

# 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, 2017 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

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



Scan this QR Code to learn more about  
CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation

# Help Protect Native Species

## Know the Flathead Reservations

### Native Fish

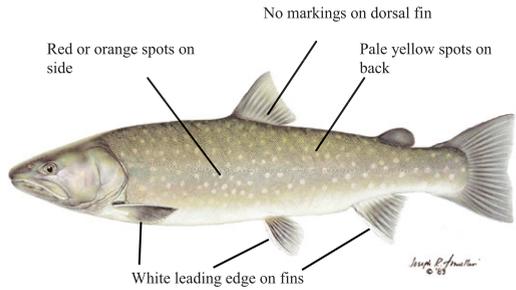
On the Flathead Indian Reservation, there is a growing concern for several of our native fish species, primarily the BULL trout, and the WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT trout. Populations of these fish are in decline across the Reservation, and it is important for anglers to properly identify BULL and WESTSLOPE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

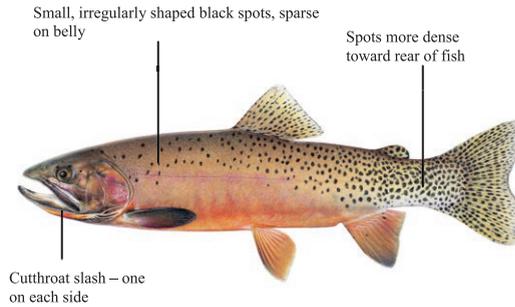
## NATIVE FISH

### Bull Trout – Species of Special Concern

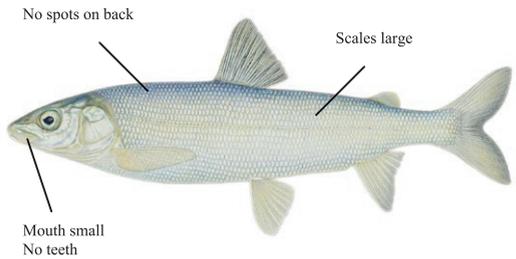
A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act  
“NO BLACK, PUT IT BACK”



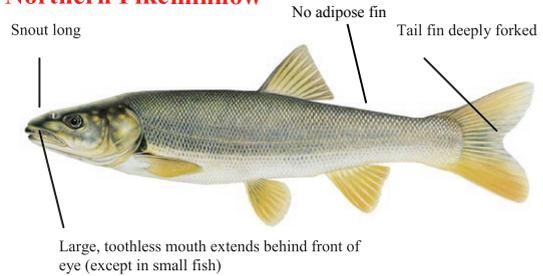
### Westslope Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



### Mountain Whitefish

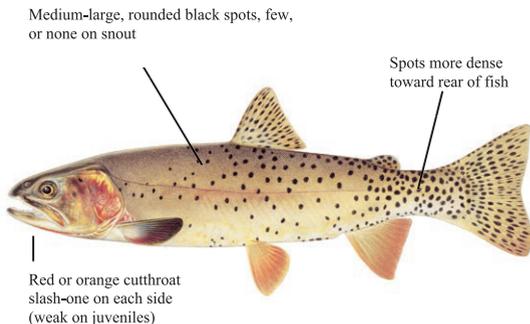


### Northern Pikeminnow

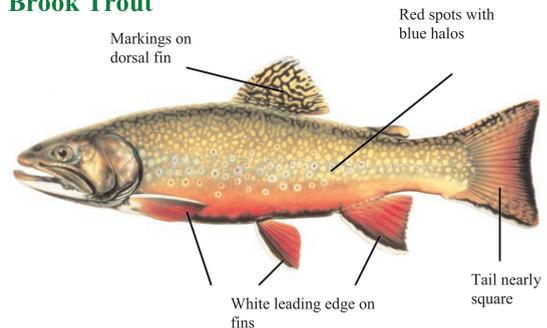


## NON-NATIVE FISH

### Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout – Species of Special Concern



### Brook Trout



## 2017-2018 RESERVATION PERMIT VENDORS FOR NON-MEMBERS

<b>Big Fork</b>	Your Turn Convenience
<b>Columbia Falls</b>	Smith's Food & Drug Super One Foods
<b>Hamilton</b>	Bob Ward & Sons
<b>Hot Springs</b>	Cornerstone Convenience Store
<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 and Sons Cabela's MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks-Region 2 Wholesale Sports
<b>Olney</b>	Thad's Tackle Shop
<b>Pablo</b>	Zimmer Tackle
<b>Plains</b>	Plains Service Center
<b>Polson</b>	CSKT, DFWR, 406 6th Avenue East Wal-Mart
<b>Ronan</b>	Ronan Sports & Western Westland Seed
<b>St. Ignatius</b>	Mountain View Cenex
<b>Superior</b>	Westgate True Value
<b>Whitefish</b>	Sportsman & Ski Haus
<b>Woods Bay</b>	Papa's Woods Bay Market

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

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

All anglers are encouraged to check the fish consumption guidelines on page 14.

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**PART I**  
**2017-18 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”) 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. The Tribes and the State find as follows:

<b>Section 1. Form of Permits, Stamps and Duplicates*.</b>					
	<i>Conservation Permit</i>	<i>Fishing Stamp</i>	<i>Bird Hunting Stamp</i>	<i>Federal Migratory Bird Stamp 16 and Older</i>	<i>Camping Stamp 18 and Older</i>
<b>Non-Tribal Member Residents of the Flathead Indian Reservation</b>					
Under Age 12	Permits or stamps are not required.				
Age 12 –14 season permit	\$14.00	\$10.00	\$8.00		
Age 15 – 61 season permit	\$14.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
Age 62 and older season permit	\$14.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Combined Use Fishing Permit		\$13.00			
Disabled permit	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$8.00.	\$25.00	\$20.00
<b>Non-Tribal Member Non-Residents of the Reservation/State of Montana Resident</b>					
Under Age 12	Permits or stamps are not required.				
Age 12 –14 season permit	\$17.00	\$12.00	\$9.00		
Age 15 and older season permit	\$17.00	\$23.00	\$17.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
3-Day Use Permit	\$13.00				\$20.00
3-Day Combined Use/Fishing Permit		\$17.00			\$20.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Combined Use Fishing Permit		\$13.00			
Disabled permit	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$9.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
<b>Non-Tribal Member Non-Resident of the State of Montana</b>					
Under Age 12	Permits or stamps are not required.				
Age 12 –14 season permit	\$20.00	\$33.00	\$56.00		
Age 15 and older season permit	\$20.00	\$66.00	\$111.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
3-Day Use Permit	\$13.00				\$20.00
1-Day Combined Use/Fishing Permit		\$21.00			\$20.00
3-Day Combined Use/Fishing Permit		\$46.00			\$20.00
3-Day Combined Use/Bird Hunting Permit			\$91.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
**Flathead Lake (south half) Combined Use Fishing Permit		\$13.00			
Disabled permit	\$21.00	\$33.00	\$56.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
***Commercial Fishing Bait Harvest Permit	\$11.00				

\*Duplicate License: \$5.00

\*\* Flathead Lake (south half) Combined Use/Fishing Permit – This permit 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 13.

\*\*\* A Commercial Fishing Bait Harvest Permit 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. Permits and Stamps Required

- A. The holder of a current Permit 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 Permit 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 have a valid Permit in possession but do not need a Flathead Reservation fishing stamp.
  - (2) Non-member non-residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years of age and older must possess a valid Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation fishing stamp.
  - (3) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years through 61 years of age must possess a valid Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation fishing stamp. 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 Permit in possession but do not need a Flathead Reservation fishing stamp. This is valid for the entire state of Montana.
  - (5) Disabled non-members are entitled to fish with only a valid Permit in their possession. This permit can be purchased at the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation office located in Polson.
- C. To lawfully hunt migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers and geese only), gray partridge, 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 Permit in possession but do not need a Flathead Reservation bird stamp.
  - (2) Non-member non-residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years of age and older must possess a valid Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation bird stamp.
  - (3) Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation 15 years through 61 years of age must possess a valid Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation bird stamp. 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 Permit in possession but do not need a Flathead Reservation bird stamp. 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 possession while hunting

migratory waterfowl (ducks, mergansers and geese only). Non-member residents of the Flathead Reservation do not need the state waterfowl bird stamp.

