

An Holistic Approach to Sustainable Tourism, Conservation, Agriculture Resource Management, and Food Sovereignty in Blackfeet Country at Amskapi Piikani (Blackfeet Nation)

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Cherokee and Creek Traditional Territory

Tribes will never attain true sovereignty without first attaining food sovereignty – Ross Racine, Former Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Our land is more valuable than your money. It will last forever. It will not even perish by the flames of fire. As long as the sun shines and the waters flow, this land will be here to give life to men and animals. We cannot sell the lives of men and animals. It was put here by (Creator) and we cannot sell it because it does not belong to us. - Crowfoot, Blackfeet Orator

Treat the earth well: We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children – Crazy Horse

When our hands are facing up, we will always be hungry, when our hands are facing down and working the earth, we will never be hungry – Native Hawaiian Elder

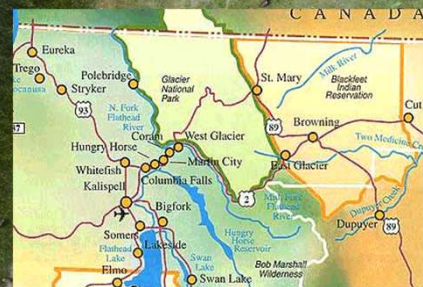


BLACKFEET NATION



Roadmap

- Blackfeet Ways of Knowing
- Authority
- What is the Role of the Blackfeet Tribal Government
- How We Plan from a Holistic Place
- Current Projects
- A Blackfeet Conservation Area (Park)
- Ecological Impact
- Tourism Survey
- A legal Review



CONTEXT

- o **Niitsitapi** (Blackfoot Confederacy), a **transboundary Indigenous government** (Canada + USA).

Amskapi Piikani (Blackfeet Nation)

- o **1.5 million acres** (640,000 hectares). Recently acquired 324,404 acres of fractionated interests.
- o **Larger than the state of Delaware** (or nation of Puerto Rico).
- o **80% percent of the large Vertebrates in Montana**
- o **55% of the Regions Biodiversity**
- o **Water rights to 5 watersheds, 518 miles** (833 Kilometers) of streams and 180 bodies of water at the headwaters of the continent.
- o **51,582 acres** (20,874 hectares) of **wetlands**.
- o **175,000 acres** (70,820 hectares) of **forest**.



BLACKFEET WAYS OF KNOWING, BEING & PLANNING

Amskapi Piikani Core Values:

- Tsi-ksi-ka-ta-pi-wa-tsin** Blackfeet Ways of Knowing: Blackfeet culture/spirituality in philosophy, thought and action
- Nin-na-wa-tsin** Being a Leader: professionalism, integrity, and responsibility in human interaction
- Ini-yimm** Respect: respect for one self, all other people, all ideas and each thing in the natural world
- Ni-ta-pi-pa-ta-pi-tsin** Living in a Good Way: honest in all thoughts and actions.
- Ii-yi-kah-kii-ma-tsin** Trying Hard: commitment, dedication, sincerity in the pursuit of all our goals.
- Aoh-kan-otah-tomo** Accepting Everyone: embracing the unique talents and contributions of each individual.
- Ii-ta-mii-pa-ta-pi-yoip** Happy Living: humor, laughter and enjoyment of life.

Authority: Public Law 103-77 (The American Indian Agriculture Resource Management Act of 1993)

2019 Blackfeet Agriculture Resource Management Plan

1.2 Authority

The Blackfeet Nation's ARMP derives its authority to supersede Federal regulations from the American Indian Agriculture Resource Management Act (AIARMA) of 1993 – 25 U.S.C § 3702 & 3712, as well as Blackfeet Tribal Resolution 19-2015. As defined by the Code itself, United States Departments of Interior and Agriculture shall manage agricultural resources consistent with the Blackfeet Nation's ARMP.

