

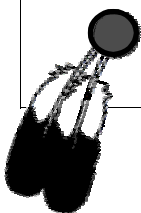


# State of Montana

## Report on Agency Activities with Tribal Nations and Populations



December 2005



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Photo 1: Hunter  
Rose, jingle dancer.

## **Acknowledgements**

The editing team and the GAIN Council is thankful for the state department personnel that designed the new GAIN data base and greatly appreciates the time and effort they spent in expediting the implementation of the online data base. The state department personnel that completed the data collection in the new GAIN database also deserve special recognition for attending training and meeting the deadlines for data entry.

## **Editing Team**

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## INTRODUCTION

Section 2-15-143, MCA, was passed during the 2003 legislative session to emphasize the unique relationship between the Montana Indian Nations and the State of Montana. It supports the idea that sovereign tribal governments and the state can effectively work together with honor and trust on matters of concern to both. This report, required each year, measures how well the State of Montana met that challenge.

The full text of Section 2-15-143, MCA, is available in Appendix F of this report on the GAIN website.

## REPORT STRATEGY

This year, for the first time, the Tribal Relations Report is being prepared and submitted to the Governor and the Tribal Governments as one document, highlighting the major accomplishments or activities of individual agencies. It provides a single source for anyone to look at activities involving any tribe or agency. Appendices to the report will be on the GAIN website at [www.gain.mt.gov](http://www.gain.mt.gov).



Photo 2: Joe and Rena Pickett of the Apsaalooke Nation adopted Governor Brian Schweitzer into the tribe and the Bad War Deeds Clan in May 2005.



## **GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER'S ADMINISTRATION MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Governor Brian Schweitzer made the government-to-government relationship between the State of Montana and the Montana Indian Nations a top priority for his administration. The first year of his administration was filled with many wonderful occasions during which Governor Schweitzer joined with Tribal Chairpersons and representatives. At Governor Schweitzer's swearing in ceremony, on January 3, 2005, he was honored with an opening prayer by Chief Earl Old Person of the Blackfeet Nation and an honor song sung by representatives from all the Tribal Nations in Montana. As the day continued, Governor Schweitzer received all eight of the Tribal Nations in the Governor's Reception Hall where he was presented with tribal flags. These flags continue to hang in this room as a constant reminder of the Governor's commitment to government-to-government relations with the Montana Indian Nations. At the Governor's request, the Owl Dance replaced the traditional first waltz of the Inaugural Ball.

The Governor committed to meet with all of the Nations in their tribal chambers within the first six months of his administration and he is pleased to report that he met this deadline by May 2005. In addition he conducted a series of "diplomacy meetings" with many of the Nations. These meetings provided the specific Nation with the opportunity to identify issues of importance to their Nation and to discuss them with the Governor, his staff and department directors. As a result of these meetings, it became clear that, although each Nation had specific needs and concerns, there also were many concerns held in common by all of the Nations. The issues identified by the Nations often included a federal government partner. In June the Governor brought the Nations, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS) and key members of his staff and state government employees together to begin to create innovative solutions to some of the problems faced by the Nations. This was the first time BIA and IHS regional directors had been invited to the meet with the Governor and the Nations at the state capitol. These meetings are now referred to as a Tri-Party Gatherings with two more in the planning stages on transportation issues and law enforcement.

The Governor was invited to present the Commencement Address at graduation ceremonies at Dull Knife Memorial College on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and the Salish-Kootenai College on the Flathead Reservation. He also spoke to the high school graduates of Browning High School on the Blackfeet Reservation.

During the summer Pow Wow season, he danced in the grand entry at the Arlee Celebration and rode a "paint" horse in the Browning Indian Days and Crow Fair parades and the All-Indian Crow Fair Rodeo later that day.

Governor Schweitzer spoke at several Indian organizations' meetings as well as hosting many meetings at the Capitol. He spoke to the social service providers at

the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Child and Family Conference in Billings, Montana. The Governor was honored to speak in Oklahoma at the Annual Convention of the National Congress on American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest organization representing Native Americans across the Nation. During his keynote address, there was complete silence as he described his heartbeat and the beating of the drum by pounding loudly on the podium.

The Governor was adopted by Joe and Rena Pickette and given the name of Biilápaaache (Bee-a-gaw-da), which means friend in the Apsaalooke language. He is a member of the Bad War Deeds Clan.

These accomplishments are historically significant, if not unprecedented, for a Montana governor.

### **Appointments and Staff**

Governor Schweitzer is committed to bringing American Indian heritage into state government. He has appointed tribal members Rhonda Whiting and Reno Charette to his Cabinet, Anna Whiting-Sorrell as one of his policy advisors, and Major Robinson as a Senior Economic Specialist. Ten percent of his appointments to boards and commissions represent Montana's minorities, including 43 American Indians. The Governor continues to seek the best and the brightest the Indian Nations have to offer for state jobs at all levels, as well as encouraging his department directors to hire American Indians.

### **Governor's American Indian Nations (GAIN) Council**

The Governor's first Executive Order created a task force, now known as the Governor's American Indian Nations (GAIN) Council, with the primary purpose to ensure that all activities conducted between the Nations and the State of Montana are conducted government-to-government. (See Figure A: Governor's American Indian Nations (GAIN) Council on page 8). In addition, GAIN is responsible to ensure proper protocol is followed with the Tribal Nations. Administratively, GAIN coordinates and reviews state agreements and activities with tribes to ensure consistent principles are followed and meaningful tribal consultation has occurred.

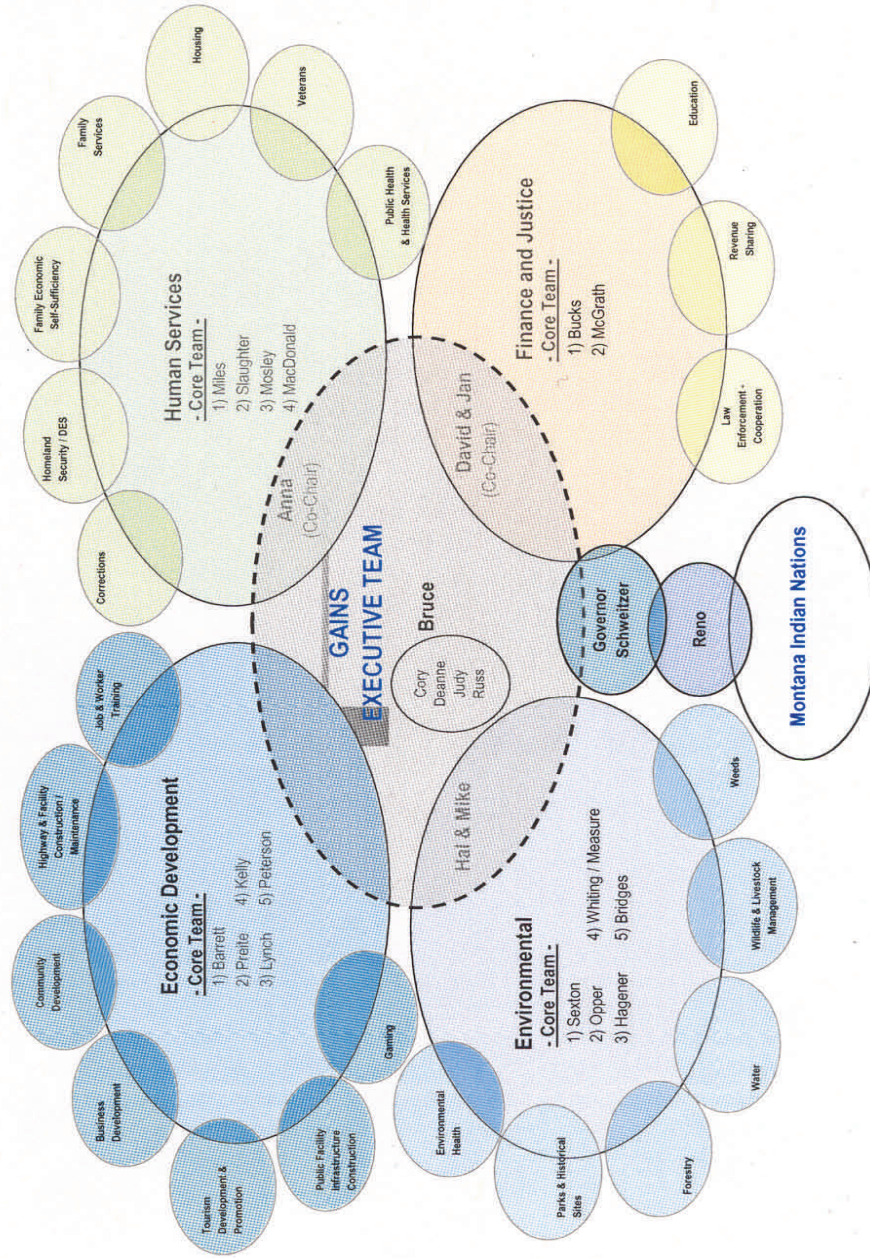
GAIN consists of the highest level of the Schweitzer Administration including the Chief of Staff, Budget Director, policy staff and department directors. The Indian Affairs Coordinator assists to ensure proper protocol is followed and to provide cultural competency training when appropriate.

