Ordinance 44(D) Bird Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations for Non-Members of the CSKT Proposed Changes for March 1, 2027 through February 29, 2028

Changes/removal are highlighted in ~~strikeout~~ and additions are added in **bold**. Descriptions of changes are in *italics*. Page numbers from the 2026-2027 regulation book are listed next to the change for comparison.

Page 5

Part II. Section 1. Subsection. J. It is unlawful: (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.~~ **To dispose of fish or fish remains that creates a public nuisance. If offshore deep-water disposal in the source water is not possible, then it is recommended that fish remains be bagged and disposed of in an appropriate trash receptacle. In backcountry lake settings, dispose of fish remains in deep-water, out of sight, if possible.**

Justification: This section is meant to cover how fish and fish waste are handled. The goal is to prevent anglers from making problems for others, especially when fish are cleaned and waste is left behind. This has been a concern in areas like Flathead Lake. Because it's hard to set exact rules for every situation, this section is intended to serve as a general guideline for proper handling and disposal of fish.

Page 5

Section 2. A. Daily Creel Limit: Bull Trout: Closed to fishing. It is unlawful to **intentionally fish for or** possess a bull trout. Bull trout may not be taken from any Reservation waters. Please review identification tips in this booklet.

Justification: Intent of clarification is so people aren't targeting them, has been witnessed by Tribal Fisheries staff.

Page 6

Section 3. Exceptions to the Standard Fishing and Possession Limits: F. (2) Cutthroat trout: 3 fish, only one of which may be longer than 14 inches.~~; possession limit is twice the daily limit, but the f~~**F**ish may not be removed (packed out of) from roadless areas (e.g., Three Lakes Peak or the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness).

Updated language to flow:

(2) Cutthroat trout: 3 fish, only one of which may be longer than 14 inches. Fish may not be removed (packed out of) from roadless areas (e.g., Three Lakes Peak or the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness).

Justification: The original purpose was to address heavy fishing in some mountain lakes, where people were taking large amounts of fish out of remote areas. These lakes are meant to provide a simple backcountry meal, not support large harvests. Because fish must now be eaten on-site, a possession limit is no longer necessary.

Page 7.

(To be added directly below 5; the current 6 will become 7.)

(6) Mission Reservoir: Mission Creek upstream from Mission Reservoir to the falls at the trailhead, is closed to fishing or taking fish the entire year.

Justification: There is a need to add Mission Reservoir to this section. This was a regulation to protect bull trout population previously. They are currently extirpated, from this body of water, but will be reestablishing in the future. This is currently on Page 6. under 3.B.1. Management Unit 2. Post and Mission Creek Drainage. It would have its own section for clarity.

Page 9.

(To be added directly below C.; the current D. will become E.)

D. Glass bottles are prohibited at all CSKT recreation sites along rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, including but not limited to boat launches, day-use areas, campgrounds, trails, and access roads. Glass bottles are also prohibited along the entire Lower Flathead River.

Justification: Broken glass creates a long-lasting safety hazard for visitors, pets, and wildlife, is difficult to completely remove from beaches and shorelines, and can persist in the environment for many years. Prohibiting glass bottles helps protect public safety, reduce litter, and preserve the natural and cultural resources of CSKT recreation areas.

Page 9.

Part IV. Recreations Regulations. 1. Regulation of General Application.

M. No person shall destroy, deface, injure, **remove**, 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.

Justification: The word "remove" is in the member booklets, but not in the non-member booklets. Adding the removed allows consistency with both regulations.

Page 10

Z. Metal Detecting and Archaeological Resource Protection

(1) The use or possession of metal detectors, magnetometers, or any similar device for the purpose of locating, searching for, or removing buried or submerged objects is prohibited on all Tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, including recreation sites, campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, shorelines, riverbeds, and all undeveloped Tribal lands.

(2) Metal detecting or similar activities may only be conducted when authorized in writing by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Law Enforcement investigation is excluded from this restriction.

(3) It is unlawful to excavate, remove, damage, alter, deface, possess, transport, or otherwise disturb any archaeological, cultural, or historical resource, or any site of cultural or spiritual significance located on Tribal lands.

(4) It is unlawful to disturb or remove topsoil or subsoil, non-fossilized or fossilized paleontological specimens, artifacts, or cultural materials, or any parts thereof.

This section is consistent with applicable federal laws including, but not limited to, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and 36 CFR 261.9.

Justification: This regulation is requested to clearly prohibit metal detecting and protect cultural and archaeological resources on Tribal lands. While current regulations prohibit damage and removal of resources, they do not explicitly address the tools used to locate them, creating an enforcement gap.

Adding this provision strengthens Tribal authority, aligns with existing protections, federal and state law, and provides clear, enforceable direction to prevent disturbance before it occurs, while still allowing authorized use under Tribal permit for legitimate purposes (law enforcement).

AA. Purposely, knowingly, or negligently permit a dog to chase, stalk, pursue, attack, or kill a big game animal.

Justification: Dogs chasing wildlife can injure animals, disrupt natural behavior, separate young from their mothers, and increase wildlife mortality. Keeping dogs under control helps conserve healthy wildlife populations.

Page 10

AB. Discharge of Pyrotechnics and Fireworks. It is hereby declared unlawful for any individual or corporation to discharge or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics or fireworks on tribal-owned Recreation Areas. This does not include Tribal homesites. The prohibition encompasses various circumstances, including but not limited to:

(1) Within the exterior boundaries of a Wilderness Area, tribal forest area, tribal park, or any tribal recreation area, such as campgrounds, lakes, boat launches, day use areas, etc.

