

# FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

Fishing, Bird Hunting, and Recreation Regulations of the  
CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

and the

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

**EFFECTIVE FROM THE DATE OF  
MARCH 1, 2024 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

For persons who are  
**NOT ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE TRIBES**



Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and  
Conservation

P.O. Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855

Office: 406 6th Avenue East, Polson, MT 59860

(406) 675-2700 or (406) 883-2888



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 1

490 North Meridian

Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 752-5501

To report violations or if you have any questions, please call  
one of the following numbers:

1-800-TIP-MONT

(406) 847-6668

(406) 675-4700

OR (406) 752-5501



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CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation

# Help Protect Native Species

## Know the Flathead Reservations

### Native Fish

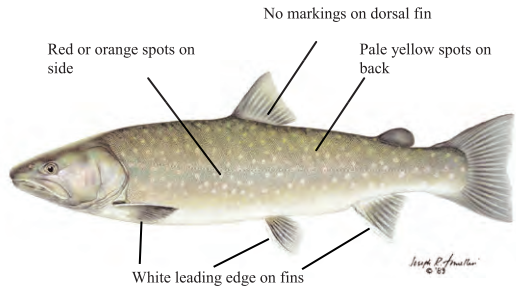
On the Flathead Indian Reservation, there is a growing concern for several of our native fish species, primarily the BULL trout, and the WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT trout. Populations of these fish are in decline across the Reservation, and it is important for anglers to properly identify BULL and WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT trout and understand the regulations protecting them.

When handling fish, be sure to wet your hands, and keep the fish in the water if possible. If in doubt about the identity of your fish, do not take a chance- release it!

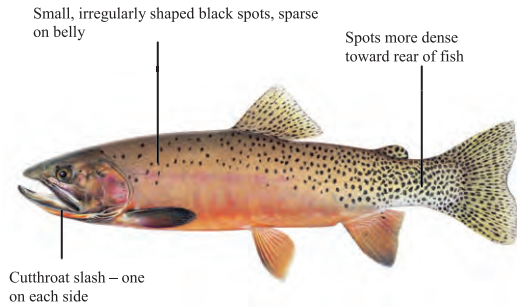
## NATIVE FISH

### Bull Trout – Species of Special Concern

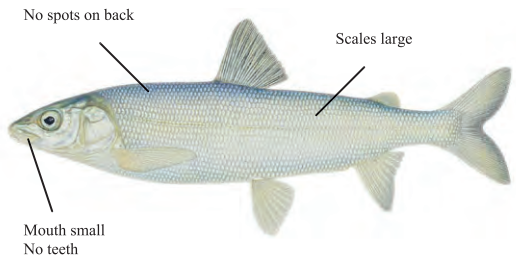
A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act  
“NO BLACK, PUT IT BACK”



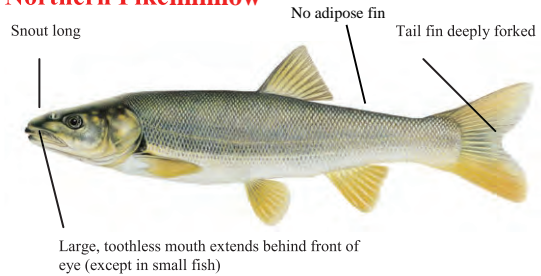
### Westslope Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



### Mountain Whitefish

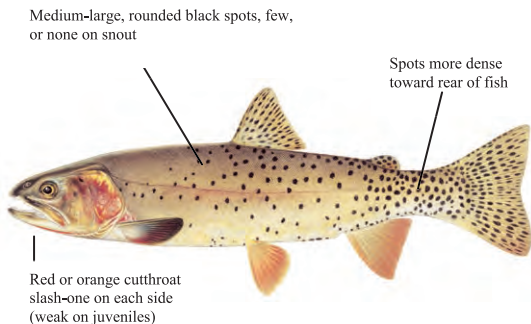


### Northern Pikeminnow

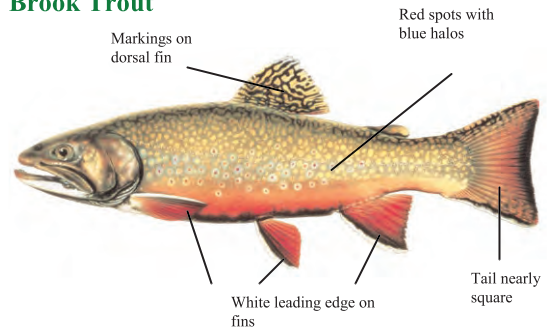


## NON-NATIVE FISH

### Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



### Brook Trout



## 2024-2025 RESERVATION LICENSE VENDORS FOR NON-MEMBERS

<b>Bigfork</b>	Your Turn Convenience
<b>Columbia Falls</b>	Smith's Food & Drug Super One Foods
<b>Hamilton</b>	Bob Ward & Sons
<b>Kalispell</b>	Cabela's MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Region 1 Snappy Sport Senter Sportsman & Ski Haus
<b>Lakeside</b>	Sliter's Ace Hardware
<b>Missoula</b>	Bob Ward & Sons Cabela's MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Region 2 Sportsman Warehouse
<b>Plains</b>	Mangy Moose Mercantile
<b>Polson</b>	CSKT, DFWRC, 406 6th Avenue East Wal-Mart
<b>Ronan</b>	Westland Seed
<b>Superior</b>	Westgate True Value
<b>Whitefish</b>	Sportsman & Ski Haus

Reservation Licenses are also available on the internet at <http://app.mt.gov/Als/Index>

A Reservation License must be purchased initially from a retail outlet/Reservation License vendor, then subsequent permits can be purchased online.

All anglers are encouraged to check the fish consumption guidelines on page 17.

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**PART I**  
**2024-25 RESERVATION LICENSING**

Regulations contained herein that pertain to hunting pheasant, Hungarian Partridge, migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers, and geese only) coots, and fishing, are pursuant to the provisions of the State – Tribal Cooperative Agreement (hereafter “Agreement”) between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (hereafter “Tribes” or “CSKT”) and the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (hereafter “State”). All other regulations contained herein are the product of the government of the Tribes and are not a part of the joint regulations of the State and Tribes under the Agreement. They are included in this publication as a convenience to all non-tribal members who may utilize Reservation lands for recreation purposes outside the scope of the Agreement, and Licenses, Permits, Stamps hereafter are referred to “Licenses.” The Tribes and the State find as follows:

<b>Section 1. Form of Licenses and Duplicates*.</b>					
	<i>Conservation License</i>	<i>***Fishing License &amp; CSKT Prevention Pass</i>	<i>Bird Hunting License</i>	<i>Federal Migratory Bird Stamp 16 and Older</i>	<i>Camping License 18 and Older</i>
<b>Non-Tribal Member Residents of the Flathead Indian Reservation</b>					
Under Age 12	Licenses are not required.				
Age 12 –14 Season License	\$40.00	\$10.00 + \$2.00	\$8.00		
Age 15 – 61 Season License	\$40.00	\$20.00 + \$2.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
Age 62 and older Season License	\$40.00	\$10.00 + \$2.00	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Fishing License		\$19.00 + \$2.00			
Disabled License	\$37.00	\$10.00 + \$2.00	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
<b>Non-Tribal Member Non-Residents of the Reservation/State of Montana Resident</b>					
Under Age 12	Licenses are not required.				
Age 12 –14 Season License	\$100.00	\$12.00 + \$2.00	\$9.00		
Age 15 and older Season License	\$100.00	\$23.00 + \$2.00	\$17.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
3-Day Conservation License	\$80.00				\$100.00
3-Day Combined Conservation/Fishing License		\$105.00 + \$2.00			\$100.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Fishing License		\$19.00 + \$2.00			
Disabled License	\$100.00	\$12.00 + \$2.00	\$9.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
<b>Non-Tribal Member Non-Resident of the State of Montana</b>					
Under Age 12	Licenses are not required.				
Age 12 –14 Season License	\$100.00	\$33.00 + \$14.00	\$56.00		
Age 15 and older Season License	\$100.00	\$66.00 + \$14.00	\$111.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
3-Day Use License	\$80.00				\$100.00
1-Day Combined Conservation/Fishing License		\$80.00 + \$14.00			\$100.00
3-Day Combined Conservation/Fishing License		\$146.00 + \$14.00			\$100.00
3-Day Combined Conservation/Bird Hunting License			\$91.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Fishing License		\$19.00 + \$14.00			
Disabled License	\$100.00	\$39.00 + \$14.00	\$56.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
****Commercial Fishing Bait Harvest License	\$11.00				

\*Duplicate License: \$5.00

\*\* Flathead Lake (south half) Combined Conservation/Fishing License – This license is not applicable for any other activities or use throughout the reservation except for those individuals engaged in fishing the Reservation portion of Flathead Lake. All anglers are encouraged to check the Fish Consumption Guidelines on page 17.