- (6) Disabled non-members are entitled to hunt birds with only a valid Permit in their possession. This permit can be purchased at the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation office in Polson.
- D. All non-members, whether required to possess permits and licenses or not, shall be bound by all seasons, bag limits, and restrictions as if he or she was the holder of a Permit.
- E. A non-member accompanying a member engaged in any activity covered by Tribal Ordinance 44D shall have a valid Permit 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 Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation camping stamp. Exceptions for possession of a camping stamp are:
- (1) Non-member spouses and non-member first generation descendant offspring of a member may camp without possessing a valid camping stamp when accompanying their member spouse or parent.
  - (2) Certain Tribal campgrounds may charge a separate fee without the requirements to possess a valid Permit and/or Flathead Reservation camping stamp. (Notices posted on site)

## Section 3. No Permit 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.
- 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 National Bison Range. For information and other regulations contact the Bison Range office in Moiese, Montana at (406) 644-2211.

## Section 4. Failure to Possess a Joint-Use Permit

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

## Section 5. State Use of Permits and Stamps

- A. Residents of the Flathead Reservation who have purchased Permits and stamps and a comparable State license may obtain a refund for

the Permits and stamps 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 permits and stamps are only valid on the Flathead Reservation.
- C. A valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit 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 Use Permit with a valid Flathead Reservation fishing stamp will be honored by the State wherever fishing is lawful in Montana. The holder of a valid Resident of the Flathead Reservation fishing stamp may purchase a state paddlefish license. The State shall allow free fishing where lawful for youths 12, 13 and 14 years of age and seniors over 61 who hold a valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit, and for holders of a Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit for the Disabled.
- E. The holder of a valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit with a valid Flathead Reservation bird stamp 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. The State shall also allow free bird hunting where lawful for youths 12, 13 and 14 years of age and seniors over 61 who hold a valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit, and holders of a Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit for the Disabled.
- F. Residents of the Flathead Reservation under the age of 15 years and over 61 years of age that hold a valid Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit are entitled to purchase regular resident state deer and/or elk tags at one-half price.

### **Section 6. Applications, Termination of Permits and Stamps**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain or possess a license, permit or stamp 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, permit or stamp 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 Permits or stamps from any seller authorized by the Tribal Council to sell Permits or stamps. A list of persons authorized to issue such Permits and stamps 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 obtain a Permit for \$11. Such a Permit is available at the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation office in Polson, between the hours of 7:00 and 5:30 Monday through Thursday of any business day.

- E. Duplicate Permits and stamps for the current year may be issued upon proof of purchase (receipt) and loss of the original Permit and stamps. Duplicate Permits are available at the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation office in Polson between the hours of 7:00 and 5:30 Monday through Thursday of any business day.
- F. Any Permit or stamp issued to a non-member shall be void after the last day of February next succeeding its issuance unless otherwise designated. Three-day use Permits shall be valid only for the three-day period stated on the Permit.
- G. Altering, changing, loaning, or transferring to another any permit or stamp 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 Permit or stamp.
- 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 Use Permit/State Conservation License with joint fishing stamp attached. 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 Permit 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 or Pablo Reservoirs.
- (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 permit 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 11).
- (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:

Bass: (Large and Smallmouth) 5 fish in combination. (but see exception at Part II, Section 3G for reservoirs).

Brook trout: 50 fish. Please review bull trout identification tips in this booklet.

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 (but 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.

Northern pike: 5 fish, minimum size limit 18 inches. (But see exception at Part II, Section 3 E (2) for Lower Flathead River).

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

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 catch and release fishing only with artificial lures and flies. Brook and 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.

#### 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 catch and release fishing only with artificial lures and flies.
- (2) Northern pike: 15 fish any length from Kerr Dam downstream to the Reservation Boundary.

#### 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 Reservoir, is closed to fishing.

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.

