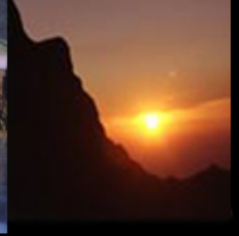


NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NEWS



CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

Volume 5, Issue 2

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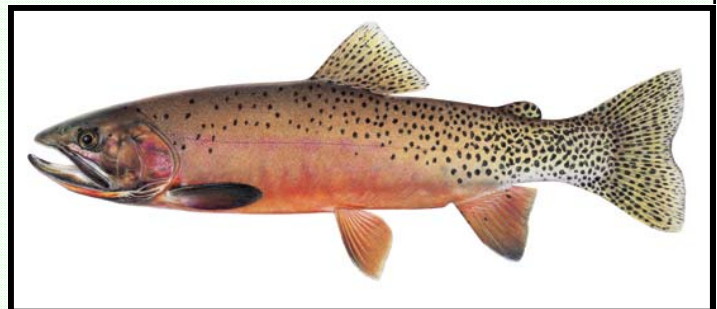
CUTTHROAT TROUT ON THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

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By Craig Barfoot, Tribal Fisheries Biologist

The westslope cutthroat trout is one of at least 10 subspecies of cutthroat trout, and a century ago it was the most widely distributed and abundant of them all, native to parts of Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Similar to many other fish native to the Northern Rockies, it was a staple in the diet of the Salish, Pend' d'Oreille, and Kootenai people and it provided a dependable and toothsome source of protein. Today, however, this wonderful and diverse fish—this shimmering jewel left in the wake of the last ice age—has declined to the point that it is no longer present in most of its former range. This is the story of that fish, how it declined, and how the tribes are working to ensure that it will still be here 100 years into the future.



Westslope cutthroat trout are one of two native trout occurring in waters of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The other, the bull trout, is a member of another group in the trout and salmon family, a group

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

By Clayton Matt, Department Head

Once again we offer a brief look at some of the many programs of the CSKT Natural Resource Department (NRD). The three divisions of the department typically include articles that report on recent past work or announce upcoming activities or provide information about some special topic.

This issue focuses mostly on special topics and employees, both current and former. In the case of the former, we highlight an award given to a deserving person who gave many years of service to the Division of Fish Wildlife Conservation and Recreation. We hope this issue is informative and insightful and encourages you to seek more information about the topics presented in the

articles or about the Natural Resource Department in general.

As always I want to acknowledge my thanks to all NRD employees for their hard work and dedication and to the Tribal Council for their continued support and to the Tribal membership for whom our work is committed.

Flathead Outdoors Radio Show is aired every Saturday morning at 8:15 on KERR 750 AM and KQRK FM.

Shoreline Protection Board will meet the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM at NRD

Tribal Web Site at www.cskt.org

Moose Permits Available by visiting the CSKT Division of Fish and Wildlife at: 406 6th Avenue East Polson, MT

NRD EMPLOYEE FOCUS - WANDA WHITWORTH



Wanda Whitworth grew up in Blackfoot, Idaho but since 1990, Tribal Member Wanda Whitworth has gone from 3-G Construction, to Mission Valley Power, all the way to Kwa-Taq-Nuk, and Early Childhood services mixed in between.

It is evident that current NRD employee Wanda Whitworth has a lot of experience working with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe. Wanda Whitworth began working for CSKT at Head Start, as she was a teacher in the program. From there, she moved on to Mission Valley Power in the customer service department before taking a job in Payroll. Then she decided to take a chance in the hotel industry, serving as the front desk manager for a time before moving on to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter. Wanting to Travel more, she moved on to San Francisco, California and worked on Pier 39 across from Alcatraz Island and near the Golden Gate Bridge. Now at home in Polson for the past two years, Wanda enjoys traveling, riding horses and motor cycles, and sewing. She has three children and three grandchildren with one on the way.

