

**Comparison of Alternatives
 Visitor Use, Services and Infrastructure**

Topic	Alternative A <i>Current Mgmt</i>	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F <i>Preferred Alternative</i>
Recreation Management Areas (RMAs)	The BLM has 4 RMAs within the Monument: South Phillips Special RMA, Judith Extensive RMA, North Missouri Breaks Special RMA, and Upper Missouri River Special RMA.	The BLM would consolidate the 4 existing RMAs into 2 RMAs within the Monument: Upper Missouri River RMA and Uplands RMA.				The BLM would consolidate the 4 existing RMAs into 2 RMAs within the Monument: Upper Missouri River RMA and Uplands RMA.
Recreation User Fees	<p>The BLM would continue with the \$6 per vehicle for overnight camping at Kipp.</p> <p>Fees collected for camping would be returned to the local office for use in the Monument for infrastructure maintenance or upgrade, noxious weed control, and emergency services.</p>	The BLM would not implement a recreation user fee system.	The BLM would implement a recreation user fee system and charge fees (\$6) for overnight camping in developed recreations sites (Level 1). This would include Coal Banks, Judith Landing, and Kipp and any additional Level 1 sites that may be constructed.	<p>The BLM would implement a recreation user fee system and charge fees for overnight camping in developed recreations sites (Level 1) and an annual fee to boat on the River (season pass). Level 1 sites currently include Coal Banks, Judith Landing, and Kipp and any additional Level 1 sites that may be constructed.</p> <p>After the RMP is completed, the BLM with public input would develop a business plan to determine the actual fee amounts charged.</p>	The BLM would implement a recreation user fee system for camping at Level 1 sites and an annual fee per person or lifetime permit to recreate on public land and the Missouri River within the Monument.	<p>The BLM would implement a recreation user fee system and charge fees for overnight camping in developed recreations sites (Level 1) and an annual fee to boat on the River (season pass). Level 1 sites currently include Wood Bottom, Coal Banks, Judith Landing, Woodhawk, and Kipp, and any additional Level 1 sites that may be constructed.</p> <p>After the RMP is completed, the BLM with public input would develop a</p>

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			<p>Fees collected for camping would be returned to the Lewistown Field Office for use in the Monument to supplement costs for infrastructure maintenance or up-grades, noxious weed control, support County emergency services, and purchase short-term campsite easements or leases from private landowners.</p>			<p>business plan to determine the actual fee amounts charged.</p> <p>Fees collected for camping would be returned to the Lewistown Field Office for use in the Monument to supplement costs for infrastructure maintenance or up-grades, noxious weed control, support County emergency services, and purchase short-term campsite easements or leases from private landowners.</p>
Coordination with Gateway Communities		<p>The BLM would strive to provide a staffed site in or partner with gateway communities for visitor information (Chinook, Big Sandy, and Winifred).</p>				<p>The BLM would strive to provide a staffed site in or partner with gateway communities for visitor information (Chinook, Big Sandy, and Winifred).</p>
Research, Collection, and Special Event Activities	<p>The use of metal detectors would be allowed by permit only.</p>	<p>Metal detectors would not be allowed except through special use permits. Use of metal detectors without a permit may be authorized in certain areas.</p>		<p>The use of metal detectors would be prohibited.</p>		<p>The use of metal detectors would be allowed by permit only.</p>
	<p>The BLM would require SRPs for all special activities. Large group events would be</p>		<p>The BLM may limit the size of a group or specific activities. Authorization of large</p>		<p>The BLM would not allow large group</p>	<p>The BLM may limit the size of a group or</p>

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	authorized subject to restrictions.		group events would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to issue an SRP.		events in the Monument.	specific activities. Authorization of large group events would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to issue an SRP.
	Allow for the personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood in specific identified areas within the Monument. The BLM would allow and authorize archaeological and historical investigations and paleontological research.				The personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood would be prohibited. The BLM would not allow or authorize archaeological and historical investigations (except for 106 permits) and paleontological research.	Allow for the personal collection of common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood in specific identified areas within the Monument. The BLM would allow and authorize archaeological and historical investigations and paleontological research.
Recreation Activities and Facilities in Sensitive Wildlife Habitat	The BLM would allow antler (horn) hunting. The BLM could implement a seasonal restriction on antler (horn) hunting to protect wildlife from disturbance during the winter period if harassment is a problem.		The BLM would implement a seasonal restriction on antler (horn) hunting from December 1 to March 31 to protect wildlife from disturbance during the winter period.	The BLM would implement a seasonal restriction on antler (horn) hunting from December 1 to May 15 to protect wildlife from disturbance during the winter period.	The BLM would not allow antler (horn) hunting in the Monument.	The BLM would allow antler (horn) hunting. The BLM could implement a seasonal restriction on antler (horn) hunting to protect wildlife from disturbance during the winter period, December 1 to March 31, if harassment is a