(2) In the vicinity of another person, group of people, or any animal in a manner likely to expose them to the risk of injury.

Justification: Fireworks and pyrotechnics create significant wildfire risk, disturb wildlife, disrupt other visitors' recreational experiences, and pose unnecessary safety hazards. Prohibiting their use on Tribal recreation areas helps protect natural resources, public safety, and the peaceful enjoyment of these areas.

Pg. 11.

Part IV Recreation Regulations Page 11, Section 3. Camping Regulations

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 **or without** vehicles must secure items in food lockers, bear-resistant containers, or use hanging devices.

4. ~~Backcountry~~ Food Storage Definitions:

Justification: The intent of this proposed change is to make this Food Storage over all, NOT just in the backcountry.

Pg. 12. Part IV Recreation Regulations. Section 3. Camping Regulations

C. 7. **Camping in an area posted as closed**

Justification: Noting camping in a area posted closed is prohibited.

Part IV Recreation Regulations. Section 4. Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness Regulations.

~~C. The picketing or restraint of livestock shall be at least 100 feet form any water body or established campsite.~~

~~Livestock shall be kept at least 10 feet from the base of any tree.~~

Alternative Language:

C. Saddle stock, pack stock and livestock shall be picketed or otherwise restrained at least 100 feet from any water body or established campsite.

(To be added directly below C.; the current D. will become E.)

D. Stock shall not be restrained within 10 feet of the base of any tree.

Justification: terminology for all types of current 'stock' ex. llamas and goats. Separating out dissimilar topics assists in citations.

E. General Regulations (*formally D.*):

(12) The removal of any natural material from the wilderness which includes ~~no berry or mushroom picking.~~ **Berries, mushrooms, and antlers.**

*Justification: Edited for clarity and adds **antlers.***

Page 12&13

Section 5. Livestock **(Saddle stock or Pack stock)**

Justification/Clarification: Pack stock *refers to animals carrying equipment or supplies (typically horses, mules, burros, llamas, etc.).* ***Saddle stock*** *refers to animals ridden by people.* ***Livestock*** *is much broader and can include cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, llamas, and other domesticated animals.*

A. (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.~~

(6) **Pack and saddle stock shall be restrained using a picket line or other method that minimizes damage to trees, vegetation, and soil. A picket line approximately 30 feet in length stretched between two suitable trees is the recommended method, where conditions allow.**

Justification: terminology for all types of current 'stock' ex. llamas and goats. Separating out dissimilar topics assists in citations.

Pg. 13. Section 6. Off-Road Motorized Vehicle Use, Motorcycles ATV's, 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 an authorized by the Tribes for the purpose of motor vehicle use.~~

Proposed update:

A. Closed Roads: Operating a motorized vehicle on any roadway that has been closed by the Tribes, including by sign, gate, berm, trench, barricade, or other closure device, is prohibited.

(To be added directly below A.; the current B. will become C.)

B. Off-Road Travel: Operating a motorized vehicle anywhere other than on an authorized roadway is prohibited. An authorized roadway is a road or trail designated by the Tribes for motor vehicle use.

Justification: For clarity of road status for enforcement.

Pg. 13. C. Snowmobiles (*current C, will be D if other approved above)*:

(1) The use of snowmobiles **or tracked vehicles** 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.

a. **Tracked Vehicle means any motorized vehicle propelled in whole or in part by one or more continuous tracks, including but not limited to snowmobiles, snow bikes, tracked ATVs, tracked UTVs, tracked utility vehicles, snowcats, and any motorized vehicle equipped with an aftermarket track conversion system.**

Justification: Update to account for the broader range of tracked recreational vehicles that are now common, rather than referring only to snowmobiles.

Pg. 14.

Part IV, Recreation Regulations Members, Section 7. Boating and water Sports
B.
(2). The use of motorized boats**, gas or electric trolling,** on Turtle Lake. ~~and Twin Lakes.~~

Justification: For clarification and Twin Lakes is closed to non-members. Defining "motorized boats to include Gas OR electric trolling motor.

Part IV, Recreation Regulations Members, Section 8. Bison Range Special Regulations:
(To be added directly below N.)

N. Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited in all areas of the Bison Range.
O. Do not cut any vegetation and/or trees.
P. Do not leave campfires unattended.

Justification: Alcohol consumption has led to disruptive behavior and conflicts with staff. This regulation helps protect visitor safety and preserves the Bison Range as a family-oriented wildlife conservation and recreation area. We also manage the vegetation in the day use area. Fire wood is provided at the fire rings for visitor use. Campfires should never be left unattended.

Page 16

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, coots and **Eurasian-collared dove**.

Justification: This is not a regulation change, non-members already allowed to hunt Eurasian-collared doves in Pheasant / Waterfowl Special Regulations booklet, but it was missed in main non-member regs.

D. Allowing a dog to chase, pursue, harass, or hunt any big game or small game animal, except while lawfully engaged in waterfowl hunting.

Justification: Protects big game and other wildlife from harassment while allowing the use of dogs for lawful waterfowl hunting.

PG. 16

General Information: Trail Etiquette

Hikers should yield the trail to pack and saddle stock.

When practical and safe, move to the downhill side of the trail and remain still until the stock has passed.

Cyclists shall yield to hikers and pack and saddle stock.

All trail users should minimize impacts to the wilderness and respect other visitors.

Justification: Not a regulation change, just etiquette and Additional information, specifically because we have been working on the regulations in relation to pack animals on trails.