The organizational strategy of GAIN consists of the Executive Team and four Core Teams. The Executive Team provides overall policy and guidance.



Figure A: Governor's American Indian Nations (GAIN) Council

Organizational Strategy



Members of the GAIN Executive Team are:

- David Ewer, State Budget Director, Co-Chair
- Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Governor's Policy Advisor, Co-Chair
- Bruce Nelson, Governor's Chief of Staff
- Major Robinson, Governor's Economic Development Office

Staff for the GAIN Executive Team is:

- Judy Paynter, Revenue and Tax Policy Manager - Office of Budget and Program Planning
- Deanne Sandholm, Legal Counsel
- Cory Johns, Administrative Support
- Russ McDonald, Executive Assistant

The four Core Teams are:

- Human Services – Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Policy Advisor, Chair
- Environmental – Hal Harper, Chief Policy Advisor, Chair
- Economic Development – Major Robinson, Governor's Economic Development Office, Chair
- Finance – David Ewer, State Budget Director, Chair

The Director of each Department associated with State/Tribal activities is a member of the appropriate Core Team. The organizational strategy for GAIN appears on the GAIN website.

### **GAIN Database**

Governor Schweitzer wanted to know the extent of the state's involvement with tribal governments. From the data provided by state agencies, it quickly became clear that state government had a substantial and varied impact on tribal governments and tribal populations.

The Department of Administration – Information Services Division developed a web-based Oracle application for developing a full inventory. Training for agency staff was delivered on November 15, 2005, and data entry began the same week. All of the Information about agency tribal activity is expected to be in the GAIN database by December 15, 2005.

Tribal governments, agencies, and the public will be able to access reports from this database that will be available on the GAIN website as they become available.

### **Indian Education for All Montanans**

Governor Schweitzer's budget submission to the 2004 Legislature resulted in an historic investment of \$3,250,000 for Indian Education for All, to assure that all Montana students leave the public school system with an understanding of the rich history and contemporary issues of the Indians of Montana. Of the total, \$2,000,000 goes to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for model curriculum development, classroom materials, and professional development for educators. The remaining \$1,250,000 goes to tribal colleges to detail in their own words each of their tribal histories. These tribal histories will be used by the State of Montana.

### **Indian Education**

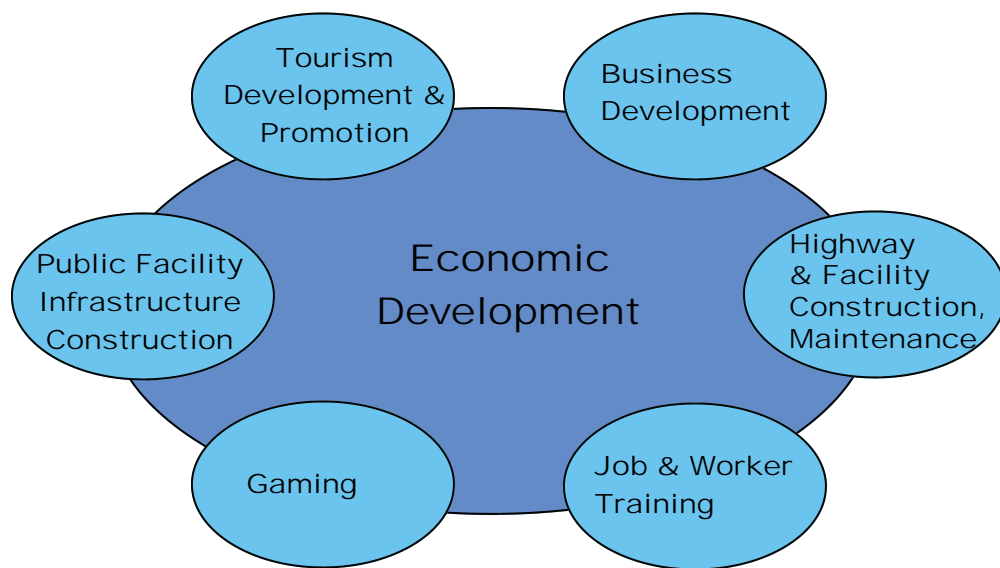
The Governor's commitment to Indian education continues with support of the seven Montana Tribal colleges budgets including \$400,000 for non-Indian student services and \$1,250,000 to insure that current technology and equipment are used to prepare graduates to join the workforce.

### **Tribal Economic Development**

Governor Schweitzer successfully proposed \$1,000,000 for Indian Country economic development. The money is to be used by the Montana Tribal Nations to take advantage of existing and potential economic opportunities on Montana's Indian Reservations. He supported the extension of the Tribal Economic Development Commission for four more years, including \$120,000 in prior year appropriations.



Photo 3: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger and Apsaalooke Tribal Chairman, Carl Venne at the dedication of the Crow Veterans Park.



#### Core Team

- ▶ Major Robinson, Indian Country Policy Advisor, *Economic Opportunity (Chair)*
- ▶ Evan Barrett, Director, *Economic Opportunity*
- ▶ Keith Kelly, Director, *Department of Labor and Industry*
- ▶ Jim Lynch, Director, *Department of Transportation*
- ▶ Nancy Peterson, Director, *Department of Agriculture*
- ▶ Tony Preite, Director, *Department of Commerce*

## **Economic Development: Executive Summary**

The Economic Development Core consists of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor and Industry and Transportation. In 2005, these agencies focused their efforts in a wide range of activities aimed towards or on behalf of Montana Indian peoples.

Through such programs as Growth through Agriculture, the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Advisory Council and an overall change in organizational emphasis, the Montana Department of Agriculture provided programming as well as opportunity to Indian tribes and individuals. Department of Commerce focused on tribal economic development with business development projects, training aimed at workforce and entrepreneurial training, efforts through the Montana Board of Housing in addition to Community Block Grants and Montana Coal Board grants. Labor and Industry provided Montana Conservation Corps assistance in the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and also provided tribal high school students with career information.

Montana Department of Transportation undertook driving safety initiatives under the Montana Tribal Safety Conscious Planning Forum to address issues such as seat belt use, and reducing the number of alcohol-related crashes.

## **Department of Agriculture**

With a change in the organizational emphasis of the Department of Agriculture, came a new focus to address issues and concerns of tribal members, organizations and governments. This ranged from room training for staff, communication with all Montana Tribal Governments regarding "Growth Through Agriculture," involvement and information to tribal organizations regarding opportunities with the Noxious Weed Trust Fund and inviting tribes to provide input to the writing of a new national Farm Bill.

### **Revised Organization Chart to Put Producers, Consumers First**

The Department of Agriculture reorganized its emphasis in June 2005 to place "Producers, Consumers & Agricultural Industry" in the lead position. In the course of this reorganization, Director Nancy Peterson has instructed department personnel to review program procedures and take steps to invite participation by tribal organizations and members. Five members of the managers' team including Director Peterson and Deputy Director Joel Clairmont attended "Building Effective Government and Business Relations with American Indian Tribes, a state-sponsored training June 6-7, 2005, Department staff have communicated with individuals or tribal officials at each of the seven reservations regarding opportunities available under the Montana Growth Through Agriculture program. In September 2005, the Agricul-

ture Development Council approved a \$50,000 GTA grant to the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation for a business plan and marketing study for a project involving ethanol and ethanol by-products. At least one other proposal involving tribal efforts is scheduled for action at the council's December meeting.

Noxious weed management efforts by the department also have involved each of the reservations. The Noxious Weed Trust Fund Advisory Council allocated \$6,200 for salary and other expenses to each of the seven reservations to help provide consistency in weed control budgets. In May 2005, the council awarded \$10,882 to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for a project to use aerial application of herbicides to control sulfur cinquefoil and spotted knapweed on the Flathead Indian Reservation. A second grant of \$16,175 went to the Rocky Boy's Reservation to hire seasonal applicators to control spotted knapweed, Russian knapweed, leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax and houndstongue on the reservation.

When a Montana Cherry Research & Market Development program was created in May 2005, Director Peterson named a Polson grower and tribal member to serve on the Montana Cherry Advisory Committee.

### **Comment on 2007 Farm Bill**

Director Nancy K. Peterson of the Montana Department of Agriculture serves on two national working groups – one appointed by the National Governor's Association and another by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture – to provide input to the writing of a new national Farm Bill. As part of an effort to advocate for Montana producers regarding federal farm programs, Director Peterson wrote letters to elected leaders of the seven federally recognized tribes and the state-recognized Little Shell Tribe of Montana. The letters asked tribal officials if any of their enrolled members have faced obstacles in working with federal agencies or in using programs authorized under the existing farm bill.

