Introduction to Native American Indian Lands

Getting ready for the visit

2015 Rethinking Forest Regulations Workshop

Some facts about Native Americans

- 4.5 million American Indian, or 1.5% of the total U.S. population (2007, U.S. Bureau of the Census)
- 566 federally-recognized sovereign Indian Tribes (which means they are recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the US)
- The largest reservation in the US is the Navajo Nation (~6.5Mha), the smallest is 0.5ha.
- Indians lands represent 5% of the total land area in the US but contain about 10% of all the country's energy reserves.

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Where We Are

INDIAN LANDS

A brutal and difficult history

- **Up to 15th – mid-19th Century:** American Indian and Alaska Native people lived in organized societies with their own forms of government
- **16th-18th Centuries:** European, colonial and then US government signed treaties with the tribes to acquire their land.
- **18th -19th Century: Westward Expansion:** tribes pushed to the west, military campaigns led by the US government to acquire Indian land in the East, then West and relocate tribes to Indian reservations. Indian Wars.
- **1890** – last major massacre "Wounded Knee"
- **1891** – "Forest Reserve Act - foundation of the US Forest Service – "withdrawing land from the public domain"

US Westward Expansion

A brutal and difficult history

- **Early 20th Century:** forced conversion of communally held tribal lands into small parcels for individual Indian ownership; the US government took over 90 million acres (36Mha) of land from tribes without compensation. Government cut support, people starved, tribes lost much of what they had.

A poster advertises Indian lands for sale in the allotment arena.

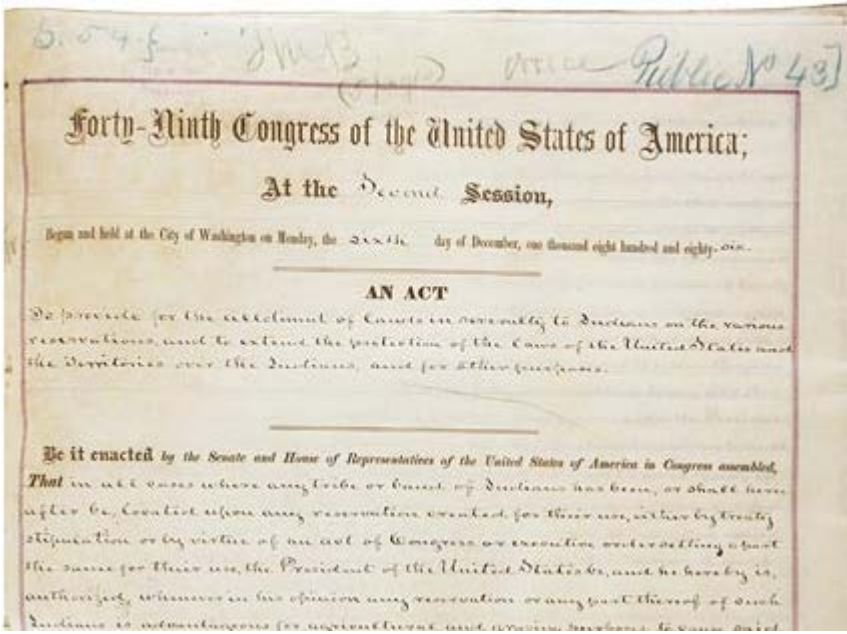
A brutal and difficult history

- **1968-Present: Self-Determination Period:** development of a policy of self-determination and self-governance, tribes regaining control over their lands and resources.

New exhibition at the National Museum of the American Indian documents the history of 450+ treaties between American Indians and the US, from the days of the early republic to the US government's use in the 19th century of coercive treaties to the 20th century, when Indian Nations successfully fought court and legislative battles for federal recognition of their treaty rights.