\*\*\* CSKT Prevention Pass is a fee assessed to the purchase of any CSKT fishing license.

\*\*\*\* A Commercial Fishing Bait Harvest License is required for any person to harvest and sell northern pikeminnow, peamouth and suckers as bait. These bait fish may be taken by hook and line only, and may not be transported live.

## Section 2. Licenses Required

- A. The holder of a current License may engage in recreational activities on Tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in Ordinance 44D and these regulations. A current photo ID is required to obtain a License and non-members must have a current photo ID on their person when they engage in recreation activities on Tribal lands.
- B. To lawfully fish on the Reservation non-members must be licensed in accordance with the following terms:
- (1) Non-members 12 years through 14 years of age must possess a valid Conservation License, a discounted Flathead Reservation Fishing License and a CSKT AIS Prevention Pass.
  - (2) Non-member non-residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years of age and older must possess a valid Conservation License, a Flathead Reservation Fishing License and a CSKT AIS Prevention Pass.
  - (3) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years through 61 years of age must possess a Conservation License, a Flathead Reservation Fishing License and a CSKT AIS Prevention Pass. This is valid for the entire state of Montana.
  - (4) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 62 years of age and older must possess a valid Conservation License, a discounted Flathead Reservation Fishing License and a CSKT AIS Prevention Pass. This is valid for the entire state of Montana.
  - (5) Disabled non-members are entitled to fish with a valid Disabled License, a discounted Flathead Reservation Fishing License and a CSKT AIS Prevention Pass.
- C. To lawfully hunt migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers and geese only), Gray Partridges, Eurasian Collared Doves or Pheasants on the Reservation, non-members must be licensed in accordance with the following terms:
- (1) Non-members 12 through 14 years of age must have a valid Conservation License in their possession and a Flathead Reservation Bird License which can be purchased at a discounted rate.
  - (2) Non-member non-residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years of age and older must possess a valid Conservation License and a Flathead Reservation Bird License.
  - (3) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years through 61 years of age must possess a valid Conservation License and a Flathead Reservation Bird License. This is valid for the entire state of Montana.
  - (4) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 62 years of age and older must have a valid Conservation License in their possession and a Flathead Reservation Bird License which may be purchased at a discounted rate. This is valid for the entire state of Montana.
  - (5) Hunters 16 years of age and older must also have a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp in their possession while hunting migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers and geese only).
  - (6) Disabled non-members are entitled to hunt birds with a valid Disabled License and Bird Hunting License in their possession.
- D. All non-members, whether required to possess licenses or not, shall be bound by all seasons, bag limits, and restrictions as if he or she was the holder of a License.
- E. A non-member accompanying a member engaged in any activity covered by Tribal Ordinance 44D shall have valid and appropriate licenses on his or her person.
- F. To lawfully camp on Flathead Reservation Tribal lands, non-members 18 years of age and older must possess a valid Conservation License and a Flathead Reservation Camping License. Exceptions for possession of a Camping License are:
- (1) Non-member spouses and non-member first generation descendant offspring of a member may camp without possessing a valid Camping License when accompanying their member spouse or parent.
  - (2) Certain Tribal campgrounds may charge a separate fee without the requirements to possess a valid Conservation License and/or Flathead Reservation Camping License. (Notices posted on site) (i.e. Blue Bay Campground).

### **Section 3. No License Is Required of a Non-Member When:**

- A. Engaged in recreational activities (not including hunting or fishing) on fee status lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. (i.e. The Bison Range, Blue Bay Campground)
- B. Engaged in boating, swimming, and related recreational activities (but not including hunting or fishing) in Flathead Lake.
- C. Engaged in recreational activities (not including fishing) within the exterior boundaries of the Ninepipe and Pablo Reservoir National Wildlife Refuges.

There is no hunting on the Tribal Bison Range. For information and other regulations contact the CSKT Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation office at (406) 675-2700 ex. 7200.

### **Section 4. Failure to Possess a Joint-Use License**

Failure of a non-member to possess valid and appropriate licenses as required by these Regulations, shall constitute a violation of the regulation and may constitute trespass.

### **Section 5. State Use of Licenses**

- A. Residents of the Flathead Reservation who have purchased licenses and a comparable State license may obtain a refund for the licenses from the State. Information concerning refunds may be obtained by contacting License Section, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, Montana, 59620, telephone 444-2950.
- B. Non-resident Flathead Reservation licenses are only valid on the Flathead Reservation.
- C. A valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Conservation License will be honored by the State as a conservation license for the purchase of any State resident hunting or fishing license.
- D. The holder of a Resident of Flathead Reservation Conservation License with a valid Flathead Reservation Fishing License will be honored by the State wherever fishing is lawful in Montana. The holder of a valid Resident of the Flathead Reservation Fishing License may purchase a state paddlefish license.

- E. The holder of a valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Conservation License with a valid Flathead Reservation Bird License will be honored by the State wherever hunting for upland or migratory birds is lawful in Montana. The holder of a valid Flathead Reservation Bird License may purchase a state wild turkey license.

### **Section 6. Applications, Termination of Licenses**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain or possess a license for use on the Reservation if the applicant's rights or privileges to hunt, fish or recreate have been revoked by a court or administrative agency of a competent jurisdiction. Any Reservation license so obtained or possessed shall be deemed void ab initio (from date of issuance).
- B. To qualify as a legal Flathead Reservation resident, the applicant must have permanently resided and have his/her principal domicile within the Reservation for 6 months immediately prior to making application and have proof such as a Montana drivers license.
- C. Non-members may buy licenses from any seller authorized by the Tribal Council to sell licenses. A list of persons authorized to issue such licenses is maintained at the Tribal office and at the front of these regulations.
- D. Any person who can provide proof of being permanently and substantially disabled may contact the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation office for paperwork requirements for qualification for Disabled License rate. First time applicants must fill out appropriate forms. Polson Office Hours: 7:00am-5:30pm, Monday through Thursday.
- E. Duplicate Licenses are available at the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation offices in Polson between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday of any business day.
- F. Any license issued to a non-member shall be void after the last day of February next succeeding its issuance unless otherwise designated. Three-day Conservation Licenses shall be valid only for the three-day period stated on the license.
- G. Altering, changing, loaning, or transferring to another any license issued in pursuance of the provisions of these regulations is prohibited, nor shall any person other than the person to whom it is issued use the same. No person shall swear or affirm to any false statement in an application for a license.

- H. Harvest of any Reservation fish, wildlife and plants, or parts thereof, for financial gain is prohibited except as authorized and permitted by the Tribes (see Part II Sec. 1 for commercial bait fishing of pikeminnow, peamouth and sucker fish).
- I. Violations of the Joint Regulations may result in proceedings in Federal, Tribal or State court as specified in the State-Tribal Cooperative Agreement.

## **PART II FISHING REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1. Standard Reservation-Wide Fishing Regulations**

All non-members must have on their person, whenever engaged in fishing on the Reservation, a valid Flathead Reservation Conservation License/State Conservation License with a joint Fishing License. Refer to management unit regulations for special daily and possession limits.

#### **A. Daily and Possession Limits:**

- (1) When measuring fish to determine length limits, fish may have entrails removed but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies. Length is measured from tip of snout to tip of tail.
- (2) Daily limit shall mean the number of fish that may be legally taken in a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than two times the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under management-unit regulations.
- (3) Possession limit shall mean the number of fish, which may be in one person's possession at any time in any form, fresh, processed, stored, frozen or otherwise preserved. On opening day of any season only one daily limit shall be in possession.
- (4) A person fishing on a water body may have in his immediate physical control only a daily limit allowed for that water body.

#### **B. Seasons:**

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

#### **C. Standard Fishing Seasons:**

- (1) Streams, canals and ditches are open the third Saturday in May through November 30 (see exceptions under Part II, Section 3). Lakes, ponds, potholes and reservoirs are open the entire year.
- (2) The Flathead and Jocko Rivers are open to fishing all year. See Part II, Section 3, Subsection A and E.
- (3) Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations as govern the streams.
- (4) The Reservation is closed to taking or harvesting crayfish, mussels, native frogs, toads or salamanders for commercial or personal use.

#### **D. Lures and Bait:**

Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural or artificial baits or any natural or man-made food, or any man-made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

No live fish or live crayfish, frogs, toads or salamanders may be used as bait. No sculpins (genus *Cottus*) or portion of salmonids (trout, salmon, and whitefish), except eggs, may be used as bait. Non-game fish (fish with no bag limits on section 2A), or parts thereof, may be used dead as bait, except in waters limited to artificial lures only. Leeches, worms, insects, and larvae may be used as bait, except in water limited to artificial lures only.

