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LEAD POISONED TRUMPETER SWAN

The Tribal Wildlife Management Program staff received an injured Trumpeter Swan that came from east of Charlo last week. The swan was a cygnet that hatched this year in the Charlo area. The bird's parents were likely swans released as part of the Tribes' Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Project.

Tribal Game Wardens were called about the Swan that had a couple of small puncture wounds on its torso. A local veterinarian x-rayed the bird and discovered several pieces of shotgun shot in its gizzard.

The swan also exhibited some symptoms of lead poisoning. A bird with lead poisoning can have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and an impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is then more vulnerable to predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting, and caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and nearly always dies within two or three weeks after ingesting the lead.

Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous system and reproductive systems of mammals and birds. This metal, found in most fishing sinkers and some shot is often involved in poisoning wildlife such as trumpeter swans, loons, ducks, geese and eagles. "Only federally approved non-toxic shot is legal to hunt migratory waterfowl and upland game birds on the Flathead Indian Reservation. This regulatory change has been in effect for nearly twenty years." said Dale Becker, Tribal Wildlife Program Manager.

When lead sinkers are lost through broken line or carelessly discarded into the water or when lead shot sinks into ponds, waterfowl such as swans, loons, ducks and geese inadvertently ingest them. Birds can then swallow lead when they scoop up small pebbles from the bottom of wetlands.

Other birds, such as eagles, ingest lead by eating waterfowl or fish which have swallowed lead sinkers or lead shot. Wildlife Biologists say that lead poisoning does not have to happen. Sinkers and shot don't have to be made of lead. Ecologically sound and inexpensive alternatives are locally available.

Becker stated, "Waterfowl and pheasant hunters have switched to non-toxic shot types to help wildlife managers address the lead poisoning issue, but old lead shot is still present in the subsurface soils of most wetland basins, and most fishing lures and weights are still made of lead."

For more information on how lead affects wildlife contact Dale Becker or Germaine White at 883-2888.



NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD

Clayton Matt

I have been in this position for four years now and it continues to be a privilege and an honor to work with so many talented people. As an organization we have been through many changes. The Department was born in 1982 with only a handful of people, but we cannot forget that we exist as an organization and a department because of the success and sacrifices of our ancestors. Today we operate as a diverse department of over 100 people. We are organized in to three divisions with functions that range from environmental protection to water resources and fish and wildlife. A few programs have been a part of the department since its inception, some have been divided off to create an entirely new department, such as the Department of Lands, and we continue to add new programs such as the recent addition of the National Bison Range. Over time we will change and grow and continue to be a diverse department, but the one constant that makes the Natural Resource Department strong are the people. Each person contributes to the department by adding their skill, talent and experience to the mix. While we are diverse in our functions we are even more diverse in the make up of the staff and that adds to the strength of the department. We are successful because of the people who fill the over 100 positions in the department. I have seen the staff respond to many changes and challenges in the last four years and in the face of it all the CSKT government and the CSKT membership can be proud of the staff of the Natural Resource Department. As always I want to thank the Tribal Council and the Tribal Membership for continued support and encouragement. As a department we will do our part and continue to meet the challenges that face Tribal Government. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Natural Resource Department news letter and as you read it, please keep in mind the many people who make it possible for us to have a successful Natural Resource Department.

Sincerely,

Clayton Matt

Natural Resources Department Head



TRIBES RECEIVE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PESTICIDES GRANT

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes recently were awarded an \$110,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish and enhance a Pesticides Program on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

According to Rich Janssen, Division Manager of Environmental Protection for the Tribes the grant will allow CSKT to determine the amount, types, and uses of pesticides within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. The funding will also train and individual to educate the public on the proper uses of pesticides and become a local point of contact for certified applicators.

“This is the first year of our pesticides program which has the potential to be funded long term,” said Janssen. “It will address the issue of pesticides so we can continue to protect the environment for the health and well being of all reservation residents.”



LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

Lead is a toxic metal that can be present in the paint, soil, dust and water in your home. If you have a child under the age of six, you should be alert to the danger of lead poisoning in your home environment. Your children can get lead in their bodies in different ways.