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						problem.
	Camping on islands on the Missouri River is discouraged from April 1 to July 31.	There would be no restrictions for camping on islands in the Missouri River.		Camping would not be allowed on islands from April 1 to July 31.	Camping would not be allowed on islands.	Camping would not be allowed on islands from April 1 to July 31.
Cultural Interpretive Sites	Interpretation of cultural sites would occur on a case-by-case basis.	Develop interpretive sites with explanatory signs, exhibits, and trails.	Establish small, low-key interpretive signs at specific sites that blend in with the surroundings (not visible from the Missouri River). The BLM would provide portable interpretation (guidebooks) and simple markers for some cultural sites.		The BLM would not provide site interpretation but encourage “search and discover” experience.	Establish small, low-key interpretive signs at specific sites that blend in with the surroundings (not visible from the Missouri River). The BLM would provide portable interpretation (guidebooks) and simple markers for some cultural sites.
Recreation on the River						
Size of Groups Boating	Groups larger than 50 people would require a special recreation permit for boating the Missouri River.	There would be no launch restrictions for group size.	From June 15 to August 1, groups larger than 20 people could launch at Coal Banks or Judith Landing only on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.	Groups larger than 30 people would require a special recreation permit for boating the Missouri River. Processing of SRP applications would follow administrative cost recovery procedures.	Groups larger than 16 people would require a special recreation permit for boating the Missouri River. Processing of SRP applications would follow administrative cost recovery procedures.	From June 15 to August 1, groups larger than 20 people could launch at Coal Banks or Judith Landing only on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Special Recreation Use Permits (SRPs)	There would be a limit of 23 SRPs and a one trip per season permit for non-	There would be no limit on the number of SRPs.	There would be a limit of 30 SRPs and a one trip per season permit for non-permitted commercial users.		Based on the use allocation system, the number of user days would be limited for	There would be a limit of 23 SRPs and a one trip per season permit for non-

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	permitted commercial users.				commercial users. There would be no limit on the number of SRPs.	permitted commercial users.
<i>Use/Opportunities For Boaters</i>	An allocation system would not be developed. No limit or restriction on the number of boaters.		Standards and indicators would be used to manage visitor use and impacts to resources (Appendix <i>Standards and Indicators</i>). Once those standards and/or indicators are reached or exceeded, the BLM would take the necessary actions to reduce impacts to resources without limiting the number of people boating the Missouri River.	Standards and indicators would be used to manage visitor use and impacts to resources (Appendix <i>Standards and Indicators</i>). Once those standards and/or indicators are reached or exceeded, the BLM would first take the necessary actions to reduce impacts to resources without limiting the number of people boating the Missouri River and then, if necessary, develop and implement an allocation system. If necessary, the BLM would consider allocation only in the White Cliffs area, a seasonal allocation system, or a temporary emergency allocation system. If necessary, the	The development and implementation of an allocation system would be initiated upon completion of the RMP.	Standards and indicators would be used to manage visitor use and impacts to resources (Appendix <i>Standards and Indicators</i>). Once those standards and/or indicators are reached or exceeded, the BLM would take the necessary actions to reduce impacts to resources without limiting the number of people boating the Missouri River.