Indian agricultural resource management planning program

(C) Whether developed directly by the tribe or by the Secretary, the plan shall-

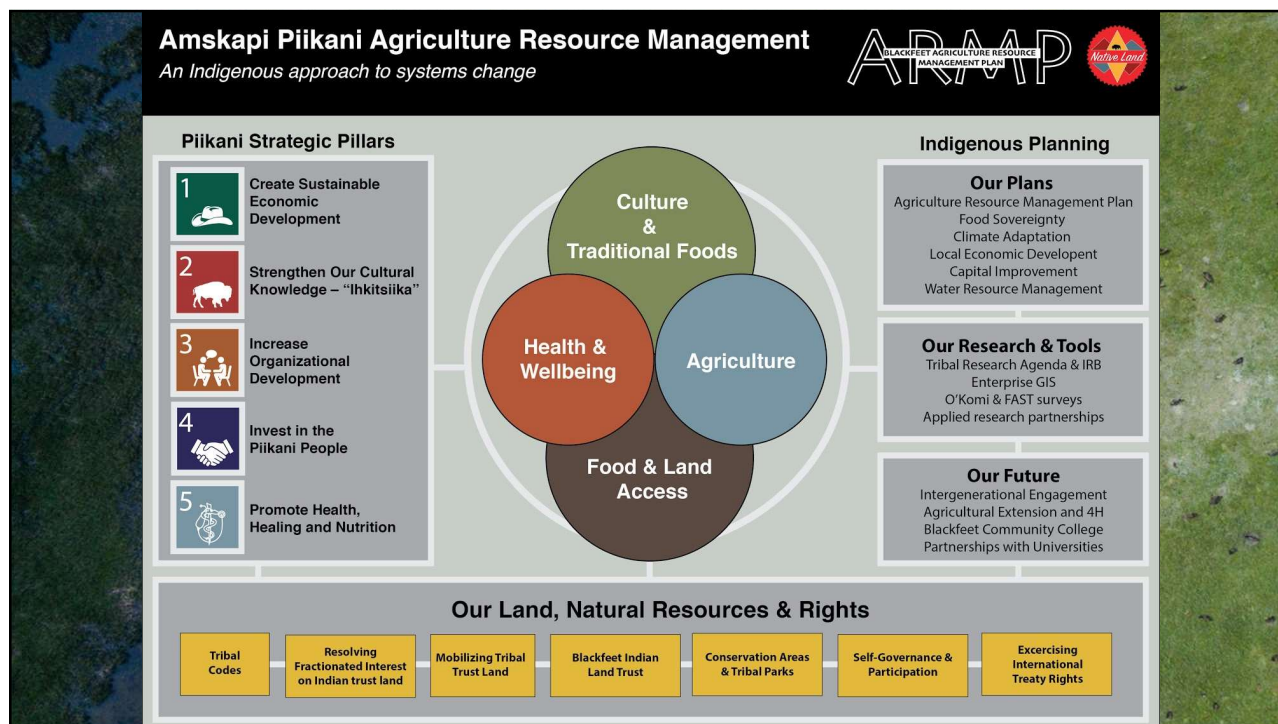
- determine available agriculture resources;
- identify specific tribal agricultural resource goals and objectives;
- establish management objectives for the resources;
- **define critical values of the Indian tribe and its members and provide identified holistic management objectives;**
- identify actions to be taken to reach established objectives; be developed through public meetings;
- use the public meeting records, existing survey documents, reports, and other research from Federal agencies, tribal community colleges, and land grant universities; and
- be completed within three years of the initiation of activity to establish the plan.

What is the role of a Tribal Government? A triple bottom Line



- Sustainable Economic Development
 - Private sector vs. public sector
 - Tribal enterprise or service to people
 - Siyeh Corporation Model
 - Tribal ranches
 - Agriculture enterprises
 - Become Supplier for local food delivery systems
 - Schools, USDA Commodity programs, Medicine Bear Shelter, Food Banks, Blackfeet FAST, Senior Centers, Traditional Food Preparers
- Health and Nutrition – Narrow Health Disparities
 - Agriculture production
 - Re-introduction of traditional foods into our diets
 - Buffalo
 - Wild game
 - Berries
 - Other foods
- Infusion of Institutional Knowledge into our Younger Generations
 - Youth programs
 - 4-H
 - High School, Middle School and BCC Agriculture Programs





IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION

Active Projects & Initiatives at the Confederacy Level

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

- **Economic/Tourism development** – A formal Blackfeet Conservation Area adjacent to Glacier National Park will greatly spur economic development opportunities from tourism through gate entrances fees, toll roads (turnpikes), and tourism services (campgrounds, trails, guides, cultural interpretation centers).
- **Large landscape connectivity** - Conservation lands would link in with the existing international conservation network of Glacier National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park, U.S. Forestry, and the Blood Timber Reserve creating better connectivity and a larger protected landscape, as well as possibilities for linnii habitat.
- **Prairie land designation** – Prairie land designation can protect working lands which contribute directly to local grassland and wetland systems. Healthy grasslands also support healthy grazers (cattle and bison) which in turn support healthy people. By supporting prairie grass we can help overcome the health disparities of our people through the holistic conservation of the lands our animals depend upon. Cattle and Bison provide much needed nutritional components such as Omega 3s.
- **Access to trails and open space** - Trail systems and open spaces promote public health. They provide places for physical activity and community gathering combating some of the most pressing health challenges of today.
- **Protection of culturally important landscapes** - The rocky mountain front and many of its physical attributes such as Chief Mountain are important cultural landscapes and could be further protected.

A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

- **Mission:** develop formal conservation areas controlled, owned and managed by the Blackfeet people which in turn spurs economic development opportunities.
- **Vision:** Blackfeet Conservation Collective is for a conservation landscape which supports the health of both Blackfeet lands and people.

The goals of the Blackfeet Conservation Collective are to:

- designate a Blackfeet Conservation Area (National Park)
- designate Prairie Land Designations
- enhance large landscape connectivity and become a part of an international conservation landscape
- support climate change action through carbon sequestration and other methodologies
- protect endangered species
- protect the headwaters
- support economic opportunities including entrances fees, tourism services, campgrounds, trails, guides, cultural interpretation centers
- support beef and bison production
- develop trails and open space to support community wellness
- protect culturally important areas
- reintegrate into our natural landscapes and ways of being
- support of traditional foods such as bison (linnii), plants and berries

A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

• Objectives:

- Cultural Impact
- Ecological Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Economic Impact

A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area - Ecological Considerations

Prepared for the Blackfeet Nation by the Rocky Mountain Program, Wildlife Conservation Society

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

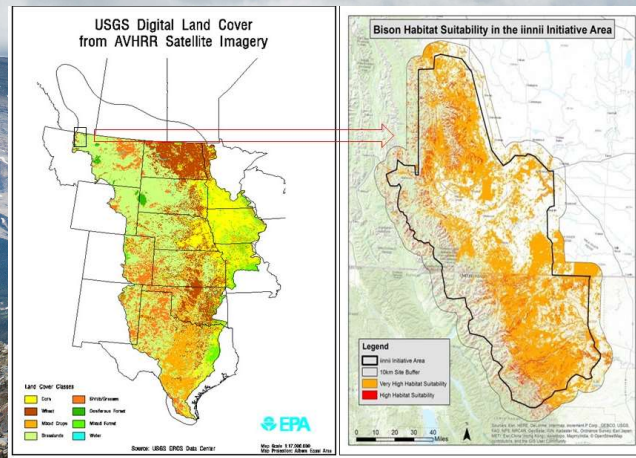
- The proposed Conservation Area is intended to enhance conservation and community health and create opportunities for economic development
- Why this Landscape?
 - Grasslands once covered a quarter of the Earth's surface but are now the most endangered terrestrial ecosystem globally. Temperate grasslands are one of the great biomes, covering some nine million square kilometers (roughly 8% of the Earth's terrestrial surface) and occurring on every continent except Antarctica. On the whole, grasslands provide critical ecosystem services to both people and wildlife. In addition to feeding most of the world's human population, grassland ecosystems serve as primary carbon (C) stores because the vast majority of grassland biomass is underground in root systems. Grasslands also serve as important transition zones between high elevation forests and low elevation valleys and plains and represent areas of high biodiversity. The North American Great Plains region for example, contains 2,900 species of vascular plants. Environmental Impact

