

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

FOR RELEASE: January 24, 2013

CONTACT: Judy Beck, 444-9725

Bullock Names Pat Smith to Northwest Power & Conservation Council

HELENA – Governor Bullock today announced that he has appointed Patrick Smith, a Missoula attorney who specializes in Indian and natural resource law, as one of Montana’s two representatives on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

“With the renegotiation of the Columbia River treaty now underway, it is an especially important time for Montana to have a proven consensus builder on the Council, and Pat fits that bill,” Bullock said. “He has made a career of working with others to balance a wide range of competing interests and I believe he will ensure that Montana’s needs are recognized and respected.”

Smith, 60, is an enrolled member of the Assiniboine Tribe. He has practiced law in Montana for 30 years. His firm dealt with a range of legal issues, including state-tribal agreements, natural resource law, water rights and economic development. During that time, he served as an in-house attorney with the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Legal Department.

Smith earned a Bachelor’s degree in History and Political Science from University of Montana and his law degree from the University of Montana Law School.

“I am honored to serve as a member of the Council. The actions of the Council have real implications for a broad cross section of Montanans – ranging from electric co-op ratepayers worried about rates and anglers concerned about bull trout, to Indian tribes seeking to protect their treaty rights. I’ve spent much of my career bringing diverse interests together and look forward to the challenge.”

Most recently, Smith served as a member of the Montana Redistricting Commission.

###

Bio Box: Patrick Smith

Age: 60

Birthdate and place: October 13, 1952, in Helena.

Occupation: Indian law practice in Montana for 30 years, including 10 years as an in-house attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (1984-1994).

Family History: Raised in Billings and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, where his family operates a wheat farm. He and his wife, Michelle Stearns, live in Arlee. He is an enrolled member of the Assiniboine Tribe.

Education: Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from University of Montana and law degree from University of Montana Law School.

Political Experience: Past member of the Montana Redistricting Commission (2009-2013).