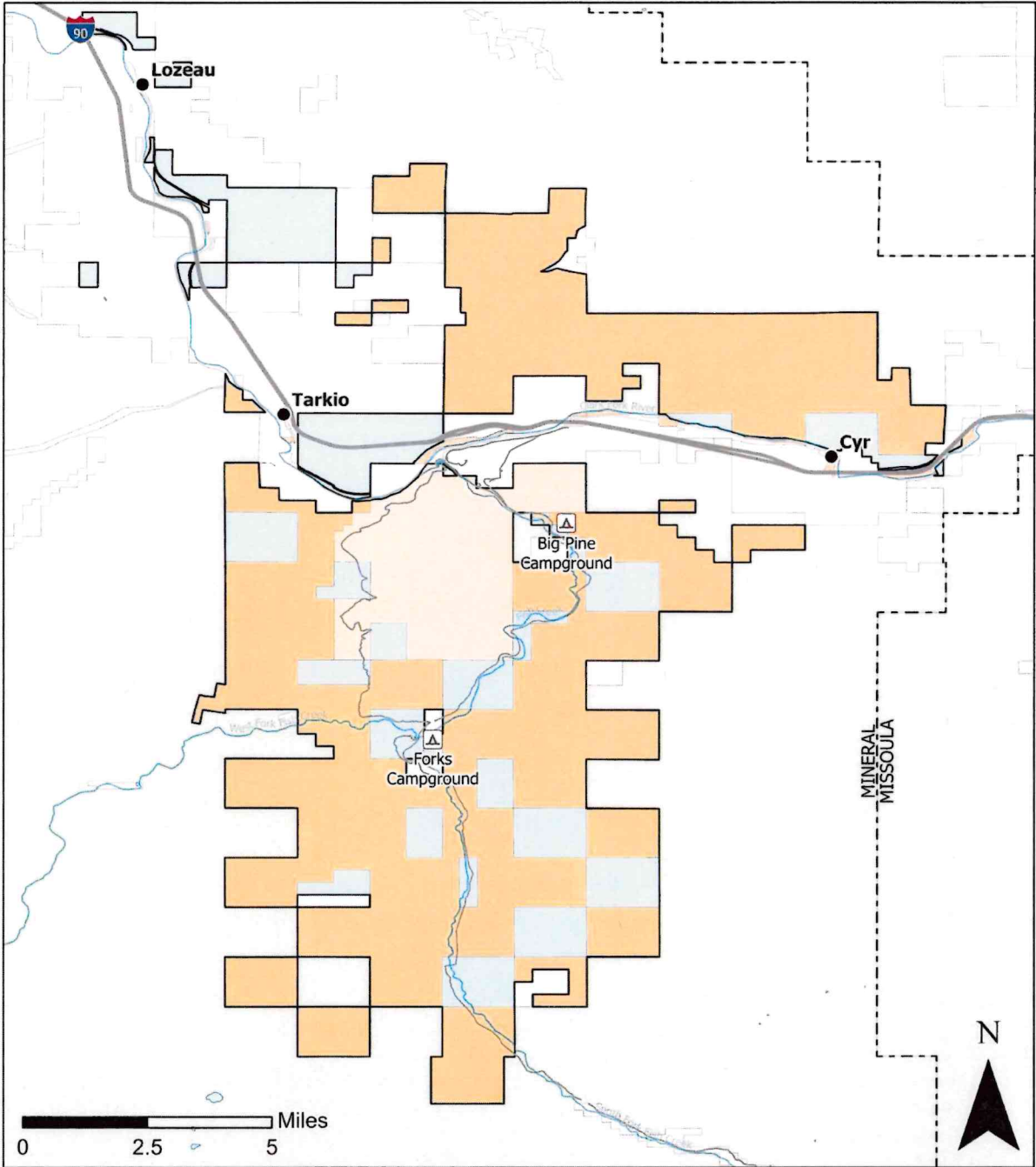


Fish Creek Area Map



- Campground
- Wildlife Management Area
- Montana State Trust Lands
- Fish Creek State Park
- US Forest Service
- Private & other
- Road