A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

• Key Mammals of the Blackfeet Conservation Area

1. Iinnii Initiative

Buffalo reintroduction & cultural revitalization



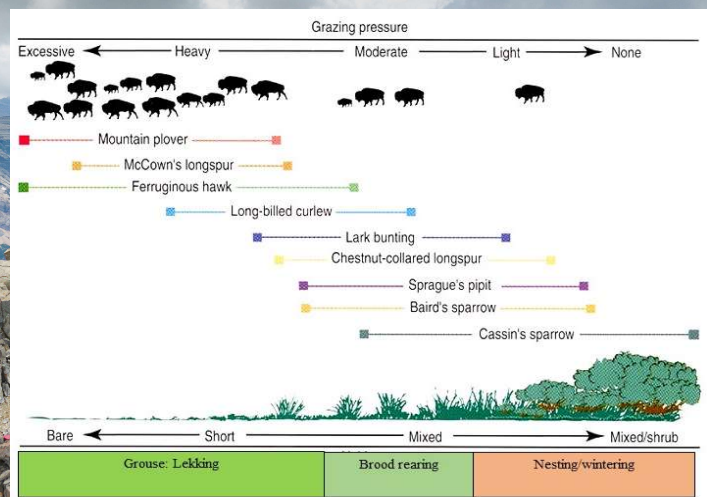
A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

• Key Mammals of the Blackfeet Conservation Area

- Grizzly Bear
- Migrating Ungulates
- Wolverine
- Elk
- Black Footed Ferrets
- Swift Fox
- Beaver

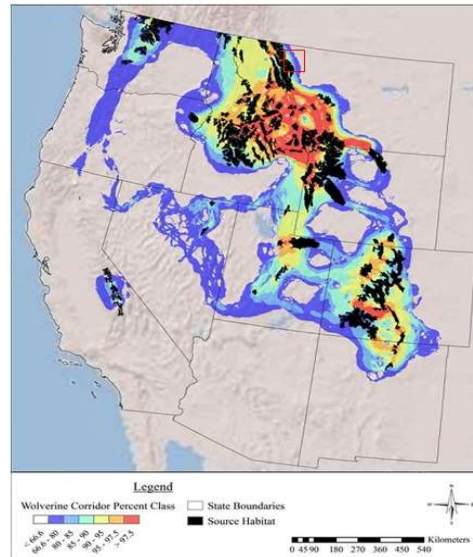
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A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