The department intends to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to congressional leaders regarding proposals for a new farm bill or extension of the existing law, which authorizes programs administered by the federal Farm Service Agency and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The American Indian Livestock Feed Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, crop Loan Deficiency Payments, and the Conservation Reserve Program are among programs authorized by the farm bill.

### **Montana Growth Through Agriculture**

Department staff communicated with individuals or tribal officials at each of the seven reservations about opportunities available under the Montana Growth Through Agriculture program. In September 2005, the Agriculture Development

Council approved a \$50,000 GTA grant to the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation for a business plan and marketing study for a project involving ethanol and ethanol by-products. At least one other proposal involving tribal efforts is scheduled for action at the council's December meeting.

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Tribal Economic Development – Business Resources Division**

Governor Schweitzer included economic development as one of his top priorities for the 2005 legislative session. One of the requests the Governor included in his budget was Indian Economic Development funding. The Department of Commerce has been authorized to invest \$500,000 in Indian country in each of the two fiscal years starting in July of 2005. This funding is in addition to other resources that are available to Indian Nations for economic development activities.

The governing body of each Montana Indian Reservation and the governing body of the Little Shell Band of Chippewa-Cree Indians are eligible to apply. Funding became available in October of this year and the Department of Commerce has received applications from and contracted with the Fort Peck, Rocky Boy's, and Northern Cheyenne Tribal Governments. Applications from the remaining reservations and the Little Shell Tribe are expected shortly.

Eligible activities include:

- **Business Development Projects:** Business expansion, retention, start-up, or relocation if applied for by the Governing Body. The Applicant may grant or loan the money to a business enterprise if it will produce a positive economic benefit for the Tribe(s). In this context, a positive economic benefit will be defined as the near-term creation or retention of job opportunities for Tribal members in Montana. The investment made by the Tribe or the Company must be equal to or greater than the funds applied for under this program.
- **Workforce Training Projects:** Projects that train tribal members in job skills currently needed by a specific company on or off of the reservation in Montana is an eligible. The company must commit to hiring the workers permanently and must document that equal matching funds are being provided by the company for the training. A maximum of \$5,000 in training funds may be requested for each person to be hired and trained.
- **Entrepreneurial Training:** The Tribe(s) may request funding for the creation or maintenance of activities that are designed to provide entrepreneurial training for reservation members. An example of this kind of request would be to continue to provide small business technical assistance through an existing organi-



zation such as a Tribal Business Information Center. Equal matching funds are required for funding in this category of activity.

- Feasibility Study: A feasibility study may be eligible, providing it will have a significant impact on the future economic development of the reservation. Any application to fund a feasibility study must prove that equal matching funds are available to fund the study from the Tribe(s) or any other source.

Other Business Development Projects: A Tribal Government can apply for other types of economic development projects that a top priority of the Tribe(s), such as the administration of a small revolving loan fund for individual Indian businesses. Equal matching funds are required for this category.

### **Community Block Grant Development Program**

Throughout 2005, the state-funded Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and Community Block Grant Development Program (CDBG) staff worked with the Blackfeet Tribe on a regional water system that will serve East Glacier, Browning, and tribal housing projects. Three TSEP construction grants totaling \$1,306,555 have been awarded for the project to the Tribe, Browning and East Glacier. The CDBG program awarded a \$500,000 grant for the project to the Town of Browning.

In May 2005, the Legislature awarded a \$500,000 TSEP construction grant to the Apsaalooke Nation to assist them with making improvements to Crow Agency's wastewater system. The preliminary engineering for the project was funded through two \$50,000 grants from the Coal Board to the Apsaalooke Nation during 2003. The TSEP staff has been working with the tribe to support the project.

In October 2005, the CDBG and TSEP Program Managers met with Apsaalooke Nation and Big Horn County officials regarding Crow Agency's wastewater system project. County officials stated their intent to submit a CDBG application in May 2006 on behalf of the Apsaalooke Nation's Utility Commission to support the wastewater project.

### **Montana Coal Board Grants**

During 2005, the Montana Coal Board made three coal impact grant awards to assist infrastructure projects that will benefit tribal members:

- In June, the Board awarded \$200,000 to the Lame Deer School for a new roof. The school principally serves Native American children.
- In September, the Board awarded \$70,000 to Big Horn and Rosebud Counties,



a joint application on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Utility for a new backhoe to service and maintain the Tribe's community water and sewer systems.

- In September, the Board awarded \$51,130 to Big Horn County on behalf of the Helping Hands Food Bank of Hardin to build an addition to better serve low-income clients, a substantial portion of whom are Native American.

### **Tribal Housing – Housing Division**

The Montana Board of Housing (MBOH), in partnership with all Montana Tribes, the Montana Native American Homeownership Task Force and the Montana Homeownership Network (MHN), is working to support homeownership for Native Americans in several ways.

- MBOH is providing financial support to MHN to offer homebuyer education to all Montana tribal members and on all seven reservations. Over the past year, MHN provided the funds for twenty-two Native Americans, including representatives from all Montana Tribes and on all seven reservations, to become homebuyer education providers through the Neighbor Works America “Train the Trainer” program.



Photo 4: Chief Plenty Coups Park

- MBOH funds one-on-one counseling on each of the reservations, through MHN. MHN's partnership with tribal housing entities and tribal economic development agencies, provided homebuyer education and counseling to 310 Native American households over the past year, and was runner-up in the Neighbor Works America Innovative Partnership Award Program in 2005. MBOH staff is working as part of Montana Native American Homeownership Task Force and has worked with members of all Montana Tribes and has visited all seven of Montana's reservations to help expand their homeownership programs.
- The primary role of MBOH in the homeownership arena is to provide lower-cost funds for first mortgages to first-time homebuyers. MBOH has two special set-asides of first mortgage funds at an interest rate of 5%, available to Native Americans purchasing homes with HUD 184 Program loan guarantees and loans guaranteed by the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority. In the past three years, MBOH provided first mortgage financing to 88 Native American households, of which 25 used the HUD 184 program to purchase homes on reservations. As of November 23, 2005, an additional 6 HUD 184 loans, totaling over \$700,000, were reserved for purchase.



Photo 5: Honoring Veterans at Fort Belknap during the Governor's visit to the tribal chambers.

## **Department of Labor & Industry**

### **Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)**

The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) mobilized to assist over 17,000 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) registered requesters in wrapping water heaters, caulking and installing plastic over windows, weather-stripping doors, installing energy efficient light bulbs, sealing holes in homes, installing carbon monoxide detectors, and providing education to homeowners. In the period between early October and mid-November, MCC members reached over 600 homes in 79 communities – including four Montana Indian reservations.

### **Montana Career Information System (MCIS)**

The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) assisted Browning High School students with their senior portfolios. MCIS is used extensively on the career profile section of the portfolio, in which student's present research on an occupation they are considering. Profiles, all of which they can find on MCIS, must be as in-depth as possible, detailing education requirements, classes they should take in college, skills and the job market. As part of the process, students must take a career assessment to include in their portfolios, with the majority using occupation sort, MICRO-skills assessment, or the IDEAS assessment from MCIS. They also use MCIS for interview and resume tips and to search for colleges and scholarships.

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Native Impaired Driving Public Relations Campaign**

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) – State Highway Traffic Safety Office continued a pilot program to communicate traffic safety messages to Montana's Native American populations, using an intern hired through the tribal community college. The project dollars for the Intern programs at Blackfeet Community College, Fort Belknap College and Fort Peck Community College were evenly split between Impaired Driving and Occupant Protection (seat belt usage) topics. However, contacts and advisors on these reservations, along with crash data, tell us that the two issues are intertwined. At times, the activities to address Impaired Driving were simultaneously implemented with seat belt messages.

The overall goal is to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from vehicle crashes on Montana Indian Reservations by reducing the incidence of alcohol-related crashes, increasing awareness of the social burden of alcohol-related deaths and injuries, and Increasing the awareness of law enforcement focus on im-

paired driving. The target audience is Native American men, age 18 – 34, on of three of Montana's seven Indian reservations: Blackfeet; Fort Belknap and Fort Peck.

The primary strategy was to structure and fund a part-time internship for a resident of the Reservation. We relied on the local tribal college to select and oversee the intern, who, in turn, worked with reservation focus groups to develop the campaign messages. Activities and events based on those messages were held June through August of 2005. We encouraged our intern to coordinate with other agencies and organizations on the Reservation with the same objectives.

