

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 2:16:55 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 4:43:24 PM
Time Spent: 02:26:29
IP Address: 97.180.236.217

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jason Brininstool
City/Town: Missoula, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jbrininstool@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

I support all of the above amendments proposed by chairman Tabor to add further protections to our native bull trout as we face declining flows, warmer water temps, and lower snowpack with each new season.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:17:26 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:27:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:13
IP Address: 72.174.5.204

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Randy Hoffman
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hoffman_pack@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

I did some research using Artificial Intelligence and was able to determine the regulations preventing motorized vehicle use in the Rivers, Streams and all "non Motorized trails" are killing the Bull Trout populations by preventing the creation of rock flour by natural means(Erosion).

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 5:54:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 6:34:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:28
IP Address: 174.45.84.0

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Scott A Vollmer
City/Town: Gallatin Gateway, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: vollmerscott@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today in full support of the Bull trout regulations as found in the amendments proffered by the Department and carried by Vice Chair Tabor. Angling pressure for Bull trout has increased significantly in the last decade, especially in easily accessible sections of the South Fork near Hungry Horse Reservoir. There have been reports of "combat style" angling in particular areas with anglers targeting the migrating fish early in the year. Invariably, this pressure means that some of these fish do not make it further upstream to complete the spawning cycle. We need to do whatever we can to ensure that as many Bull trout as possible successfully spawn, and these regulations are an excellent step in that direction. Thank you for your time and an opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Scott Vollmer
Gallatin Gateway

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:19:13 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:22:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:49
IP Address: 72.175.42.191

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rachel Schmidt
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rachelv1978@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

I support the proposed amendments to further limit bull trout fishing on the South Fork of the Flathead River. Thank you for using and supporting the best available science to conserve and protect the wildlife in the public trust.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:37:55 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:45:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:35
IP Address: 65.131.207.211

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: John L. Wachsmuth
City/Town: Bigfork
State/Province: MT
Email Address: onebuddyman@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

I agree and support the amendments for bull trout in the flathead river system especially in the south fork . I've spent hiking , camping , and fishing in the south fork in Bob Marshall wilderness complex . I've witness dead bull trout floating down the river during the current fishing season for them on the south fork. It's our responsibility to conserve this valuable genetic fisheries resource .

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:30:31 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:31:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 66.135.72.193

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jim Vashro
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jsjvash@montanasky.us

Q2

Please comment on 2025 Fishing Regs Amendments - Bull Trout

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. supports the proposals to amend bull trout fishing regulations in Hungry Horse Reservoir, the South Fork Flathead River including the mouths of Gordon and Little Salmon Creeks, and the area around mouth of Big Salmon Creek into Big Salmon Lake. Fish Wildlife and Parks data shows a decrease in bull trout redd counts. At the same time, surveys based on bull trout catch cards show an increase in angling pressure.

Bull trout in Montana are listed as a Threatened species under ESA and fall under management of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Bull trout in the South Fork Flathead drainage are one of the healthiest populations in Montana so recreational angling has been allowed under a special permit from USFWS including a catch card system. There may be several factors influencing bull trout abundance in the South Fork drainage but the decline in bull trout redds is negatively correlated with an increase in angling pressure. Angling pressure is the easiest factor for FWP to control and a conservative approach is warranted to maintain the health of the fishery and the USFWS special use permit. Despite their large size and robust appearance, bull trout are sensitive to handling. They take lures deep and fight hard so they may be more susceptible to catch and release mortality. There are similar regulations throughout the Flathead drainage such as tributary mouth closures and angling closures to protect bull trout from excessive handling.
Jim Vashro, FWI President
