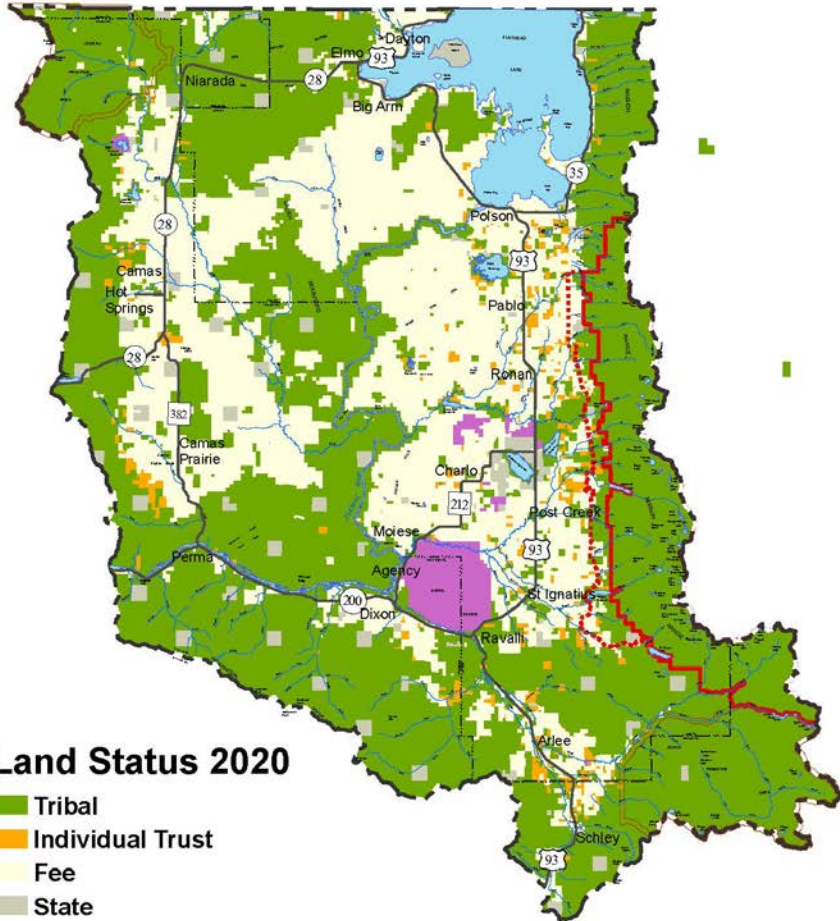




A People of Vision

CSKT's history of efforts to re-acquire the National Bison Range

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD NATION



Land Status 2020

- Tribal
- Individual Trust
- Fee
- State
- Federal
- Water
- Main Road
- Reservation Boundary
- County Boundary
- Primitive Areas(Tribal Members Only)
- Tribal Wilderness
- Wilderness Buffer Zone

0 5 10 20 Miles

CS&K TRIBES
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
GIS PROGRAM
This map is created for informational purposes only and is not intended to be used for legal purposes. The map is a representation of the current status of the land and is subject to change without notice. The map is not a guarantee of accuracy and is not intended to be used for legal purposes. The map is a representation of the current status of the land and is subject to change without notice. The map is not a guarantee of accuracy and is not intended to be used for legal purposes.

**The National
Bison Range is
the purple spot
in the south
central area of
the Reservation.**




Our Legacy

- In the mid-1800s, a Qlispé man, 'Ataticé' (Falcon Robe), had a desire to save the rapidly declining bison. His son Łatati (Little Falcon Robe) successfully raised a small herd that originated from orphaned calves that he had brought to the Reservation from across the Continental Divide.
- In the late 1800s, Michel Pablo and Charles Allard purchased the 13 head of bison that had been raised by Łatati
 - ❖ See the video “In the Spirit of 'Ataticé': The Untold Story of the National Bison Range” on bisonrange.org
- The herd grew to several hundred animals by the end of the century, and was the world's largest herd of plains bison at that time.
- Pablo was forced to sell the herd in order to make room for non-Indian homesteaders.

Management By Self-Governance Agreements

- CSKT began efforts to obtain management of the Bison Range shortly after Self-Governance was made permanent (1994 amendments to ISDEAA)
- First funding agreement signed December 15, 2004 for 2005-2006
 - FWS cancelled the agreement on December 11, 2006
- Second funding agreement 2008-2011
 - A federal court rescinded the agreement, on procedural grounds, on September 29, 2010



CSKT Faced Resistance Throughout Years of Efforts

- One of the FWS staff who was "evaluating" the tribes' performance under the first self-governance agreement was a board member of All Citizens Equal (ACE)

The Montana Human Rights Network's publication "Drumming Up Resentment" documents the history of anti-tribal movements such as ACE, including regarding the Bison Range specifically

<http://www.mhrn.org/publications/specialresearchreports/DrummingUp.pdf>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Finds No Issues with Performance

It took 14 years for CSKT to be vindicated of the negative reports by FWS regarding performance at the NBR during the first Agreement:



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
134 Union Blvd
Lakewood, Colorado 80228



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/IR05/IR07

Date: June 17, 2020

To: Cynthia Martinez, Assistant Director – National Wildlife Refuge System

From: William Meeks, Assistant Regional Director – Refuges, IR-5/7

WILLIAM MEEKS
Digitally signed by
WILLIAM MEEKS
Date: 2020.06.17
09:03:07 -0600

Subject: Clarifying our Position: Prior Annual Funding Agreements between the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

“It is my belief that this memo provides enough context to draw a strong and final conclusion that the position of the FWS is that the past performance allegations are inaccurate.”

Big Medicine



Organizations Supporting Bison Range Restoration Legislation

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- Five Valleys Audubon
- Flathead Audubon
- Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition
- Headwaters Montana
- Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
- Innnii Buffalo Treaty Signatories
- Indian Law Clinic, Univ. of Montana School of Law
- Mission Mountain Audubon
- Missoulian Editorial Board (February 14, 2016 and December 15, 2019 editorials)
- Montana Conservation Voters
- Montana Environmental Information Center
- Montana Wilderness Association
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Native American Rights Fund
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
- Sierra Club
- Western Native Voice
- The Wilderness Society
- Wildlife Conservation Society



It Took An Act of Congress

- ❖ Restoration of the NBR to the CSKT was included in S. 3019, the Montana Water Rights Protection Act, introduced in 2019
- ❖ S. 3019 was included in the FY 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act (P.L. 116-260) signed into law on December 27, 2020
- ❖ On January 15, 2021, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt signed Secretarial Order 3390 that directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to facilitate the transition of property related to the National Bison Range (NBR) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA has formally recorded that Congress restored the land back into trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Indian Reservation.



FLATHEAD

Lemlmts̓ ~ Hu sukiłq̓ukni

With many thanks from the
people of the Salish, Qlispe,
and Kootenai Tribes

NATION