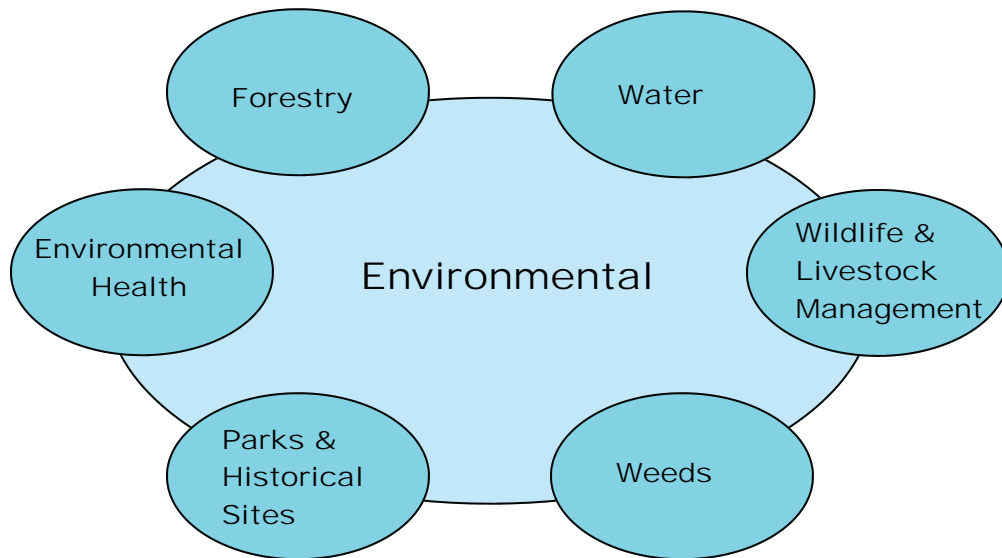
### **Native American Occupant Protection Paid Media Campaign**

Like the Impaired Driving campaign, the Native Occupant Protection campaign used interns to develop a variety of community developed and community specific seat belt messages and then test responses to those messages on focus groups of members of the target audience. The target audience is 18-34 year-old men on the Blackfeet, Fort Peck, and Fort Belknap Reservations. Distribution of the messages was paid through September of 2005, and unpaid distribution will continue through October. Public Service Announcements developed for the campaign will continue in PSA rotations.

### **The Montana Tribal Safety Conscious Planning Forum**

American Indians compose 6.5% of Montana's total population, yet accounted for 19.7% of all Montana fatalities in 2004. In 2004, more than 30 percent of the alcohol-related fatalities in Montana involved American Indians. On Montana Indian Reservations, 71% percent of fatalities were alcohol related and 73 percent of fatal crashes are single vehicle crashes. Any effort to successfully address the State's transportation safety issues in a comprehensive way must involve the residents of Indian Country.

- The Montana Tribal Safety Conscious Planning Forum was conducted as a critical first step in an effort to reverse these statistics and work toward safer transportation conditions for this important segment of our population. Organized as a joint effort of the Governor's Office, MDT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Transportation Safety Office (NHTSA), and Montana's seven reservations, the First Montana Tribal Safety Conscious Planning Forum was held on June 6 and 7, 2005. The Little Shell Tribe was also represented at the forum although they are a landless tribe. This Forum represents the first time Montana's tribal governments have gathered to address the state-wide transportation safety needs of American Indians. The issues and the tribal representation from the Forum continue to participate in the Statewide Comprehensive Safety Planning Process.



#### **Core Team**

- ▶ Hal Harper, Chief Policy Advisor, *Governor's Office (Chair)*
- ▶ Marc Bridges, Executive Officer, *Board of Livestock*
- ▶ Jeff Hagener, Director, *Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks*
- ▶ Bruce Measure, Council Member, *Northwest Power & Conservation*
- ▶ Richard Oppen, Director, *Department of Environmental Quality*
- ▶ Mary Sexton, Director, *Department of Natural Resources & Conservation*
- ▶ Mike Volesky, Policy Advisor, *Governor's Office*
- ▶ Rhonda Whiting, Council Member, *Northwest Power & Conservation*

## **Environmental: Executive Summary**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) comprises the Environmental core. DNRC worked extensively with Montana Indian nations and individuals in the area of fire suppression, regional water system development and activities under the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission.

FWP efforts with tribal governments in 2005 included on-going meetings to develop compacts and agreements similar to that which currently exists with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Additionally, there occurred job-alike meetings and cooperation between FWP staff and tribal members and officials, at the regional and local level, along with regularly-scheduled cultural and historical parks events and activities associated with the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

## **Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) efforts with Tribal Governments in 2005 included on-going meetings to develop compacts and agreements similar to that which currently exists between FWP and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Job-alike meetings and cooperation at the local and regional level continued between various FWP and Tribal Natural Resources agency staff in law enforcement, wildlife, parks and fisheries. The Parks Division in particular, through various regional activities at State Parks and sites, was particularly active with the Tribes and tribal members. These included regularly scheduled parks events such as at Chief Plenty Coups in Pryor, Missouri Headwaters State Park and Ulm Pishkun, as well as participation in events associated with the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

## **Licensing**

The passage of SB 91 during the 2005 legislative session allowed for eight Montana tribes to designate individuals from their respective tribal diabetic programs to receive department issued special licenses free of charge if the FWP Commission authorized the issuance of 40 or more special wild buffalo licenses. Each tribe could designate two individual to receive the free bison licenses. The chairman or president of each tribe was notified and requested to provide the names of the individuals selected to receive the free bison license. Reno Charette, Coordinator of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs assisted coordination of this effort. The FWP Commission-authorized bison season began in November and will go through mid-February of 2006.

## **Automated Licensing System (ALS)**

With the implementation of the Automated Licensing System (ALS), cooperative efforts related to electronic sales of recreational licenses provided the opportunity for improved customer service and a comprehensive licensing program. In order to allow more effective use of this technology, additional tribal licenses were added in 2005 connecting state and tribal vendors to the system to sell licenses. Consequently, accounting and reporting allowed for separation of information and revenue. FWP and CSKT staffs have a very strong working relationship, and the entire project can be described as extremely successful.

## **Fisheries**

At the Request of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes the Fisheries Division has conducted investigations in the Jocko River, and Mission and Post Creeks to determine the presence and distribution of whirling disease. Whirling disease is caused by a parasite that can result in a substantial decline in trout populations.

## **Parks**

Along with regular summer interpretive presentations, Montana State Parks were involved in numerous Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities across the state. Integral in these events was the participation of Native peoples who made presentations at a number of Parks, offering perspectives on their individual cultures as well as on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Speakers talked on how the Expedition interacted with Native peoples during their journey, the huge degree upon which they depended on Native Americans for direction, help and literally, their survival. Many Native speakers and presenters was the affect that the Lewis and Clark Expedition ultimately had on Native people after the subsequent settlement of the West by Euro-Americans.

## **Region 2, Missoula**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation co-hosted the *1855 Hellgate Treaty Recognition Event* on August 13. The Tribes gathered at Council Grove State Park to honor their ancestors who signed the Treaty. They mourned the loss of tribal territory yet were grateful to their ancestors for securing some land in perpetuity. Speakers addressed not only the importance of the day's event, but also the need to remember tribal history and educate the public from an American Indian perspective.

Travelers' Rest State Park continues to build lasting relationships within the tribal community. The Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, the non-

profit organization that manages Travelers' Rest State Park, employs a Nez Perce descendant as its Native American Program Coordinator. The Association consults regularly with the Salish Cultural Council on matters of interpretation and the cultural significance of the Lolo area. Additionally, they recommend appropriate topics and presenters regarding subjects important to a culturally diverse telling of the history of the Bitterroot Valley. During Lewis & Clark Bicentennial events, elders from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes participated in these ceremonies.

#### **Region 4, Great Falls**

Activities in Region 4 (Great Falls) revolved primarily around the Ulm Pishkun State Park, its cultural history and import as well as local events associated with the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Because of the cultural significance of the park, and by request and invitation, the Ulm Pishkun State Park Manager became a member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance. Tribes involved with the Alliance include Blackfeet, Gros Ventre/Assiniboine, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Chippewa-Cree, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Sioux/Assiniboine, and Little Shell.

FWP was fortunate to be able to bring on a Blackfeet tribal member to the seasonal Parks staff at Ulm Pishkun this year. Aside from fulfilling important conventional duties at the site, the new staff member aided greatly in providing additional cultural insight and explanation to non-native visitors to the Park.

From June 25 through July 4, the "Explore the Big Sky" Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event hosted in Great Falls included interpretive programs by tribal members in the Tent of Many Voices at the Corps of Discovery II traveling exhibit that was at Giant Springs State Park. Over 13,000 interpretive contacts were made during this event. Blackfeet, Gros Ventre/Assiniboine, Standing Rock Sioux, Umatilla, and Little Shell tribal members offered presentations here. Another "Explore the Big Sky" event was held at Ulm Pishkun State Park that included interpretive presentations and tribal games by tribal members and the International Traditional Games Society. Approximately 3,400 visitors attended this event and observed activities presented by members of the Blackfeet, Gros Ventre/Assiniboine, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Chippewa-Cree, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Sioux/Assiniboine tribes and Little Shell.

