



Protecting Montana's wildlife, land, waters, and hunting & fishing heritage for future generations.

Board Resolution on Tribal Sovereignty over fish and wildlife resources on Indian Reservations

Whereas Montana includes seven Indian Reservations, each with substantial land;

Whereas many of these reservations were established through treaties between the tribes and the U.S. government;

Whereas these treaties generally involved the tribes ceding large tracts of lands but reserving a homeland (reservations) for their exclusive use and occupation, along with other reserved rights;

Whereas some tribes in Montana negotiated the right to hunt and fish in traditional areas outside of the reservation boundaries;

Whereas treaties between the United States and Indian tribes form the foundation for the government-to-government relationships between the Federal government and Indian tribes;

Whereas treaties are the basis for the concept of tribal sovereignty;

Whereas the inherent sovereignty of Indian tribes and judicial decisions have shaped and defined tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction over management of their reservation lands, the natural resources on those lands and the actions necessary to adequately protect those resources for the benefit of tribes and their members; and

Whereas Montana has entered into several tribal-state cooperative agreements that support tribal natural resource management; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF):

1. Is supportive of tribal sovereignty, focusing on the tribes' ability to manage and regulate the use of natural resources such as fish and wildlife on their lands.
2. Will increase its outreach to tribes to explore ways of supporting tribal sovereignty and tribal fish, wildlife, and habitat management.
3. Will develop strong relationships with the tribes to oppose efforts to diminish the tribes' regulatory and management capabilities for fish, wildlife, and habitat.
4. Will be an active supporter of tribal fish, wildlife, and habitat projects on and off tribal reservations, especially when those projects benefit shared interests.

Moved: Jim Vashro

Second: Glenn Elison

Passed 14 for and 0 against

April 15, 2023, at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation