

**Ordinance 44D(E) Bird Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations
For Non-Members of the CSKT
Proposed Changes for March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025**

Proposed changes from Todd Espinoza, Wildland Recreation Program Manager

PART IV. RECREATION REGULATIONS

Section 7. B. (4) Boating and Water Sports

Current: The use of motorized boats on the Flathead River and Dog Lake from March 15 to June 30, with the exception of boats powered by electric trolling motors, for the protection of nesting waterfowl ~~nesting birds and wildlife~~.

Proposed changes from Les Everts, Fisheries Program Manager

PART II. FISHING REGULATIONS

Section 2. Standard Fishing and Possession Limits.

A. Daily Creel Limit:

All rivers, streams, creeks, canals, ditches, lakes, ponds, potholes and reservoirs except those closed to fishing:

Largemouth Bass: 5 fish.

(see exception at Part II, Section 3G for reservoirs).

Smallmouth Bass: Unlimited.

(see exception at Part II, Section 3H for Flathead Lake).

Northern Pike: Unlimited. (Clarification not addition)

Brook Trout: Unlimited. (Clarification not addition)

Brown and rainbow trout: 5 fish in combination, only one of which may be longer than 14 inches.

Bull trout: Closed to fishing. It is unlawful to possess a bull trout. Bull trout may not be taken from any Reservation waters. Please review identification tips in this booklet.

Cutthroat trout: Catch and release only (see exception at Part II, Section 3F, High Mountain Lakes, and Part II, Section 3G, Reservoirs).

Commented [WM1]: Justification: Historically, trout populations in both the Jocko and Flathead rivers were depressed by hydropower operations and habitat degradation. Over the past 20 years, trout populations have responded to habitat restoration and changes in hydropower operations. Both of these systems, which are interconnected and support migratory trout populations, can sustain harvest. Harvest of these non-native trout would also benefit native trout. This change in fish limits also simplifies the regulations by removing exceptions to the standard bag limits.
Note: the edits under A. Daily Creel Limit: for Northern Pike and Brook Trout are not a change in regulation, but are for clarity.

Lake trout: 100 fish.

Lake whitefish: 100 fish.

Mountain whitefish: 50 fish.

Yellow perch: Only 10 fish over 10 inches, no limit on smaller perch.

Fish not specifically listed herein may be taken in any number.—language remains the same, but states above pike and brook trout.

PART II. FISHING REGULATIONS

Section 3. Exceptions to the Standard Fishing and Possession Limits

A. Management Unit 1: Jocko River Drainage, excluding lakes and reservoirs:

(1) All waters within the South Fork Jocko Primitive Area are closed to non-members.

(2) Trout fishing is open yearlong to fishing only with artificial lures and flies. Lake trout may be kept in accordance with Part II, Section 2A.

Deleted: catch and release

E. Management Unit 5: Flathead River:

(1) Trout fishing is open yearlong to fishing only with artificial lures and flies.

Deleted:

Deleted: catch and release

Proposed changes from Kari Kingery, Wildlife Program Manager

PART IV. RECREATION REGULATIONS.

Section 1. Regulations of General Application.

- Add a seasonal bat closure to Lick Cave (Jette Area) during winter months to reduce disturbance to important bat species during sensitive hibernacula activity. There has been evidence of winter use of cave, and this 2024's bat count was down in the cave.

X. Human disturbance is a major cause of decline in cave-dwelling bats in the United States. With bat populations all across the globe facing the threat of catastrophic decline from White-nose syndrome, it will become increasingly important to limit disturbance to cave dwelling bats during months when solitude is critical to bat survival. Lick cave located in the Northeast portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation will be closed to recreational activity from November 1 to April 1 to protect an annual hibernaculum for several sensitive bat species.

- Add a section of how to prevent spread of White-nosed Syndrome and other diseases of concern from caves (what to wear into a cave and how to disinfect clothes/equipment before entering a new cave system)

Y. Anyone visiting caves outside the region or moving from cave to cave is asked to thoroughly clean and decontaminate their cave gear and clothing to limit the spread of white-nose syndrome and other diseases.

PART V—HUNTING AND TRAPPING.

A. The American bullfrog is an invasive species on the Reservation. Bullfrogs may be legally taken any time of day or night by dip net, gig, hook and line or hand. Any other method of taking bullfrogs is prohibited. Clear identification of a bullfrog from native frog or toad species is required before any take of a bullfrog. Do not move or transplant bullfrogs, it is unlawful to move a bullfrog from one source of water to another.

U. All dogs in the Kicking Horse Reservoir and posted Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation and Conservation Areas must be on leash under the direct and physical control of a person during the period of March 1 through August 31 of each year.
