

TRUMPETER SWAN REINTRODUCTION OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION ^{TWS}

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The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, in a cooperative project with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mission Valley Community Foundation, commenced a project to reintroduce Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) on the Flathead Indian Reservation in 1995. The initial effort involved translocation of 19 Trumpeter Swans from Summer Lake, Oregon to Pablo National Wildlife Refuge. Those swans proved that suitable summer habitat existed on the Reservation, but they returned to Canada after migrating from the area. A second effort in 1998, using 10 Trumpeter Swan cygnets from Grand Prairie, Alberta, again proved the suitability of the habitat at the refuge. To date, only one swan has returned to the area. Due to problems in obtaining suitable swans suitable for reintroduction, the Tribes acquired a 22 captive trumpeter swans in 1999 and entered into an agreement with the Trumpeter Swan Fund to captively-propagate Trumpeter swans for the project. The captive propagation project resulted in production of 15 and 20 cygnets in 2000 and 2001, respectively. These birds will be released on the Flathead Reservation during the summer of 2002. Fifteen of the swans will be instrumented with satellite transmitters to monitor their migratory movements and survival. Current and future efforts involve continuing with the captive propagation and

reintroduction efforts, with the goal of re-establishment of a viable wild population on the Reservation.