According to Rich Janssen, CSKT Environmental Protection Manager children can get lead poisoning from eating paint chips or soil that contains lead. It can happen if they chew on surfaces that have been painted with lead-based paint such as imported painted toys, Venetian or mini blinds or window sills. Lead poisoning can come from kids putting their hands or objects covered in lead paint in their mouths. Also, if your children eat certain candies or canned foods imported from Mexico, they might be exposed to dangerous amounts of lead.

Children who have lead in their bodies are at serious risk of damage to the brain which can lead to developmental problems such as decreased intelligence, hearing loss, and learning disabilities. Some common symptoms of lead poisoning are headaches, abdominal pains, clumsiness, irritability, and tiredness, but a child with lead poisoning might not show any symptoms at all. The only way to be sure if your child has lead poisoning is through a simple test that measures the amount of lead in the child's blood.

Thankfully, you have the power to protect your child from the harmful effects of lead. Here are five easy steps that you can take to prevent your child from being exposed to lead in your home:

1. Ask a doctor to test your children's blood for lead, even if they seem healthy. Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and what action should be taken.
2. Feed your children healthy, low-fat foods high in calcium, iron and vitamin C. These nutrients help to prevent lead from absorbing into your child's growing bones.
3. Ensure that your children wash their hands before meals and after playing. Also, do not let them eat imported candies suspected of containing lead.
4. Wipe down window sills, banisters, floors and other surfaces in your home with a damp cloth or mop at least once a week. This will clean up any lead dust that might be present in your home. Put the material used for cleaning in a plastic bag for disposal.
5. If your home was built before 1978 and has peeling or chipping paint, have your home tested for lead and fix any hazards you may have. Contact your local health department for guidance on how to safely fix lead-based paint hazards in your home.

Your commitment to these simple steps will not only protect your child from the harmful effects of lead, but will ensure a brighter future for your community.

For more information on lead and lead poisoning, contact the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5253), or contact the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) at 800-424-LEAD (424-5323) to speak with an information specialist as staff members are available Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 6pm, Eastern Time, or visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead



MORE ILLEGAL DUMPING ON THE RESERVATION

Illegal dumping issues continued to plague the tribal natural resources department throughout year as Marlene McDanal, the Tribal Solid Hazardous Waste Specialist II has cleaned up several illegal dumps located throughout the reservation. Illegal dumping also known as open dumps is a problem and a major health concern for the reservation.

McDanal stated that the problems create “an increase in materials in the waste stream of illegal dumping/open dumps makes illegal/open dumps dangerous to human health and the environment.”

Concerns of illegal/open dumps include: attracting children and pets, children can be hurt by sharp objects, come into contact with toxic materials and/or contagious pathogens. Open dumps also attract insects, rats, bears, birds, and raccoons which can attack and/or spread disease. Open dumps can degrade the land within our reservation; by destroying fish & wildlife habitat, threaten cultural lands, and demean natural resources such as recreational facilities.

“Please keep our precious children, environment, and cultural lands safe and healthy. If you witness Illegal dumping activity please notify the police or call me at 675-2700 extension 7215” McDanal said



TRIBAL BROWNFIELD RESPONSE PROGRAM

In 2003, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes began a Tribal Brownfield Response Program and since has been growing strong.

“A Brownfield is defined as real property being inactive, discarded, and scarcely used manufacturing and business facilities where growth or restoration is difficult by actual or suspected environmental contamination.”

The Brownfield program ensures the protection of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes natural resources by inspecting the exterior boundaries of the reservation for illegal or abandoned sites that might comprise of solid and/or hazardous substance such as Illegal dumping that consists of waste materials that are unknown until investigated, these materials may have the probability to contaminate the natural resources of the reservation, and may cause severe health risks to the public.

The Brownfield program conducts inspections through methodology that consist of; sample collection, laboratory and chemical analysis, field investigation, research, observations, documenting, interviews, and inquiries. This assists the program to ensure that the safety of the tribes’ natural resources is met.

