

Whirling Disease in Montana Waters

All major coldwater basins in Montana have tested positive for whirling disease with two exceptions: the Kootenai and the Bighorn.

Waters with high infection include:

Rock Creek (Clark Fork tributary above Missoula)

Madison River

Several tributaries of the Big Blackfoot River

Little Prickly Pear Creek (Missouri tributary)

Below is a list of key waters in Montana infected with whirling disease. In most cases, the disease has not led to significant fishery degradation. Several remain blue ribbon trout streams:

Big Blackfoot River

Big Hole River

Bitterroot River

Clark Fork River

DePuy Spring Creek

Gallatin River (East)

Georgetown Lake

Jefferson River

Little Blackfoot River

Madison River

Missouri River

Ruby River

Sun River

Swan River

Yellowstone River

For a current listing of test results for Montana waters, call Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406-444-2449.