MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
FWP PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: December 10, 2026

Agenda Item: 2027–2028 Flathead Indian Reservation Nonmember Fishing and Bird Hunting Regulations

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the State of Montana have a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Indian Reservation under MCA § 87-1-228 and a state-tribal agreement under MCA § 18-11-103, which provides for the Fish and Wildlife Commission's approval of tribal regulations and season frameworks for fishing and bird hunting regulations for non-tribal members. Tribal recommendations are presented to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council, which votes on tentative proposals and opens them to general public review and comment. The proposals are also presented to the joint Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board for endorsement. Commission approval of these regulations is subject to final approval by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. The tribe is considering regulation changes to the fishing and bird hunting regulations for nonmembers for the 2027–2028 regulation year, which spans March 1, 2027, through Feb. 28, 2028.

Public Involvement Process and Results: The CSKT Natural Resources Department posted a 30-day public notice, which occurred from Wednesday July 15, 2026, through Thursday Aug. 17, 2026. An in-person public hearing was held Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026. Public comments were received through mail, meetings, and email. During the public comment period, one comment was received regarding the nonmember regulations. The joint Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board endorsed the proposed regulations at the July 15 board meeting. The tribal council adopted the proposed regulations as final on Sept. 1, 2026. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council and the joint Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board processes include public comment opportunity, as well. For more information, visit www.csktnrd.org. See the attached document for proposed changes.

Alternatives and Analysis: Approval of the 2027–2028 Flathead Indian Reservation nonmember fish and bird hunting regulations allows department wardens to enforce these regulations for nonmembers on tribal lands. Failing to approve the regulations would restrict department enforcement capabilities.
Alternative A: The commission may choose to approve the Flathead Indian Reservation nonmember fish and bird hunting regulations as presented.
Alternative B: The commission may choose not to approve the Flathead Indian Reservation nonmember fish and bird hunting regulations.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission approve the 2027–2028 Flathead Indian Reservation nonmember fishing and bird hunting regulations, which will allow department wardens to enforce the bird hunting and fishing regulations for nonmembers on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the 2026-2027 Flathead Indian Reservation nonmember fishing and bird hunting regulations as presented.