Middle Fork of the Flathead River

Regulations

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261

For information contact:
FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST
Hungry Horse Ranger District
(406) 387-3800
or
Spotted Bear Ranger District
(406) 758-5376

2015

Regulations

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261

Middle Fork	(1) Waste Requirement	(2) Campfire Allowed	(3) Camping Allowed	(4) Stay Limit	(5) Motor Boats 10 h.p.
Schafer to Bear Creek	Y*	R	Y	16	N
Castle Creek Site	Y	R	Y	See Dates	N
Bear Creek River Access	N	--	Y	3	N
Essex Dispersed Site	N	R	Y	3	Y
Paola River Access	N	--	Y	3	Y
Cascadilla River Access	N	--	Y	3	Y
Mocassin River Access	N	N	Y	3	Y
West Glacier River Access	N	N	N	Day Use Only	Y
Blankenship NW	N	N	N	Day Use Only	Y
Blankenship SW	Y	R	Y	3	Y

Other dispersed sites along the river, outside of wilderness, not listed above are available for overnight use. Campers in overnight dispersed sites must pack out solid human waste, a fire pan/blanket is required, and the camping stay limit is 16 days.

Boundaries Between Federal Agencies
Glacier National Park is on river right and Flathead National Forest is on river left with the boundary being the average high-water line on river right. Rules and regulations are different between the Park and the Forest. If you plan to go ashore in Glacier National Park contact them about specific regulations.

Special Regulations: No camping in the Bear Creek to Essex section; and no stopping within ¼ mile above or below the Goat Lick Viewpoint for the protection of the mountain goats in the area. **(58(a)(z))**

These regulations apply within the Wild and Scenic River corridor which is approximately 1/4 mile each side of the river, except as noted.

(1) WASTE REQUIREMENT - (58(z))
Y - Solid human waste must be **self-contained** and packed out to an approved disposal site during **overnight** stays at locations without public toilet facilities.
This applies whether you are part of a traditional float party or vehicle supported party. Self-contained means, (1) using a washable, leak-proof, reusable toilet system - the contents must be disposed of at a proper waste facility such as an RV dump station, OR (2) a disposable biodegradable bag toilet system that is approved for landfill disposal. Bags must be self-contained within a leak or spill proof container until they are properly disposed of. The system must be adequate for the size of the group and length of trip. Dumping solid human waste on National Forest System lands or into a vault toilet is prohibited.
Y* - Solid human waste containment required within 200 feet of river's edge.
N - Sites with public toilet facilities.

(2) CAMPFIRE ALLOWED - (52(a))
R - Required metal fire pan or blanket.
Ash may be disposed of on site within the river corridor.
N - Campfires prohibited.
****** - Campfires are prohibited in the parking lots at the river access sites but they are permissible below the high water line.

(3) CAMPING ALLOWED - (58(a))
Y - Camping allowed.
N - Camping prohibited. If vehicle supported, contact the Hungry Horse/Glacier View Ranger District for information about motorized use in the river corridor.

(4) STAY LIMIT - (58(a)(l))
Stay Limit in number of days.
Day use hours are from sunrise to sunset.
Castle Creek Site - One night maximum stay limit April 1 - July 31; two night maximum stay limit August 1 - October 31; sixteen day stay limit from November 1 - March 31. Stock containment is prohibited at the Castle River Campsite.

(5) MOTOR BOATS - (58(n))
Y - Motor boats allowed, 10 horse power or less.
N - Motor boats prohibited.

DISPERSED SITE - A site without developed facilities such as toilets or fire rings.

Firewood gathering is prohibited in the Wild and Scenic River corridor, (6(a)).