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				BLM would implement a mandatory registration with stipulations pertaining to camping on public land.		
<i>Camping Facilities</i>	Current recreation facility management includes the following sites: Level 1 sites include Wood Bottom, Coal Banks Landing, Judith Landing, Woodhawk, and James Kipp Recreation Area. Level 2 sites include Eagle Creek, Slaughter River, Hole-in-the-Wall and Little Sandy. Level 3 sites include Evans Bend, Senieurs Reach, Black Bluff Rapids, Dark Butte, Pablo Rapids, The Wall, McGarry Bar, Gist Bottom, Cow Island, Upper Woodhawk, Middle Woodhawk, Hideaway.	Provide additional Level 1, 2, and 3 recreation facilities as needed to address increasing use demands or resolve visitor use issues. For example, construct a launch/take out facility at Stafford Ferry or build a boat ramp in the vicinity of Coal Banks Landing.	Additional Level 1 recreation facilities would be constructed only in the Recreation segment of the river. Improvements to existing Level 1 and 2 sites could occur to improve infrastructure or address visitor use issues. Additional level 2 facilities could be constructed between Fort Benton and Judith Landing but only as necessary to improve resource conditions, improve distribution of visitor use or resolve visitor use conflicts. Associated facilities and construction could not detract from the visual	No additional Level 1 facilities would be constructed. Improvements to existing Level 1 and 2 sites could occur to improve infrastructure or address visitor use issues. Additional Level 2 campsites would be constructed only in the Recreation segments of the River. Additional level 3 sites could be added as needed to accommodate increases in use. However, in the wild and scenic classified segments of the river there will be at least 60% of campsites at the Level 4 designation.	Recreation facilities and campsites within the river corridor would remain at the current number and location.	Additional Level 1 recreation facilities would be constructed only in the Recreation segment of the river. Improvements to existing Level 1 and 2 sites could occur to improve infrastructure or address visitor use issues. Additional level 2 facilities could be constructed between Fort Benton and Judith Landing but only as necessary to improve resource conditions, improve distribution of visitor use or resolve visitor use conflicts. Associated facilities and construction could not detract from the visual

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			character and integrity of the river corridor. Additional level 3 and 4 campsites could be added as needed to accommodate increases in use.			character and integrity of the river corridor. Additional level 3 and 4 campsites could be added as needed to accommodate increases in use.
		Establish agreements with willing private landowners to develop alternative campsites.				The BLM would seek to purchase short-term campsite easements or leases from private landowners for alternative or additional camp sites.
<i>Length of Stay at One Campsite</i>	Maintain the 14-night limit for camping.		During the core use period on the river, June 15 to August 1, implement a 2-night limit at Level 2 campsites. For Level 1, 3 and 4 sites maintain the 14-night limit.		During the core use period on the river, June 15 to August 1, implement a 2-night limit at Level 2 and 3 campsites. For Level 1 and 4 sites maintain the 14-night limit.	From June 15 to August 1, implement a 2-night limit at Level 2 campsites. For Level 1, 3 and 4 sites, maintain the 14-night limit.
<i>Waste Management</i>	A mandatory portable toilet regulation will begin in April 2004. Boaters camping overnight between Fort Benton and Kipp Recreation area would be required to carry and use a portable toilet when	Boaters camping overnight between Fort Benton and Kipp Recreation area would be required to carry and use a portable toilet when camping overnight in undeveloped sites that do not have a vault toilet.				A mandatory portable toilet regulation will begin in April 2004. Boaters camping overnight between Fort Benton and Kipp Recreation area would be required to carry and use a portable toilet when

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	camping overnight in undeveloped sites that do not have a vault toilet.					camping overnight in undeveloped sites that do not have a vault toilet.
Camp Stoves, Fire Pans, or Fire Mats at Level 4 Sites	Camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are not required.	At all Level 4 sites implement a Leave No Trace program where the use of camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are required.				At all Level 4 sites implement a Leave No Trace program where the use of camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are required.
Use of Motorized Watercraft on the Upper Missouri River	The BLM would continue with the seasonal boating restriction on the Wild and Scenic segments of the River.	The BLM would revise the current seasonal boating restriction on the Wild and Scenic segments of the River.		The BLM would revise the current seasonal boating restriction on the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational segments of the River.		The BLM would revise the current seasonal boating restrictions on the Wild and Scenic segments of the River.
Recreational Segments						
Fort Benton – Pilot Rock (River Mile 0 to 52)	Open.	Open.	Open, except personal watercraft allowed River Mile 0 to 3.	Open, except personal watercraft would not be allowed from June 15 to September 15.	No motorized watercraft.	Open both directions year round, except personal watercraft allowed only on River Mile 0 to River Mile 3.
Deadman’s Rapids to Holmes Council Island (River Mile 84.5 to 92.5)	Open.	Open.	Open, except no personal watercraft allowed.	Open, except personal watercraft would not be allowed from June 15 to September 15.	No motorized watercraft.	Open both directions year round, except no personal watercraft allowed.
Wild and Scenic Segments						