(Continued from page 1)

called the charrs, which includes two introduced species—brook trout and lake trout. Mountain and pygmy whitefishes are also salmonids that are native to the reservation. All subspecies of cutthroat trout, which evolved in western North America and are recognizable by the distinctive cutthroat mark beneath their jaws, have undergone large-scale reductions in abundance and distribution. The cutthroat trout group includes the Yellowstone cutthroat trout, the only other cutthroat trout native to Montana. Sadly, this fish, which once inhabited much of the Yellowstone River drainage of southwest and south-central Montana, is now limited to a fraction of its former range and is facing a grave threat from illegally introduced lake trout in its Yellowstone Lake stronghold. Two of the other cutthroat trout subspecies, yellowfin cutthroat trout from Colorado and Alvord cutthroat trout from two small streams in the Oregon and Nevada border area, are now extinct, both from the introduction of nonnative species. Unfortunately, the status of westslope cutthroat trout populations on the Flathead Indian Reservation is similar to that of other cutthroat trouts—most genetically pure (not interbred with introduced trouts) populations now only exist in very small isolated populations upstream of physical barriers to fish passage. Barriers, like waterfalls and

perched culverts at road crossings have, often protected westslope cutthroat trout in these areas from introduced fishes, but these small stream populations represent a minor fraction of the former diversity and abundance of this species. Nonetheless, these remaining fish have great conservation value and represent an important and unique part of our ecological and cultural heritage. Westslope cutthroat trout are a natural legacy that should be safeguarded and passed on to future generations.

Historically, westslope cutthroat trout had three life-history types that allowed them to exploit a variety of habitats from waters like Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in the western United States, to the small, steep cascading streams found high in the Mission Mountains. The three life history forms—resident, migratory, and lacustrine or lake-dwelling—all thrived on the reservation. Resident forms of cutthroat trout lived in small streams and rarely exceeded 10-12 inches in length. Migratory cutthroat trout moved between smaller streams, which they used for spawning, and rivers, such as the Flathead River, where they spent most of their adult lives and grew to much larger sizes. Lacustrine or lake-dwelling cutthroat trout, spawned in streams, but spent most of their lives in lake habitats where they grew to great sizes

(up to several pounds).

As flows receded during spring, fish of all three life history types returned with faithful precision to spawn in the clean gravels of their home streams. This homing instinct, acting in concert with natural selection over time, resulted in each stream having a population of cutthroat trout that were uniquely suited to the stream's physical characteristics. Currently, most pure cutthroat trout within reservation boundaries are of the small stream resident form; these fish exist in approximately 20 small streams or stream segments, which are generally unproductive and very restrictive habitats, and many are compromised by past and ongoing land management actions. The average length of the small streams currently occupied by pure cutthroat trout populations on the reservation is only about two miles. The smallest stream containing cutthroat trout on the reservation is a tributary to Flathead Lake, and the reach of stream occupied by the fish is only about 400 yards long. The largest stream is eight miles in length. Unfortunately, the cutthroat trout still existing in these very small reaches are at risk from the same kinds of human activities that caused the loss of the other populations on the reservation. Declines in the abundance and distribution of westslope cutthroat trout are the result of many factors, including the introduction of

GIVE WILDLIFE A BRAKE!

“Reducing animal vehicle collisions on highways are an issue facing highly planner and wildlife managers,” said Whisper Camel, Tribal Wildlife Biologist.

Fall and early winter pose particular hazards for wildlife and motorists alike. Many species of wildlife are most active at dawn, dusk, and the first few hours after darkness falls.

This time of year daylight hours are shorter. For many of us those are the hours we are on the highway driving to or from work or school.

The edges of roads that are boarded by agricultural fields, forested areas or along creeks, streams or

rivers are places to be particularly watchful for wildlife. Assume animals you encounter don't know to get out of your way. Young animals in particular do not recognize that cars are a threat.

“The Highway 93 wildlife crossing structures are getting a lot of use, but wildlife exhibit a learning curve for safe travel across the highways and some will probably continue to cross on roadways for the next couple of years,” added Whisper Camel.

Speed is a common factor in wildlife collisions. Speed reduces a drive's ability to steer away from a hazard. Some studies suggest that wildlife colli-

sions occur more than expected on clear dry nights and on long straight stretches as drivers tend to increase speed under good conditions.

