



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2022

**Action Needed:** Final

**Agenda Item:** 2022–2023 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Pheasant, Gray Partridge, and Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for the Flathead Indian Reservation

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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**Background:** The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the state of Montana have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Indian Reservation (Reservation) that provides for presentation and approval of tribal pheasant, gray partridge, and waterfowl season frameworks to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The cooperative management agreement applies to fishing and bird hunting activities engaged in by non-members on land within the external boundaries of the reservation. The department is included in the development of tribal waterfowl regulations, which are set within federal frameworks in the Pacific Flyway. Tribal recommendations are shared with the Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board, a cooperative management board that consists of seven members – three appointed by the governor, three by the Tribal Council, and one mutually agreed upon employee of the USFWS. The board votes on tentative proposals and opens them to general public review and comment. The board then meets for final adoption. Final proposals are then presented to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. Final proposals require final Tribal Council approval and commission endorsement. The draft 2022–2023 Flathead Indian Reservation pheasant, gray partridge and migratory waterfowl hunting seasons, shooting hours and limits are included in the commission packet, as is the cooperative agreement.

The significant differences between these tribal regulations and current or proposed department regulations include:

- Tribal shooting hours are sunrise to sunset for pheasant and gray partridge for the entire season. Waterfowl shooting hours are sunrise to sunset Oct. 1 - Jan. 1. From Jan. 2 to Jan. 13, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, the same as the department recommendations.
- No hunting with falcons on the Reservation.
- A requirement that only non-toxic shot be used for all game birds on the Reservation.

**Public Involvement Process and Results:** The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe's process includes public comment.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** None considered at this time.

**Agency Rationale and Recommendation:** The department recommends endorsement of 2022–2023 Flathead Indian Reservation pheasant, gray partridge and waterfowl hunting regulations.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the commission vote to endorse the 2022–2023 Flathead Indian Reservation pheasant, gray partridge and waterfowl hunting regulations as presented in the attached DRAFT Flathead Indian Reservation hunting regulations.