



# UPPER MISSOURI RIVER RESERVOIR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Executive Summary

### MANAGEMENT PLAN DIRECTIVES AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan (UMRRFMP) will be used by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to direct fisheries management activities for the next 10 years (2020-2029) on Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Hauser Reservoir, Holter Reservoir, and the Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir. Fish population surveys will be conducted annually to monitor population trends and to investigate the effectiveness of management decisions. A Citizen Advisory Committee, appointed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, will provide oversight of the management plan. Population monitoring data will be evaluated, summarized, and presented annually to the Citizen Advisory Committee and interested citizens at annual public meetings for review. A five-member Citizen Advisory Committee will be appointed each February by the FWP Fish and Wildlife Commission to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions throughout the plan area.

### Public Involvement

The UMRRFMP revision process began in June 2018. Public involvement included a Citizens Scoping Committee, five open houses, four public meetings and an online survey, Citizens Workgroup, and three additional open houses. Public involvement from summer 2018 to spring 2019 helped define five core public concerns for FWP and the Citizens Workgroup to address, those are:

1. Management plan responsiveness
2. Management plan duration
3. Re-establishing pre-2018 rainbow trout stocking rates throughout the plan area
4. Declining yellow perch population trends, specifically in Canyon Ferry and Holter Reservoirs
5. Walleye population size structure throughout the plan area



## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Population abundance goals for each species in each waterbody section have been established using standardized relative abundance or catch per unit effort (CPUE) surveys. Species-specific goal ranges have been developed for each reservoir and CPUE goals have been developed for applicable species within each river section to determine if annual trend values are meeting species-specific goals.

### River Sections

The primary plan goal for the two river sections is to emphasize management for wild trout while recognizing the importance of walleye, burbot and kokanee (Hauser Tailrace only) for providing additional angling opportunity.

- Management decisions based on standardized CPUE surveys (e.g., electrofishing)

River Section Species Goals					
	Species				
	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Walleye	Northern Pike	Kokanee
<b>Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir</b>	1.0 per minute	0.40 per minute	Monitor	Suppress	Monitor
<b>Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir</b>	3,500 per mile	150 per mile	Monitor	Suppress	Monitor

### Reservoir Sections

The UMRRFMP emphasizes management for trout and walleye while recognizing the importance of yellow perch as a game fish and a forage species.

- Management decisions based on standardized Relative Abundance surveys (e.g., gillnetting)
- Introduce Proportional Stocking Density (PSD) to walleye management in reservoirs throughout the plan area. PSD goal for all reservoirs is 30-60.

Reservoir Section Species Goal Ranges (number per net)					
	Species				
	Rainbow trout	Yellow perch	Walleye	Brown trout	Burbot
<b>Canyon Ferry Reservoir</b>	4 to 6	6 to 10	5 to 7	0.5 to 1.5	0.25 to 0.5
<b>Hauser Reservoir</b>	3 to 5	6 to 8	4 to 6	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5
<b>Holter Reservoir</b>	4 to 6	8 to 12	4 to 6	NA	0.25 to 0.5

### Other Management Issues

In addition to species and waterbody-specific fisheries management strategies, the UMRRFMP establishes management criteria for the following issues: reservoir operations, fishing contests, habitat, disease and aquatic invasive species, piscivorous birds, access, flushing losses, low dissolved oxygen, and recreation management.