A Commercial Fishing Bait Harvest License is required for any person to harvest and sell northern pikeminnow, peamouth and suckers as bait. These bait fish may be taken by hook and line only, and may not be transported live.

#### **E. Check Stations:**

Fishermen must stop and report at Tribal check stations if a check station is on the fisherman's route of travel to or from the fishing area.

#### **F. Fishing Hours:**

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise posted.

- G. Fish:  
These regulations apply to all fish occurring in waters on the Flathead Reservation.
- H. Means of Taking:
- (1) Only a single line with up to two hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in management unit regulations. The pole or line must be in a fisherman's immediate control. (See exception under Part II Section 3 H (2) for Flathead Lake).
  - (2) Ice fishing on lakes and reservoirs is open to angling with 2 attended lines, with up to 2 hooks per line.
  - (3) Snagging of fish is unlawful.
  - (4) The use of lead or lead based lures is prohibited in Ninepipe and Pablo reservoirs. See Part II; Section 3 G (2 c VI) for Ninepipe Reservoir and Part II, Section 3 G (3 c V) for Pablo Reservoir.
- I. Size of Hole for Ice fishing  
The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches at the surface of the ice.
- J. It is Unlawful:
- (1) To fish or take fish within 200 feet upstream or downstream from any fish passage (ladder) or fish protection (screen) structure.
  - (2) To use float tubes, boats or other flotation devices on Ninepipe & Pablo Reservoirs or Safe Harbor Marsh.
  - (3) To transport any live fish or viable fish eggs and to introduce any live fish or viable fish eggs into any water body.
  - (4) To refuse to show one's license upon demand to a tribal or state conservation officer.
  - (5) To leave or dump any dead animal, fish or fish entrails, garbage or litter in or on any property where public recreation is permitted.
  - (6) To use electricity or use any carbide, lime, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any water body where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish.
- (7) To hire or retain an outfitter or guide unless authorized by the Tribes.
  - (8) To waste any part of fish suitable for food (see fish consumption guidelines on page 17).
  - (9) To fish in waters posted closed to fishing.
  - (10) To remove fish from any research sampling gear (fish traps, gill nets, etc.).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.
- Northern Pike: Unlimited.
- Brook Trout: Unlimited.
- Fish not specifically listed herein may be taken in any number.



B. Possession Limit

A fisherman may have no more than two times the daily limit of any species in his possession at any location at any time.

**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 with artificial lures and flies. Lake trout may be kept in accordance with Part II, Section 2A.

B. Management Unit 2: Post and Mission Creek Drainage:

- (1) Mission Creek, upstream from Mission Reservoir to the falls at the trailhead, is closed to fishing or taking fish the entire year.
- (2) Dry Lake Creek, upstream from St. Mary's Lake (Tabor Reservoir) to the concrete weir and St. Mary's Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Dry Lake Creek are closed to fishing or taking fish the entire year.
- (3) Upper Post Creek, upstream from McDonald Lake (Reservoir) to the confluence of its northern (from Moon Lake) and southern (from First Lake) tributaries and McDonald Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Post Creek are closed to fishing the entire year.

C. Management Unit 3: Crow Creek Drainage:

- (1) Ronan Spring Creek: Open to fishing the entire year, to anglers less than 12 years in age, from Terrace Lake Road downstream to the end of the Ronan City Park.

D. Management Unit 4: Little Bitterroot River:

- (1) The Little Bitterroot River is closed to fishing by non-members from the north Reservation boundary to the northern section line of Section 34, T.24N., R.24W.

E. Management Unit 5: Flathead River:

- (1) Trout fishing is open year long to fishing with artificial lures and flies.

F. Management Unit 6: Mountain Lakes:

- (1) Fishing in the tributary streams of the following Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness area lakes is prohibited: Moon Lake, Long Lake, Frog Lakes and Summit Lake.
- (2) Cutthroat trout: 3 fish, only one of which may be longer than 14 inches; possession limit is twice the daily limit, but the fish may not be removed (packed out of) from roadless areas (e.g., Three Lakes Peak or the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness).

G. Management Unit 7: Reservoirs:

- (1) Combination rainbow/cutthroat trout: 5 fish, only one of which may be longer than 14 inches.
- (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.
  - (c) Ninepipe Reservoir is a National Wildlife Refuge set aside for use by wildlife. The following fishing regulations are for the protection of wildlife.
    - (i) It is unlawful to use float tubes, boats or other flotation devices.
    - (ii) The reservoir is closed to fishing during waterfowl season (see refuge regulations).
    - (iii) From the close of waterfowl season until March 1 fishing is allowed on the entire reservoir including ice fishing.
    - (iv) From March 1-July 15 fishing is allowed in two areas along the shorelines as follows:
      - (a) from the picnic area, located near the south west corner of the reservoir, north and east around the reservoir to the posted sign and;
      - (b) from the Highway 93 bridge, located on the east side of the reservoir north and west around the reservoir to the posted sign.
    - (v) From July 16 until waterfowl season the entire reservoir is open to fishing.
    - (vi) The use of lead or lead-based lures or sinkers is prohibited.

- (d) Ninepipe Family Fishing Pond is open to fishing to all anglers, with a catch and release provision for anglers age 15 and older.
- (3) Pablo 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) Pablo Reservoir may be closed to fishing or taking fish at all times when the reservoir is drawn down in surface elevation below 3,190 feet above mean sea level, and such closure shall be posted.
  - (c) Pablo Reservoir is a National Wildlife Refuge set aside for use by wildlife. The following fishing regulations are for the protection of wildlife.
    - (i) It is unlawful to use float tubes, boats, or other flotation devices.
    - (ii) The reservoir is closed to fishing during migratory waterfowl season (see refuge regulations).
    - (iii) Ice fishing is permitted on the entire reservoir.
    - (iv) It is open the balance of the year along the north and east shorelines from the inlet canal to the south end of the dike as posted. Ice fishing is permitted on the entire reservoir.
    - (v) The use of lead or lead-based lures or sinkers is prohibited.
- (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.

- (6) St. Mary's Lake:
- (a) St. Mary's Lake (Tabor Reservoir) is closed to the use of float tubes, boats or other flotation devices during the months of August, September, and October, and fishing during those months is restricted to the dam face.
  - (b) Dry Lake Creek, which flows into St. Mary's Lake, and the lake within 200 feet of Dry Lake Creek, is closed to fishing.
- (7) McDonald Lake within 200 feet of the mouth of Post Creek and Post Creek upstream from McDonald Lake (Reservoir) to the confluence of its northern (from Moon Lake) and the southern (from First Lake) tributaries are closed to fishing the entire year.

H. Management Unit 8: Flathead Lake:

- (1) Rainbow trout: 5 fish (Please check Fish Identification Table on inside front and back covers).
- (2) Two lines with up to two hooks each allowed.
- (3) Smallmouth bass: 15 fish.

### **PART III BIRD HUNTING**

#### **Section 1. Standard Reservation-Wide Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Eurasian Collared Dove and Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Regulations**

Seasons and regulations pertaining to hunting pheasants, gray partridge, Eurasian Collared Doves and certain migratory waterfowl are published by the Tribes and State prior to the opening of hunting on the Flathead Reservation. Those annual regulations, as well as regulations in this publication, must be complied with.

It is unlawful to hunt any species of birds on the Flathead Reservation unless allowed by this publication and the annual bird hunting regulations.

- A. No Bird Hunting License shall be issued to a non-member under the age of eighteen (18) years of age unless he or she presents to the license seller a certificate of hunter competency issued by an approved hunter safety course.

