

State of Montana ~ Tribal Nations of Montana

Working Together

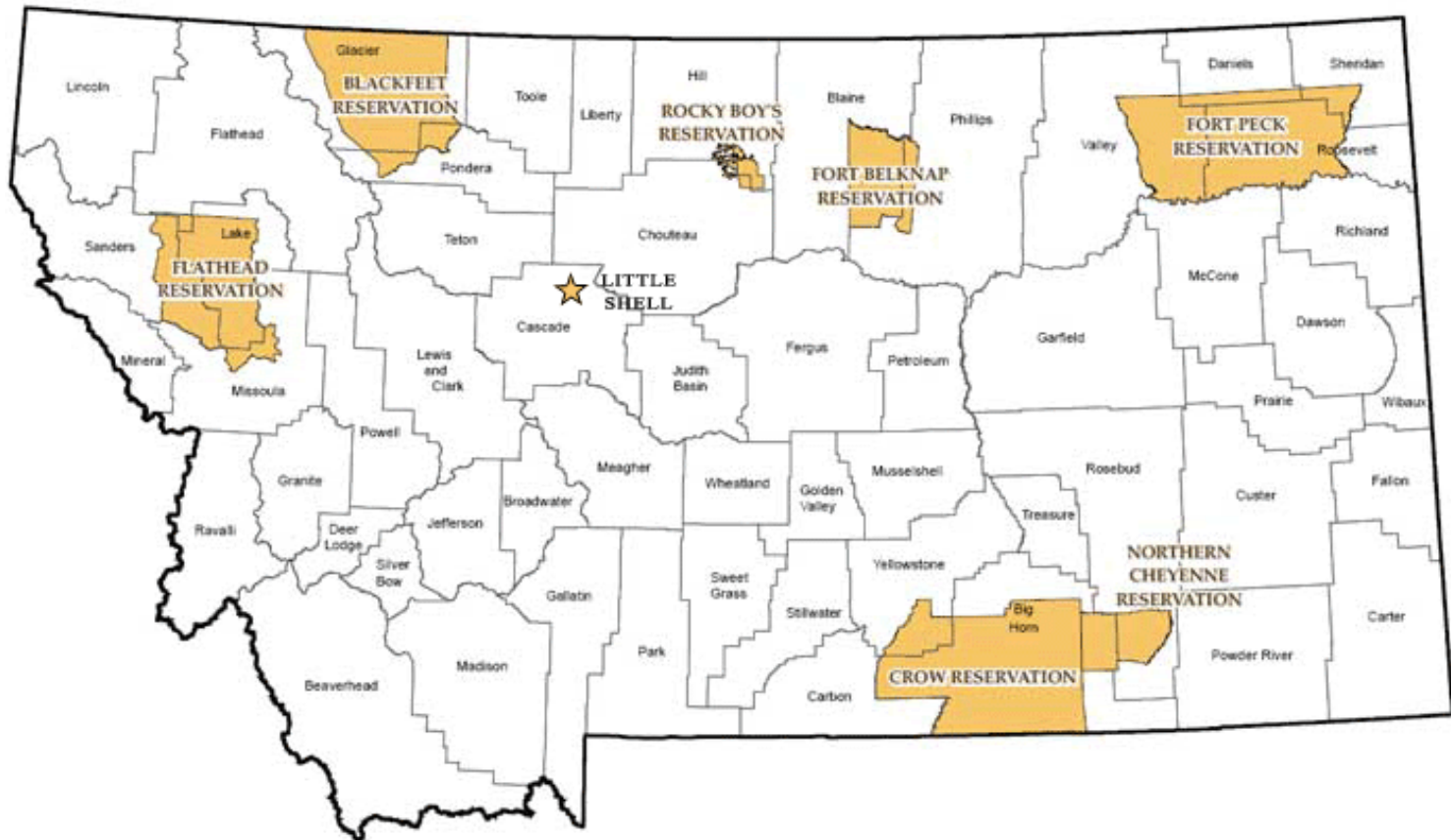


Tribal TANF Economic Roundtable
April 12, 2010
Denver, Colorado

Lesa Evers
Economic Development Specialist
Governor's Office of Economic Development

Montana's 7 Reservations

- Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne, and Rocky Boy's.



Our Efforts

- **Permanently** displayed flags of the 8 tribal nations in the state capitol.



- Committed to working on a government-to-government basis with each tribal government.
- Developed internal working group of Governor's key advisors.
- Hired Native American staff.
- Has made over 120 appointments to boards, councils and commissions.
- Legislation to allow for direct access to programs.

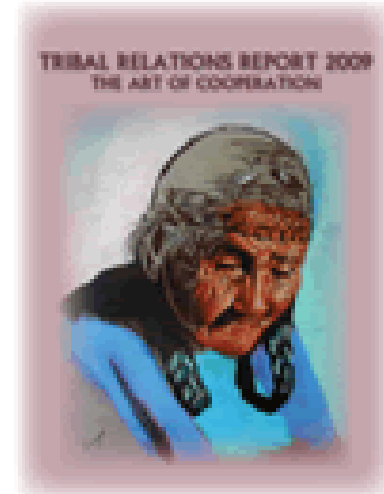
Building Relationships

- Governor Schweitzer maintains direct contact with tribal chairs and presidents;
- Meetings are conducted in tribal chambers and at the state capitol;
- Governor’s staff meet with tribal leaders, tribal staff and individual members consistently on the reservations and in Helena;
- Conduct an annual training for state employees on understanding the tribal culture differences and on how to work more effectively with our tribes.



Changing State Government

- Effort is being made to “institutionalize” how state government directly works with tribes;
- Annual training is provided to state employees;
- Annual report highlights activities that took place the year before;
- Resources and tools are now available;
- Staff work directly with state agencies to provide more outreach to tribes;
- Hiring more Native Americans in state jobs and working to keeping them there.



Economic Development

- #1 commitment of Governor Schweitzer; lay a brick at a time;
- Put a “face” to state government;
- Provide funding for Indian Country Economic Development programs;
- Increase tribal access to existing state loans/grants programs so tribes can utilize these resources as they develop their infrastructure and economic development projects;
- Provide technical assistance and create direct connections between tribal staff and state employees.

“STRONG INDIAN NATIONS BENEFIT ALL MONTANA”

Contact Information

Lesa Evers

Economic Development Specialist (serving Indian Country)

Governor's Office of Economic Development

State of Montana

PO Box 200201

Helena MT 59620-0801

Office: (406) 444-1366

Cell: (406) 461-9786

Email: levers@mt.gov