As part of continuing contemporary Native activities, Ulm Pishkun State Park hosted the King Kuka Memorial Art Show in August which presented the works of the late Blackfeet artist. Approximately 110 visitors attended the 2-day event. Cultural Days was held at Ulm Pishkun State Park in September. The 3-day event included interpretive programs presented by regional tribes and the International Traditional Games Society. The event was attended by 450 school children and involved presentations by members of the Blackfeet, Navajo, Nez Perce, Gros Ven-



tre/Assiniboiné, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Chippewa-Cree, Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Sioux/Assiniboiné, Little Shell

### **Region 7- Miles City**

In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Montana Preservation Alliance and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, efforts were made to elevate the Rosebud Battlefield State Park from its current listing as a National Historic Place to that of a National Historic Landmark. This effort is being made in conjunction with a nationwide project to protect all the battle sites of the 1876 – 1877 Great Sioux Wars. Consultation with the Northern Cheyenne has proved invaluable in this undertaking.

Recognizing the significance of this State Park to the Northern Cheyenne and various bands of Sioux, FWP commissioned a college student to work with the Northern Cheyenne and Sioux Tribes to obtain tribally-sanctioned oral histories to aid in future interpretive projects at the Park. This project entailed over 5,000 miles of travel, thirty days on the road and in the field, thirty days of office time, and 20 days residing in Lame Deer.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks will embark upon a Master Planning process for the Rosebud Battlefield State Park in early 2006. Northern Cheyenne members have been notified of this upcoming planning effort and will be invited to participate as member/s of the 8 to 12 person planning committee. All aspects of future management will be discussed. The final plan will serve as a 10-year guide for FWP's management, development and operation of the park.

## **Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

### **Fire Suppression**

DNRC participates in the operation of several interagency dispatch centers that dispatch firefighting resources for wildland fires (and increasingly other assignments such as hurricane recovery). In 2005, 20-person wildland fire crews from nine Montana Indian Nations were dispatched to numerous wildfires throughout the western U.S., and assisted with recovery following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These crews spent a combined total of 1,163 days on wildfire and hurricane assignments, earning an estimated \$3.9 million in wages and expenses. The economic and occupational benefit of wildfire assignments to tribal members is substantial, and represents a success attributable to the Indian firefighters, the interagency wildland fire managers, and dispatch system itself.

A breakdown of "crew days" by tribe or location is as follows:

Blackfeet	384
Fort Belknap	179
Rocky Boys	162
Apsaalooke	99
Fort Peck	54
Helena Alliance	23
Conf. Salish & Kootenai	196
Missoula Indian Ctr.	35
Northern Cheyenne	31

Total                      1163 days \* \$3,360/crew/day = \$3,907,680

This total includes 98 crew days for the Chief Mountain (Blackfeet) Hotshot Crew, and 93 days for the Bear Paw (Rocky Boy's) Hotshot Crew.

### **Regional Water System Development**

A portion of the Tribes' \$4.8 million share of the Federal Fiscal-Year 04 appropriation was banked towards construction of the water treatment plant (WTP). In Federal FY05, the Fort Peck Tribes received \$4.3 million and Dry Prairie \$1.7 million. Most of the Tribes' share from Federal Fiscal-Year 05 went for raw water settling sludge pond construction which reached 98%+ completion in calendar 2005 at the WTP site. The plans and specifications for the WTP have been reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tribes are in the midst of advertising for bids on the estimated \$25 million project.

During much of 2005, Dry Prairie has been working toward State and Federal approval of plans for bringing regional water mains to the Town of Bainville and rural users within the southeastern portions of the Dry Prairie service area. In November 2005, a contract for construction of two 500,000-gallon water storage tanks was awarded to a Minnesota-based company. A separate advertisement for bids on the water main line construction is currently being prepared.

A U.S. Congress House-Senate conference committee reported out \$16 million in appropriations for the project in November 2005, and that legislation was signed into law by the President. The Fort Peck Tribes' share will be approximately \$11.5 million, and Dry Prairie's will be about \$4.5 million. Depending upon the funding formula used, the State of Montana's share of non-federal match for the Dry Prairie portion would not exceed \$1.07 million (from the Treasure State Endowment Program regional water fund).

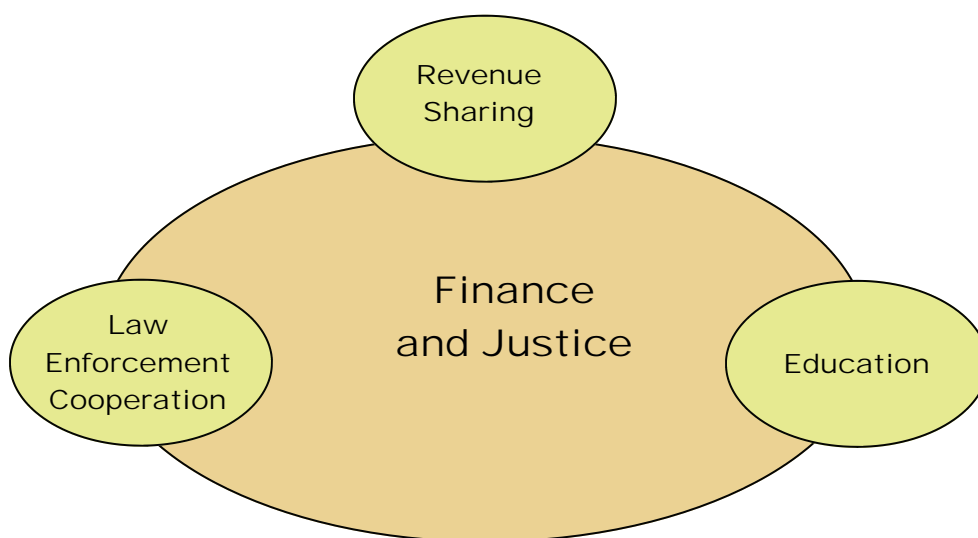
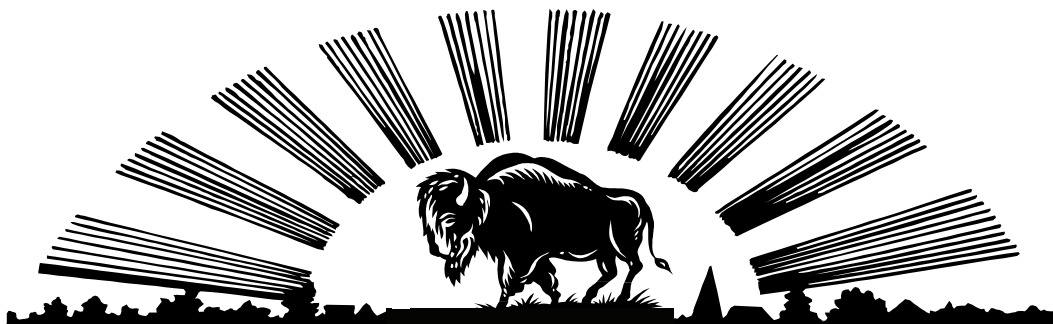
### **Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission**

In November 2005, the Rocky Boy's Reservation celebrated the completion of the rehabilitation and enlargement of Bonneau Dam on Box Elder Creek. \$13,000,000 in Federal funds was provided through the Water Compact between the Chippewa-Cree Tribe and the State of Montana. Water stored behind Bonneau Dam will increase from 1,000 acre-feet to 4,000 acre-feet, allowing increased irrigation and other economic development on the Reservation. The Chippewa Cree Construction Company and tribal labor worked on the construction project for two years and completed the project on time and approximately \$3,000,000 under budget.

The RWRCC continues to negotiate reserved water right settlement with Montana's Indian Tribes. Fort Belknap and the Apsaalooke Nation are in the process of Congressional approval. A top priority is settlement of water claims for the Blackfeet Tribe. Intensive legal and technical work and negotiating sessions were conducted in 2005, with the goal of taking a water compact to the 2007 Legislature for approval. Completion of these negotiations is important to the St. Mary's canal rehabilitation project. Technical work continued for negotiations with CSKT with the goal of Legislative approval in 2009. The RWRCC is scheduled to sunset in 2009.



Photo 6: Flathead Lake: Honoring elders of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes



**Core Team**

- ▶ David Ewer, Director, *Office of Budget and Program Planning (Chair)*
- ▶ Dan Bucks, Director, *Department of Revenue*
- ▶ Jan Lombardi, Education Policy Advisor, *Governor's Office*
- ▶ Mike McGrath, Attorney General, *Department of Justice*

## **Finance and Justice: Executive Summary**

Many key initiatives were undertaken in the core area of Finance and Justice. The Department of Revenue expanded its dialogue with American Indian tribes, and opened the door for beneficial changes to tribe/state agreements related to tax and revenue. The Montana University System made significant strides in the recruitment and retention of American Indian students. The various universities worked successfully with tribal colleges and tribal leaders. In addition, many important educational programs related to Native issues were implemented.

### **Department of Revenue**

The Department of Revenue has worked diligently to expand communication and dialogue with all Montana tribes on issues of common interest. These efforts have yielded several beneficial changes to tribe/state agreements related to tax and revenue. The following changes, all of significant benefit to tribes, are reflective of the revisions that are being made to tribe/state agreements.