Highlights of fiscal year 2006

In the beginning of fiscal year 2006, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have solicited proposals for completion of Phase II Environmental Site Assessments at three Brownfield sites within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Mid year fiscal year 2006, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Brownfield Response Program selected Geomatrix. to complete the Brownfield Assessment Project for the three identified potential Brownfields sites

End Year fiscal 2006, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments were completed for the three* primary Tribal Brownfield sites. Again, they are:

- **Old St. Ignatius/ Woodcock Dump, Sabine Road, St. Ignatius, MT 59865**
- **Elmo Cash Store, 77070 Hwy 93, Elmo, MT 59915**
- **Old Char-Koosta News Bldg.**

If you need to report a potential Brownfield site or would like an environmental site assessment done at a potential Brownfield site or would like information available in the public record please provide the site location and contact information to Marlene McDanal, the Brownfield Coordinator at mmcdanal@cskt.org, or P.O. Box 278, Pablo, MT 59855. The Brownfield coordinator can also be reached at (406) 675-2700. The Natural Resources Department offices are located at 301 Main Street in Polson, Montana. Normal office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Closed most holidays.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING PROJECT

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Wildlife Management Program is beginning the third year of a chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing project. The chronic wasting disease-testing project will assist wildlife managers in assessing the health of resident wildlife.

The results of the project will allow the Tribal Wildlife Management Program to examine both deer and elk reservation wide. These findings will assist in determining whether to continue the monitoring process or proceed with a more active management plan.

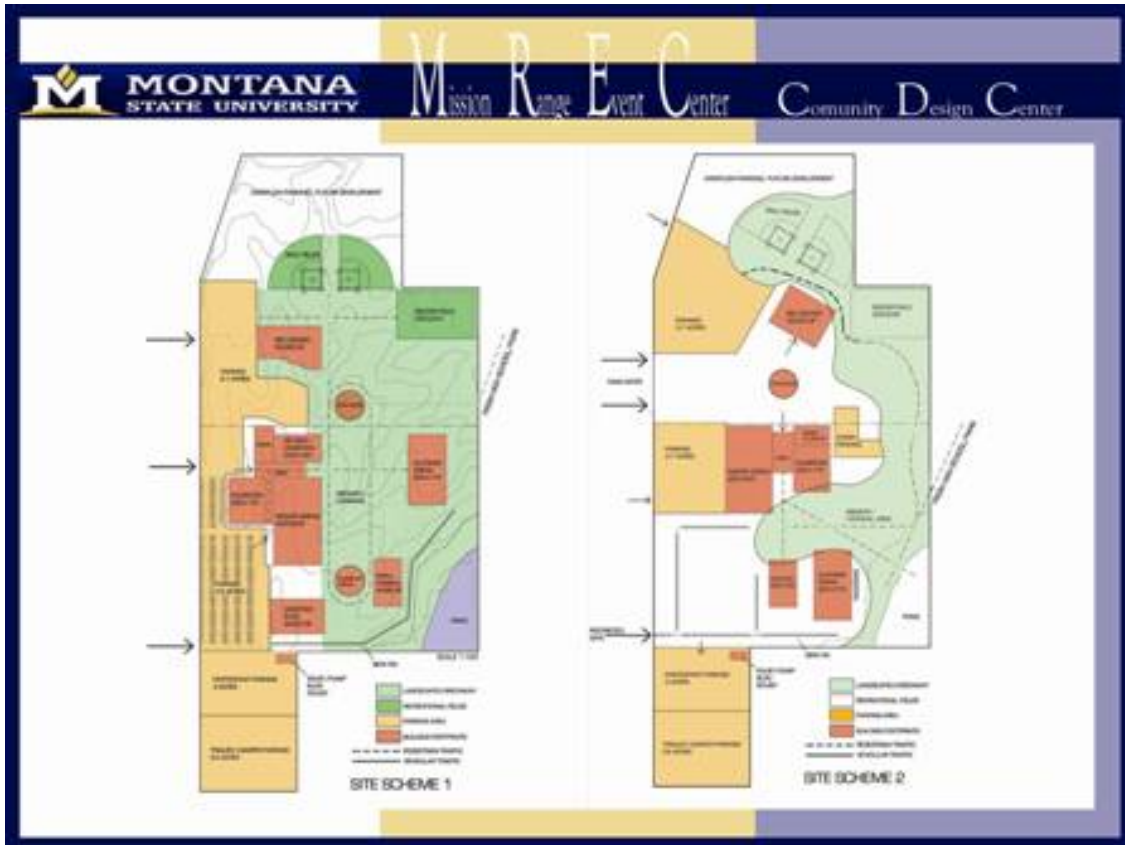
"CWD has not been found within wild populations of free ranging deer or elk within the state of Montana," said Stephanie Gillin, Tribal Wildlife Biologist. "This grant provides an opportunity to proactively examine resident populations." added Gillin.

