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Montana fly fishing forecast for 2012
Author: : mtangler
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2012 is shaping up to be a great year for fising in the northern rockies. Fly fishing in Montana is highly dependent on snow pack levels which fuel water levels throughout the fishing season. Although snow fall in March and April can add significant snow - at this point we are projecting a very "average" year. Snow pack levels are currently at 80-110% across much of Montana for the current date. This should produce a Goldilocks year with enough water to keep flows and water temps in great shape all season without having so much water that run off will be extended (like 2011!).

The milder winter temps will also to accerate some of the spring hatches which will produce some great April and May match the hatch opportunities before run off arrives at the end of May. Some of the most prolific hatches in Montana include spring hatches like the baetis, March brown and Mother's day caddis.

Run off ends at different times on different rivers in Montana. Some fisheries like the Bighorn, Missouri and spring creeks fish great even during run off. Freestone rivers like the Smith and Madison clear early and will be on fire in mid-late June. The last river to clear is often the Yellowstone and on average snowpack years that tends to be around the first of July.

The summer fishing conditions when many anglers visit should be in prime shape for 2012 for anyone considering a Western excursion. As a native Pennsylvanian we are always happy to provide some guidance to fellow Keystoners.

Brian McGeehan
Montana Angler Fly Fishing
www.montanaangler.com