- Key Mammals of the Blackfeet Conservation Area
 - Wolverine



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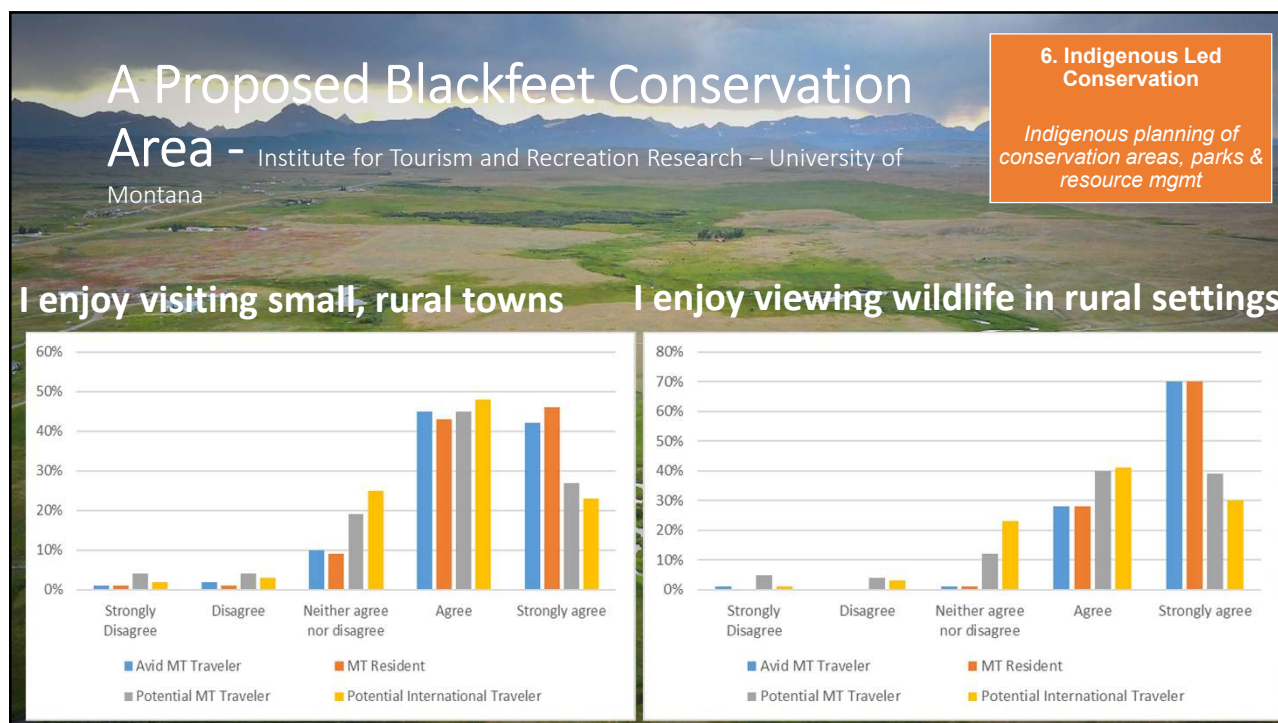
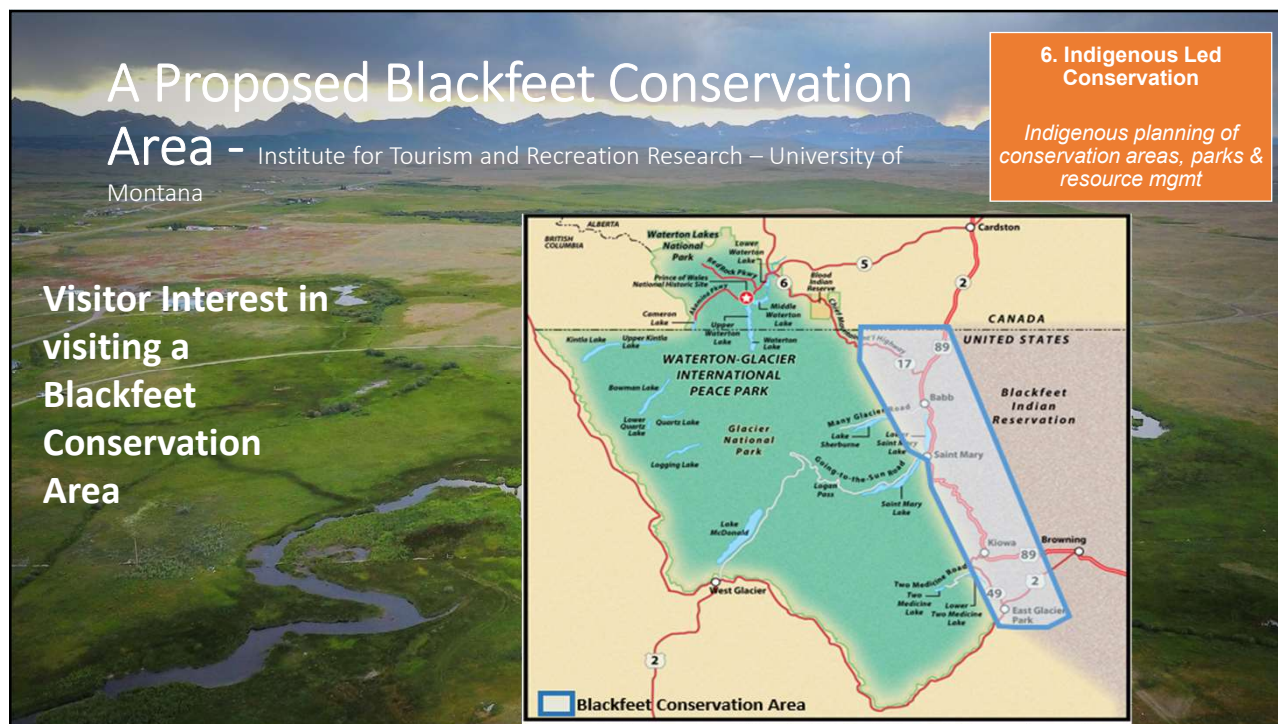
A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area