### 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 stamp shall be issued to a non-member under the age of eighteen (18) years of age unless he or she presents to the Permit 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 "Hunting Seasons, Shooting Hours and Limits – Pheasants, Gray Partridges, Eurasian Collared Doves and Migratory Waterfowl, Flathead Indian Reservation," which is published annually. 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 species; Only shotguns not larger than 10 gauge incapable of holding more than three shells from the shoulder. Only federally-approved non-toxic shotshell shot types legal for use in shotguns for migratory bird and upland gamebird hunting 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. A boat motor may be no larger than 15 horsepower except on Flathead Lake upstream from Kerr Dam.
- K. Hunters are prohibited from using electronic calls.
- L. Annual fall bird hunting closure of Tribal lands in the Millie's Woods area from September 1st to December 1st.
- M. Leaving artificial floating decoys (with line connections) unattended is prohibited.
- N. Hunting is prohibited within Ninepipe and Pablo Wildlife Refuges.
- 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.

## 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 Use Permit. 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. 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 stamp is affixed to the Joint Use and Conservation Permit.
- K. The Hoskins Landing (Dixon) River Access Area 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. This shall not be interpreted to preclude burning dry fuel wood or that 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 permits.
- 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 must be on a leash and under the direct and physical control of a person during the period of April 1 through July 15 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 (campground, day-use area and lodges) is prohibited except at the day-use area on the Fourth of July.
- W. Swimming above developed boat-launch ramps.

## 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 Kerr Dam and within 250 feet downstream from Kerr 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 Hubbard Dam Road located in the N1/2, Section 34, T.25N., R.24W.; Thence southerly and easterly along said road to it's 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 it's 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 it's intersection with the L-2050 Road; Thence southerly along the L1000 Road to it's 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

- 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 to the Flathead River, then easterly and northerly along the north and west bank of the Flathead River to Sloan's Bridge, the point of origin.

## 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 Permit, to which is permanently affixed a Flathead Reservation camping stamp. (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 or vehicle trunk or 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 Kerr 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, 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 fuelwood 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.
- (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, and Snowmobiles**

- 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. 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 and Ninepipe Reservoir.
- (3) The use of motorized boats on the Flathead River and Dog Lake from March 15 to June 30, with the exception of boats powered by electric trolling motors, for the protection of nesting waterfowl.
- (4) Water skiing or the use of jet-propelled personal watercraft (including jet skis and wave runners) on all bodies of water except Flathead Lake.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Floating the Flathead River without Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- (7) Discharge or disposal of any waste material on any body of water.
- (8) 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.

- (9) Access and usage of the Flathead River and shoreline within 560 feet upriver from Kerr Dam and within 250 feet downstream from Kerr Dam powerhouse is prohibited.
  - (10) 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.
  - (11) No swimming in waters above developed boat-launch ramps.
- B. 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.
  - C. All boaters must stop and report an any Tribally approved boater check station, if the check station is on the boater's route of travel to or from the boating waters.

## **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. Northern gray wolves may be killed or harassed if they are threatening a person as described in the Conflict Management Section of the Northern Gray Wolf Management Plan for the Flathead Indian Reservation.
- 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, based on special needs, the Tribal Council may grant written permission for one non-Tribal member to assist (vehicle operation, field dressing and retrieval only) a Tribal Member with the lawful hunting of big game animals.

## **PART VI ACCESS TO HUNTING AND 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.

### ANGLER EDUCATION

During the past year, over 1000 new and beginning anglers took part in fishing clinics and courses offered by the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation. In addition, 8 local teachers were trained in aquatic and fisheries education. It is estimated that they will reach more than 1000 Reservation students annually.

The M\*A\*Y\* (Montana Angling Youth) club currently has over 5,000 members who receive a newsletter and supplies four times each year in the mail. There is no cost and there are no meetings to attend. Children aged 12 and under can join the M\*A\*Y\* Club by sending their name and address to M\*A\*Y\* Club, Attn: CSKT-Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation, PO Box 278, Pablo, MT, 59855 or M\*A\*Y\* Club, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT, 59901.

### YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

#### Fisheries:

- In the past year, Tribal Creel Clerks from the Tribal Fisheries Program contacted over one thousand 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.

Drainages that are currently whirling disease positive include the Jocko River, Mission and Post Creek. Use particular care when moving from a stream known to support the parasite that causes whirling disease.

## HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose an ever-increasing threat to the health of the Reservation. Currently Reservation waters are testing negative to Aquatic Invasive Species. 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 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 to completely dry before launching in other waters.

## HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF WHIRLING DISEASE

- Do not use parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait;
- Do not collect or use sculpin for bait;
- Do not dispose of fish entrails, skeletal parts, or other by-products in any body of water;
- Do not transport fish from one body of water to another;
- We recommend that anglers leaving a positive stream not move to a presumed negative watershed in the same day;
- After fishing, we suggest that anglers drain all water from your boat and equipment-including coolers, buckets, and live wells and thoroughly rinse and dry all fishing equipment, boats, and wading gear before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer, and axles, waders, boots, and fishing gear before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- As a further precaution against spreading the whirling disease parasite anglers can disinfect their gear using common household bleach mixed in a 30:1 water to bleach ratio sprayed on gear and left for 10 minutes; this can kill all but the resistant spore stage of whirling disease.

## 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.

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:

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 breastfeeding	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"

[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).

## 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



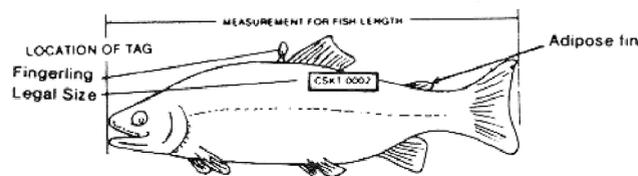
Spotted Knapweed

## 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.

## TAGGED FISH

### Anglers, We Need Your Cooperation



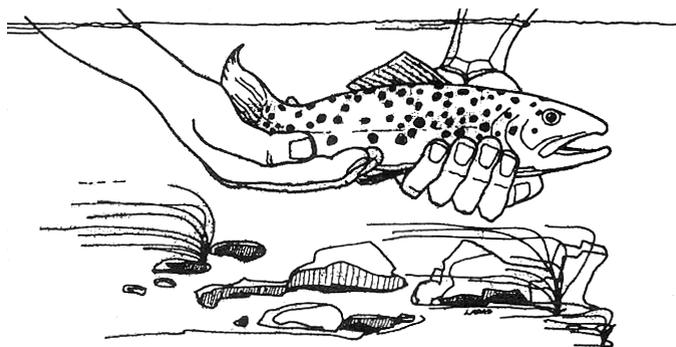
If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any of the following locations:

- 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.*



## 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

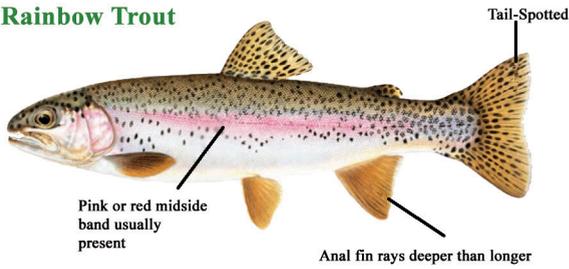
Our customers can access information on a variety of topics including fishing, wildlife, and recreation. Email our Information and Education Specialist at [germainew@cskt.org](mailto:germainew@cskt.org)

### Fax and Customer Service

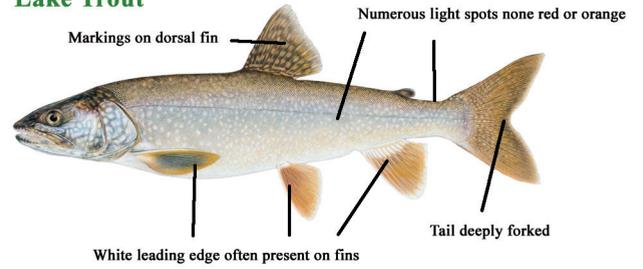
Customers can send a fax to CSKT, Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation to 406-883-2848 for general information. Those seeking nonresident hunting license information should call 406-675-2700 or 406-883-2888 and ask for the Permit Agent. Regulations are available on-line at [www.cskt.org](http://www.cskt.org).

