

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

*CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES*

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# G.I.S. Clients

- N R D
- Division of Lands
- Water Rights
- NEPA
- Environ. Protect.
- S.O.D.
- Water admin.
- Water Management.
- Preservation.
- Culture Committee's
- Fire Management
- F.W.R.C.
- MVP
- Forestry

# Flathead Indian Reservation

- 26,172 people live here.
- 4,782 tribal members live on reservation.
- 2,455 tribal members live off reservation.
- 7,237 CS&K tribal members.

# Flathead Indian Reservation

- 1.3 million acres
- 572,283 acres of forest
- 236,212 acres of available Tribal Forest
- 2,050 square miles of land fall within Reservation boundaries
- There are 1,600 miles of public roads:

# Flathead Indian Reservation

- 373 miles of BIA roads;
- 89 miles of federal highway;
- 13 miles of state highways;
- 914 miles of county roads
- There are 2,600 miles of Tribal roads

## **Basic Flathead Indian Reservation Information**

The Flathead Indian Reservation is the home of the Bitterroot Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai people and is located in the mountains of western Montana. Flathead is the name of the reservation, not a people. The tribes are formally referred to as the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The CS&K Tribes shared this land since time immemorial. The Bitterroot Salish and Pend d'Oreille are both Salish bands and share the same language base. However, the Kootenai are a separate tribe with their own distinct culture and language.

The reservation land base of the CS&K Tribes is a remnant portion of their aboriginal homeland. The tribes govern themselves with a tribal council that consists of ten elected members. The tribes have had to buy back large portions of their land because the U.S. government divided it up under allotment legislation and declared unallotted land “surplus,” opening it up to homesteading in 1910. Approximately 62% is tribally owned, the remaining acreage having passed out of trust status into fee patent.

The Flathead Indian Reservation is beautiful and rich in natural resources. Tall mountains, abundant wildlife, coniferous forests, numerous lakes, rivers and streams paint the reservation landscape. Missoula, one of the largest Montana cities, sits less than 30 miles from the reservation. Unlike many reservations, members of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes are a minority on their own reservation. As a result, tribal people have undergone great efforts to maintain and preserve their reserved homeland and culture.

Due to the mostly rural setting of the reservation and the reservation's proximity to an urban area, tribal members (about 7,237) work in a wide variety of professions on and off the reservation. Many cultural activities are still practiced and others are being revived. Most importantly, the members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes remain resilient, strong and still here.