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### Paradise Found

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Photo: [mikebarlow.com](http://mikebarlow.com)

#### #8 Dillon, MT

Trophy trout, trophy elk without trophy homes

**Leading Appeals:** Public-land elk hunting in every direction from town, plus one of the best small-river trout fisheries in the West.

**Population:** 4,056

**Median Home Price:** \$87,400

**Amenities:** Western Montana College adds students and sophistication. Location on Interstate 15 provides easy access to Butte, Bozeman and Idaho Falls. The one concession to upscale retailing is the well-visited Patagonia retail outlet.

**Bottom Line:** Move here for the elk hunting, stay for the affordable housing and thriving high-tech economy.

**Contact:** [bvhd.bmt.net](mailto:bvhd.bmt.net)

"Dillon is what western Montana used to be," says a Beaverhead River trout guide. What he means is, it hasn't been discovered by the glitterati.

You won't find starter mansions overlooking this southwestern Montana town and ostentatious vehicles here probably belong to visitors. What you will find is one of the West's best elk-hunting towns with a trophy trout stream in its midst.

Go any direction from Dillon and you'll find public-land elk sharing space with moose, mule deer, mountain goats and bighorn sheep. The National Forests in the Pioneer, Bannock, Blacktail and Tobacco Root mountain ranges have a full array of additional species, including black bear, grouse and mountain lion.

The Beaverhead River runs right through Dillon, fueling a lively trout economy and drawing hundreds of anglers during the summer salmonfly hatch. Go upstream for trophy browns in Poindexter Slough and Clark Canyon Reservoir, or fish feisty rainbows all the way through town. Just don't tell any starlets looking for the next authentic Western town to invade.

Click [HERE](#) to see #9.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE TOP 200 TOWNS AND THEIR RANKINGS, CLICK [HERE](#)**

**THINK YOUR TOWN SHOULD BE ON THIS LIST? CLICK [HERE](#) TO SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR FAVORITE PLACE.**

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