#### **Revision of schedule for tobacco tax payments and timetable for application of new tax rates**

In the past, there was a one-year lag in the distribution of tobacco tax payments to the tribes. The policy was changed so that tobacco payments are now made on a more real-time basis, rather than a full year after the tax collection.

In essence, this change served to make the payments to tribes reflect current law instead of prior law. This more accurate and equitable method of accounting has facilitated the conversion of a quota agreement to a revenue-sharing agreement in the case of a tribe.

Under past agreements, the tobacco tax rates used for the payments were based on the tax rate from one-year back. Now the tax rate is changed to more immediately reflect the current rate.

Tribes impacted by the change include the Blackfeet, Apsaalooke, Fort Peck, and Fort Belknap.

#### **Conversion of cigarette tax agreements from quota system to revenue sharing**

Cigarette tax agreements are especially important, to ensure that the tax privileges reserved for tribal members are not illegally provided to non-members.

Cigarette tax agreements, which were formally based on a quota system, were changed to revenue sharing agreements.

Cigarette tax agreements were revised for the Apsaalooke Nation. Negotiations are currently underway for the Rocky Boy's Tribe. The opportunity has been offered to the Northern Cheyenne and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

The Blackfeet, Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Tribes had switched to revenue sharing agreements in the past.

### **Reduction of payment time for revenue sharing agreements**

The time the Department of Revenue is allowed for the distribution of revenue payments to tribes has been reduced by 50%, from 60 days to 30 days. This change applies to agreements with the Blackfeet Tribe (tobacco and alcohol), Apsaalooke Nation (tobacco), Fort Peck (tobacco) and Fort Belknap (tobacco).

To help ensure smooth implementation of all tribe/state agreements, the department's financial management administrator and an accounting unit employee traveled to the Apsaalooke Nation, Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations in October. The purpose of the visits was for department staff and tribal finance officers to meet, as well as to allow the department to explain the process used to compute the revenue sharing distributions for alcohol, beer and wine taxes and cigarette and tobacco products taxes. In return, the department was able to personally meet the tribal finance officers and learn the appropriate contact person for any matters regarding the revenue distributions.

In addition to the agreement modifications noted above, the Department of Revenue has set the stage for discussions with a number of tribes on revenue sharing for oil and gas taxes.

## **Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education**

### **Grants and Funding**

Funding for the first year of the Tribal History and Equipment grant was distributed to the seven tribal colleges. The Montana Legislature appropriated \$2 million in one-time state funding for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Non-beneficiary funding of \$450,000 was distributed to the seven tribal colleges for White, Asian, Hispanic, Black and non-tribally enrolled American Indian students. An additional \$450,000 appropriated by the Montana Legislature will be distributed in fiscal year 2007.

A six-year, \$18 million discretionary GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Preparation) U.S. Department of Education federal grant was received in August 2005. Thirteen (13) of the 25 participating public school districts are on American Indian reservations. American Indian students make up 64% of the Gear Up student population. The new schools on reservations funded for this project are Arlee, Dixon, Lodge Grass and Nashua.

### **American Indian/Minority Achievement (AIMA)**

AIMA represented the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Ed (OCHE) – Montana University System (MUS) on the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE), advisory to the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction on a regular basis and is a member of the University of Montana-Western's Teacher Education Advisory Board, which has a partnership with Salish Kootenai College.

AIMA provided a workshop at AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) tribal college conference, March 2005; provided cultural diversity workshop to Tribal College Librarians Professional Development Institute, and workshop for the National Science Foundation Rural Systemic Initiative, Little Big Horn College, December 2005.

### **Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy**

Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy began in September 2003 when the Montana Board of Regents committed to find new ways for the Montana University System to take a more direct leadership role in the state's economic development by selecting several prominent American Indian leaders and educators to serve on committees, including Dr. Joe McDonald, Salish Kootenai College; Dr. David Yarlott, Little Big Horn College; Noel Sansaver, Ft. Peck Tribes; Julie Cajune, Ronan School District; and Mary Johnson, Browning School District.

### **Montana Educational Talent Search TRIO program**

Since 1979 the Commissioner's office has operated the Montana Educational Talent Search TRIO program, funded by the U. S. Department of Education, which serves low-income students on the Blackfeet, Flathead, Northern Cheyenne and Apsaalooke Reservations as well in Great Falls. In 2004-05 the program provided college and career preparatory services to 1,250 7 – 12 grade students in 32 schools. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of these students were American Indian. Eleven of the program's 13 staff are themselves American Indian.

## **Board of Education Working Committees**

The Board of Education's (Board of Regents and Board of Public Education) P-20 and Indian Education for All Committees are working on many initiatives impacting American Indian students, families, tribal colleges, communities, reservation school districts, etc. A number of American Indian educators have participated in committee meetings and efforts.

## **Grants**

The *Carl D. Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act of 1998* awarded grants directly to Blackfeet Community College, Ft. Peck Community College and Salish Kootenai College, at a minimum of \$50,000.

## **Honors**

In April 2005, Regent Richard Roehm was honored at the MSU Bozeman Pow Wow for his work on American Indian issues.

## **University of Montana - Missoula**

### **Office of the American Indian Student Services (OAISS)-- Native American Student Support Policy Effort**

An agreement with the American Indian Education Foundation was established August 1, 2005, and will be requested each semester thereafter.

### **Native American Studies Department (NAS) - Native American Student Support Policy Effort**

The University of Montana NAS Department seeks scholarships each year and awards them to eligible American Indian students. Approximately \$100,000 is awarded each year through scholarship donations, endowments, and other forms of contribution, and are given out to assist eligible American Indian students through their educational career. The scholarship program is ongoing with additional funds raised each year. NAS also collaborate local public schools in the implementation of Indian Education for All.

NAS collaborated with Arlee, St. Ignatius, and Ronan public schools (as well as the Office of Public Instruction) to hold an Indian Education for All teacher conference at the UM-M campus in June 2005.



### **Council of Presidents Initiative**

A Memorandum of Understanding between UM-M President, George Dennison, and the Tribal College Presidents has been signed to form an advisory board. Areas of mutual interest, investment and concern to all institutions involve include, but are not limited to the following: Implementation of Indian Education for All legislation, the proposed building of the Native American Center on the UM campus, and research collaborations. The formation of the Council included the creation of a tribal library liaison position at the University of Montana Mansfield library, a person who will assist Tribal College libraries with their archives and preservation efforts and who will work with tribal individuals and groups to facilitate better use of the valuable library resources on campus.

The Council of Presidents will meet twice per year. The first meeting occurred in October 2005. The Tribal College Presidents have been asked to submit suggestions for future topics of discussion. The process of review will be ongoing. The next meeting is set for Spring 2006 on the UM-M campus.

All tribal groups in Montana will be impacted to include Blackfeet, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Belknap, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy's, and Little Shell.

### **Tribal Leaders Institute**

The mission of the Tribal Leaders Institute is to enhance tribal self governance through the focused provision of expert and relevant leadership training seminars; to strengthen tribal state relations through facilitating access to state officials and providing decision support services to American Indian legislators; and to develop the next generation of tribal leaders through tribal community college and university sessions that educate, inspire and motivate high performing students to realize their place in Indian Country.

Tribes impacted include the Blackfeet, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Belknap, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, and Rocky Boy's.

### **2005 Programs**

*January 3, 2005  
American Indian Legislators' Symposium II  
State Capitol, Helena, MT*

Following the swearing in ceremony, eight American Indian state representatives and senators reconvened for briefings on Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council legislative goals, State Budget, and Indian Legislative Challenges.

*April 21-22, 2005*

*The Indian Self-Determination Act (ISDA) at Thirty Years of Age:  
Accomplishments and Challenges  
UM Law School, Missoula, MT*

Thirty invited Montanan tribal leaders as well as students, faculty and members of the public celebrated thirty years of tribal self-determination and examined the challenges that lie ahead. Charles Wilkinson, distinguished legal scholar and author of the newly published Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations presented the keynote speech. Other ISDA related topics included an historical overview and workshops in health, law enforcement and the environment conducted by law students and faculty.

*October 21, 2005*

*Montana Constitution Seminar II:  
Progressive Spirit of the Rocky Mountain West  
House Chambers, State Capitol, Helena, MT*

Part Two of The O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West's five part constitution series was a co-production with the Tribal Leaders Institute. The statutory implementation of Article X goals, which declares Montana's role and responsibility for the education of American Indian children enrolled in K-12 and higher education, known as Indian Education for All, was examined in light of the funding recommendations of the Quality Education Interim Committee school funding proposal.

## **Montana State University - Bozeman**

### **Recruitment and Retention**

As part of the 5-year vision-planning process, MSU-Bozeman includes the goal of increasing the number of Native American students enrolled by 50% from 223 to 335.