“If you are involved in a wildlife collision, do not put your safety at risk, or attempt to move the animal unless you can do so in absolute safety.” emphasized Camel.

Drivers should watch for movement of animals and shining eyes on or beside the road. Drivers tend to pay close attend to the right side of the roadway and ditch because headlights illuminate that portion of that road better so remember to pay attention to both sides of the road.

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nonnative fishes and habitat alterations brought about by land uses such as poorly managed grazing, logging, irrigation, and the construction of roads and bridges and other parts of our fish compete with, prey upon, and hybridize (cross) with westslope cutthroat trout. For example, brook trout, a species native to eastern North America, have been widely introduced—both legally and illegally—in smaller stream systems across the range of cutthroat trout and have caused the decline or loss of many native trout populations. Westslope cutthroat trout also readily hybridize or cross with introduced rainbow trout. Rainbow trout have been widely stocked in mountain streams and lakes throughout the West, including the Mission Mountains. Hybridization causes the loss of locally adapted cutthroat trout populations, the product of thousands of years of natural selection. What remains is a trout, but not westslope cutthroat trout, the fish of this place, the fish that the ancestors of today' depended on.



Montana Roads cause mortality of numerous wildlife species including white-tail deer. (pictured below)

You can Help
Recycle Today



Please recycle

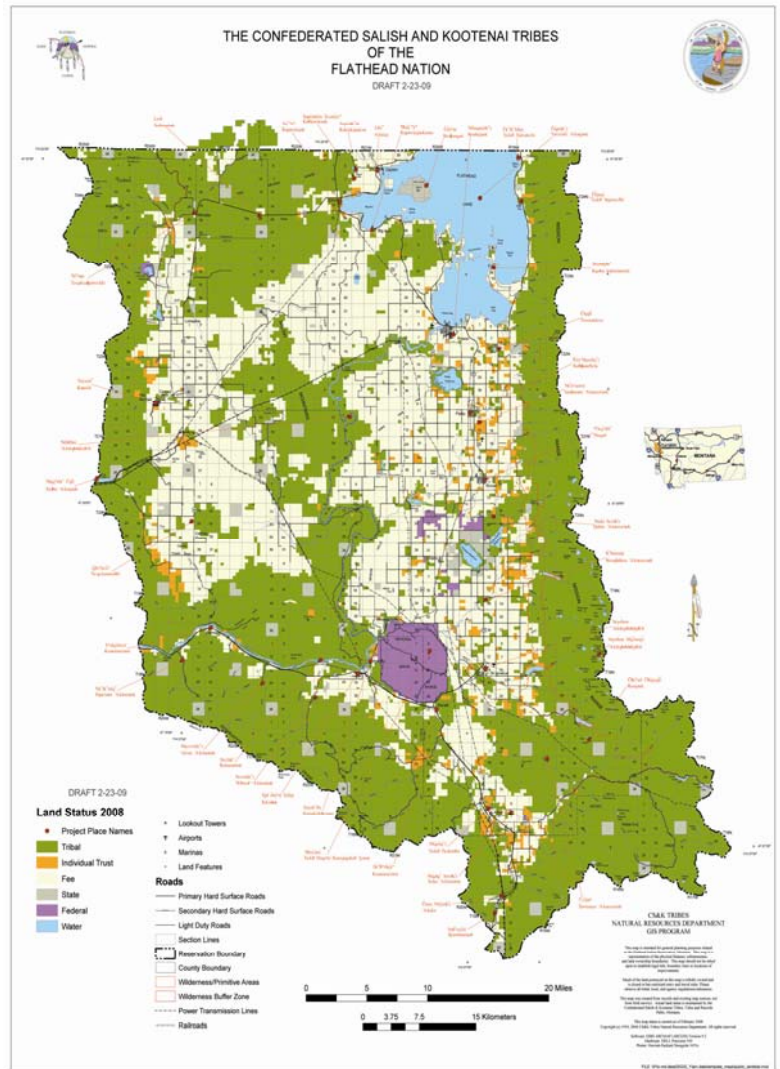


LAND STATUS MAP WITH TRIBAL PLACENAMES

By Mickey Fisher,
GIS Analyst,
Division of Water

The Flathead Indian Reservation Land Status map with Tribal place names was developed to provide opportunities for both employee and public education on some of the traditional names used by tribal members to identify specific areas across the reservation.

