

Fort Belknap Indian Community Reserved Water Rights Settlement Bill

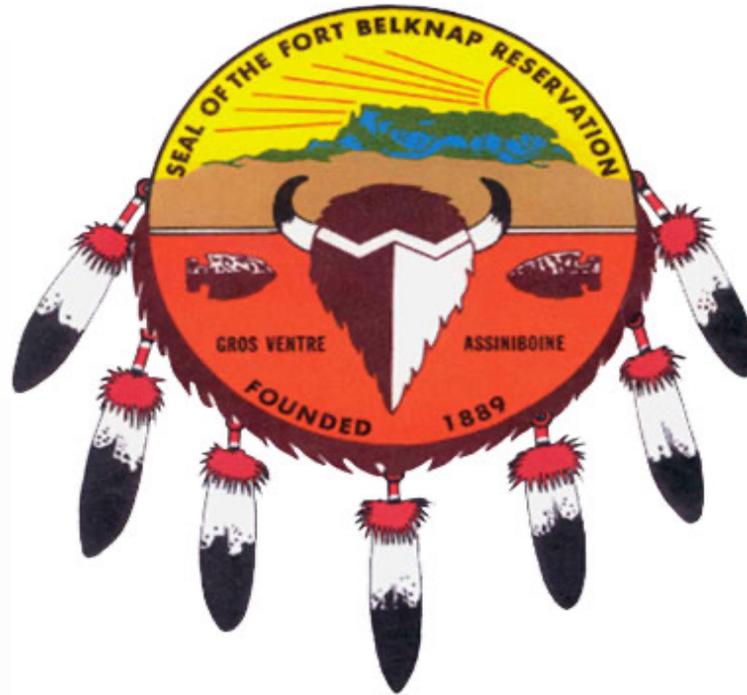
Joanne Harmon Curry
August 8, 2023

WSWC-NARF Symposium on Indian Water Rights

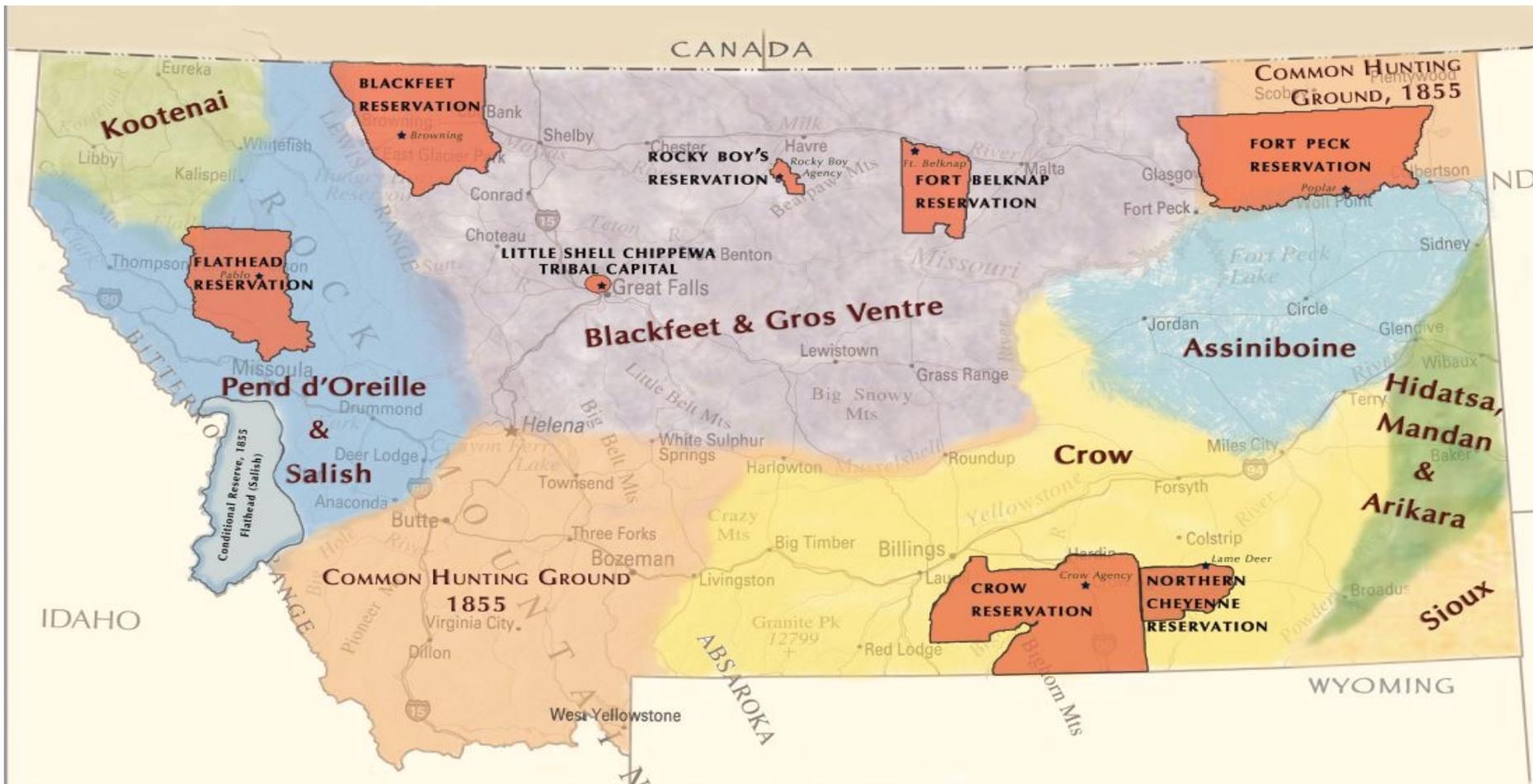


**PATTERSON EARNHART
REAL BIRD & WILSON LLP**

NATIVE LAW GROUP



**Fort Belknap Indian Community
of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
