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Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Flathead Reservation

Location: Lake, Sanders, Missoula and Flathead Counties, MT
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes | PO Box 278 | Pablo, MT 59855

Contacts

Chairman: Ron Trahan (From the St. Ignatius District) | 406-675-2700
Director of Natural Resources: Richard Janssen | 406-675-2700
Environmental Director: Wilhemia "Willie" Keenan | 406-675-2700 x 7208
http://www.csktribes.org/

Government

The Tribal Council consists of 10 members, 1 representative from each of the 8 districts with 2 districts, Arlee and St. Ignatius, having 2 representatives[1]. From the 10 members, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer are selected. Representatives serve four-year terms on a staggered basis, with the most recent election taking place for the 2016-2020 term. The Chair serves at the Chief Executive Officer of the tribe.

Land

The Reservation is 1.3 million acres in northwestern Montana. It is situated between Missoula and Kalispell and surrounded by fertile valleys and mountains. The Reservation is separated into eight districts: Polson, Elmo, Arlee, Dixon, St. Ignatius, Ronan, Hot Springs, and Pablo, where the Tribe's headquarters are located.

EPA Grants (Fiscal Year 2018)

CSKT has a 2-year PPG containing the following grants and authorities:

- **GAP**
- **CWA 106 –** Water Monitoring. The Tribes have Treatment as a State for grant purposes for this section of the Clean Water Act.
- **CWA 319** – NonPoint Source. The Tribes have Treatment as a State for grant purposes under this section of the Clean Water Act.
- **CWA 303(c) -** Water Quality Standards. The Tribes have Treatment as a State (non-grant) authority under this section of the Clean Water Act.
- **CWA 401 –** Water Quality Certification. The Tribes have Treatment as a State (non-grant) authority under this section of the Clean Water Act.
- **CAA 105 –** Air Monitoring. The Tribes have Treatment as a State for grant purposes for this section of the Clean Air Act.
- **Wetlands** – Competitive grant
- **TSCA - Lead -** The Tribes have Treatment as a State for grant purposes under this section of the Toxic Substances Control Act.
- **Brownfields:** As of 2013, there were three Brownfields cleanups on the Reservation. In 2017, the Tribes received further funds for assessments of damaged buildings and abandoned mills, dumps, and vehicle junkyards.

In addition, CSKT has the following stand-alone grants:

- **CAA 103 IMPROVE**
- **NPS Competitive Grant** (2017-2022)
- **NPS Training Grant –** Regional Workshop Host in April 2017
- **Awarded Competitive Wetlands and NonPoint Source Comp Grant** (2018)

[1] http://www.csktribes.org/government/tribal-council

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- **FIFRA:** The Tribes have Treatment as a State for grant purposes under FIFRA. Since 2010, the Tribes have had two staff members who have inspector credentials for FIFRA sites. These federally credentialed inspectors also serve as circuit riders to Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes.

EPA Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP)

The Tribe is in the process of developing an ETEP and has submitted a draft plan. Expect to complete in 2018.

Environmental Highlights

The Division of Environmental Protection oversees EPA grants and has numerous prepared documents such as their Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook available online[2]. The Tribes have developed a strong traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) program and has been a strong advocate nationally about the value of TEK in federal decision making.

Emerging Issue:
One of the Tribes' top priorities is the inspection and prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species into Flathead Lake and the Columbia River watershed. The Tribes are coordinating the AIS response with state and federal officials and agencies.

Brownfields:
In addition to the Brownfields cleanup funds, CSKT has been notified that they will receive one of four national Hazardous Waste Grants as well as a Brownfields Training Grant.

Climate Change:
CSKT is a national leader on climate change. The Tribes are one of the first to create a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2013) which was revised in 2016. There are monthly Climate Change Oversight Committee meetings with tribal departments along with federal, non-profit, and academic partners. CSKT also received a Climate Change grant from the BIA and another from NASA in conjunction with the Blackfeet Tribe. CSKT hosted a Regional Tribal Climate Change Summit in August 2017.

Hydroelectric Power:
In September 2015, the Tribe acquired ownership of the Kerr Dam, making them the first tribes in the country to own a major hydroelectric facility[3].

Water:
The Reservation has 17 NPDES facilities and 26 individual public drinking water systems regulated by EPA. There are periodic wastewater and drinking water violations.

Agricultural runoff is thought to be the main source of non-point source pollution on the Reservation. CSKT received a competitive NPS grant for 2017 and another for 2018 and hosted the Regional NPS Workshop in April 2017. CSKT has also received a competitive Wetland Program Development Grant for 2018/2019.

CSKT completed their Tribal Water Quality Standards Triennial Review (2018)

General Assistance Program:
CSKT is currently developing their EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) (2018)

Community

The Reservation is home to three separate tribes. The Bitterroot Salish and Pend d'Oreille Tribes are known as the "Confederated Salish" and live alongside the Kootenai Tribe. Together, there are 7,753 Tribal members

[2] http://nrd.csktribes.org/ep
[3] http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/03/21/salish-kootenai-tribes-will-acquire-kerr-dam-arbitration-154114

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with around 5,000 of them living on or near the Reservation[4]. The Reservation is also home to 10,000 non-Native Americans and 1,000 members from other tribes. The community runs the Salish Kootenai College and a heritage center, The People's Center, in Pablo. The college is home to a 2015-2016 EPA Tribal ecoAmbassdor working on *Arsenic on Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Land*, providing students the opportunity to work directly with their professors and EPA scientists. The EAGLES (Environmental Awareness for Global and Local Ecological Sustainability) youth group has received awards from the Montana Governor in 2016 and 2017 for their efforts towards environmental protection. The annual River Honoring, an educational environmental outreach event each May, attracts 100s of children from around the Flathead Reservation.

Wildlife and Wilderness:
The Tribes make an intentional effort to protect wildlife and wilderness on the Reservation. The Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness remains the only Tribal Wilderness in the nation established by a Tribe[5]. From July-October, 12,000 acres are closed to the public in order to protect wildlife during feeding season. In 2012, the Reservation was presented with the Connie Award by the National Wildlife Federation for being the Outstanding Conservation Organization in the Country.

Economics

With budgets of over $180 million a year, the Tribes are one of the larger employers in northwestern Montana. Fifteen percent of Tribal employees are non-Tribal members. In addition to traditional employment opportunities within the Tribal government, the Tribes also own and jointly operate the Kerr Dam, a hydropower dam as well as operating S&K Electronics, S&K Gaming, S&K Technologies, and S&K Holding, providing a range of economic opportunities on the Reservation[1]. Timber is also a significant source of income for the Tribes, and a dominant source for the region's lumber industry. The Division of Environmental Protection is located in the Natural Resources Department, which employs more than 140 people[6].

Further Information

- Tribe Website: http://www.csktribes.org/
- Natural Resources Department: http://nrd.csktribes.org/
- Tribe Newspaper: http://www.charkoosta.com/
- Documentary on Kerr Dam: *The Place of Falling Waters*, 1991

[4] http://tribalnations.mt.gov/cskt
[5] http://www.visitmt.com/listings/general/wilderness-area/mission-mountains-wilderness-complex.html
[6] http://nrd.csktribes.org/home/about-nrd