- B. Non-members under the age of fifteen (15) years who are hunting or otherwise have firearms in their possession must be accompanied by a responsible, permitted adult.
- C. Hunters 16 years of age or older must also have federal migratory bird stamps in their possession while hunting migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers, and geese) and coots.
- D. Shooting Hours: Shooting hours on the Reservation are listed in the approved annual FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION PHEASANTS, GRAY PARTRIDGE AND MIGRATORY WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS, SHOOTING HOURS AND LIMITS regulations booklet, published annually and available online and anywhere you can purchase your CSKT Bird Hunting License. Killing or taking of all migratory birds is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Pheasants, gray partridge, Eurasian Collared Doves, certain migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers, and geese) and coots are the only species which can be legally taken. However, hunting for these species is regulated by an annual regulations-setting process, so regulations may change between years.
- E. Means of Taking: For all permitted upland and migratory waterfowl species, only shotguns not larger than 10 gauge incapable of holding more than three shells are considered legal firearms. Only federally-approved non-toxic shotshell shot types, including: steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-bismuth and tungsten-tin-iron, and tungsten-iron-copper are legal for use in shotguns for migratory bird and upland gamebird hunting on the Reservation are allowed. Lead shot is prohibited for bird hunting. You may possess only non-toxic shot while in the field hunting birds on the Reservation. Hunting gray partridges, pheasants, Eurasian Collared Doves and migratory waterfowl in which hunting involves bait is prohibited. However, use of artificial decoys to hunt migratory waterfowl shall not be deemed a taking involving bait. Only gray partridges, pheasants, migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers and geese) and coots may be hunted or taken by non-members of the Tribes.
- F. Check Stations: Hunters must stop at established hunter check stations if a check station is on the hunter's route of travel. Your cooperation in this information retrieval process will aid in enhancing resource management practices.
- G. Species Closed to Taking: Tundra swans, trumpeter swans, harlequin ducks, common snipe, common loons, sandhill cranes, mourning doves, wild turkeys, spruce grouse, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and white-tailed ptarmigan are closed to harvest on the Flathead Reservation.
- H. Limitation: Non-members are prohibited from hunting or taking any other species of bird unless otherwise expressly authorized by Reservation Regulations.
- I. It is unlawful to shoot firearms from or across public roadways and/or public rights-of-way.
- J. The use of a motor or engine propelled boat or watercraft to hunt waterfowl is lawful only when all motion caused by such motor or engine has ceased.
- K. Hunters are prohibited from using electronic calls.
- L. All bird hunting is closed in the Millie's Woods as posted.
- M. Leaving artificial floating decoys (with line connections) unattended is prohibited.
- N. Hunting is prohibited within Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges, the Tribal Bison Range and Safe Harbor Marsh.
- O. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm while hunting within 150 yards of a residence.
- P. All game birds taken on Reservation lands shall be field dressed in such a manner as to retain at least one fully feathered wing and one foot attached to the body.
- Q. The use of drones or any other remotely-operated devices to move, flush or cause migratory waterfowl and other game birds as an aid in hunting of the species is prohibited.
- R. Special Youth Pheasant and Waterfowl Hunting Days may be scheduled annually for a two-day weekend period prior to the opening day of pheasant and waterfowl hunting and conservation. Legally licensed you hunters 12-15 years of age may hunt pheasants and legally huntable species of migratory waterfowl on these dates if accompanied in the field by a non-hunting adult at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters and accompanying adult must possess a valid Tribal Conservation License

and Bird Hunting License. In addition, youths 10 and 11 years of age that are certified as Apprentice Hunters under Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Apprentice Hunter Program, and who have a Mentor who meets all criteria of the program, may also hunt during the Special Youth Pheasant and Migratory Waterfowl Days, as well as during the general hunting season for both. Mentors must possess a valid Tribal Conservation License and Bird Hunting License. All youth hunting must comply with current bag and possession limits, shooting hours, hunter education and all other applicable regulations that apply during the regular hunting seasons.

## **PART IV RECREATION REGULATIONS**

The following regulations are the product of the government of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and are not a part of the joint regulatory functions of the State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes under the cooperative agreement between the two governments. The Tribes are asserting jurisdiction to make and enforce these regulations; however their inclusion here does not constitute an agreement or recognition by the State that the Tribes have this jurisdiction. The Tribes have and will continue to enforce these regulations independently from the joint licensing and fishing regulations. These regulations are included in this publication as a convenience to all persons who may utilize Reservation lands for recreation purposes.

### **Section 1. Regulations of General Application**

All non-members must have on their person; whenever engaged in recreation activities on Tribally owned lands of the Reservation, a valid Flathead Reservation Conservation License. Certain Tribal campgrounds and recreation areas may have special regulations, which are posted, on site.

The Tribes reserve the right to post Tribal lands and waters for additional regulations and restrictions not contained herein pertaining to environmental protection, conservation, public safety and regulation pursuant to recommendations of the Tribal Natural Resources Department.

The following acts are prohibited while engaged in recreation activities unless otherwise addressed in these regulations. Recreation activities subject to regulation include snowmobiling, off-road driving, picnicking, boating, skiing, hiking, photography, swimming, and other related activities.

A. Discharging any firearm in a negligent manner or in any campground area.

- B. Building or fabricating any structure for any purpose.
- C. Leaving refuse, litter, or waste materials or the disposal of any refuse other than human waste in sanitation units. (PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT)
- D. Guiding, outfitting or any form of commercial activity not permitted by the Tribes.
- E. A metal fire ring must be used if present at campsites. No leaving campfires unattended.
- F. Using or cutting live vegetation and trees for campfires.
- G. Leaving a camp unattended for a period of twenty-four hours or longer.
- H. Allowing pets or livestock to run unattended.
- I. Disposal of human body wastes other than in sanitation facilities when available.
- J. Hunting or fishing unless a valid Hunting or Fishing License and a Conservation License is possessed.
- K. The Hoskins Landing (Dixon) River Access Area and the Tribal Bison Range is restricted to day use only.
- L. The following recreation areas are restricted to a 10:00 PM curfew for those people not engaged in hiking, camping, boating, snowmobiling, horseback riding or fishing activities.
  - (1) Mission Dam Recreation Area
  - (2) North Crow Creek campground
- M. No person shall destroy, deface, injure, pick (including berries and mushrooms) or otherwise damage any natural or improved property, including antlers, or cut, destroy or mutilate any tree, shrub, plant, sign, or any geological, historical, or archaeological feature. A Tribal member may have non-member children and spouse accompany and assist with berry and mushroom picking, provided that such non-members possess the required recreation licenses.
- N. The purchase or acquisition through barter or trade of antlers in velvet and other animal parts not in final manufactured form.
- O. It is unlawful to take live wildlife within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation and offer it for sale, trade, exchange, or barter. Wildlife means any big game, fish, migratory waterfowl, pheasant, upland gamebird, aquatic life, furbearing animal, or non-game animal.
- P. Driving automobiles, trucks, jeeps, campers and similar

enclosed passenger vehicles on the ice of frozen water bodies.

- Q. Use of motorized vehicles off designated open roads within Tribal Wildlife Mitigation Areas is prohibited to protect habitat restoration projects and nesting wildlife and to maintain habitat security and quality.
- R. Entry or travel by motorized vehicle on roads posted closed or which have had man-made obstructions such as trenches, berms, and gates or other barricades placed on them.
- S. Training dogs for retrieving or hunting purposes is prohibited on Tribal lands. The use of retrieving dummies, dummy launchers, birds, whistles, shock collars or other related objects at anytime outside of lawful bird hunting seasons shall be unlawful.
- T. The use of hang-gliders or para gliders on Tribal lands unless authorized in writing by the Tribes.
- U. All dogs in the Kicking Horse Reservoir and posted Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Areas and Conservation Areas must be on a leash under the direct and physical control of a person during the period of March 1 through August 31 of each year. The Kicking Horse area is defined as all Tribal lands within a mile radius of the high water line of Kicking Horse Reservoir. The use of electronic collars does not constitute direct or physical control nor does it constitute a leash.
- V. The use of fireworks at the Blue Bay Grounds is prohibited.
- W. Swimming above developed boat-launch ramps.
- 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.
- 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.

## Section 2. Restricted Areas

- A. It is unlawful to enter areas that are posted closed unless authorized.
- B. Access and usage of the Flathead River and shoreline within 560 feet upriver from SKQ Dam and within 250 feet downstream from SKQ Dam powerhouse is prohibited.
- C. The following areas are closed to entry to non-members of the Tribes, except that a non-member spouse and non-member children of a member of the Tribes may accompany that member for purposes other than hunting and fishing, provided such non-members, when applicable, possess a valid recreation Permit. The presence of wild animal meat in camp shall constitute a hunting camp.
  - (1) The South Fork Jocko Primitive Area, described as: That portion of the South Fork of the Jocko River area beginning at the point where the Reservation Boundary intersects the Jocko-Seeley Swan Road, thence south and west along the Reservation Boundary to the intersection with the north drainage divide ridge of the East Fork of Finley Creek, thence west along said ridge to the intersection of the section line common to Sections 34 and 35, T.16N., R.19W., thence north along the section line to the intersection with the south bank of the Upper Jocko "S" Canal, thence northeast along the southeast bank of said canal to the intersection with the Jocko River, thence east along the south bank of the Jocko River and South Fork of the Jocko River, thence along the Jocko-Seeley Swan Road that swings northeast from the South Fork of the Jocko River to the point of beginning.
  - (2) The Kitqwanukxu' - (Lozeau) Special Management Area, described as: That northwest portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation beginning at the intersection of the Reservation Boundary and Hubbart Dam Road located in the N1/2, Section 34, T.25N., R.24W.; Thence southerly and easterly along said road to its intersection with Trip Road; Thence westerly and southerly along Trip Road to it's intersection with West Road; Thence southerly and westerly along West Road to its intersection with Far West Road; Thence due west to the 1/4 corner located in the center of the NE1/4 of Section 33, T.24N., R.24W.; Thence in a straight line southerly and westerly to the highest point on the

ridge in the center of Section 33, T.24N., R.24W.; Thence southerly and westerly to the highest point along the southerly drainage divide of Mill Creek located in the SW1/4, NE1/4, Section 5, T.23N., R.24W.; Thence westerly and southerly along said drainage divide to its intersection with the L-2050 Road; Thence southerly along the L1000 Road to its intersection with the Reservation Boundary; Thence northerly, westerly and easterly along said boundary to the point of beginning.