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<i>Pilot Rock to Deadman’s Rapids (River Mile 52 to 84.5)</i>	Seasonal restriction from the Saturday before the observed Memorial Day through the Sunday after Labor Day: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Open	Seasonal restriction from June 15 to September 15: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed. No personal watercraft yearlong.	Seasonal restriction from May 1 to December 1: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed. No personal watercraft yearlong.	No motorized watercraft.	Seasonal restriction June 5 to September 15: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed. No personal watercraft allowed year round.
<i>Holmes Council Island to Fred Robinson Bridge (River Mile 92.5 to 149)</i>	Seasonal restriction from the Saturday before the observed Memorial Day through the Sunday after Labor Day: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed.	Open.	Seasonal restriction from June 15 to September 15: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed. No personal watercraft yearlong.	Seasonal restriction from June 15 to September 15: No motorized watercraft. Seasonal restriction from September 16 to December 1: Downstream travel only at no-wake speed. No personal watercraft yearlong.	No motorized watercraft.	Holmes Council Island to Grand Island (River Mile 92.5 to 139): Seasonal restriction June 5 to September 15: No motorized watercraft. No personal watercraft allowed year round. Grand Island to Fred Robinson Bridge (River Mile 139 to 149): Open both directions year round, except no personal watercraft allowed.
Administrative Use of Motorized Watercraft on the River	There would be no restrictions for the administrative use of motorized watercraft on the Missouri River.		When seasonal restrictions are in place, the BLM would designate days when agencies could use upstream travel	The BLM (and special use authorizations) would follow no-wake downstream travel restrictions. Pursue	Agency motorized watercraft (and special use authorizations) would follow the same restrictions as the	When seasonal restrictions are in place, the BLM would designate days when agencies could use upstream travel

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			that avoid peak use days to be determined on an annual basis. Pursue administrative use agreements with other agencies that outline the guidelines for motorized use.	administrative use agreements with other agencies that outline the guidelines for motorized use.	public. Pursue administrative use agreements with other agencies that outline the guidelines for motorized use.	that avoid peak use days to be determined on an annual basis. Pursue administrative use agreements with other agencies that outline the guidelines for motorized use.
			Livestock grazing permittees would be allowed upstream travel to administer grazing permit with prior notification to the BLM. The BLM would authorize the travel verbally for unplanned situations or by a letter to the permittee for requested actions.			Livestock grazing permittees would be allowed upstream travel to administer grazing permit with prior notification to the BLM. The BLM would authorize the travel verbally for unplanned situations or by a letter to the permittee for requested actions.
Level of Signing	Level 1 sites currently contain full range of signs including kiosks and interpretive signs, traffic signs and other signs as necessary to provide for safe use of campgrounds. International signs used to Mark Level 2 and 3 campsites.	Signage could be used as necessary at all levels of facility development (Levels 1-4) or on areas of public land located within the river corridor but not necessarily associated with a developed site.	Signage in Level 1 sites could be used as needed to safely direct traffic, provide information or provide interpretive messages. Signage in Level 1 sites should be commensurate with visual surroundings and level of	Signage would be limited to Level 1 sites commensurate with visual surrounding and level of development. Signing could be used as necessary at Level 2 sites but only within new or existing infrastructure. No	Signage would be limited to Level 1 sites and would be commensurate with visual surroundings and level of development. No other signage would be used within the river corridor.	Signage in Level 1 sites could be used as needed to safely direct traffic, provide information or provide interpretive messages. Signage in Level 1 sites should be commensurate with visual surroundings and level of development.