Management Direction	How	Timeline
<b>1. Redesign Dispersed Camping to Better Protect the Environment and Visitor Experience</b>		
Allow dispersed camping in designated sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark designated sites</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Better delineate existing dispersed campsites, place barriers to confine heavy impacts to specific areas. Remove and rehabilitate current dispersed sites that are too close to water and to other dispersed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delineate appropriate sites</li> <li>• Place barriers</li> <li>• Rehabilitate inappropriate sites</li> </ul>	Phase 1
Install portable vault toilets near clusters of dispersed campsites to better control human waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install vault toilets (portable toilets may be used in lieu of permanent vault toilets)</li> </ul>	Phase 1
<b>2. Enhance Existing Developed Camping Opportunities</b>		
Increase the number of developed campsites at Big Pine and Forks Campgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Environmental Assessment for development</li> <li>• Secure additional resources</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Explore options for additional managerial site presence in the Fish Creek drainage. This could eventually include having staff stationed at Big Pine Campground that can oversee Big Pine and Forks Campgrounds, as well as the dispersed sites in the road corridor from I-90 to Forks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some short-term options may be identified</li> <li>• Draft Environmental Assessment for development</li> </ul>	Phase 1 Phase 2
<b>3. Rehabilitate and Maintain Williams Peak Lookout</b>		
Rehabilitate and maintain Williams Peak Lookout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage interested partnerships</li> <li>• Develop rehabilitation strategy and budget</li> <li>• Complete necessary MEPA on any actions</li> </ul>	Phase 1 Phase 2 Phase 2
Explore options for improved access and future public use of Williams Peak Lookout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public engagement to consider options.</li> </ul>	Phase 3
<b>4. Provide a High-Quality Wade Fishing Experience and Protect Woody Debris</b>		
FWP will recommend that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt a closure on recreational floating for the entire length of Fish Creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and Wildlife Commission process</li> </ul>	Phase 1
<b>5. Explore Nonmotorized Recreational Opportunities Further</b>		
Further explore the development of hiking and purpose-built biking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future public engagement process</li> </ul>	Phase 3
<b>6. Preserve Motorized Recreational Opportunity</b>		

Management Direction	How	Timeline
Preserve at least three existing OHV loops south of I-90: Hay Creek Loop, Bear Point Loop and Williams Pass Loop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue engaging private partners to support maintenance and management of OHV routes</li> <li>• Erect signs at existing loops</li> <li>• Maintain routes</li> </ul>	Phase 1
Establish designated parking area(s) for OHV users, where use indicates a need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate OHV use and parking availability</li> <li>• Identify potential for alleviating congestion and reducing resource impacts by developing parking area(s).</li> </ul>	Phase 3
<b>7. Improve Visitor Experience Through Better Informational and Interpretive Signs</b>		
Develop interpretive plan for the Project Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive plan</li> </ul>	Phase 1
Establish an information kiosk within 2 miles of Exit 66 on I-90.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive sign package</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Erect additional informational signs at Big Pine and Forks Campgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive sign package</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Appropriately sign all developed and designated dispersed campsites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive sign package</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Sign important road junctions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive sign package</li> </ul>	Phase 2
Install interpretive signage at important locations, including Williams Peak.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive sign package</li> </ul>	Phase 2
<b>8. Improve Accessibility for Fish Creek Recreation</b>		
Develop one or more ADA designated sites for camping at Big Pine and/or Forks Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included in draft Environmental Assessment</li> </ul>	Phase 1
Maintain existing unimproved trails that facilitate stream access, and where appropriate, develop accessible fishing access points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor access and look for opportunities for managed parking and access.</li> </ul>	Phase 3
<b>9. Improve Visitor Experience Through Consistent Regulations Across Agencies</b>		
Finalize an agreement between FWP and DNRC to align recreation and visitor use regulations resulting in one set of regulations for all FWP and DNRC managed parcels of land in the Fish Creek drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to collaborate with DNRC on administrative options.</li> </ul>	Phase 1
<b>10. Enhance Safety and Enforcement</b>		
Increase contact between FWP staff and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain all-staff approach to area presence and coordination across divisions (Park and Outdoor Recreation, Maintenance, Wildlife, Fisheries, Enforcement)</li> </ul>	Phase 1  Phase 2



Management Direction	How	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to increase managerial staff presence (site hosts)</li> </ul>	
Improve public understanding and compliance with existing recreation rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve informational and interpretive signs</li> </ul>	Phase 1

**Stakeholders participating in Fish Creek planning process.**

- American Rivers
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Montana Chapter
- Clark Fork Coalition
- Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
- Fish Creek DNRC School Trust Land Lessees
- Five Valleys Land Trust
- FWP Region 2 Citizen Advisory Committee
- Great Burn Conservation Alliance
- Local\* Anglers
- Local Campers
- Local Equestrians
- Local Floaters
- Local Hikers
- Local Hunters
- Local Landowners in Fish Creek
- Local Motorized Recreation & Off-Highway Vehicle Users
- Local Outfitters & Guides
- Local Small-business Owners Mineral County Residents
- Lolo National Forest, United States Forest Service

- Mineral County Commission
- Mineral County Residents
- Mineral County Resource Coalition
- Missoula County Residents
- Montana Trout Unlimited
- Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club
- Mountain Bike Missoula
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rod and Connie French Conservation Camp, Iowa State University
- Summit Independent Living
- Western Montana Trail Riders Association

*\*"Local" throughout the above list refers to a participant living within Mineral or Missoula County.*

To view and comment on the draft strategy:

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/fish-creek-watershed-recreation-planning>