

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 25, 2019

Agenda Item: 2019-20 CSKT Pheasant, Partridge & Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the state of Montana have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation that provides for presentation and approval of Tribal pheasant, gray partridge and waterfowl season frameworks to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. FWP is included in the development of Tribal waterfowl regulations, which are set within federal frameworks in the Pacific Flyway. Tribal recommendations are first presented to the Flathead Reservation Fish & Wildlife Board, which votes on tentative proposals and opens them to general public review and comment. The board then meets for final adoption. Adopted final proposals are then presented to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. The commission endorsement is subject to final Tribal Council approval. The draft *Flathead Indian Reservation Pheasants, Gray Partridge And Migratory Waterfowl 2019-20 Hunting Seasons, Shooting Hours and Limits* are included in the commission packet.

The significant differences between these Tribal regulations and current or proposed FWP regulations are:

- Tribal shooting hours are sunrise to sunset for pheasant and gray partridge for the entire season. Waterfowl shooting hours are sunrise to sunset Sept. 30 - Jan. 1. From Jan. 2 to Jan. 15, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, the same as FWP's.
- No hunting with falcons on the Flathead Indian Reservation.
- A requirement that only non-toxic shot be used for all game birds on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal process includes public comment.

Alternatives and Analysis

None considered at this time.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Recommend endorsement of 2019-20 Flathead Indian Reservation pheasant, gray partridge and waterfowl hunting regulations subject to Tribal Council approval.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Fish & Wildlife Commission endorse the 2019-20 Flathead Indian Reservation pheasant, gray partridge and waterfowl hunting regulations as presented and subject to final Tribal Council approval.