MT NHP Partner Updates
October 8
2026

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Partner Update Mtg.

Tribal Wildlife Management Program



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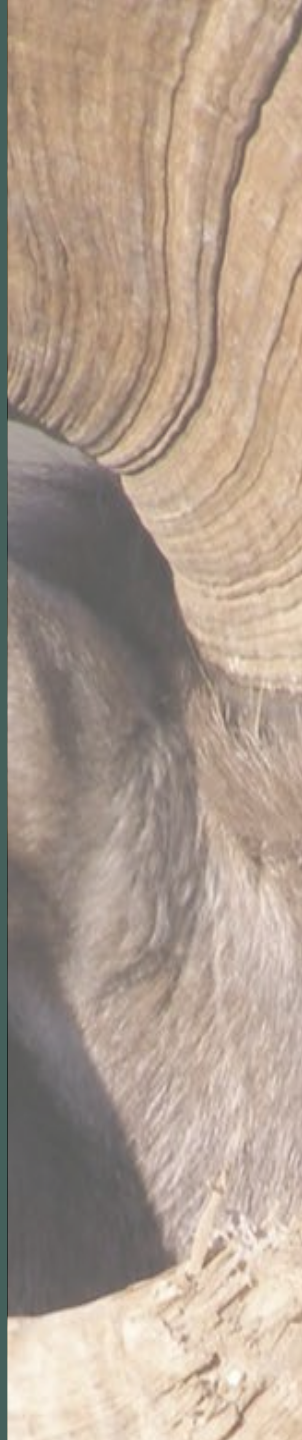






Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Directly Manages over 11,000 acres as wildlife habitat with active restoration of wetlands and riparian systems for use by game and non-game species, as well as present and future generations of Tribal Members

Wildlife Habitat Restoration and **MANAGEMENT**

Wildlife Species **MANAGEMENT**

Protect, restore, enhance, and manage all wildlife species and habitats to provide viable populations for use by present and future generations of Tribal Members

Endangered Species **MANAGEMENT**

Recovery of Threatenend and Endangered species through reintroduction programs and participation in inter-disciplinary teams to reduce impacts to sensitive wildlife and their habitats





Cultural values, endorsed by Elders and Tribal Culture Committees, remain central to management and decision-making within the CSKT Wildlife Management Program. Wildlife management on the Flathead Indian Reservation is more than science—it is the continuation of a trust thousands of years old. Supported by culture, treaty law, and strong public backing, CSKT stewardship ensures that wildlife persists as an inheritance for future Tribal members.

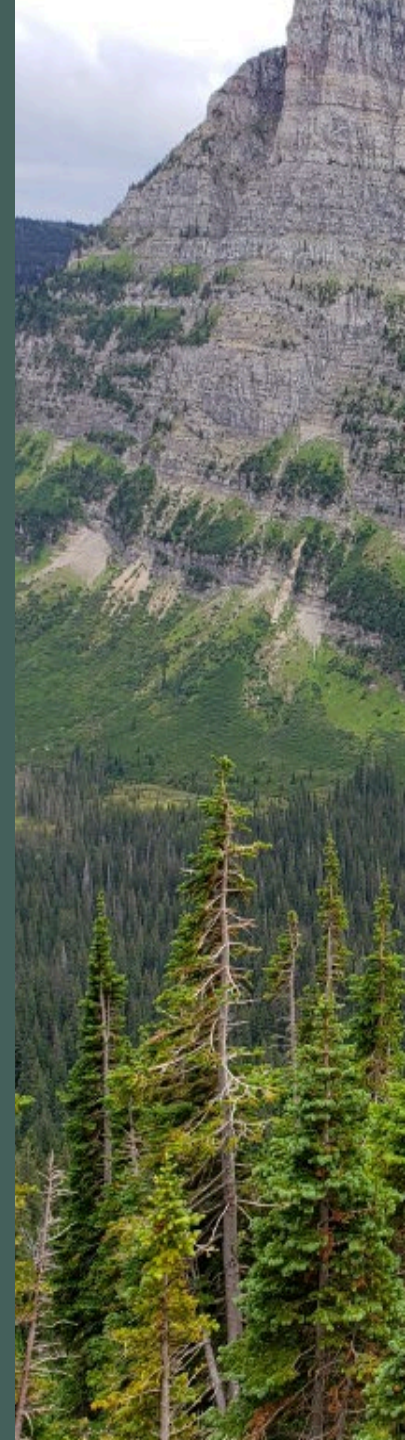


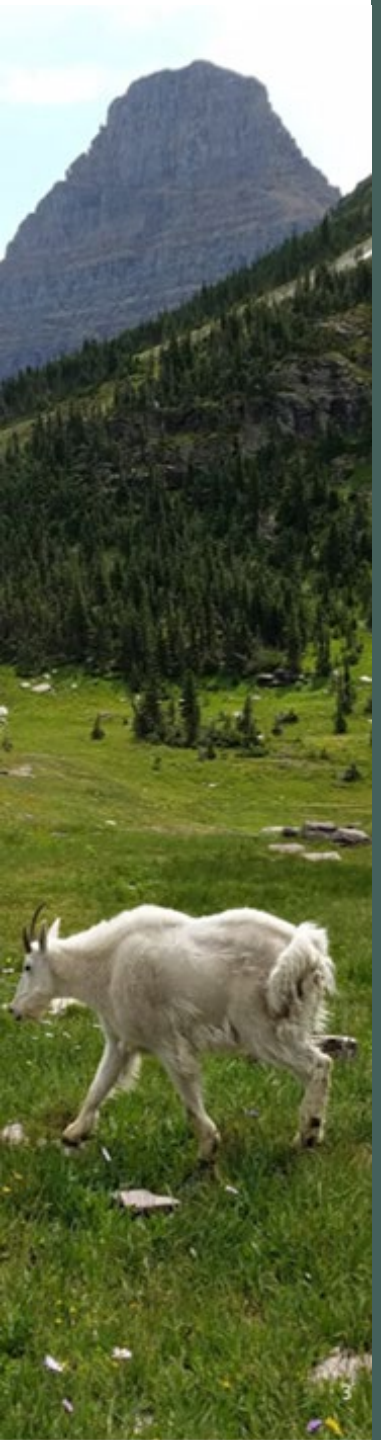
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2026 News

Data Sharing MOU in place

- Ability to share Tribal survey data including marshbird/grassland bird surveys; northern leopard frog; small mammal; winter raptor surveys; bird/bat ARU data





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How we use MTNHP data

prepare for conducting surveys on less-studied species, like small rodents and shrews, in specific areas. We cross reference Field Guide distributions to see what potentially could be in area and then use Map Viewer to gain an understanding for potential species composition, associated habitats, and extent of historic observations or surveys.



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We look at historical records/observations for species of concern/T&E (like the northern leopard frog west of the divide and yellow-billed cuckoos) to get an idea of when and where species were formally last observed places. This could be used to select potential candidate sites for reintroduction, conservation, or survey efforts.

Utilize data in Section 7 ESA Biological Assessments for USFWS Concurrence on Tribal Projects



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Use Field Guide to learn more about the distribution and natural history of species

Use the geodatabase sent out quarterly to conduct analysis on data collected locally/by staff as part of larger statewide monitoring efforts



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Plans to model future habitat quality and availability for local climate-sensitive species informed by covariates that were influential in well performing MTNHP habitat suitability models, historic observations of species found in geodatabase/MapViewer along with predicted local climate data and literature. This will help us identify and prioritize areas and populations in need of greatest protection/conservation effort.