



## **Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes – 2018**

*Note: new language is in italics.* Deleted language is indicated by strikethrough.  
December 7, 2017

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT**

CHANGE – page 62

#### **CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR**

- Catch-and-release for Brown Trout, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may take 1 Brown Trout daily and in possession any size.
- Walleye: *20* ~~12~~ daily, only 1 greater than *20* ~~25~~-inches. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.
- Yellow Perch: 10 daily and in possession.
- Northern Pike: No limit
- Hook and Line/Setlines: 6 lines with 2 hooks per line through the ice.

**Rationale:** Canyon Ferry Reservoir is managed under the Upper Missouri River Reservoirs Management Plan 2010-2019. The Plan objectives for walleye are to maintain a three-year average of 5 walleye per fall gillnet, with a lower limit of 3 per net and an upper limit of 7 per net. These targets were developed to maintain a quality fishery for trout, walleye and yellow perch. When the three-year net average falls outside of the limits, the Plan prescribes taking management actions to keep walleye abundance within the prescribed range. In September 2017 record-high abundance of 11.6 walleye/net returned a three-year average catch of 8.6 walleye/net, tripping the upper trigger. The plan offers various tools to manage walleye abundance when upper triggers are exceeded and advises that increasing angler harvest is the most cost-efficient tool to reduce abundance. Since 2014 a bag limit of 12 fish daily with only 1 fish greater than 25-inches has been in place. Both creel data and population data show this regulation has limited recruitment of fish to larger size groups, but recruitment of young fish occurs at a higher rate than harvest, resulting in continued population growth. Although catch rates are desirable in recent years (0.26-0.37 walleye/hr) approximately 85% of harvested fish are less than 15 inches long. Therefore, in order to reduce walleye numbers within Management Plan goals, maintain a quality multi-species fishery, and to maintain a quality size component to the walleye fishery, a harvest limit of 20 walleye daily, only 1 greater than 20-inches is proposed.

**NEWLAN CREEK RESERVOIR**

*Including a 400-yard reach of inlet stream from the mouth up to a concrete water weir, and a 120-yard reach from the dam outlet down to secondary highway 259 culvert crossing.*

- *Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon October 1 through October 31; 35 daily and 70 in possession.*

**Rationale:** FWP first planted 5,000 Kokanee in Newlan Creek Reservoir in 2014. Kokanee have a 3-year life span to reach sexual maturity. In October 2017, large concentrations of mature spawning kokanee appeared at the inlet stream (Newlan Creek) to attempt spawning. Spawning habitat in this stream is limited and kokanee have only about 400 yards of stream channel to spawn. Although it is possible some kokanee eggs may survive, hatch and contribute to the population, FWP intends to manage the population through stocking hatchery fish. Because these salmon die after spawning, snagging offers one last opportunity for anglers to fully utilize this stocked fishery.

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