In Fall 2003, there were 223 American Indian students. In fall 2004, that number was up to 244. This fall, MSU-Bozeman has registered 268 American Indian Students. In August 2005, more than 50 American Indian students entered Montana State University, estimated to be the largest American Indian freshman class in MSU history.

Since 1992, MSU's American Indian student enrollment has increased nearly 50%, from 186 to 261. President Geoffrey Gamble has challenged the institution to reach an enrollment of 335 by 2009. While MSU has an active American Indian student body, including an American Indian Council as well as other Native student organizations, currently no adequate space exists to meet the needs of these students. The current student center, located in the basement of Wilson Hall, is only just over

1,000 square feet and also houses the office of the Native American student advisor.

Starting this year, the Native American Non Resident Tribal Homelands Tuition Program will provide nearly \$10,000 tuition waiver per year for whose tribal affiliation once called the Montana area their "Homelands."

### **Nursing Recruitment and Retention**

In the last three years, the percentage of American Indian students in the freshman Nursing class has more than doubled to 9.6%. Retention and graduation rates meet or exceed university averages and all but one of the 20 graduates since the program's inception have passed the national licensing exam on the first attempt.

### **American Indian Research Opportunities**

American Indian Research Opportunities (AIRO) is a consortium of Montana's seven Tribal Colleges and Montana State University-Bozeman, dedicated to providing opportunities for American Indian students in career fields where they are significantly underrepresented. Activities developed and supported through AIRO include:

- MAP – The main component of the Montana Apprenticeship Program is a structured, six-week, hands on summer research experience for both high school students and teachers under the direction of active science research mentors.
- BRIDGES – The "Bridging Tribal Colleges to MSU" program is a partnership between Montana State University-Bozeman and five tribal colleges designed to build a seamless educational experience between the reservation-based colleges and Montana State University-Bozeman and, in the process, increase the number of underrepresented American Indian students successfully transferring from the two-year tribal colleges to MSU-Bozeman and pursuing academic studies in the biomedical and other health-related sciences.

### **Early Childhood Education**

This newly developed partnership program is designed to address the needs of Head Start and related Early Childhood Educators in Tribal Communities to complete a four-year degree. The program was developed in response to a National Head Start initiative that mandated Head Start teachers further develop their educational competencies by completing an Associate and/or Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. The first cohort of 25 students is currently registering.

### **Engineering Minority Program**

The program provides scholarships to American Indian engineering students (\$13,000 in 2004-2005); a student study center on campus for American Indians in the College of Engineering; a computer lab with engineering programs and printing, copying and fax, and long distance phone available to students; and more than 15 laptops available for checkout for students throughout the semester.

### **Designing Our Community**

This program, funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (2003-2004), is a program to recruit and retain American Indian students in engineering and computer science careers. Designing Our Community also provides outreach to K-12 communities and tribal colleges in engineering education. Activities include:

- \$30,000 given to American Indian students as stipends for participation in support programs to offset having a part-time job.

### **Montana INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence)**

- Development of productive, mutually respectful relationships with six Montana tribal colleges: Blackfeet Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, and Stone Child College.
- With funding from MT INBRE, researchers in the Department of Microbiology at MSU initiated an agreement with the Apsaalooke Nation, the Indian Health Service, and Little Big Horn College to collect baseline water quality data and provide training to tribal college faculty and students on water quality testing. The Apsaalooke Reservation is the pilot site for a new Indian Country Environmental Health Assessment Program (ICEHAP), serving reservation communities nationwide. Expanding this model program to other interested tribal colleges and reservation communities is a long-term goal.
- Development of the MT INBRE Water Consortium, bringing together tribal college faculty and reservation community leaders to develop an environmental database as a foundation for studying the environmental health of reservation communities.
- MT INBRE provides funding for three new science faculty hired at the tribal colleges, relieving existing faculty from heavy teaching loads and enabling them to incorporate research into their teaching as well as focus on keeping students in the educational pipeline.

- MT INBRE provides mini-grants to six tribal colleges to support educational infrastructure, including purchases of scientific equipment and support for student research. These investments impact the education of hundreds of American Indian students in Montana.

### **Indian Project Directors Council**

Montana State University regularly works on behalf of American Indians in the state, with so many projects that there is an Indian Project Directors Council.

- The Burns Telecom Center – Motorola Canopy Wireless Project: Motorola has donated a Canopy System that will provide wireless broadband service to much of the Rocky Boy's Reservation.
- Environmental Housing Programs - Projects within Family and Consumer Science Division in Extension include Native AIR (Asthma Intervention and Reduction), Native American Housing Technical Assistance Institute, and the Tribal Pollution and Prevention Project (co-sponsored by the Dept. of NAS).

### **College of Engineering**

The College of Engineering received a grant from the Department of Education to develop better relationships with Tribal Colleges. Funds will be used to put ENGR 100 course on-line, enhance mentoring between MSU and Tribal Colleges, and to work on credit transfers between the Tribal Colleges and MSU.

## **Montana State University - Billings**

### **Department of Educational Theory and Practice**

During its funding period, the Big Horn Teachers Project developed four traveling trunks that address different aspects of American Indian cultures from the perspectives of different Indian Nations. These trunks are now available for use by elementary, secondary, and college teachers in course instruction.

- Plains Indian Trunk
- Tribes Across the Nation Trunk
- Native American Indian Cultural Identity Trunk

### **Montana Center on Disabilities**

MSU-Billings Montana Center on Disabilities received over \$1,000,000 from the US Department of Education to expand the Big Horn Teacher Projects and to implement the Indian Education for All Act.

This project is a collaborative effort among MSU-Billings College of Education, Little Big Horn College, Chief Dull Knife College and school districts on or near the Apsaalooke and Northern Cheyenne reservations. Through grant funding, 15 American Indians will complete teacher preparation and be licensed to serve their communities as highly qualified teachers. Known as TEAM, the project will offer services to support American Indians in their pursuit of higher education—financial aid, advising, tutoring, support seminar, coursework targeting Indian Education for All and multiculturalism.

### **Department of Special Education, Counseling, Reading, and Early Childhood**

MSU-Billings SECREC department in coordination with the Montana Office of Public Instruction implements the Even Start Project on the Apsaalooke Reservation. The purpose of this project is promotion of literacy among parents and their young children. Through the project, American Indian parents earn their GED and learn parenting skills to promote their young children's literacy development.

MSU-Billings SECREC department in coordination with the BHTP CSPD/SPED Endorsement Project has prepared two cohorts of students to serve as special education teachers for reservation schools.

## **Montana State University - Great Falls College of Technology**

### **Tribal Consultation**

The Rural Information Technology Education (RITE) project includes an activity to "Focus on recruiting females, rural Montanans and Native Americans into Information Technology Programs of study during the 24 site trips to rural high schools, communities and Tribal Colleges." Tribes involved include the Blackfeet, Little Shell, Assiniboine, and Sioux.

### **Development of Native American Studies Curriculum**

Ongoing development of Native American Studies (NAS) courses classes. Fall 2005: the first course offered under this designation: NAS 201 Montana's American

Indians is taught by Donald Fish, a well regarded member of the Blackfoot nation. NAS 246 is currently required of all students enrolled in the pre-elementary education program who intend to complete their degree at MSU-Northern and is strongly recommended for all others in the program as well.

## **Montana State University - Northern**

### **Recruitment and Retention**

Fort Belknap received funding for a three-year grant that will provide stipends and tuition for Fort Belknap Tribal College students to pursue a bachelor's degree in elementary or secondary education from MSU-Northern. The grant is currently in the student recruitment phase.

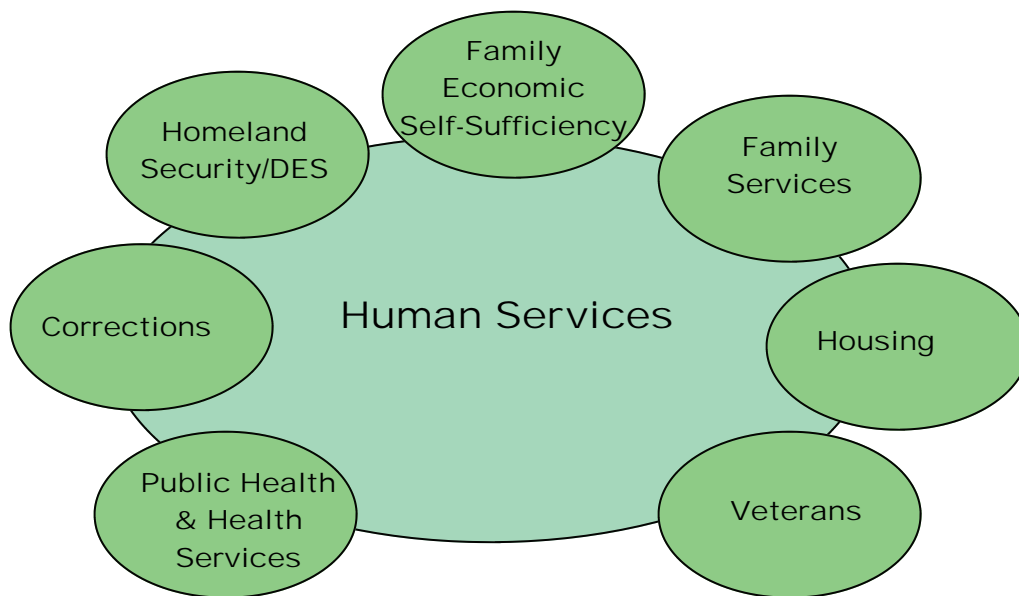
Upper division business courses are now offered at Fort Peck Tribal College. This program is an articulated program with Fort Peck Tribal College. The Tribal College provides the first two years of the business program; MSU-Northern provides the 300-level and 400-level courses. During calendar year 2005, two students graduated from the program.



