

Fishing Companion website offers streamlined info to Montana anglers

Independent Record

The Montana State Library and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have launched a new website designed to help anglers find the basic information they need for a successful fishing season.

The Fishing Companion website was developed in part to assist Montana's librarians as they field requests from anglers in libraries across the state. The website is a streamlined access point for the basic information every angler needs for a successful outing.

"Librarians around the state are reporting an increased need from their patrons for information on Montana's geography and natural resources," said Jennie Stapp, chief information officer and digital library director at the Montana State Library. "That information is often found in multiple sources, including the websites from multiple state and federal agencies. By sifting

through all of the information that is available from many different sources, we were able to locate the resources that every angler needs for a safe and successful fishing season and make it available in one easy-to-access site."

The Fishing Companion is designed to provide answers to four questions that anglers ask, including when and where they can fish, how to fish, and what types of fish they can take.

"Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is pleased to be able to work with the Montana State Library to provide another access point to information about fishing in Montana," said Dave Hagen-gruber, the FWP angler education coordinator.

The Fishing Companion is the second website to go live as part of a large project by the Montana State Library that will condense all of Montana's most important geographic and natural resources information and make it available in easy-

to-access subject guides, such as hunting, fishing, mining, water resources, and farming and ranching. The first in the series, the Hunting Companion, was released in late summer 2010 and can be found at: <http://msl.mt.gov/hunting>.

"As librarians, our goal is to help people find the information they need so they can move forward with their lives, whether that's planning a successful fishing expedition or finding the next birding location for a weekend outing," said Stapp.

"These subject guides will prove to be tremendously helpful to Montanans looking for a wide range of information about Montana's geography and natural resources."

The Fishing Companion can be found at <http://msl.mt.gov/fishing>.

For more information about the Fishing Companion, contact Sara Groves at 444-3115 or via e-mail at: sgroves@mt.gov.