

# 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, **Ocunuluftee 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 RELEASE 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 derivate.

**Fishing Regulations**

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Fisheries & Wildlife Management

**Catch & Release Only!**

**General Guidelines.**

**Littering**

Littering is Against the Law! Please help us help you preserve the continued use and beauty of our streams and riverbank areas. Enforced under Cherokee Code Article II, Sec. 14-5.7 (f): A violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine not more than \$200 and any subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of \$500 or one year in jail, or both.

**License**

Non-enrolled fishermen, or non-special permit recipients must Possess a valid Cherokee Indian Reservation Enterprise Waters Fishing Permit and the additional Special Use Permit (\$20) associated with Trophy Trout Catch and Release Waters.

**Season**

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

**Lures**

No trout may be killed or had in possession

Fishing may be done with artificial flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials, so long as all flies are constructed in a normal fashion on a single hook with components wound on or about the hook. Anything other than these items is prohibited.

Fishing must be done with tackle limited to fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet in leader material or monofilament line attached.

**To report fishing/hunting violations**

**please contact:**

**(828) 497-4131 or (828) 497-5201**