- (3) The Wolf Point Tribal Park near Polson, Montana
  - (4) Kupawicqnuq Tribal Park near Elmo, Montana
  - (5) Polson Tribal Park in Polson, Montana
  - (6) Twin Lakes Recreation Area
  - (7) Hog Heaven Range & Chief Cliff Area, described as: All tribally owned lands west of Highway 93 from the Reservation northern boundary to the intersection of Highway 28, and lands north of said intersection and following Highway 28 westerly to the intersection of the Brown's Meadow Road, and lands east of the Brown's Meadow Road (or all tribally owned lands served or accessed by the Hog Heaven forest tribal road system (H-1000 to H-4000 numbered tribal forest roads)).
  - (8) Portion of the North Salish Range known as Irvine Lookout Area, described as: All tribally owned forested and range lands served or accessed by the Irvine forest tribal road system (I-1000 to I-6000 numbered tribal forest roads).
- 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.

### Section 3. Camping Regulations

- A. To lawfully camp on Flathead Reservation Tribal lands, non-members must be licensed in accordance with the following terms:
  - (1) Non-members 18 years of age and older must possess a valid Conservation License and a Flathead Reservation Camping License. (See Part 1, Section 2, Part F, for exceptions)
- B. Backcountry Food Storage Regulations
  - (1) Keep a clean camp. Do not attract bears or other wildlife. Do not burn waste in the fire rings or leave litter around your camp.
  - (2) Campers with vehicles must secure items in food lockers, bear-resistant containers, or use hanging devices.
  - (3) When not in immediate use, all food, garbage, cooking appliances, utensils, storage containers (empty or full), this includes coolers and beverage containers regardless of use or content, and pet items or any attractants that may provide a reward to wildlife, must be stored in a bear resistant manner in one of the following ways if unattended:
    - (a) Secured in a closed hard-sided camper, vehicle trunk, cab or trailer cab, day or night;
    - (b) Secured in a hard-sided dwelling or storage building;
    - (c) Suspended at least 10 feet up (from the bottom of the suspended item) and 4 feet out from any upright support, i.e. tree, pole;
    - (d) Stored in an approved bear-resistant container;
    - (e) Stored within an approved and operating electric fence;
    - (f) Stored in any combination of these methods;
    - (g) Or stored by methods other than those described herein and approved in writing by the Tribal Council.
  - (4) Backcountry Food Storage Definitions:
    - (a) Attractant: Food as defined below and garbage from human, livestock or pet foods.
    - (b) Food: Any nourishing substance, which includes human food or drink (canned, solid or

liquid), livestock feed (except baled or cubed hay without additives) and pet food.

- (c) Bear Resistant Containers: Approved bear-resistant containers shall meet the following criteria: A securable container constructed of solid material capable of withstanding 200 foot-pounds of energy applied by direct impact. The containers, when secured and under stress, will not have any openings greater than one-quarter (1/4) inch that would allow a bear to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws. A bear-resistant container developed commercially must be approved by the USDA, Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC).

- C. The following acts are prohibited while camping in non-wilderness areas:

- (1) The use of campgrounds by groups exceeding twenty people unless authorized in writing by the Tribes.
- (2) Camping in other than established campgrounds or semi-developed use sites as evidenced by tables, toilets, fire rings, hitch racks, or other improvements associated with camper/recreation use.
- (3) Camping in excess of six consecutive days at one site unless posted otherwise.
- (4) Camping within 100 feet of a lake shore or stream bank except in established campgrounds.
- (5) Camping on the Lower Flathead River between SKQ Dam and Buffalo Rapids and camping on the islands down stream from Buffalo Bridge.
- (6) Camping in the southeast corner of the Flathead Reservation commonly known as the South Fork of the Jocko Primitive Area and the northwest corner, commonly known as Kitqwanukxu' - (Lozeau) Special Management Area (see areas designated on map or defined in Part IV Section 2).

#### **Section 4. Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness Regulations**

- A. Grizzly Bear Management Zone:

- (1) The Special Grizzly Bear Management Zone, commonly referred to as the McDonald Peak Grizzly

Bear Closure Area, is closed to all recreational use from July 15 to October 1 each year unless posted otherwise. (See Reservation map for location)

- (2) The Ashley Lake drainage from the Lakes to the Pablo A canal is restricted to day use only when the Grizzly Bear Management Zone is open to recreation use. (See Reservation map for location).

- B. The entire Wilderness Area is closed to all livestock use between March 1 and June 30. This spring closure includes all pack and riding stock.
- C. The picketing or restraint of livestock shall be at least 100 feet from any water body or established campsite. Livestock shall be kept at least 10 feet from the base of any tree.
- D. General Regulations:

The following acts are prohibited within the Wilderness:

- (1) Any group exceeding eight people and eight head of livestock unless approved in writing by the Tribes.
- (2) The use of any motorized or mechanical vehicles or devices such as chainsaws, motorcycles, electric bicycles or mountain bicycles.
- (3) Having any firearms or archery equipment in one's possession.
- (4) The cutting of any live trees or vegetation.
- (5) Littering (PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT).
- (6) The construction of new trails or any permanent structure.
- (7) Camping in an area posted for rehabilitation.
- (8) The use of a campsite longer than three (3) consecutive days.
- (9) Camping within 100 feet of a water source or trail.
- (10) The gathering of fuel wood and the disposal of human wastes within 100 feet of a water source, trail or campsite.
- (11) The use of any cleansers other than biodegradable soap.
- (12) The removal of any natural material from the wilderness which includes no berry or mushroom picking.
- (13) The violation of any hunting, fishing, and recreation regulation for the Flathead Reservation.
- (14) Dogs may only be in the wilderness when

accompanied by their owners and must be under the owner's control.

### **Section 5. Livestock (riding or pack animals)**

A. The following activities involving the use of livestock are prohibited:

- (1) The use of more than eight head of livestock by a party unless approved in writing by the Tribes.
- (2) The use of livestock off established trails, routes, or areas and the creation of new trails.
- (3) Allowing livestock to proceed in excess of a slow walk when passing in the immediate vicinity of persons on foot.
- (4) The use of feed other than prepared horse pellets, grain or certified weed seed free hay, and leaving unused feed.
- (5) The picketing or restraint of livestock within 100 feet of any water body or established campsite, or by use of other than established corrals or picket areas. A 30 foot picket line stretched between two trees is the recommended method of restraining livestock.

B. In the event that any person observes dead or disabled livestock or other animals in the wilderness or near trails or campsites, please notify the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation at 675-2700.

### **Section 6. Off-Road Motorized Vehicle Use, Motorcycles, ATVs, Snowmobiles, and Electric Bicycles**

A. Operating motorized vehicles off of authorized roadways is prohibited. For this purpose an authorized roadway is defined as a route specifically built as authorized by the Tribes for the purpose of motor vehicle use.

B. Certain Tribal roads may be closed to motorcycle, ATV or all motorized use. These roads will be posted.

C. Snowmobiles:

The following activities involving snowmobiles are prohibited:

- (1) The use of snowmobiles in any areas other than Flathead Lake, McDonald Lake, Rainbow-Dog Lake, St. Mary's Lake, Mission Reservoir, Kicking Horse Reservoir and range unit south of the Mollman Pass Trail road, and the areas commonly referred to as the

Boulder Creek Drainage, and the Corona Ski Area.

- (2) Possession of any firearm while utilizing or operating a snowmobile.
- (3) Operating snowmobiles in a negligent manner.
- (4) The use of snowmobiles by persons under 15 years of age without adult supervision.
- (5) The use of snowmobiles for the purpose of photographing, pursuing, or harassing wildlife.

### **Section 7. Boating and Water Sports**

A. All boats and watercraft entering the Flathead Basin watershed must be inspected for aquatic invasive species (AIS) and certified clean of any AIS by a Tribal, State, or other authorized agency AIS inspector. Operators of the boats or watercraft must possess proof (certificate, decal or receipt) of an inspection at all times and show it upon request from any law enforcement personnel of any competent jurisdiction.

