Old Gardiner Road for temporary access between Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana. In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, road construction crews and materials that were already in the park for a previously scheduled [road project](#) to repair 22 miles of the Grand Loop Road between Old Faithful and West Thumb Geyser Basin will be diverted to the Old Gardiner Road project.

The NPS currently anticipates the Old Gardiner Road will be substantially improved over the upcoming months, ensuring that essential emergency services, food, supplies and other administrative needs will be available throughout the winter months. As work proceeds through the summer, the NPS will look for opportunities to restore limited visitor access at the park's North Entrance. Emergency environmental and historic preservation compliance is underway in accordance with the National Historic Preservation and Environmental Policy Acts. Permanent reconstruction options are being developed and alternatives will be completed in the upcoming months.

In addition to plans to reopen Yellowstone's northern loop much sooner than initially anticipated, the NPS is working with the Federal Highway Administration on a range of temporary and permanent options to restore access to Silver Gate and Cooke City at the park's northeast entrance. Currently, the Northeast Entrance Road is impassible between Lamar Valley and Silver Gate. Cost, funding and timelines are not yet available for these short or long-term repairs to the Northeast Entrance Road but will be released as soon as possible.

[Announced on June 18](#), Yellowstone will restore access to the southern loop of the park at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 22, via the East (Cody), West (West Yellowstone), and South (Grand Teton/Jackson) entrances. Accessible areas include Madison, Old Faithful, Grant Village, Lake Village, Canyon Village and Norris. To balance the demand for visitor access, park resource protection and economic interests of the communities, the park will institute an interim visitor access plan based on license plate numbers. To learn more about the alternate license plate entry system, visit Yellowstone's [flood recovery webpage](#).

Yellowstone National Park to Re-Open After Push by Tester, Daines, Rosendale

National Park Service announces plans to re-open 80 percent of Park, \$50 million in emergency relief secured by delegation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2022

[Sarah Feldman](#) (Tester)
[Katie Schoettler](#) (Daines)
[Jonathan Eberle](#) (Rosendale)



(U.S. Congress) – The National Park Service today announced expedited plans to re-open 80 percent of Yellowstone National Park, making use of \$50 million in emergency Federal Highway Administration funding from the Biden Administration requested by U.S. Senators Tester and Daines and Congressman Matt Rosendale.

Earlier this week, the Montana congressional delegation urged the Federal Highway Administration to take immediate action and provide much needed funding through the FWHA Emergency Relief programs to areas affected by flooding. They also sent a letter to President Biden, urging the approval of a major disaster declaration and activation of critical FEMA assistance and support for recovery efforts.

“This is great news for Montana’s gateway communities, who are working hard to rebuild after the devastating floods that have impacted businesses, homes, and livelihoods,” the Montana delegation said in a joint statement. “The effect of this severe weather on our state’s economy cannot be overstated, and we’re grateful for the swift efforts by the federal government to re-open Yellowstone National Park and assist the surrounding communities with their recovery.”

The State of Montana submitted a disaster declaration request to the federal government on June 15, 2022 in response to major flooding across south-central Montana, which was approved by President Biden the next day. Severe weather has resulted in significant property damage to homes, businesses, roads, sewers, water systems and Yellowstone National Park. Acting Governor Kirsten Juras declared a statewide disaster on June 14, 2022.

The National Park Service also announced that in addition to the park’s [southern loop reopening](#) on June 22, the park’s northern loop is expected to reopen in two weeks or less following completion of clean-up, repairs and final inspection of the northern loop infrastructure. This will allow visitors to access Dunraven Pass, Tower, Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris opening visitor access to approximately 80 percent of Yellowstone National Park. Additional details on access will be announced in the coming weeks

The initial \$50 million will be used to restore temporary access to Gardiner and Cooke City, Montana and other additional sites. Plans are being finalized for improving the Old Gardiner Road for temporary access between Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana. In partnership with the Federal Highways Administration, road construction crews and materials that were already in the park for a previously scheduled road project to repair 22 miles of the Grand Loop Road between Old Faithful and West Thumb Geyser Basin will be diverted to the Old Gardiner Road project.

Full information from NPS can be found [HERE](#).

The Montana Congressional Delegation’s FWHA letter is [HERE](#).

Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs: Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan, 406-548-1174; www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin
mariah.leuschen-lonergan@usda.gov; Marna Daley, 406-570-5526 marna.daley@usda.gov

Conditions Vary, Call Local Ranger District for Latest Three Districts Have Emergency Public Safety Closure, Bozeman District Most Gates Open, Hebgen Lake Gates Delayed.

Bozeman, MT- June 16, 2022 – After widespread flooding, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday the Custer Gallatin National Forest is seeing variable conditions across its seven ranger districts and it is paramount for recreationists and anybody heading out on the Forest to plan ahead, stay aware of surroundings and check-in on conditions. Bozeman Ranger District will be opening all seasonal June 16 gates on time, except for Upper Fairly Lake Road (#74) which will remain closed a while longer. Hebgen Lake Ranger District in West Yellowstone will be delaying the opening of their June 16 gates, due to high water and some flooding.