When given this particular project we wanted to create a map that would have the Salish, Kootenai and English name of these specific locations on a map. We also wanted to be able to have available the translations of what the Salish and Kootenai words mean. We were careful to make sure that there are no conflicts with the culture committees



on the sensitivity of these names and locations. These locations include areas that are commonly known to tribal members, as well as the towns on the reservation.

The elders committee made the final decision on which names and locations we could use for our final product that will be incorporated on the land status maps. A draft map has been made and is presently being reviewed by both culture committees’.

For more information contact Peter Gilliard, GIS Program Manager at 675-2700.

MARTINA SAVAGE RETIRES.... AGAIN



Tom McDonald (center) CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Division Manager and Terry "Tunes" Tanner (right) Chairperson of the Joint Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board present Martina (Tena) Savage (left) with a plaque for her commitment to the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board. Tena recently retired from the

By Bernie Azure (Char-Koosta News)

Pablo- " Today we all have the privilege to recognize and honor a person for true community service and leadership, a trait that she has demonstrated throughout her life and career, and a standard that we all should follow throughout our lives" said Division Manager Tom McDonald.

McDonald said Savage's service on the board has been invaluable and helped lead to a greater public understanding of the Tribes management of the reservation fish and wildlife resources.

"Being on the Fish and Wildlife Board is being in a post of invaluable measure providing a community link, a public sounding board, and mediation and direction to the Tribal-State Cooperative Bird Hunting and Fishing agreement and its respective agencies," McDonald said. "During her board tenure, Tena's leadership has certainly been an important part of the successful management of the 18-year old agreement and the resources it entrusts.

Thank you Tina for a Job Well Done, your service, volunteerism. And dedication behooves us all said McDonald.



Under Construction at Kwa-Taq-Nuk Resort is the new and improved Marina including Boat Slips and Fuel for recreationists.

Kwa-Taq-Nuk expects the Marina to be ready for the summer recreation season. Any question call 883-3636

NEW NON-MEMBERS PERMITS AVAILABLE

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation announce the availability of Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Regulations for the 2009-2010 license season. The new license season begins March 1, 2009.

"Permit fees and regulations will remain the same again this year, said Tom McDonald, Manager of the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation.

"We anticipate increased local recreation this year and encourage local residents to get their permit and stamps early, added McDonald.

McDonald invites all bird hunters, anglers, recreationists to the

Tribes' Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation office at 406 6th Avenue East in Polson to obtain there license and regulation booklet for the 2009-2010 permit season.

According to McDonald, permits are also available at local vendors. The Tribe's continue implementing the State Automated Licensing System and will offer the new licenses and stamps for sale on the internet at <http://app.mt.gov/index>

Contact Amanda Bourdon, Permit Agent, or Germaine White, Information & Education Specialist at 883-2888 if you have questions regarding the Hunting, Fishing and Recreation

Regulations for the 2009-20010 season

Permits Available at Local Vendors or on the internet at <http://app.mt.gov.index>