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	Signs and notices posted in vault toilets at Level 2 sites.		development. Signage located along the river to identify campsites is of minimum size and only used at Level 1-3 campsites. Signage within campsites and elsewhere within the river corridor is limited to existing infrastructure and sufficiently low profile to not be visible from the river.	other signage would be used within the river corridor.		Signage located along the river to identify campsites is of minimum size and only used at Level 1-3 campsites. Signage within campsites and elsewhere within the river corridor is limited to existing infrastructure and sufficiently low profile to not be visible from the river.
Recreation in the Uplands						
Special Recreation Use Permits (SRPs) for Commercial Use and Organized Group Events	There would be no limit to the number of SRPs issued.	No limit on the number or type of applications considered except commercial auto tours restricted to local and collector roads and some designated resource roads.	No limit on the number or type of applications considered except commercial auto tours restricted to local and collector roads.	No limit on the number or type of applications considered except commercial auto tours restricted to 2 vehicles per operator or less per day to local, collector and some designated resource roads.	No restriction on the number or type of applications considered except no commercial auto tours.	No limit on the number or type of applications considered except commercial auto tours restricted to 2 vehicles per operator or less per day to local, collector and some designated resource roads.
Public Vehicle Access and Special Recreation Use Permits (SRPs) for Hunting Commercial Use	The BLM would continue to issue SRPs regardless of public vehicle access.		The BLM would limit the number of SRPs to the current level of outfitters and guides.	The BLM would only issue SRPs in areas with large blocks of public land that have public vehicle access to address conflicts of use.	The BLM would only issue SRPs in areas with large blocks of public land that do not have public vehicle access to address conflicts of	The BLM would limit the number of SRPs to the current level of seven outfitters.

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	The BLM would not assign hunting SRPs to a specific geographic area.			The BLM would assign hunting SRPs to a specific geographic area.	use.	The BLM would not assign hunting SRPs to a specific geographic area.
<i>Camping Facilities</i>	Dispersed camping is allowed. In some areas, the BLM would not construct developed or undeveloped sites unless a partnership can be realized through local service organizations.	Level 1 and 2 sites would be confined to places such as, but not limited to, fishing reservoirs, overlooks, and historic sites.	Level 1 sites would only be constructed at the beginning of a public access roads into the Monument. These sites could include interpretive kiosks. Level 2 sites would be “Park and Explore” sites where people could walk to from designated parking areas.	Level 1 sites would not be allowed. Level 2 sites would only be developed on main artery roads.	Level 1 and 2 sites would not be allowed.	Level 1 sites would only be constructed at the beginning of a public access roads into the Monument. These sites could include interpretive kiosks. Level 2 sites would be “Park and Explore” sites where people could walk to from designated parking areas.
		Level 3 camping sites would be pullout sites adjacent to the road. Fire rings would be the only improvement at these sites.			Level 3 sites would only be developed on collector, local or some designated resource roads and limited to 3 miles between sites. Level 3 sites would be adjacent to the road. Level 3 sites would be shown on a map with information concerning the facilities and	Level 3 camping sites would be pullout sites adjacent to the road. Fire rings would be the only improvement at these sites.

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					opportunities associated with the site.	
Camp Stoves, Fire Pans, or Fire Mats at Level 4 Sites	Camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are not required.		Camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are required at all Level 4 sites.			Camp stoves, fire pans, or fire mats are required at all Level 4 sites.
<i>Signs - Uplands</i>	Level 1 sites currently contain full range of signs including kiosks and interpretive signs, traffic signs and other signs as necessary to provide for safe use of campgrounds. International signs used to Mark Level 2 and 3 campsites. Signs and notices posted in vault toilets at Level 2 sites.	Signage could be used as necessary at all levels of facility development (Levels 1-4) or on areas of public land located within uplands but not necessarily associated with a developed site.	Signage in Level 1 sites could be used as needed to safely direct traffic, provide information or provide interpretive messages. Signage in Level 1 sites should be commensurate with visual surroundings and level of development. Signage located in the uplands to identify campsites is of minimum size and only used at Level 1-3 campsites. Signage within campsites and elsewhere within the within the uplands is limited to existing infrastructure.	Signage would be limited to Level 1 sites commensurate with visual surrounding and level of development. Signing could be used as necessary at Level 2 sites but only within new or existing infrastructure. No other signage would be used within the uplands; except for required transportation system signs.	Signage would be limited to Level 1 sites and would be commensurate with visual surroundings and level of development. No other signage would be used in the uplands.	Signage would be limited to Level 1 sites commensurate with visual surrounding and level of development. Signing could be used as necessary at Level 2 sites but only within new or existing infrastructure. No other signage would be used within the uplands; except for required transportation system signs.