The Tribal Wildlife Management Program will collect the brain stems deer and elk or testing. The collection process will begin October 9, 2006 and continue throughout the hunting season. Hunters are asked to assist this project by dropping off deer and elk heads with the first and second vertebrae intact to the Tribal Wildlife Management Program. If you harvest a buck or bull and would like to keep the head or want to keep the head of your harvested animal for any reason, simply call and we can either work with the taxidermist, meat processor or collect our sample on site.

"While we do not anticipate finding CWD on the Reservation at this time, our concerns are for the continued health of big game." according to Gillin.

Deer and elk brain stems must be fresh and examined within 2 days of harvest in order to collect a sample for this project. Deer and elk heads can be dropped off at the Tribal Wildlife Program office at the old Mission Valley Power Office in Polson or call us to make arrangement for an alternative drop site.

For more information about CWD or to participate in this CWD testing project contact Stephanie Gillin or Germaine White at 883 -2888.



MISSION RANGE EVENT COMPLEX

Late last fall, the Tribal Council asked FWRC Division staffers Tom McDonald and Lester Bigcrane to help shepherd the planning effort with Lake County, the City of Ronan and the Tribes for the newly acquired Tribal and County lands in Ronan. The county and the city jointly purchased 31 acres west of town and the tribes acquired the adjacent 31 acres with the intent by all parties to jointly plan for various community needs. A few items on the needs list are to move the current Ronan fair uses and community center/county extension offices to the site, along with constructing a recreation facility similar to the Arlee Recreation Center the Tribes built two years ago for the Arlee community.

The first item worked on by our NRD staff was to officially organize the previous ad hoc planning group into a formal committee with an inter-local agreement between the city, tribes and county. Secondly, an architecture site planning team was brought in from Montana State University to help facilitate conceptual site/building plan alternatives. Various community need surveys were developed and completed by the group. The staff



then participated and helped facilitate monthly planning group meetings and Ronan Tribal Council District meetings.

Based on the most frequent responses for needed activities identified from the tribal member, area high schools, and the general community surveys, the Tribal Council is supporting those related developments at the 62 acre site. More specifically for the 31 acres of Tribal land, the Tribal Council want to see what the conceptual plans will look like if it contains the following items:

- Indoor swimming facilities with a competition pool, therapy pool, water slide and kiddy pool.
- Indoor recreation facility similar but larger than Arlee's with basketball courts and fitness/weight exercise rooms
- Indoor ice skating rink/roller rink.
- Indoor laser tag facility.
- Outdoor areas and fields for multi purpose activities such as baseball, soccer, native games, basketball and powwow arbor.
- Kids fishing pond.

The planning committee is also looking at developing a 9,000 person maximum capacity multi purpose indoor arena, a 47,000 sq. ft. exhibition and extension building, 37,000 sq. ft. of horse and beef barns, and 28,000 sq. ft. of multi purpose building space for small animals and show rooms. Additional space will be identified for a midway and carnival set up and an outdoor warm up arena for rodeos and horse shows.



UNBEARABLE BINS

The Wildlife Management Program found another way to help people avoid human/bear conflict on the Reservation. The latest effort, funded by Defenders of Wildlife, is the purchase of 5 “UnBear Able Bins” to keep bears out of residential garbage.

“Unsecured attractants are the biggest cause of bear and human conflict,” says Stacy Courville, Wildlife Biologist for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

“Every spring, Wildlife Biologists and Tribal Wardens respond to dozens of phone calls about bears being too close” Courville says. “The majority of these calls come because people allow bears to access human food and garbage. Bears quickly learn to associate it with people and become “problem bears” when they are food conditioned.”

Both bears and humans like to settle in valley bottoms and along streams. More development in these areas results in bears living in closer proximity to people. Bears that live near humans can become problem bears if they get access to non-natural foods. The potential for conflict increases as people continue to encroach on bear habitat.

“In communities like St. Ignatius and Hot Springs, situated at the base of mountain ranges with streams running through them, the problems can last all summer” said Dale Becker, Tribal Wildlife Program Manager.

The UnBearAble Bins are one solution to help stop problem bears before they get started. They prevent bears from being attracted to your garbage, livestock and pet food.

For more information about how to co-exist with bears or to check out an UnBearAble Bin contact Stacy Courville at 883-2888 ext. 7284 or Germaine White at 883-2888 ext 7299.