Photo 7: Signing of the Tobacco Agreement with the Apsaalooke Nation Executive Officers.



Photo 8: Lt Governor Bohlinger and Teresa Johnson at dedication of Crow Veterans Park.



#### Core Team

- ▶ Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Family Issues Policy Advisor, *Governor's Office (Chair)*
- ▶ Margaret MacDonald, Director, *Community Services Commission*
- ▶ Joan Miles, Director, *Department of Public Health & Human Services*
- ▶ Adjutant General Randall Mosley, *Department of Military Affairs*
- ▶ Bill Slaughter, Director, *Department of Corrections*



## **Human Services: Executive Summary**

The American Indian Liaison of the Department of Corrections was involved in a wide range of activities on behalf of Indian people who have been involved with correctional institutions in Montana. These activities covered the gambit from providing cultural and social support systems for Native Americans who are incarcerated to helping build better conditions for individuals in the pre and post-release status.

Focusing on family and community health issues, the Department of Health and Human Services took the first steps towards establishing the legislatively-authorized position of Tribal Coordinator. In addition, the agency worked on a number of legal and educational projects aimed at children's and community health.

## **Department of Corrections**

### **American Indian Liaison**

The American Indian Liaison, Department of Corrections, accomplished the following during calendar year 2005:

- Visited three (3) correctional facilities accompanied by Ms. Reno Charette from the Governor's office of Indian Affairs.
- Attended two American Indian inmate spiritual gatherings at MSP, met inmate family members and guests.
- Arranged for tobacco to be brought in and presented to the Elders at MSP during the spiritual gatherings.
- Submitted \$2500.00 grant for funds for Elder's travel expenses for to come to the correctional facilities.
- Assisted with the Memorandums of Understanding with two Montana tribes that would allow tribal probation officers and DOC officers to jointly supervise offenders residing on reservations.
- Met with four Montana Indian Alliance Executive Directors to discuss various issues, which may help American Indians that have been in prison and are now back within the community.
- Obtained approval from Montana Women's Prisons administration to commence the building and use of a sweat lodge, with assistance from American Indian

Elders regarding tradition and cultural protocol for placement and construction.

- Secured and transported a ten inch drum frame and rawhide to Crossroads Correctional facility for inmates to build a new drum. Materials were donated for this project and there was no cost to the State of Montana.
- Secured a contact to get “lava rocks” for the Sweat Lodge ceremony and delivered a three-year supply to one of the facilities.
- Recruited a volunteer (A Blackfoot American Indian), to teach and assist the juvenile females at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in traditional ways such as beadwork, and pow-wow songs.
- Donated used surplus computers from the Department of Corrections to Helena Indian Alliance, Wakina Sky Multi-Cultural Center and the Apsaalooke Nation. The computers will be used for instructional purposes for American Indian youth.
- Initiated the “White Bison” chemical dependency program to be used in conjunction with the Medicine Wheel program for inmates in our facilities that do not currently have the program.
- Met with correctional facility warden and requested the attendance of an American Indian inmate who practices traditional ways and ceremonies to have the inmate express his perspective of his culture, customs and sensitivity issues. The inmate addressed the relationships between the inmates and correctional staff. This training was extremely successful for all and was done in conjunction with the American Indian Customs and Culture course.
- Arranged a trip to southern Alberta, Canada, to the Blood Tribe under the Blackfoot Confederacy to explore their Community Corrections system of alternative sentencing for Indian offenders. Director Bill Slaughter, Ms. Reno Charette, Ms. Anna Whiting-Sorrell, DOC Communications Director Bob Anez, Deputy Compact Administrator Cathy Gordon and American Indian Liaison Jim Mason flew up for a very successful full day meeting. DOC is currently further exploring the Blood Tribe sentencing practices.
- Testified on behalf of the DOC during the 2005 legislative session to lend support to do a study on disproportionate sentencing of minorities.
- Conducted nine (9) separate American Indian Culture and Customs courses to one hundred and thirty (130) DOC and contract facility staff, one more class will be conducted this month for 20-25 additional staff.
- Participated in “Talking Circles” and Pipe Ceremony with American Indian inmates when requested.

## **Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)**

DPHHS was involved in a number of initiatives for Montana Native people in 2005. A Tribal Coordinator was authorized by the Legislator to help with HIS/Medicaid issues. The legislature also enabled the Department to incorporate references to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into the MCA's. Additionally, the Department is working with tribes in such areas as transitional service to youth aging out of the Tribal foster care system, working with Tribal entities to improve the health of the maternal child population, and interagency cooperative programs between federal and state entities for mental health and addictive treatment. The department also co-sponsored Federal Benefit Workshops at Ft. Belknap and Ft. Peck.

### **Tribal Coordinator**

This Legislatively authorized Department position will help Indian Health Services (IHS) providers in claiming allowable federal Medicaid pass-through funds in order to extend IHS funding for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible or for services that are not Medicaid eligible. The position also will develop expertise on Tribal organization and Tribal funding and will provide technical assistance to state staff. In addition, it will identify and resolve barriers and work on innovative programs for Tribes to access federal Medicaid pass-through funding for allowable costs.

### **Incorporate references to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into the Montana Code Annotated**

Senate Bill 86, introduced by Sen. Frank Smith at the request of the Department, went into effect October 1. Under the bill, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) terms are now defined in Montana statute. In addition, provisions are now incorporated into Montana statute that clarifies the role of an ICWA qualified expert witness in cases involving Indian children in proceedings subject to the Act. These provisions provide guidance to county attorneys and state district courts related to who may qualify as an ICWA qualified expert witness and the subject matter of the testimony provided by the ICWA qualified expert witness.

### **Transitional contract services to youth who are aging out of the Tribal foster care system**

Last spring, the Child and Family Services Division contacted various Tribes to determine Tribal interest in providing transitional services to youth under the jurisdiction of Tribal court who are likely to be leaving foster care when they reach age 18. The Division sent letters to the Tribal Chairs inviting them and/or their designees to a July 27 meeting hosted by the Governor's Office to discuss this funding opportunity. To date, five Tribal Councils have expressed interest in providing the

transitional services: One contract has been executed, two contracts are in the review process, and Division and Tribal staff are in the process of finalizing the budgets for two contracts.

### **Federal Benefit Workshops at Fort Belknap Agency and in Poplar**

The Disability Determination Services (DDS) is planning to conduct two more Federal Benefit Workshops next spring. Workshops are scheduled for March 28 and 29 in Browning and April 26 and 27 in Polson. The DDS is working with local planning committees to make all the arrangements for the sessions. Workshops had previously been conducted in Browning in September 2003 and in Polson in October 2003. The 2006 sessions will provide workshop participants updated information on a variety of Tribal, Federal, and State programs.

### **Family and Community Health**

The Family and Community Health Division initiated contracts with all seven Tribal governments for WIC services. State WIC staff worked intensively with one reservation to support their efforts to recruit a professional to staff the program per contractual requirements.

The bureau was awarded a federal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant after working with several Tribes and organizations on its development. All Tribal health directors attended a meeting in the Governor's Office prior to the grant submission.

Three Tribal entities applied for and were awarded public-health home visiting grants.

### **Addictive and Mental Disorders Division/I.H.S. Agreement**

The Addictive and Mental Disorders Division reached an agreement with the Indian Health Services that IHS would not have to pay for treatment costs at Montana State Hospital for Native Americans who were sent there from IHS. The Division has not yet signed an official agreement but is no longer billing IHS for this service.



Photo 9: Governor Brian Schweitzer drumming with the Bob Cat drummers at the Inaugural Ball.

## Appendices Reference List

### Appendix A – Policies with Tribal Impact

Department of Corrections  
Department of Public Health and Human Services  
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
University of Montana

### Appendix B

Department of Corrections  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
University of Montana

### Appendix C

Department of Environmental Quality  
Department of Corrections  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
Montana State Historical Preservation Office  
University of Montana

### Appendix D

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Military Affairs  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Public Health and Human Services  
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
Montana State Historical Preservation Office  
University of Montana

## Appendix E

Description of Training Required by Section 2-15-143, MCA.

## Appendix F

State of Montana Annual Indian Nations Agreement Summary