# Cherokee Reservation "Catch & Release Only" Fishing Regulations

### **GENERAL FISHING ON ENTERPRISE WATERS:**

Only a tribal permit is required to fish within the Reservation property, known as the Qualla Boundary. Outside the Boundary you must have a valid *North Carolina State fishing license*. A *Tennessee fishing license* is also valid but only inside the Smoky Mountains National Park. Dozens of local businesses in Cherokee are authorized outlets for fishing permits. The permit applies to Enterprise Waters only, which are managed by the Tribal Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program. Enterprise Waters include most of the Ravens Fork, Ocunaluftee River and Soco Watersheds. All remaining waters on the reservation may only be fished by members of the tribe and are off-limits to the general public.

#### **FISHING SEASON:**

Open to fishing year round (no closed season). Fishing hours are one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

#### CATCH AND RELASE SPECIAL USE PERMIT:

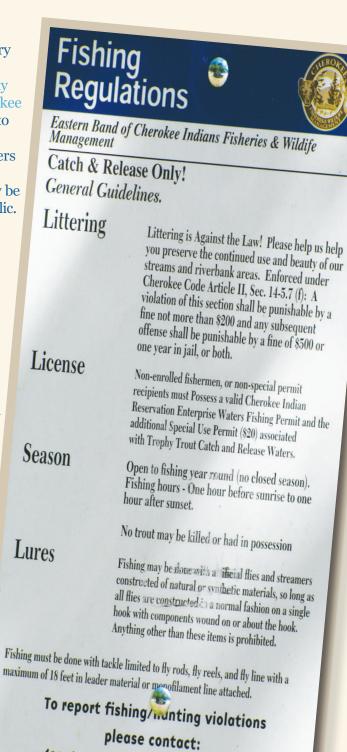
\$20 per year with the purchase of a general Fishing Permit (\$7/day) - "Tribal Special Use Permit" allows use of the catch and release only area designated on the Raven Fork. All general fishing regulations apply to this permit as do following the Special Use Permit Regulations withing the catch and release area:

#### Tackle & Lure regulations within the Catch & Release area:

- Tackle is limited to fly rods, reels, and line with a maximum of 18 feet leader material or monofilament line attached.
- Only artificial flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic material.
- Only one single-hook fly per line permitted

## Prohibited inside the catch & release area on Raven Fork:

- Taking of any live fish caught.
- Use of any spin & bait casting rods, reels, lures or tackle.
- Use of any natural bait, fish bait or bait paste including fish eggs or derivitave.



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