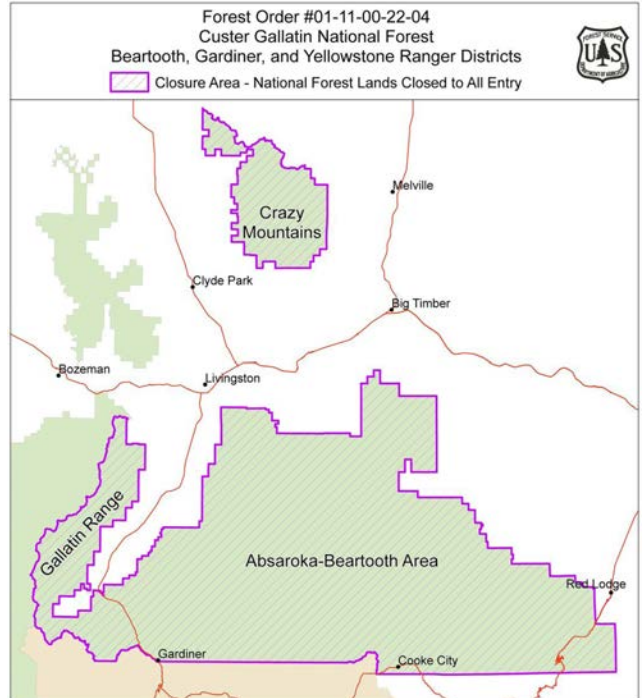
“In West Yellowstone, we did have some flooding occur, our staff is evaluating all road conditions, cleaning out

culverts and ensuring the stability of roads and bridges, said Jason Brey, Hebgen Lake District Ranger. Once we can evaluate each road or trail it will open as quickly as possible.”

“In Bozeman we experienced some flooding, but assessments of local road conditions show only minor damage. Some of our roads are still wet, so we ask forest users to please exercise caution and not generate resource damage if they come across area that are too wet,” said Corey Lewellen, Bozeman District Ranger.”

Additionally, the Beartooth, Yellowstone and Gardiner Ranger Districts, which encompass the Paradise Valley, areas around Gardiner, the entire Absaroka-Beartooth Complex and the Crazy Mountains are under an emergency public safety closure. Engineering, Recreation and Fire staff across the Forest are focused on life, human safety, and property, including helping out local counties and assessing critical infrastructure across those three districts.

“We have enough washed-out roads and bridges, unstable conditions, and unknown situations out there on the Yellowstone Ranger Districts that at this point we are asking everyone to stay away from these three districts for the time being, until conditions can be assessed” said Rebecca Hammargren, Acting District Ranger, Yellowstone Ranger District.



Latest conditions and questions for local Ranger Districts can be directed to:

Ashland Ranger District - 406-784-2344
Bozeman Ranger District - 406-522-2520
Hebgen Lake Ranger District - 406-823-6961
Yellowstone Ranger District - 406-222-1892

Beartooth Ranger District -406-446-2103
Gardiner Ranger District -406-848-7375
Sioux Ranger District -605-797-4432

Information can also be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin or [Custer Gallatin National Forest | Facebook](#) including full closure details and maps. The eastern Sioux and Ashland Ranger Districts are open, but as always please call for local conditions.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER CLOSED TO ALL RECREATION IN PARK COUNTY; SITE CLOSURES IN EFFECT IN OTHER AREAS

Jun 13, 2022 2:51 PM

Flooding observed across much of Montana

HELENA – Following conversations with officials in Park County, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has closed the Yellowstone River in Park County to all recreational use due to public safety risks caused by extremely high water levels, endangered and failing infrastructure, flooded and impassible access roads, and limited availability of search and rescue resources.

All fishing access sites on the Yellowstone River in Park County are also closed from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to Springdale Bridge Fishing Access Site.

Most fishing access sites below Springdale Bridge downstream to Captain Clark Fishing Access Site near the Bighorn River confluence are closed to motorized vehicle access. The situation is evolving so please observe all posted closures. Refer to the [FWP website](#) for current list of closures.

Closures will be strictly enforced.

Closures are also in effect for several other sites managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

- All Jefferson River fishing access sites from Cardwell Bridge down to Missouri Headwaters State Park
- Portions of Missouri Headwaters State Park
- All Gallatin River fishing access sites
- All East Gallatin River fishing access sites

Many of the fishing access sites on these waters are closed to motorized access:

- Boulder River
- Rock Creek (tributary to the Yellowstone River)
- Stillwater River

PRESS RELEASES CONT.

- Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River

Refer to the [FWP website](#) for current list of closures and restrictions. Site closures in other areas of the state may be put in place as flooding occurs. FWP will work to reopen closed areas as soon as conditions allow.

Flooding poses significant safety hazards, especially to recreationists. High water levels and related river hazards can appear and evolve without warning. Recreationists can avoid accidents and injury to themselves and others by observing all safety closures and avoiding other areas with high flows.