SHORELINE PROTECTION COMPLIANCE

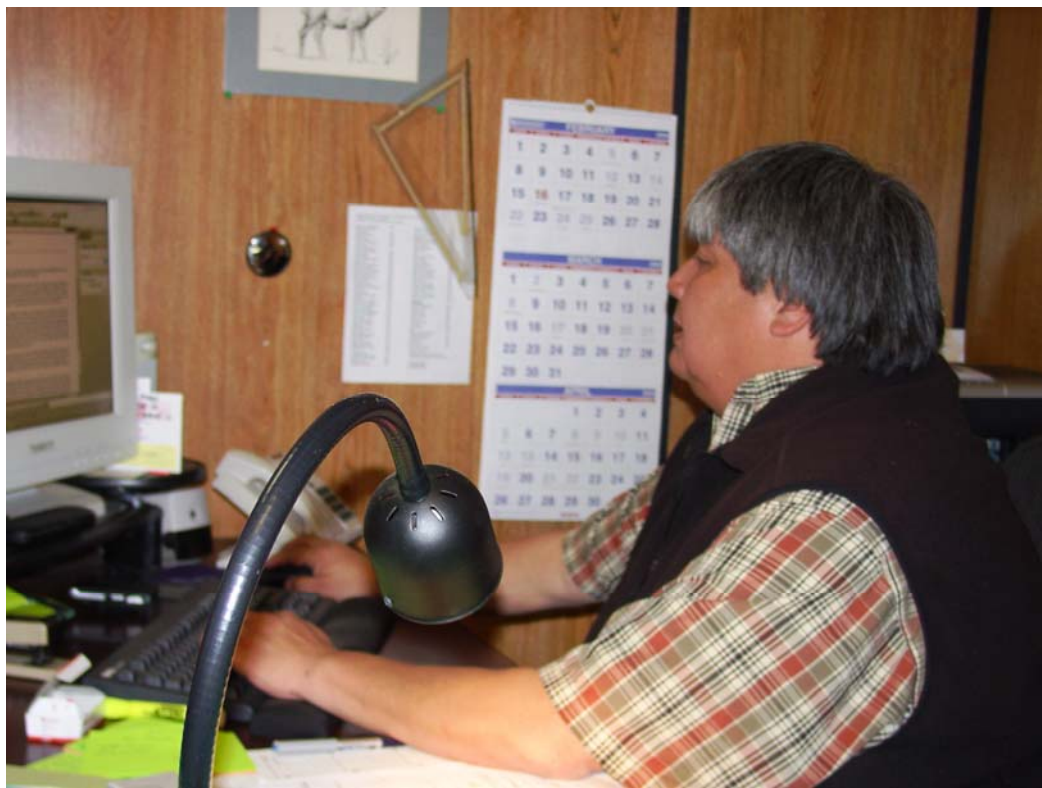
“The Shoreline Protection Program has been in place since 1983”

The Program administers Tribal Ordinances 64A and 87A which deal with Flathead Lake Structures and dredge and fill activities on all other bodies of water within the reservation boundaries.

By Dan Lipscomb, Shoreline Protection Administrator

Mr. Frank Acevedo has worked for the tribes for the last 30 years doing a number of natural resource related jobs, he first started as a technician in the Wildlife Department working with the BIA wildlife biologists at that time, Bob Claver and Jim Claar. He worked a number of projects two of which were to help in relocating and starting of the Bighorn Sheep population in the Perma/Clear Creek area and relocation several elk herds to various locations throughout the reservation. After that he took a job with Fish and Game as a game warden where he

worked until 1995, at that time he was transferred to the Shoreline Office to fill the vacant position of compliance officer which is where he has been ever sense. Franks duties as Shoreline Protections Compliance Officer are to work with and correct unpermitted work related both Ordinance 64A and 87A. These ordinances are specific in that 64A regulates only structures and work occurring below the mean annual high water mark for Flathead Lake, 87A regulates all work related to the rest of reservations creeks, streams and specific wetlands. Currently we are at a100% compliance for both ordinances.



Compliance Officer, Frank Acevedo

WINTER SNOW SURVEY'S

By George McLeod, Chief of Field Operations, Division of Water Management

The CSKT, NRD, Water Management Program has been working in conjunction with the NRCS and the Flathead Indian Irrigation since approximately 1985 on measuring the yearly snowpack for Northwestern Montana. The Water Management team consists of Steve Ashley, Dennis Courville, Gerald Barnaby, Seth Makepeace, and George McLeod. All of the Water Management team except for Seth is certified snow surveyors. To become certified you must attend a week long course that teaches you how to make the measurement correctly. The course focuses on mountain first aid and safety. The students are also required to build a snow shelter and spend the evening in it, in usually below zero temperature.