# NON-NATIVE FISH

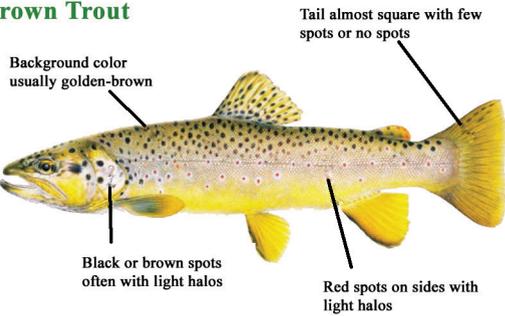
## Rainbow Trout



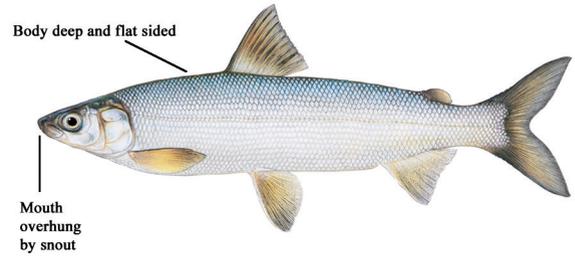
## Lake Trout



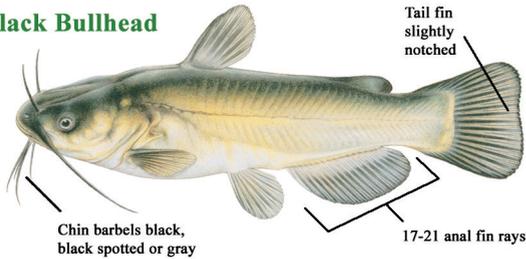
## Brown Trout



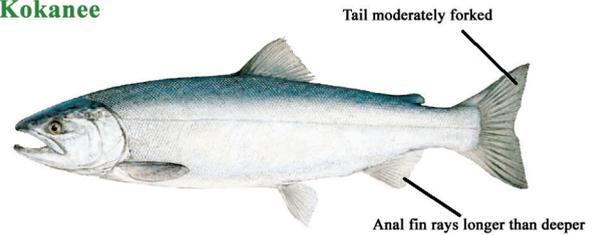
## Lake Whitefish



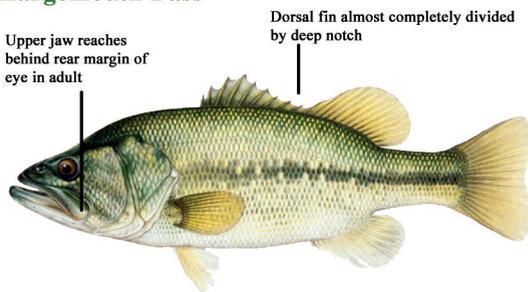
## Black Bullhead



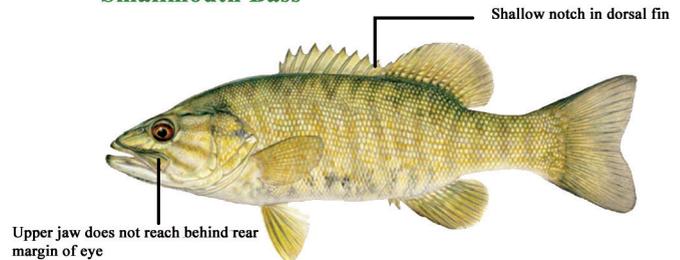
## Kokanee



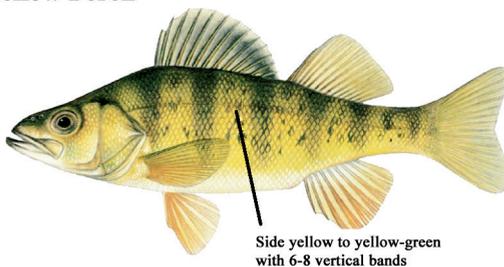
## Largemouth Bass



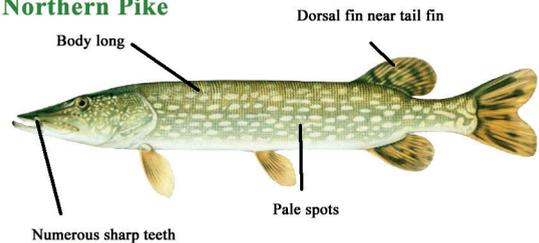
## Smallmouth Bass



## Yellow Perch



## Northern Pike



# Flathead Indian Reservation

