

For Immediate Release  
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Lewistown, Mt---The Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office would like to remind motorized boat enthusiasts that the seasonal upstream travel restrictions on the wild and scenic segments of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River will begin on Saturday, May 27.

The wild and scenic segments include those areas between Pilot Rock (river mile 52) and Deadman's Rapids (river mile 84.5) and from Holmes Council Island (river mile 92.5) to the Fred Robinson Bridge (at river mile 149).

In these segments, extended upstream travel for motorized water craft is limited to administrative, emergency or law enforcement water craft only. Downstream travel by motorized craft is allowed, but cannot exceed a speed that creates white water in the wake.

These restrictions will remain in place until September 10.

The recreational segments of the Upper Missouri remain open to motorized water craft use (either upstream or downstream). These segments include the first 52 river miles from Fort Benton downstream to Pilot Rock and an 8-mile segment from Deadman's Rapids to Holmes Council Island near the PN Bridge. All floaters and motorized boaters in these segments are encouraged to be considerate of each other's safety and enjoyment.

"These seasonal restrictions have been in place since the first management plan was written for the Wild and Scenic Missouri (over 27 years ago) and balance the interests of motorized and non-motorized recreationists. These seasonal restrictions are authorized under 43 CFR 8351.2-1; Special Rules," offered Jon Edwards, a BLM law enforcement ranger stationed in Lewistown.

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**Portable Toilets**

In an effort to keep the Upper Missouri River a more pleasant place for everyone, this is the third year that the BLM has required overnight boaters on the Upper Missouri to carry and use a portable toilet to containerize and dispose of solid human waste.

This decision came in response to recommendations from the Central Montana Resource Advisory Council, their Missouri River subgroup, and comments offered by landowners along the river and recreationists on the river.

Using portable toilets is required on many of the wild and scenic rivers in the western part of the United States as a means of addressing health, sanitation and aesthetic problems. These same problems are beginning to surface at various spots along the Upper Missouri.

The use of portable toilets on the Upper Missouri was addressed in the 1978 Management Plan for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River and was carried forward into the 1993 Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan Update.

**Off Road Vehicle Use**

Recreationists and pleasure drivers are encouraged to use their public lands (in the river corridor or in the uplands) but to keep their vehicles on existing roads.

In 2003, the Montana/Dakotas BLM implemented a travel management plan requiring all motorized vehicle use on public lands to remain on roads or established trails. Any off road vehicle use or use (cross-country travel) of unauthorized trails established after 2003 is prohibited.

**Private Property**

The BLM would like to remind all visitors (and local residents) that using private property for any activity requires landowner permission. Abiding by this requirement is one of the keys to maintaining the central Montana hospitality this area is known for.