

Ordinance 44(D) Bird Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations For Non-Members of the CSKT Proposed Changes for March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026

Annual Ordinance 44D regulations for Non-CSKT Members. Please provide proposed changes below. Changes/removal are highlighted in ~~strikeout~~ and additions are added in **bold**. Descriptions of changes are in *italics*. Page numbers from the 2024-2025 regulation book are listed next to the change for comparison.

PART II: FISHING REGULATIONS

Section 2. Standard Fishing and Possession Limits

A. Daily Creel Limit: Page 5

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

Smallmouth Bass: Unlimited.

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

Limit removed from Flathead Lake to be consistent with the rest of the regulation across the reservation. They are non-native and their populations are growing quickly. Removed in Sect. 3 Part H.—Page 7.

Crappie: Unlimited

Have recently been observed in Kicking Horse Reservoir. Probably transported by a person. Non-Native.

~~Lake Whitefish: 100 fish Mountain-~~

~~Whitefish: 50 fish~~

Whitefish: 20 fish (see exception at Part II, Section 3H for Flathead Lake).

Flathead Lake supports both Lake (non-native) and Mountain (native) Whitefish. The 100 fish limit on non- native Lake Whitefish was a historic response to a commercial fishery that no longer exists in the area. The 50 fish limit on native Mountain Whitefish is considered too high, due to climate change affects. Any fish kill seen during high temperatures on the lower Flathead River are Mountain Whitefish. The Technical advisors for these regulation changes, CSKT Fisheries and MTFWP Fisheries, recommend that the two species be combined for a total of either species, daily possession limit of 20 Whitefish.

The Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board agreed, but required that the limit on Flathead Lake be a total of either species daily possession of 50 Whitefish.

MT Fish Wildlife and Parks is proposing the regulation change for the north ½ of Flathead Lake of 20 Whitefish, either species daily possession limit, for 2025.

Section 3. Exceptions to the Standard Fishing and Possession Limits Page 6—Format Change not regulation change.

G. Management Unit 7: Reservoirs:

- (1) All reservoirs have minimum pool requirements for fisheries protection. Should a reservoir be**

drawn down in surface elevation below the prescribed minimum pool requirement, the fishery will be temporarily closed and announced by press releases and such closure will be posted.

Remove language from each Reservoir section and indicate overall that the Reservoir will be closed to fishing if prescribed minimum pool for that location is violated.

(2) Ninepipe Reservoir:

(a) The bass limit is 5 fish, with only 2 fish over 15 inches.

~~(b) Ninepipe Reservoir may be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 2,998 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.~~

(4) Kicking Horse Reservoir:

(a) The bass limit is 5 fish, only 2 over 15 inches, and all bass over 12 and less than 15 inches must be released.

(b) South Crow Creek Feeder Canal, from the irrigation headworks downstream to Kicking Horse Reservoir, is closed to fishing the entire year.

~~(c) Kicking Horse Reservoir may be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 3,050 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.~~

(5) Mission Reservoir:

~~(a) Shall be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 3,360 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.~~

H. Management Unit 8: Flathead Lake (Page 7):

~~(1) Rainbow trout: 5 fish (Please check Fish Identification Table on inside front and back covers).~~

Removes limit of Rainbow Trout harvest on Flathead Lake to be consistent with the rest of the Reservation.

~~(3) Smallmouth bass: 15 fish.~~

(2) Whitefish: 50.

PART IV: RECREATION REGULATIONS

Section 1. Regulations of General Application...the following acts are prohibited while engaged in recreation activities unless otherwise addressed in these regulations.

A. ~~Discharging any firearm in a negligent manner or in any designated~~ **campground, trailhead, boat launch or parking lot. (PG.9)**

Section 2. Restricted Areas

D. The Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit's Tribally owned lands are closed to all recreational access and use by non-members of the Tribes from January 1st through May 15th of each year ~~to minimize disturbance to big game on critical winter and calving ranges~~ (with the exception of allowing fishing access to the shoreline of Flathead River). The Ferry Basin Wildlife Management Unit is described as lands within: Starting at the south end of Sloan's Bridge and west along the Ronan/Hot Springs Road until the Schmidt Lookout Road, then west along the Schmidt Lookout Road to Highway 382, then south on Highway 382 to the Flathead River, then east and north along the east or south bank of the Flathead River to Sloan's bridge, the point of origin. The Islands along the Flathead River, along the southern border are within the Ferry Basin Management Unit. ~~therefore, a Ferry basin bull permit is required. Private landowners within the Unit may allow elk hunting by tribal members on their private property.~~

Removing Tribal Member Regulation language from the Non-Member Regulation booklet. Clarifying that the disturbance is not impacting elk any longer but the closure remains.

Section 6. Off-Road Motor Vehicle Use, Motorcycles, ATV, Snowmobile and Electric Bicycles (Page 13)

- B. A motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle may not be operated below the high-water mark in rivers, streams, and lakes on tribal land, even if a road is present.**

The only exceptions to this regulation are as follows:

- a) **Man-made bodies of water where established roads are present, such as Saint Mary's Lake, Lone Pine Reservoir, Mission Dam & Lower Crow Reservoir.**
- b) **If you are launching a boat on Flathead River or McDonald Lake, you may temporarily travel below the high-water mark at established boat launch sites for the sole purpose of unloading and loading your vessel.**

C. Snowmobiles: (Page 13)

- 2. Operating a snowmobile with the possession of firearms, bows, or crossbows with exceptions detailed in the Wild Bison Hunting Regulation.**

General Information (Page 16)

1. Disposition of Human Remains

A. No entity or individual may engage in the internment or any disposition of human remains on the surface or below the surface of CSKT controlled lands or waters, whether or not such party holds a Tribal land use agreement, except on lands expressly designated for burial by the Tribal Council. For purposes of this section, human remains refers to and includes whole or partial human bodies, ashes from cremation or other products of treatment of human remains, or funerary objects related to or part of a human body. Per the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Land Ordinance 45C, Section 3, subsection C.