(The destructive) Dawes Act of 1887 "to Provide for the Allotment of Lands in Severalty to Indians on the Various Reservations"

"To each head of a family, one-quarter of a section; To each single person over eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section ; and To each other single person under eighteen years now living, or who may be born prior to the date of the order of the President directing an allotment of the lands embraced in any reservation, one-sixteenth of a section…"


Forty-Ninth Congress of the United States of America;

At the Second Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the [illegible] day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

AN ACT

To provide for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians on the various reservations, and to extend the protection of the laws of the United States and the Territories over the Indians, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases where any tribe or band of Indians has been, or shall hereafter be, located upon any reservation created for their use, either by treaty stipulation or by virtue of an act of Congress or executive order setting apart the same for their use, the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized, whenever in his opinion any reservation or any part thereof of such Indians is advantageous for agricultural and grazing purposes to cause said

Tribal Land Tenure in the US today

56 million acres (~23 Mha) held in trust by the federal government for the Indian beneficiaries

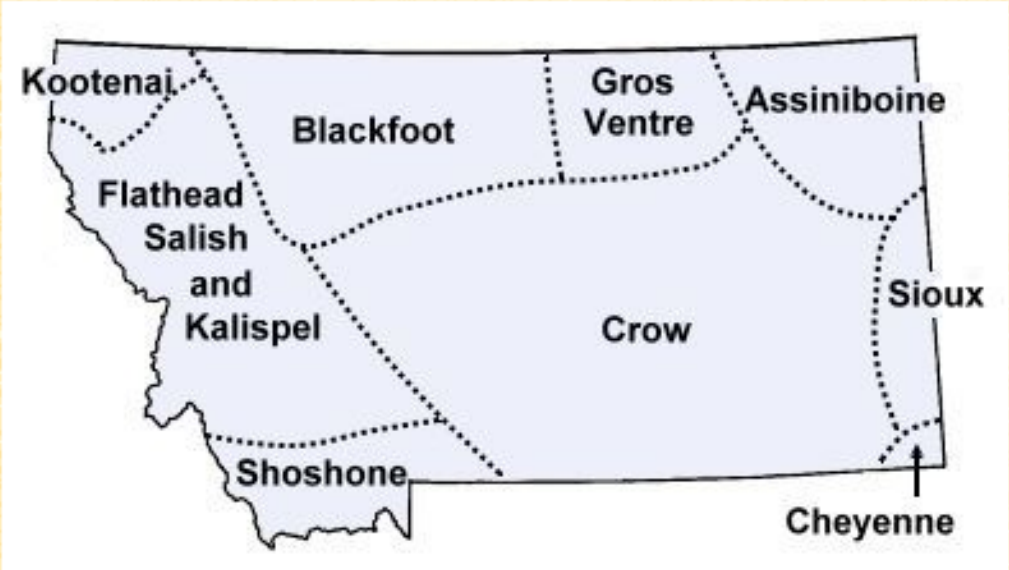
326 Indian land areas in the U.S. are administered as federal Indian reservations (i.e., reservations, pueblos, rancherias, missions, villages, communities, etc.).

11 million acres (~4MHa) held in individual allotments

40 million non-trust acres (~16Mha) held in Alaska by Alaska Native Corporations

> 100 million acres (~40 Mha) beyond tribal boundaries, where Tribes have rights to manage and/or use (hunt, fish, gather, perform spiritual and cultural practices), where Tribes have Treaty Rights

Original inhabitants of Montana



About Our Maps

- The Assiniboine tribe
- The Blackfeet tribe
- The Cheyenne tribe
- The Crow tribe
- The Gros Ventre tribe
- The Kootenai tribe
- The Salish tribe
- The Sioux tribe
- The Shoshoni tribe

Other Indian tribes driven into Montana after Europeans arrived included:

- The Chippewa tribe
- The Cree tribe

There are seven federally recognized Indian tribes in Montana today.