- (1) Boat motors, other than electric motors, are not permitted on or used with any boat on all water bodies of the Flathead Reservation, with the exception of Flathead Lake (unlimited hp motors) and the Lower Flathead River (15 hp motor limit).
- (2) Boat trailers are not permitted to enter Flathead Reservation water bodies with the exception of Flathead Lake and the Lower Flathead River.
- (3) All persons hauling or trailering boats and watercraft must stop at any open AIS check station along their travel route.
- (4) The use of felt soled waders in any water bodies of the Flathead Reservation is prohibited.
- (5) All water use gear and equipment must be clear, drained and dry before use on any water body of the Flathead Reservation.

B. The following boating and water sport activities are prohibited:

- (1) The use of motors in excess of fifteen horsepower on all bodies of water with the exception of Flathead Lake.
- (2) The use of motorized boats on Turtle Lake and Twin Lakes.
- (3) The use of any boat or flotation devices on Pablo



Reservoir, Ninepipe Reservoir & Safe Harbor Marsh.

- (4) 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 birds & wildlife.
  - (5) Water skiing or the use of jet-propelled personal watercraft (including jet skis and wave runners) on all bodies of water except Flathead Lake. No jet-propelled personal watercraft allowed on Blue Bay property or within the buoys.
  - (6) Operating watercraft in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb or damage the property of any person, or pursuing or harvesting wildlife.
  - (7) Floating the Flathead River without Coast Guard approved life jackets.
  - (8) Discharge or disposal of any waste material on any body of water.
  - (9) St. Mary's Lake (Tabor Reservoir) is closed to the use of float tubes, boats, or other flotation devices during the months of August, September, and October.
  - (10) Access and usage of the Flathead River and shoreline within 560 feet upriver from SKQ Dam and within 250 feet downstream from SKQ Dam powerhouse is prohibited.
  - (11) The Tribes reserve the right to post Tribal lands and waters to additional regulations and restrictions not contained herein pertaining to environmental protection, conservation, public safety and regulation pursuant to recommendations of the Tribal Natural Resources Department.
  - (12) No swimming in waters above developed boat-launch ramps.
- C. Furthermore, all boaters must comply with regulations of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, including, but not limited to, the use of personal flotation devices and boater safety.

### **Section 8. Bison Range Special Regulations**

- A. The Bison Range is a pay to enter daily fee use area, all visitors are required to secure a respective day use pass or annual pass.
- B. All activities are restricted to daylight hours only, additional use hours and days may be determined by current weather and road conditions. Please check entrance areas & visitor center for open use times & days.

- C. Large vehicles over 30 feet long and those towing trailers, along with motorcycles, ATV, UTVs, and bicycles are not allowed on Red Sleep Drive or Prairie Drive.
- D. The use of motorized vehicles off designated open roads is prohibited.
- E. All passengers are required to be seated inside of enclosed passenger vehicles while the vehicle is in motion. Passengers are not allowed to ride in the bed of a pickup truck vehicle.
- F. Impeding vehicle traffic while parked is prohibited.
- G. Walking away from your personal vehicle is only allowable at the visitor center area, on designated foot trails, picnic areas, at sanitation stations and in designated fishing areas.
- H. Approaching animals on foot is prohibited at all times. Persons must remain at least 100 yards (91m) away from bears, wolves and mountain lions, and at least 25 yards (23m) away from all other animals including bison, deer and elk.
- I. All pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.
- J. The use of drones is prohibited unless authorized by Tribal Council.
- K. Engaging in any hunting or related activities and the carrying, possessing, or utilizing the following items is prohibited: firearms, cross bows, bows and arrows, air guns, spears, gigs, fireworks, explosives or other weapons is prohibited unless authorized by the Tribal Council.
- L. Disturbing, injuring, killing, poisoning, destroying, collecting or attempting to disturb, destroy or collect any plant, animal or parts thereof (I.e. antlers) is prohibited, unless authorized by the Tribal Council.
- M. Visitors must comply with all special use regulations posted on site.

### **Section 9. Blue Bay Campground Special Regulations**

- A. All vehicles must fill out a vehicle use permit registration envelope, including members of the CSKT and the general public.
- B. Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited in all areas of the campgrounds.
- C. No firearms or fireworks are allowed on Blue Bay grounds.

- D. No jet skis/ATVs in the Bay or on the grounds.
- E. No draining of grey water in the campground.
- F. Checkout time for campers is 2pm unless registered for the night.
- G. Quiet hours are from 10pm to 7am. Campground gate is closed during quiet hours. No vehicle entry, walk in only.
- H. This campground is first come first serve, no reservations.
- I. Camps must be occupied nightly or your belongings will be removed. Keep a clean camp during your stay. You are required to clean the site before leaving.
- J. Be “Bear Aware”. All food/coolers and attractants must be in a vehicle or hard-sided camper whenever someone is not present or while sleeping.
- K. Camping is allowed for no more than 10 consecutive days at a time, and then you must wait 7 days to return.
- L. No campers under the age of 18 without adult supervision.
- M. Camps in electric sites will be charged the full service rate.
- N. Do not cut any vegetation and/or trees. Firewood for campfires is available for designated campground areas. Do not leave campfires unattended.
- O. Pets may not be left unattended and must be on leash at all times, see our Pet Policy.
- P. No lifeguard on duty, swim at own risk. No one allowed under the age of 14 can swim without adult supervision. Do not swim or play on or around boat ramp docks.
- Q. Speed limit for everyone is 10mph. Drive safe and slow or you will be removed from the grounds.
- R. In order to qualify for the free rate for a CSKT Member (basic camping) or a CSKT Elder (full-service camping). The Member or Elder must be staying at the site that they originally signed up for. If the CSKT Member does not stay at the campsite for which the fee was waived, the current occupant of the campsite, if not a CSKT Member, will be charged the non-Member rates. As well as if a CSKT Member is using a full service site, they will be charged accordingly.
- S. The Blue Bay staff and Law Enforcement officials are authorized to immediately remove a person or

persons that violate the rules. Furthermore, if deemed necessary for the safety of the public and staff you can be permanently removed from Blue Bay. Any violence or threatening acts toward staff or the public will result in permanent removal from the grounds. If you cause property damage or are a nuisance to other users future loss of privileges to enter and use Blue Bay grounds may result from those regulation violations.

## **PART V HUNTING AND TRAPPING**

- A. The entire Reservation is closed to hunting or taking, or attempting to hunt or take furbearers and any other species of animal other than fish, Gray (Hungarian) Partridge, pheasants, ducks, geese, mergansers and coots. If a Northern gray wolf, mountain lion, or black bear are caught in the act of pursuing, injuring or harassing livestock, pets or humans, they may be shot in defense of property or self. In the case of such actions that a gray wolf, mountain lion or black bear is shot, resident or landowner is required to report the take to the Tribal Fish and Game Conservation Program within 12 hours of the incident. The Tribal Fish and Game Conservation Program and the Tribal Wildlife Management Program will investigate the incident to determine the status as legal taking. As part of this investigation, any wolf, mountain lion and black bear carcasses or any parts thereof remain the property of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.
- B. Non-Tribal members shall not accompany, nor may they assist Tribal Members in any aspect of the pursuit, kill, field dressing or transportation of unprocessed big game from the place of taking to the place of the hunter’s dwelling. However there are two exceptions: First, a non-Tribal member may assist a Tribal Member with the field dressing, retrieval and transportation of a downed bison to the Member's hunting vehicle but may not assist or accompany the Member with any aspect of the pursuit or harvest of the animal. Secondly, non-Tribal member children under the age of 18 may accompany their Tribal Member parent(s) while hunting big game on the reservation.
- C. 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.

## **PART VI**

### **ACCESS TO HUNTING & FISHING AREAS**

#### **Section 1. Access to Hunting and Fishing Areas**

- A. Unless otherwise restricted by these regulations or other applicable law, a person may hunt or fish on lands not posted to prohibit hunting or fishing activities. An owner of land may post his land to prohibit hunting or fishing or both by one of the following methods:
- (1) Placement of signs greater than 50 square inches in size prohibiting hunting or fishing, or both.
  - (2) Painting fence posts with not less than 50 square inches of fluorescent orange paint, except when metal fence posts are used the entire post must be painted fluorescent orange.
- B. The posting provisions of Part 1 above must be placed at each outer gate and normal point of access to the property, including both sides of a water body crossing the property wherever the water body intersects an outer boundary line and other conspicuous locations.
- C. Lessees of land owned by the Tribes may, upon written approval of the Tribal Council, post the leased land to prohibit hunting or fishing or both on an annual basis. Leave gates as you find them.
- D. The presence of green paint or signs on fence posts denotes Tribal land. Not all-Tribal land is marked.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **RIVER ETIQUETTE**

Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that is less congested.

Do not encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.

Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river, fish for a while, and then move on.

Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters, because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.

