



Superintendent
Attention: New Fishing Regulations
Glacier National Park
P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936.

December 29, 2009

Proposed Changes to Park Fishing Regulations

Dear Superintendent:

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources. Many of our members are regular users of Glacier National Park.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this proposal to change park fishing regulations. We generally support the proposal, though if the goal is to "manage native fish resources consistent with Glacier's conservation mandate", we question a couple of the proposed changes. Specifically, why would you allow catch and release fishing on lower McDonald Creek, or Midvale and Wild Creeks, if conserving native westslope cutthroat trout is the objective? If these changes are implemented, a monitoring program will be needed to confirm there is no measurable impact on the species.

In fact, monitoring will be the most critical element in implementing these changes, and in the overall management of native fisheries. Long-term monitoring will be necessary to ensure the future survival of native species under increasing pressure from human-induced impacts. If monitoring reveals continuing declines among native species, additional measures will be necessary, such as closing Midvale and Wild Creeks, and re-closing lower McDonald Creek to all fishing. We agree wholeheartedly with the overall objective to manage fish resources consistent with a strong conservation mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis Young
Conservation Chairman
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