- Key Birds of the Blackfeet Conservation Area

Species	Area	% Global population	Global population	Patch area required (in acres) ¹
Baird's Sparrow ²	MT	10.4	1,282,051	2,500
Bobolink	MT	1.6	11,111,111	2,500
Burrowing Owl	MT	0.8	2,054,794	
Chestnut-collared Longspur ²	MT	27.2*	5,604,720	250
Clay-colored Sparrow	MT	1.8	22,413,793	
Ferruginous Hawk	MT	21.8*	22,353	
Field Sparrow	MT	1.1	8,125,000	
Grasshopper Sparrow	MT	3.9	15,294,118	250
Horned Lark	MT	7.0	141,666,667	
Lark Sparrow	MT	5.4	10,000,000	
McCown's Longspur	MT	29.9	999,000	
Mountain Plover	MT	8.0	20,000	70
Savannah Sparrow	MT	3.1	78,571,429	12
Sprague's Pipit ³	MT	13.7*	819,672	375
Upland Sandpiper	MT	8.6	386,000	1,000
Vesper Sparrow	MT	17.3	29,577,465	125
W. Meadowlark	MT	11.4	32,467,532	1,000

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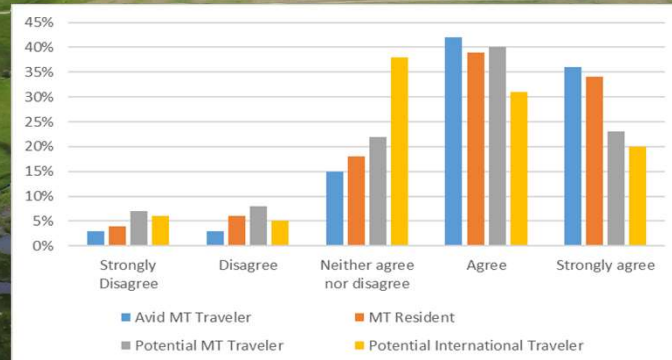
A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area -

Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research – University of Montana

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

If I had information on scenic roads through Native American lands, I would include this route in my activities



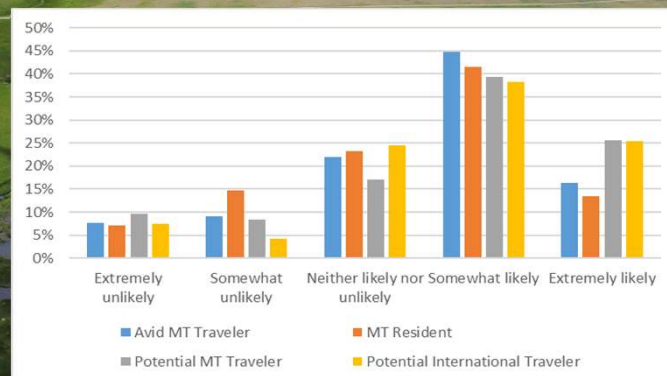
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If making a trip to Glacier National Park, how likely would you be to also make a day trip to the Blackfeet Conservation Area



A Proposed Blackfeet Conservation Area - University of Montana – Alexander Blewett III, School of Law

6. Indigenous Led Conservation

Indigenous planning of conservation areas, parks & resource mgmt

- **A legal Review**

- This memorandum responds to your requests for information and analysis regarding the legal status of certain roads crossing the Blackfeet Reservation as well as an overview of “the Blackfeet’s ability to enforce natural resource policy (ex: development restrictions, zoning) on individual allotment and fee lands.”
 - The following memorandum was primarily prepared by Dan Eakin, a third year student in the Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic, who recently graduated. We have more students in the Clinic this summer and next academic year who can continue to assist with these issues so please let us know if you have additional questions.
- Conservation Area Regulatory Authority The Blackfeet Nation seeks to use its taxing authority by creating turnpike and toll roads on its Reservation, and to use the proceeds generated from these fees to underwrite tribally-managed conservation and agriculture programs. There are potential jurisdiction issues regarding lands owned by non-Indians within the proposed conservation area or Tribal Park. These issues will likely be resolved through the analysis of tribal sovereignty, the ability to regulate activities of non-Indians, and the ability to regulate fee land owned by non-Indians. Although specific federal legislation pertaining to this authority is limited, many cases discuss the scope of tribal jurisdiction over nonmembers. The first case that will primarily be used for determining a tribe’s civil regulatory authority is *Montana v. U.S.*, 450 U.S. 544 (1981).

THANK YOU AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Find Us @ www.blackfeetnamp.com + www.montana.edu/nativeland

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