When possible, avoid using the stream-bed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

## **YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK**

Fisheries:

- Tribal Creel Clerks from the Tribal Fisheries Program contacted thousands of anglers. This information is used to improve the fishing opportunities on the Reservation and is very valuable. If you come into contact with a Tribal Creel Clerk, please understand the interview is strictly used to improve the fisheries on the Reservation. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- Over 100,000 fish are typically stocked in Reservation waters to provide fishing opportunities for anglers.

Recreation:

- Numerous projects were completed to provide recreational, fishing, and bird hunting opportunities on the Reservation. The program also continued trail and campground maintenance.
- Vandalism is a serious problem. Last year, the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation spent considerable resources to repair damage to Tribal land, structures, and resources as a direct result of vandalism. If you observe vandalism taking place, please call 675-4700.

Wildlife:

- Operated bird hunter check stations. Maintained Canada goose structures. Continued population surveys for big game, waterfowl, upland game birds, small mammals, forest carnivores, neotropical migrant birds, raptors, amphibians, and reptiles. Continued with numerous wildlife nuisance and depredation complaints. Commenced acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife mitigation parcels.

Enforcement:

- Last year, Tribal Game wardens contacted thousands of anglers, bird hunters, and recreationists to improve compliance with regulations and protect Reservation resources.

## **BEAR SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Both black and grizzly bears are present on the Flathead Reservation. The majority of human-bear conflicts involve bears protecting their young or a food source. Many of these encounters can be avoided by following a few simple Bear Safe practices:

- Stay alert while recreating and look for bear activity, especially where visibility or hearing is limited (woods, brushy areas, streams)
- Travel in a group and keep members together (especially kids)
- Keep pets on a leash while on trail
- Make noise whenever possible to avoid surprising a bear, especially where visibility or hearing is limited
- Carry bear spray close at hand and know how to use it
- Avoid traveling at night, dawn or dusk
- Avoid carcass sites and scavenger concentrations

Never feed wildlife, especially bears. Bears that become food conditioned lose their natural foraging behavior and pose a threat to human safety. It is unlawful to feed bears in Montana and the Flathead Reservation. Loud noises, such as banging pots and pans, using an air horn or car alarm, or shouting is a simple, effective short-term way to deter a bear on private property. Securing common, household attractants will reduce household conflicts. Properly secure garbage, pet food, bird feeders, small livestock and pets.

## HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) post an ever-increasing threat to the health of the Reservation. Currently Reservation waters are testing negative Dreissenid (Zebra and Quagga mussels). AIS are also known as “nuisance” species or “exotic” species and the terms are often used interchangeably. Stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by following these three steps: Clean – Remove all plants, animals, mud and thoroughly wash everything, especially all crevices, waders and other hidden areas. Drain – Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water. Dry – Allow sufficient time for your boat or waders to completely dry before use in other waters. Do not dispose of aquatic animals such as aquarium pets into natural waterbodies. If it survives, your pet becomes an invasive species that native wildlife may not have the defenses to compete against.

## FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended to assist individuals make personal decisions regarding the consumption of fish. They are not intended to discourage anglers from eating fish, but rather to provide information so anglers can make informed choices. Fish can make important contributions to a healthy diet because they are high in protein, omega-3’s, and other nutrients. Regular consumption of fish has been shown to reduce the incidence of heart disease and cholesterol, and to improve brain and eye development in children. Unfortunately, fish also accumulate contaminants from the environment, such as mercury and PCB’s, which can be very harmful to human health. Individuals therefore must be aware of how to obtain the benefits of fish without unnecessary risk from contaminants. The following suggestions are intended to help with these decisions:

- **Keep smaller fish for eating** - Because fish accumulate contaminants over time, smaller fish of the same species will usually have fewer contaminants than larger fish.
- **Clean and cook your fish to minimize contaminants** - Because some contaminants like PCB’s are deposited in fat, they can be reduced by trimming fat and cooking fish so that juices drain away from the meat.
- **Be aware of high risk individuals** – Children less than 14, nursing mothers and childbearing women are at the greatest risk of having developmental problems caused by contaminants, so these individuals should give extra attention to choosing the safest fish to eat.

Table 1. Meal advice for individuals eating fish from the Flathead Indian Reservation and consuming fish throughout the year. These guidelines are less restrictive if fish are only eaten on a seasonal basis or for short periods. Fish smaller than those listed should have very low risk for consumption. Meals consist of 8 oz. servings.

## PROTECT OUR HERDS AND PREVENT SPREAD OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not yet been detected on the Flathead Reservation, but it has been detected across much of Montana and in surrounding Hunting Districts in hunted aboriginal territories. CWD is a progressive, fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose. The CDC recommends not consuming meat from an animal known to be infected with CWD.

- Have your big game tested for CWD before consumption - our office in Polson (406 6th Ave. East) provides FREE TESTING to Tribal Members who bring harvested big game. We are available Monday-Thursday (7am-5pm) to collect samples from carcasses; there is also a drop-box for hunters to leave the heads during evenings or weekends for sampling at this location. CSKT Tribal Wildlife needs hunter help to increase surveillance for CWD on the Flathead Reservation.

- Do not dispose of or dump carcasses/bone piles in forests - CWD can be spread by carcass dumping, any part of the carcass can transmit the disease to healthy big game for up to 2 years. Off-reservation harvested animals may be positive with CWD. If that carcass is disposed of in our forests, our Reservation big game populations could be exposed. Leave all non-meat parts in the field where harvested or dispose of at the Lake County Landfill sites. Follow carcass disposal guidelines to prevent spread of CWD.
- Hunter Safety - wear gloves while field dressing animals, avoid cutting through bone or spinal cord, bone out meat from animals, and do not eat any meat from animals who appear sick or test positive with CWD.

## DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

The waste humans create while enjoying outdoor spaces can have severe impacts if not disposed of properly. It is crucial to anticipate the types of waste you will need to dispose of and know the proper techniques for disposing of each type of waste in the area you are visiting. Leave No Trace encourages outdoor enthusiasts to consider the impacts they leave behind, which will undoubtedly affect other people, water, and wildlife.

### The Basics:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled food. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Burning trash is never recommended.
- Deposit solid human waste in facilities, when available, if in a primitive area use catholes dug 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Bury toilet paper deep in a cathole or pack the toilet paper out along with hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Know your Frog! Only American Bull Frogs are open for take. Please do not kill native amphibians.



Vulnerability Groups	Species	Avoid	One Meal Per Month	One Meal Per Week	Two Meals Per Week
Children less than age 14, and women who are pregnant, will become pregnant, or are breast feeding	Lake Trout	>25"	20" to 25"	16" to 20"	12" to 16"
	Northern Pike	>25"	20" to 25"	16" to 20"	12" to 16"
	Bass	>20"	18" to 20"	15" to 17"	12" to 14"
	Lake Whitefish		20" to 22"	17" to 19"	<16"
Adult Men and Adult Women above child-bearing age	Lake Trout	>36"	28" to 35"	24" to 27"	18" to 23"
	Northern Pike		>36"	28" to 36"	26" to 27"
	Bass		>22"	20" to 21"	18" to 19"
	Lake Whitefish			>20"	18" to 19"

For more information on the health risks/benefits of fish consumption, call the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Fisheries Program at (406) 675-2700, or the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services at (406) 444-3986 or go to the following websites: [www.epa.gov/ost/fish](http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish), [www.cfsan.fda.gov](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov) and [www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/advice](http://www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/advice).

## TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Leave gates as you find them. Obey gate closure and regulatory signs. Minimize impacts by staying on designated trails. Avoid muddy conditions, or cutting switchbacks.

## KNOW YOUR NOXIOUS WEEDS

Be a good land steward:

- Learn to identify noxious weed species
- Prevent their spread
- Support noxious weed management efforts



Dalmatian Toadflax



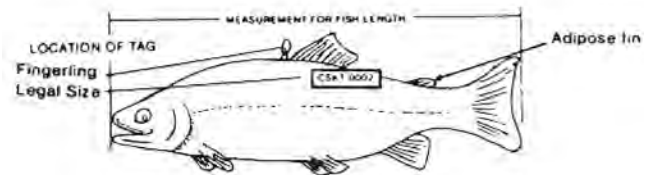
Leafy Spurge



Spotted Knapweed

## TAGGED FISH

### Anglers, We Need Your Cooperation



If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any of the following locations:

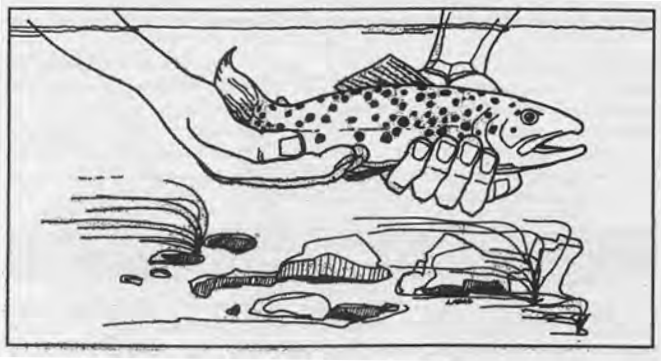
- Tribes' Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation in Polson, MT (406) 675-2700 x 7200.
- Tribal Fish and Game Wardens in Polson, MT (406) 675-2700 x 7200.