The purpose for measuring the snow pack is to first determine

how many inches of water is in the snow pack and then what percentage of the snow pack is water. This information is used for irrigation, recreation, and fire control to name just a few. The measuring equipment consists of several metal tubes that are hallowed and calibrated in inches on the outside of the tubes. The tubes come in three foot sections that can be threaded together depending on the depth of snow to be measured. Once the number of tubes has been determined they are threaded together and are weighed empty. The empty weight of the tubes is then recorded on the survey note. A snow course usually consists of ten sampling points. The depth of snow is measured by pushing the tubes down through the snow until the ground surface is reached. As the tubes are being pushed down the snow goes up into the tubes leaving a core of snow in the tubes. The tubes are then weighed with the snow in them. The full weight of the tubes

minus the empty weight of the tubes gives you your inches of water. The inches of water are then divided by the total depth of snow to give you your percentage of water. This is done at all ten sampling points and then is averaged for the final results. Snow surveys can take any where from 10 minutes to 1 hour depending on the snow conditions.

The snow survey courses are reached by helicopter, snowmobile, snowshoes, and by skiing. The snow surveyor needs to be in good physical condition and know how to dress for the weather to be confronted. He must also be able to make decisions that do not endanger the safety of the crew. An example would be to know when to abort a survey when incoming weather could strand you at the site. Basic helicopter training is advisable and could be the difference between life and death. All of the Water Management team are certified snowmobilers, certified in first aide, and have years of experience.



Dennis Courville (left), water management Technician and George McLeod, Chief of Field Operations embark on snow measurements in the Mission Mountains this winter.

Snow measurements are used to determine how much water is in the snow pack



A People of Vision

**Natural Resources
Department
Clayton Matt,
Department Head**

**NRD Divisions:
Fish, Wildlife, Recrea-
tion and Conservation**

Division Manager:
Tom McDonald

**Environmental Protec-
tion**

Division Manager:
Rich Janssen

Water Administration

Division Manager:
Bill Foust

Polson Office
301 Main Street
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
Phone: 406-883-2888
FAX: 406-883-2896

Division of Fish and
Wildlife
406 6th Avenue East
Polson, MT

Safety of Dam's
711 3rd Avenue SW
Ronan, MT
675-2700



Recycle— Do your part

You too can recycle your old newspaper, cardboard, aluminum cans, used oil, tires, old car batteries, phone books, and magazines at the Polson Folk shop (883-6839) and the Lake County Transfer Station (883-7323)

EMPLOYEE FOCUS—TRACEY CARPENTIER

Tribal Member and current NRD Administration Secretary **Tracey Carpentier** is the newest member of our department. Born and raised on the reservation Tracey went to school in Ronan and Two Eagle where she played basketball and worked for the school newspaper. Tracey first began with CSKT at S.Y.E.P, then moved on to the main switchboard operations for many years. Tracey has also worked for the Personnel Department, Mission Valley Power, and Tribal Credit before moving to Spokane, Washington. From Spokane, she embarked on a journey that brought her to the Emerald City of Seattle on the Northwest Coast. This past year she



moved home and began working for NRD w main receptionist with the Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Division. Since she has been home, she found a new love for recreation in our outdoors. Tracey has began exploring our lands proudly says

that there is at least 702 steps leading to Kerr Dam overlook west of Polson. Tracey has two children and loves basketball, football, and driving within the legal limits. She loves visiting Spokane but the Flathead Reservation is where her heart is.

Lake County Recycling Center
Located at the Transfer Station on Highway 93 North of Pablo

Picture and story provided by Mark Nelson,
Program Manager for Lake County Solid Waste



RECYCLE YOUR

OLD CORRUGATED BOXES (CARDBOARD)

Corrugated Boxes and Kraft paper (grocery bags). Flatten the boxes and do not include plastics or Styrofoam, wet or food contaminated boxes.

Do not include: Wax Coated Cardboard, Feed / Seed Sacks, Food Encrusted Material, Beverage Boxes (coated), Pop Carriers (coated), Chipboard (Cereal & Tissue Boxes).

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING

Newspapers and Advertising Supplements that come with the newspapers can stay with the newspapers. Newspapers should be loose.

Do not include: Magazines / Catalogs, Phone Books, Unwanted Residential Mail, Envelopes / Books, Cereal Boxes

MAGAZINE RECYCLING

Only slick or glossy magazines and catalogs accepted. Any shiny magazine like Time, Newsweek, and National Geographic.

Do not include: Tabloids, Phone Books (a separate bin is available for phone books)

