

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

The Yellowstone River Clearinghouse

From the Montana State Library

1515 E 6th Avenue
Helena MT 59620-1800
(406) 444-3115
msl.mt.gov

SNAPSHOT #6

The world-renowned Yellowstone River attracts both Montanans and tourists to fish, float and otherwise enjoy this free-flowing stream. Yet broken oil pipelines under the river and low stream flows that contributed to the 2016 fish die-off demanded emergency responses. A comprehensive study completed in 2015 outlined the cumulative impacts of human activity on the Yellowstone and today, The Yellowstone River Clearinghouse – housed at the Montana State Library – provides a single point of access to a wide range of information associated with the river, and is a go-to document when needs arise.

- The Yellowstone River Clearinghouse at the State Library provides maps of the locations of pipeline and powerline crossings, irrigation diversions, dump sites, boat ramps, and other physical features, along with the GIS data used to make the maps and perform spatial analysis. Reports are available that detail the cumulative changes in the Yellowstone River corridor and provide recommended practices for the future management of the river.



The Yellowstone River Clearinghouse, continued

- Channel Migration Zone maps show the area where a river channel is likely to move over a period of time. Recognizing channel movement and the dynamic nature of rivers can effectively reduce risks to human health and safety.
- “The 310 Law,” administered by Montana Conservation Districts, requires a permit for any project or construction activity in a perennial stream. Online interactive maps showing the locations of physical features along the Yellowstone River can inform the decision process.

Online Resources:

- Yellowstone Clearinghouse Home – <http://www.nris.mt.gov/yellowstone>
- Interactive Online Map Viewer - <http://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3fc5b219f4494ebab2477e93a5bbecca>
- Story Map - <http://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=2832c1639336493fa7162117a2df991a>
- Cumulative Effects Analysis executive summary - http://ftp.geoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Documents/Projects/Yellowstone_River_Clearinghouse/CEA_Executive_Summary.pdf
- Recommended Practices report - http://ftp.geoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Documents/Projects/Yellowstone_River_Clearinghouse/Yellowstone_River_YRRPs_Final03_01_2016.pdf

