



The FOAMLINE

VOL. 21, #3

FISHING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA
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SEPTEMBER 2012

FOAM SIGN-UP UPGRADES START THIS FALL

Online Membership, Insurance Among Other Changes

As of October, FOAM will no longer mail out membership and insurance forms. Instead, we will email most members a reminder to download forms from our website. The dozen or so members who don't have an email address will receive a card in the mail about renewal. Plus, anyone can call FOAM (406.763.5436) to have forms mailed.

Second, the Bissell Agency will continue to email copies of insurance certificates to members, but will not mail them. If necessary, you may call the Bissell Agency and ask that they mail your insurance certificates to you instead of using email delivery. Except for the Board of Outfitters, government agencies, businesses, and individuals you list as additional insureds will always be mailed certificates.

Last, FOAM has built an online sign-up form that will be available on our website by October 21st of 2012. Blending FOAM membership information with basic liability coverage questions, the form uses PayPal for payment processing. Members can either use a PayPal account or a credit card to charge dues and premiums in a single payment, adjusted with a small convenience fee. You MUST have an email address to use the online form.

Of course, our regular paper membership and insurance forms will still be available on our website for those who don't have an email address or who like to use them instead of paying online.

Personal gear and motorized watercraft coverage is only available via our paper forms, and other insurance services, like commercial auto coverage or facility or premises insurance will be handled by the Bissell Agency (800.815.6230).

NEW, MORE SECURE FOAM WEB ADDRESS

FOAM Web Address = [HTTPS://foam-mt.org](https://foam-mt.org)

When adding the online sign-up page, we also upgraded our website server with a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) and now use <https://> at the start of our web address instead of <http://>. If you have links on your site connecting to FOAM, add that 's' to the linked web address to make sure it works properly.

FISHING OUTFITTER LOG SURVEY COMING

Proposed Legislation May Change Reporting Requirements

A June FOAMLINe article described FOAM, MOGA, and the Professional Wilderness Outfitters Association working together to rewrite Board of Outfitters law. One of those changes includes moving responsibility for reporting requirements - outfitter logs - from law to board rule. The MBO general authority to create

reporting requirements will remain in law, but reporting specifics will be removed from statute and left to board to decide just what's important to record in logs, if anything.

According to a MOGA survey, that 'if anything' notion is favored by a majority of hunting outfitters who think the client information, hunt results, hunt areas, etc. serve no public purpose. They state categorically that logs should be eliminated.

The June article noted the initial FOAM argument that logs could be simplified to date(s), client ALS info, guide or outfitter name and license number and an OPTION to include 'river and portion of river', but even that amount of info may be reduced.

Having river use data optional allows those who don't think a record of their use is important avoid the extra paperwork. Others who believe historical use is important can log such info in case future river management plans come to outfitter distribution via allocation.

To get your thoughts on logs and river use data, FOAM has built an online survey asking outfitter members what they think about logs and what they consider essential info that must be recorded. The survey will be available until October 31st.

During the first week of October, you will receive an email or postcard containing the online link to the survey. Your answers will be anonymous and will help FOAM work out the log portion of the proposed legislation. Survey results will be available for members in early November.

FWP STATEWIDE FISHERIES PLAN REVIEW

Fisheries Management, Current & Future, in One Document

For about a year, FWP's Fisheries managers have been working on a 'Statewide Fisheries Plan' (SFP) intended to set the direction and course for future fisheries work. The brainchild of Bruce Rich, FWP's Fisheries Division chief, the plan collected all the current fisheries programs from all the FWP regions, set them out in an ordered manner, and asked the regional fish managers to add thoughts about future intentions or ideas.

The FOAM online blog has a detailed post about the plan; for that review, go to foam-mt.org/blog.

You may download the entire SFP document from the FWP website at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/fisheries/statewidePlan/>. At the same site, you can review specific drainages and the plans associated with each.

FWP is seeking public comments on the plan. The department prefers you comment online from the FWP website noted above. You can also write and send comments to: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attention: Fish Plan Comments, 1420 E. 6th Ave., PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

NEW FAS RULE DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

Fish and Wildlife Division To Set New FAS Rules for 2013

During 2012, FWP split into a Parks Division and a Fish & Wildlife Division. Because each division is responsible for its own rules, the newly-formed Fish and Wildlife Division (F&W) will be in charge of Fishing Access Sites (FAS) and start developing a copy of the prior FAS rule late this fall. Among the topics covered by any FAS rule are: Camping fees as FAS's, special fees for fishing contests and other groups of 30 people or more, Alberton Gorge commercial use restrictions and fees, and the Blackfoot River and Madison River Special Recreation Permits (SRP's).

NOTE: The Statewide FAS Commercial Use fee (\$100 to use all FAS) is not part of this discussion.

FOAM will be tracking and participating in the FAS rule development, making sure commercial activities are appropriately handled and arguing against any fee increases. Because the FAS rule will be in place in early 2013, updates on the fee rule progress will be posted on our blog rather than in the spring FOAMLINE.

FISHING REGULATIONS CHANGE, A LITTLE

2013 A Year For Small Adjustments

Fishing regulations as a whole are reviewed and put up for public comment every four years, but small adjustments are made every year to adapt current rules to new conditions.

In 2012, FWP proposed 5 changes and added 2 new

pages to the regs. FOAM has put up the adopted changes in a PDF document you may download at foam-mt.org/downloads/2013_Fish_Reg_Changes.pdf.

IS RIVER ETIQUETTE IN DECLINE?

FOAM Hears Complaints From Members in 2012

Maybe it's the heat, maybe it's the anxiety spurred by hard economic times, but we've heard from many members wondering about poor boating and wading behavior on several Montana rivers and streams.

FOAM pioneered 'River Etiquette Rules', starting in the early '90's with our own signs at FAS's, then working with FWP to place them at most FAS's, and finally joining with FWP to print River Etiquette Rules in the fishing regulation booklets.

Despite these efforts, it seems some people new to the water, including a few outfitters, some guides, and many anglers, just don't get it. Whether rowing through a wader's water, jamming out in front of on-coming boats, or rowing too close to anglers in another boat, they act like they're solely entitled to a stretch of water. Wading anglers, too, leave little room to row by them.

Several FOAM directors have suggested we work with FWP, TU, and other groups to remind water recreationists of River Etiquette. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome. Contact your director or call the FOAM offices (406.763.5436).

Guide-at-Large Director Peter Shanafelt 360-5430

Region 5 (Madison) Joe Moore 581-6059	Region 6 (Gallatin) Dave McKee 582-0980	Region 7 (Yellowstone) Eric Adams 223-2488	Region 8 (Big Horn, Ft. Peck) Kurt Olson 666-2473
Region 1 (Kootenai, Flathead) Vacant	Region 2 (Bitterroot, Clark Fork) Russell Parks 543-7078	Region 3 (Missouri) John Arnold 868-1951	Region 4 (Big Hole, Beaverhead) Matt Greemore 684-5639

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Outfitters: Want to expand? 141 client days on

Beaverhead river for sale. Reduced from original price.

Contact Bill at 1-800-363-2408.