



FISHERIES PROGRAM

our mission is to restore, foster, and maintain wild, self-sustaining fish populations to meet cultural, subsistence, and recreational needs.



Aubree Bensen ©

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Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
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Program Description

The Tribal Fisheries Program is recognized as a highly professional and innovative fisheries agency. Its restoration efforts on the Jocko River and its acquisition and enhancement of fisheries habitat across the Reservation are models cited nationwide.

The Fisheries Program surveys habitat and aquatic life and fish populations in streams and lakes. It monitors fishing; conducts research on hybridization rates; surveys trout populations for whirling disease; removes invasive, non-native species; and implements fish-habitat improvement projects.



Lake trout fishing on Flathead Lake.

Species of Concern



Bull Trout



Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Among its most important activities is habitat restoration. These projects are designed to improve water quality and help the streams return to a naturally functioning system by reconnecting them to their historic floodplain and establishing more natural erosion and deposition patterns. Specific projects include: reconstructing channels; re-vegetating riparian areas; removing fish-passage barriers, levees, culverts, and roads; and conducting outreach to the community.



Traditional canoe.

Program Goals

To maintain population and habitat databases to scientifically manage fisheries and habitat resources on the Reservation.

To integrate fisheries issues into resource management decisions to prevent degradation or depletion of fish populations or habitats and to develop mitigation plans to offset adverse impacts.

To administer the Tribal Fisheries Management Plan and fisheries management activities to maximize the effectiveness of funding and personnel through planning, fund-raising, partnerships, communications, and staff-development.

Below: Electrofishing the Jocko River. Top Left: Salish fishing hooks and line.

