

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Announces Plans to Re-Establish the Smith River Advisory Council

HELENA – Governor Steve Bullock announced today that he plans to re-establish the Smith River State Park & River Corridor Advisory Council. This Council will advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) on issues related to management and stewardship of recreational, natural and cultural resources associated with the Smith River. The council will be pursuing new food storage regulations for the 2015 float season as part of a “Bear Aware” public safety and resource protection campaign.

“The Smith River is one of the treasures of Montana,” Bullock said. “Every Montanan has a stake in the preservation and enhancement of the river, and they should have a voice in its future.”

The council will be appointed by FWP Director Jeff Hagener and approved by the Governor. It will consist of nine members: two agency representatives, one U.S. Forest Service representative, one Smith River outfitter, one Smith River corridor landowner, three interested citizens, and one Montana State Parks & Recreation Board member. All council positions are volunteer positions.

For information on the Smith River State Park, or to apply to be on the Council visit:

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/smith-river/>

Applications to be on the Council are due by **Friday, April 18**.

The Smith River is a tributary of the Missouri River. It is noted for its renowned blue-ribbon trout fishing and other recreational opportunities. It has only one put-in point and one take-out point for the entire 59-mile stretch, and is accessible by non-motorized watercraft only.

Visitors to State Parks have a huge economic impact for Montana. In 2010, which is the most recent data available, they spent more than \$289 million while visiting the parks.

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