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## **STATUS OF TRIBAL WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECTS ON THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION**

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In 2000 the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Pennsylvania Power and Light Montana, and the Department of Interior reached a settlement agreement that was adopted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to mitigate the negative impacts of the operation of Kerr dam on fish and wildlife resources on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The settlement included funds for habitat acquisition and restoration, monitoring and wildlife enhancement projects. Habitat acquisitions were to be completed within 5 yrs of completing a habitat acquisition and restoration plan. To achieve the mitigation targets, the Tribes chose to both acquire new lands and redirect the management of existing Tribal lands. Acquisitions were completed in 2007. Under Kerr mitigation the Tribes purchased and redirected management of nearly 8000 ac of land for wildlife habitat restoration and management. Additional lands were purchased to offset agricultural uses on Tribal lands that were redirected and to provide more land for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources. This presentation will summarize the

accomplishments that have been achieved and provide a status report on various ongoing projects within the Tribal Mitigation Program.