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Where We Are

MONTANA

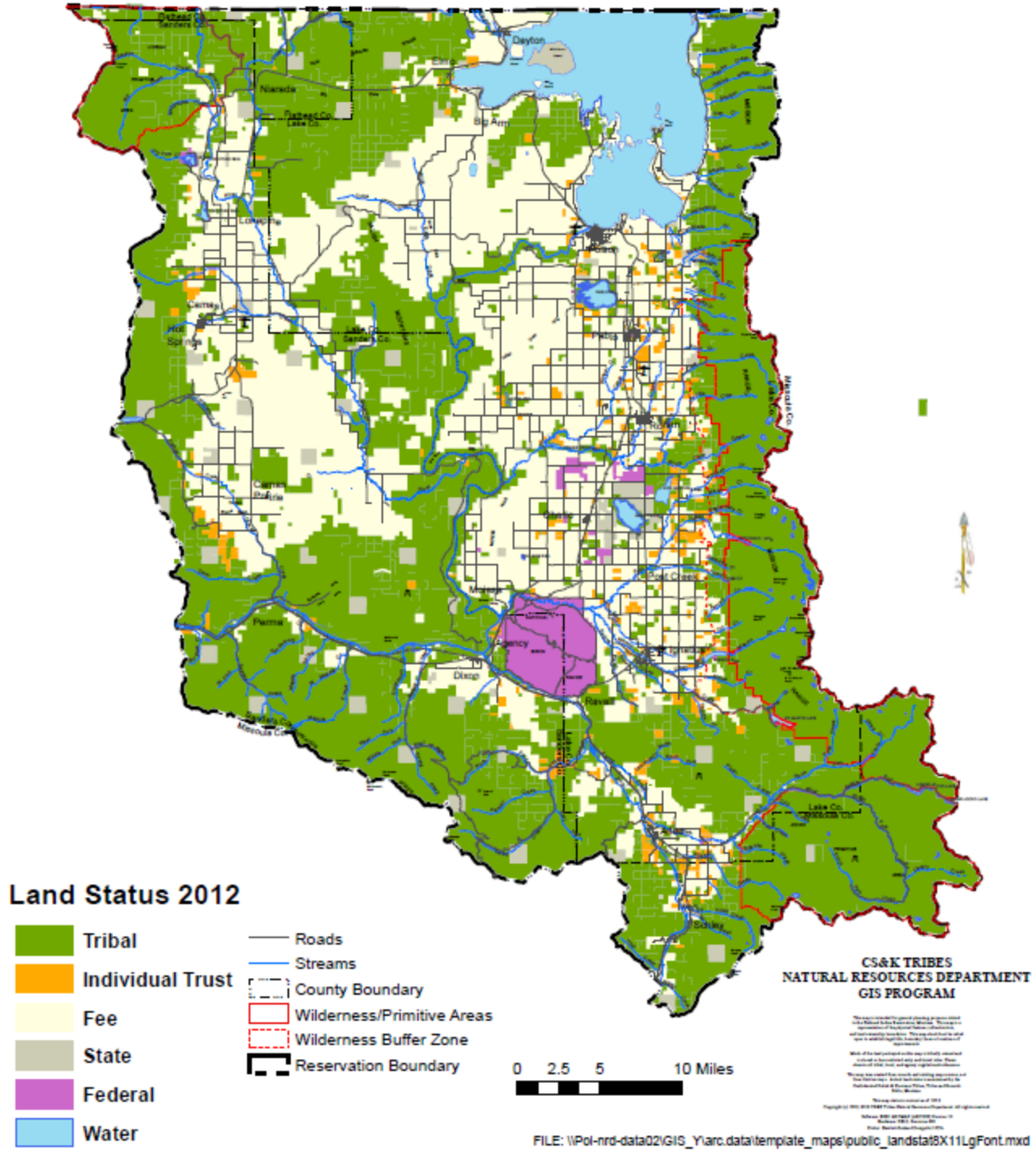
FEDERAL LANDS AND INDIAN RESERVATIONS

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management / Wilderness
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Defense (includes Army Corps of Engineers lakes)
- Fish and Wildlife Service / Wilderness
- Forest Service / Wilderness
- National Park Service / Wilderness

Some small sites are not shown, especially in urban areas.

MILES
0 25 50 75 100
Albers equal area projection

Abbreviations

IR	Indian Reservation
NB	National Battlefield
NF	National Forest
NHS	National Historic Site
NM	National Monument
NRA	National Recreation Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge

Land Ownership on the Flathead Nation – Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes