

I. RIVER AREA INVENTORY FORM

A. General information

1. Name of river

Madison River

2. Location of study unit

The study unit consists of the portions of the river from the source to Hebgen Lake, from the outlet at Hebgen Lake to slack water at Ennis Lake, and from Ennis Lake Dam to the confluence with the Jefferson River.

The river is located in southwestern Montana, and is formed by the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers in Yellowstone National Park. It flows in a general northward direction from the Park uniting with the Gallatin and Jefferson Rivers near Three Forks, Montana to form the Missouri River. The Madison is one of the larger mountain rivers in the Missouri River Basin.

3. States

Wyoming and Montana

4. Counties

Gallatin and Madison Counties in Montana, Park County in Wyoming (Yellowstone National Park)

5. Major drainage basin

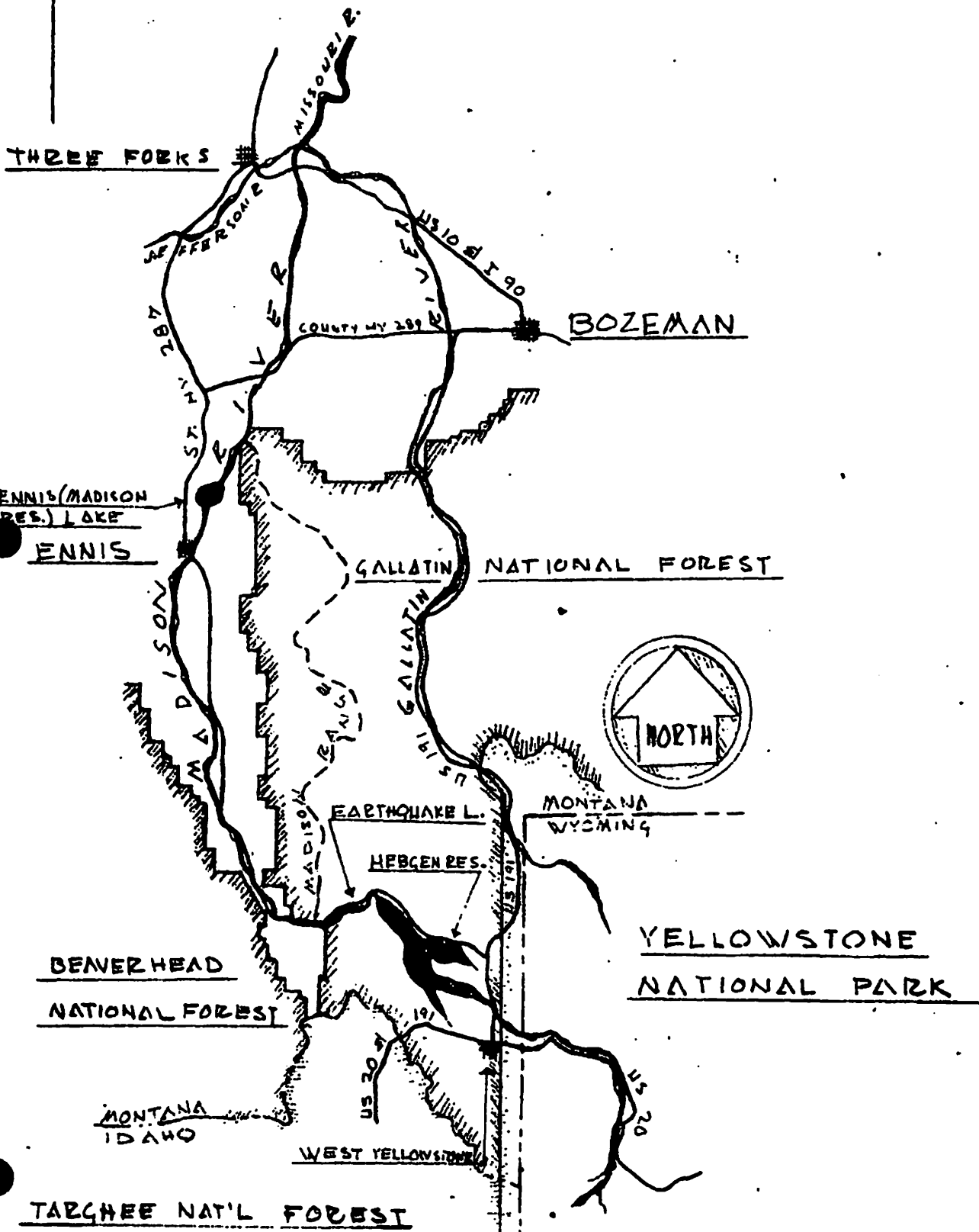
Missouri River Basin

6. Population within 50 miles 150,000; 150 miles 700,000; 250 miles 1,500,000

7. Weather characteristics by seasons and inclusive dates when study unit is best suited for public use and normal weather conditions during that period.

The peak recreation season is generally from about May 1 to September 30.

Temperature is characterized by marked fluctuations due to variations in elevation from 4,000 feet to 11,000 feet. Short periods in summer are moderately hot and dry, but the average temperature from May to September is slightly below 60° F. Winters are usually cold with periods of exceedingly low temperatures. Temperatures as low as -60° F have been recorded at Hebgen Dam.



WILD RIVER STUDY - 1963