

Fishing - General Information

The diversity of fishing opportunities on the Custer Gallatin National Forest means that there's something for everyone! If you prefer high mountain lakes, we can point you to places you can catch westslope or Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Arctic grayling, golden trout – or more common brook and rainbow trout. Small stream fishing opportunity abounds – with over 3000 fishable miles – in both front- and back-country locales. Reservoirs across the Forest hold trout, Arctic grayling, and panfish – ideal for anglers of all aptitudes. And, iconic large rivers – Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone, and Boulder – provide yet another opportunity for trout and mountain whitefish. Whatever your preference, give one of our staff a call, and we can tailor an experience for you!

For a detailed description of state fishing regulations, visit fwp.mt.gov/fishing/

Links to fishing on other National Forests: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fishing/>

Stream Access



Most streams and rivers within the Gallatin National Forest boundaries are legally accessible via public roadways, trails, or through federally owned lands. However, some private inholdings do exist, especially along the Forest Boundary. Access to these waters is regulated by the Montana Stream Access Law, which allows anglers to access these streams for recreational purposes up to the ordinary high water marks. Although Montana Law gives recreationist the right to access these rivers and streams for water related recreation, it does not allow them to enter posted lands or to cross private lands to gain access. Be sure to ask permission before crossing private lands.

Maps

An order form for maps of the Gallatin National Forest can be obtained by clicking [maps link](#). Most area sporting goods stores also carry a selection of maps including float maps of the larger rivers and 1:24,000 scale topographic maps of the forest.

Food Storage

A Special Food Storage Order designed to minimize grizzly bear/ human encounters is in effect across the Forest. This order applies to the storage and handling of fish carcasses, including disposal of fish entrails. Please check with the local Ranger District Office for a copy of these regulations, or view the food storage orders online at [Special Order for Food Storage within the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone](#) if you plan on storing food or processing game in these areas.