Information requested:

1. tag's number and color;
2. date the fish was caught;
3. species of the fish;
4. fish's length and weight (close as possible);
5. location of the catch (body of water and distance from nearest landmark);
6. if the fish was kept or release; and
7. name and address of the angler.

*Fishing can be improved through use of this information. Accuracy and completeness of your report is essential.*

## RELEASING FISH



- To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:
- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

### Deep-Water Catch and Release:

- Plan ahead. Have pliers, cameras, etc., ready.
- Do not fight fish to exhaustion.
- Bring fish up more slowly the last 30 feet to let them “burp.”
- Protect the fish’s slime coating and fins. Use soft rubber or mesh nets. Do not let the fish bounce on carpeting, etc. Wet your hands.
- Leave the fish in the water. Grab the hook with your pliers, reverse the angle and pop the hook out.
- If you take a picture, hold the fish horizontally with both hands.
- Hold exhausted fish upright in the water until they start to struggle. Gently move them forwards and backwards.
- Burping: Hold the fish horizontally and gently squeeze from the vent forward. Only go halfway up the belly and do not force if the fish can’t “burp.”
- The Plunge: Hold the fish horizontally and vigorously plunge it head first into the water.
- If a fish is bleeding and is legal, keep it. If it is bleeding and is not legal, turn it loose, many of them will survive.

## FOOD BANKS AND COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Please consider contributing your catch of lake trout and lake whitefish to the following community service centers. Please call the center nearest you to ask about how to prepare your catch and where to go to contribute it. Some facilities may or may not accept fish. Although most facilities will accept fresh or frozen, cleaned, or filleted fish. Call the nearest facility to you for more details.

Tribal Commodities Office	745-4115
Ronan Bread Basket	676-4357
Bigfork Food Bank	837-2297
Flathead Food Bank	752-3662
Lakeside Pantry	844-2779
Missoula Food Bank	549-0543
Polson Fish and Loaves	883-6864
Jocko Valley Food Pantry	726-5550
Mission Valley Food Pantry	745-5484
Sylvia's Store	675-2700
Whitefish Food Bank	862-5863

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Email Hotline Connection

Our customers can access information on a variety of topics including fishing, wildlife, and recreation. Email our Information and Education Specialist at [stephanie.gillin@cskt.org](mailto:stephanie.gillin@cskt.org)

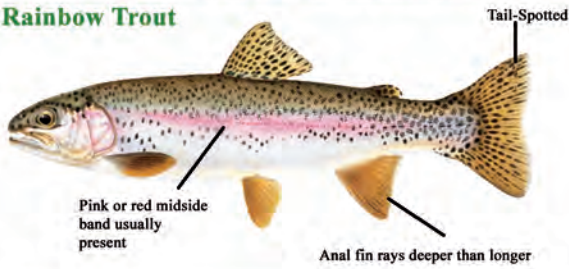
### Fax and Customer Service

Customers can send a fax to CSKT, Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation to 406-883-2848 for general information. Those seeking nonresident hunting license information should call 406-675-2700 or 406-883-2888 and ask for Amanda Bourdon, CSKT License Agent. Email Amanda at [amanda.bourdon@cskt.org](mailto:amanda.bourdon@cskt.org)

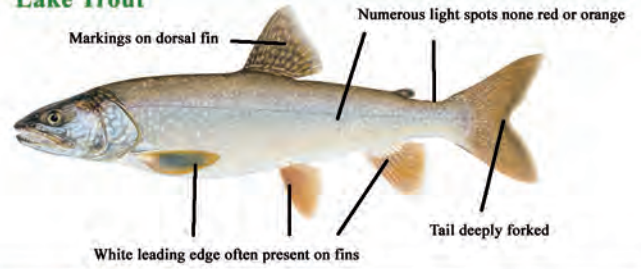
Regulations are available on-line at [www.cskt.org](http://www.cskt.org).

# NON-NATIVE FISH

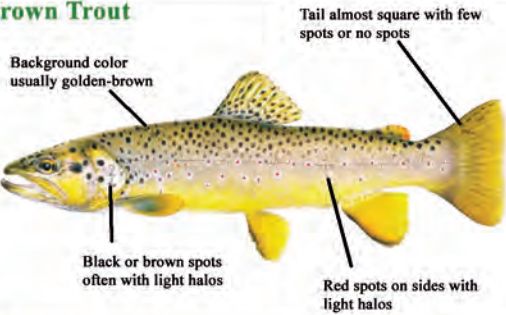
## Rainbow Trout



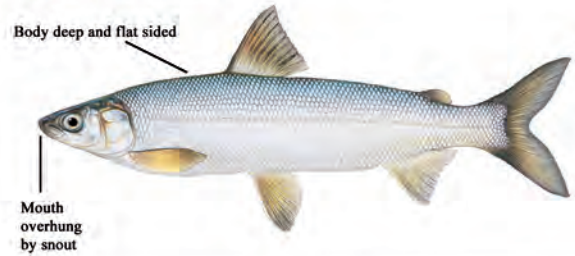
## Lake Trout



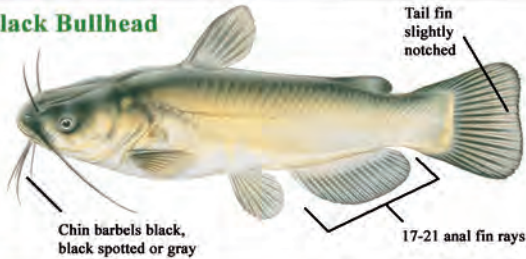
## Brown Trout



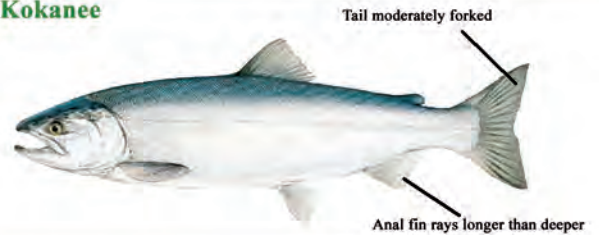
## Lake Whitefish



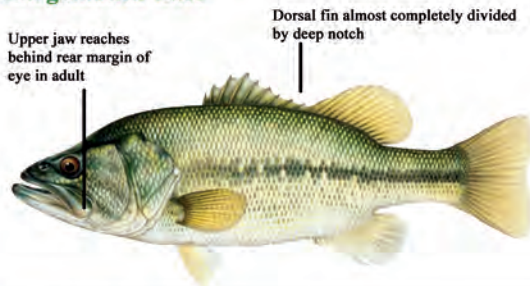
## Black Bullhead



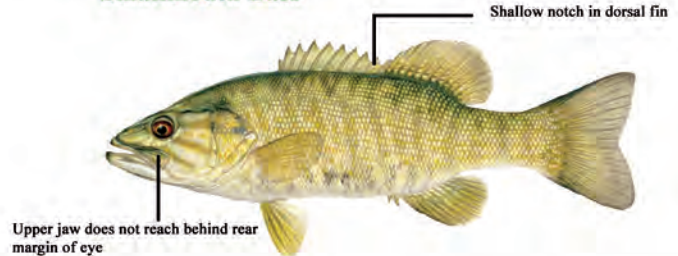
## Kokanee



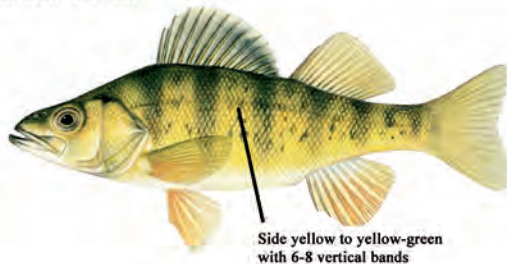
## Largemouth Bass



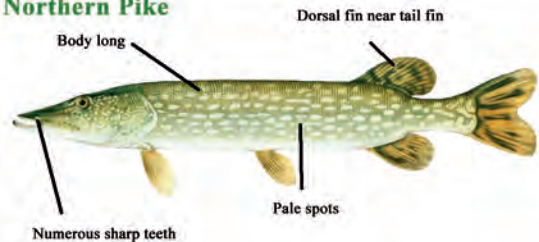
## Smallmouth Bass



## Yellow Perch



## Northern Pike





# Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

