



YELLOWSTONE CLUB



FLY FISHING

- CATCH AND RELEASE -

The waters within Yellowstone Club are designated catch and release by the state of Montana and require that fish be immediately released alive. Use of proper handling techniques will improve the chance of survival for released fish. A fish that is released may still die, as there are several factors that can cause death. These factors include deep hooking injury, internal organ damage from being squeezed, bacterial infections resulting from loss of slime in the handling process, effects of physical stress from being played too long, and heat shock from being held in shallow water. Yellowstone Club encourages all members to learn proper catch and release technique so as to minimize the numbers of fish that perish as a result of human contact. The following guidelines for releasing fish are meant to help preserve the integrity of fishing at Yellowstone Club for many generations to come:

- The use of barbed hooks is prohibited on YC property. Please ask our retail staff to assist in outfitting your current hooks to barbless.
- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills. There are release devices available at YC retail.
- Set the hook quickly to avoid deep hooking the fish. If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Some fish will survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area it was hooked.

For more detailed fishing regulations please visit Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at:  
[Fwp.mt.gov/fishing/regulations/](http://Fwp.mt.gov/fishing/regulations/)



The Outdoor Pursuits office is here to help put together an unforgettable fishing experience for members and their invited guests. To schedule a guided day of fishing, or to get valuable, local fishing tips, call or text Outdoor Pursuits at (406) 993-2126. A Montana fishing license is required to fish all rivers and streams, but no license is required on the pond in front of Warren Miller Lodge. Fishing licenses are available through the Outdoor Pursuits Reservations Desk.

- FISHING AT YELLOWSTONE CLUB -



Fly fishing at the Yellowstone Club is an experience that should not be missed. The streams on Club property are tributaries to the famed blue-ribbon waters of the Gallatin River. The Gallatin enjoys a stellar reputation as one of the world's best fishing spots, and is known for unforgettable wade fishing. The Gallatin and its tributaries host an abundant population of Rainbow, Brown and both Yellowstone and Westslope Cutthroat Trout, the Cutthroat being the only native species to Montana. A total of over 15 miles of waterways exist within the YC property; additionally, a fully-stocked pond adjacent to the Warren Miller Lodge guarantees abundant fishing possibilities, for both beginner anglers and expert anglers. With an estimated 900 fish per mile in the streams, one can expect to catch over 20 fish per day! The WML pond is stocked and has the largest fish, some of which can get upwards of 20".

The Westslope Cutthroat Trout is the state fish of Montana, and the Yellowstone Club is an important ecosystem for this particular species of Trout. This fish speaks to the state's history, as its Latin name (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) bears the reminder of the famous explorers Lewis and Clark. The Westslope Cutthroat Trout is the only fish species found on Yellowstone Club property. Cutthroat are named for the striking red slashes near their jaws. The Westslope Cutthroat's historical range once covered all of western

Montana and the upper Missouri River watershed, including the Gallatin River and its tributaries.

Like many other native species, the Westslope Cutthroat experienced a serious decline in its numbers, due mainly to habitat loss and hybridization with other fish species. By 1999 the fish were found in only about 20% of their native habitat, and pure strains had been reduced to only about 3% of their original habitat. By 2010, only 4 waterways in the Gallatin National Forest had populations of genetically pure Westslope Cutthroat, one of which is the waterway of the Yellowstone Club, the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin and its tributaries.

Today, this fish is recognized as an important part of the state's history and ecosystem; efforts have been undertaken to protect the fish and ensure its longevity as a population. The Westslope Cutthroat is now designated a Species of Concern in Montana. This, together with its designation as the state fish, have increased visibility for this fragile population, and conservation efforts are underway to protect this fish. The Yellowstone Club is proud to be a part of the Westslope Cutthroat's history and future, and always promotes sensible and sustainable fishing on Club property. Every precaution is taken to preserve the genetic integrity of this fish species so future generations can enjoy it for years to come.



WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Image by Joseph Tomelleri, courtesy of Montana Field Guide, at mt.gov



**IN ORDER TO PREVENT STRESS ON THE EXISTING TROUT POPULATION, WE HAVE CREATED THREE REGULATED FISHING ZONES. FISHING RESTRICTIONS ARE FOR GUIDED TRIPS ONLY. "A" DENOTES STREAM ACCESS POINTS.**

**- RIVER ETIQUETTE -**

Riparian systems are moderately wet vegetation communities associated with drainage ways or their floodplains, and occupy the transitional area between aquatic and upland habitats. Riparian zones vary widely in their physical and biological characteristics, and are influenced greatly by the river system itself. The majority of the riparian systems through YC are high-gradient alpine streams, which typically have very narrow riparian zones, though they can still cover an area several times the width of the stream. Riparian systems accomplish many objectives to improve the health of the ecosystem including shelter for wildlife, cooler water temperatures, nutrient rich vegetation, food sources for wildlife, and stream bank stability. These areas take up less than 2% of our total ground cover yet host over 80% of the wildlife population. Because these riparian zones are so important, all stream users must work to preserve and maintain them. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Yellowstone Club offer the following guidelines to help protect sensitive riparian areas:

- Access stream through designated fishing access points outlined in the map.
- Riparian areas that buffer the stream hold up to 80% of the wildlife. Please respect these areas and travel with caution.
- Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot. Fish for a while, catch a few fish and move on.
- When possible, avoid using the streambed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other.
- The use of felt-soled boots is prohibited on YC property. The felt on these boots has been proven to transport both Whirling Disease and New Zealand Mud Snails, both of which have had detrimental effects on our local fish populations. Please ask our retail staff to outfit you in rubber soled boots if needed.