Homeland to the
Assiniboine (Nakoda) and Gros Ventre (Aaniiih) Tribes**



Tribal Territories in Montana

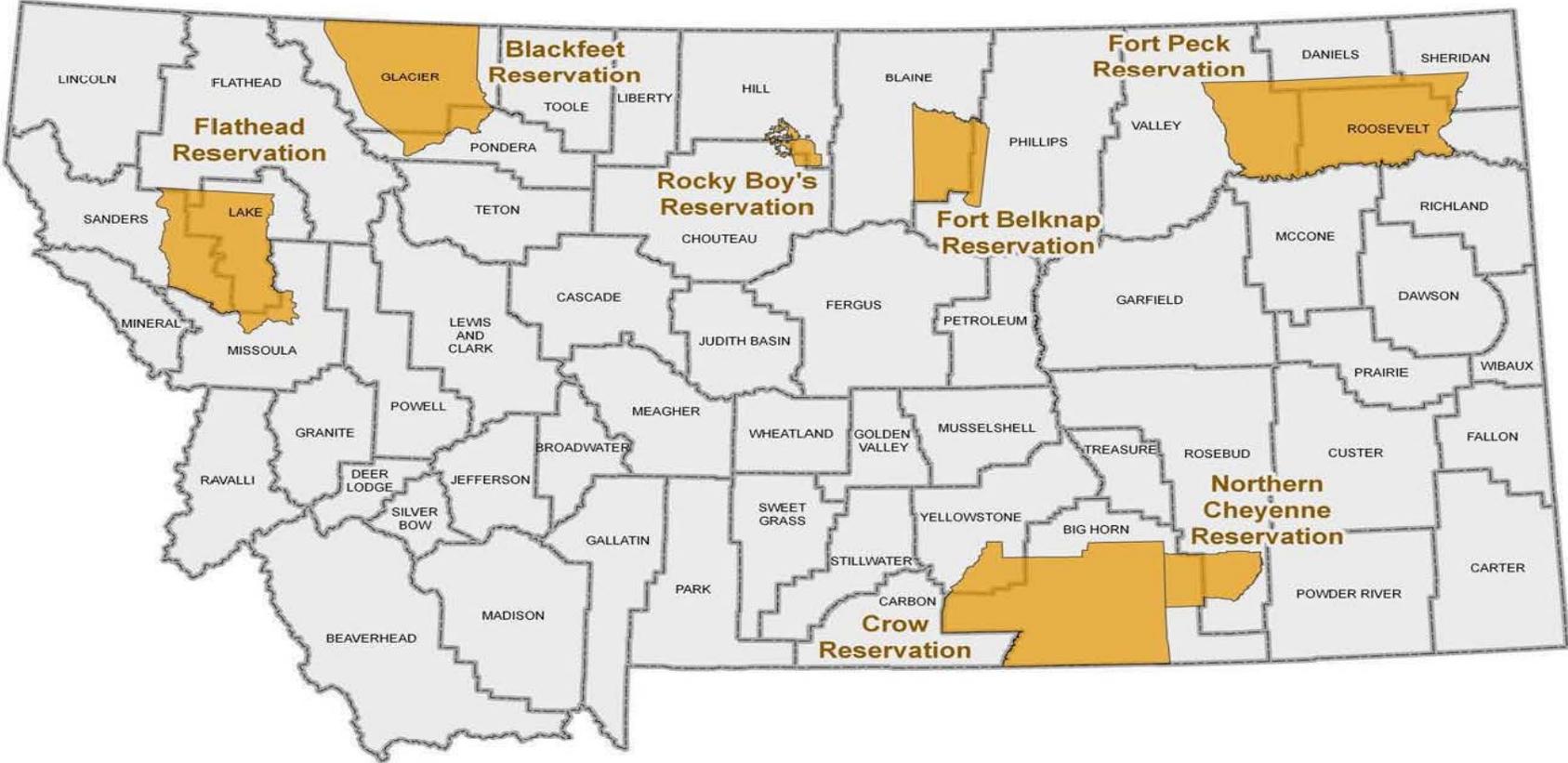
Boundaries as defined by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, and the Flathead and Blackfeet Treaties of 1855.*

Reservations today shown in red. ★ Star indicates location of tribal capital.

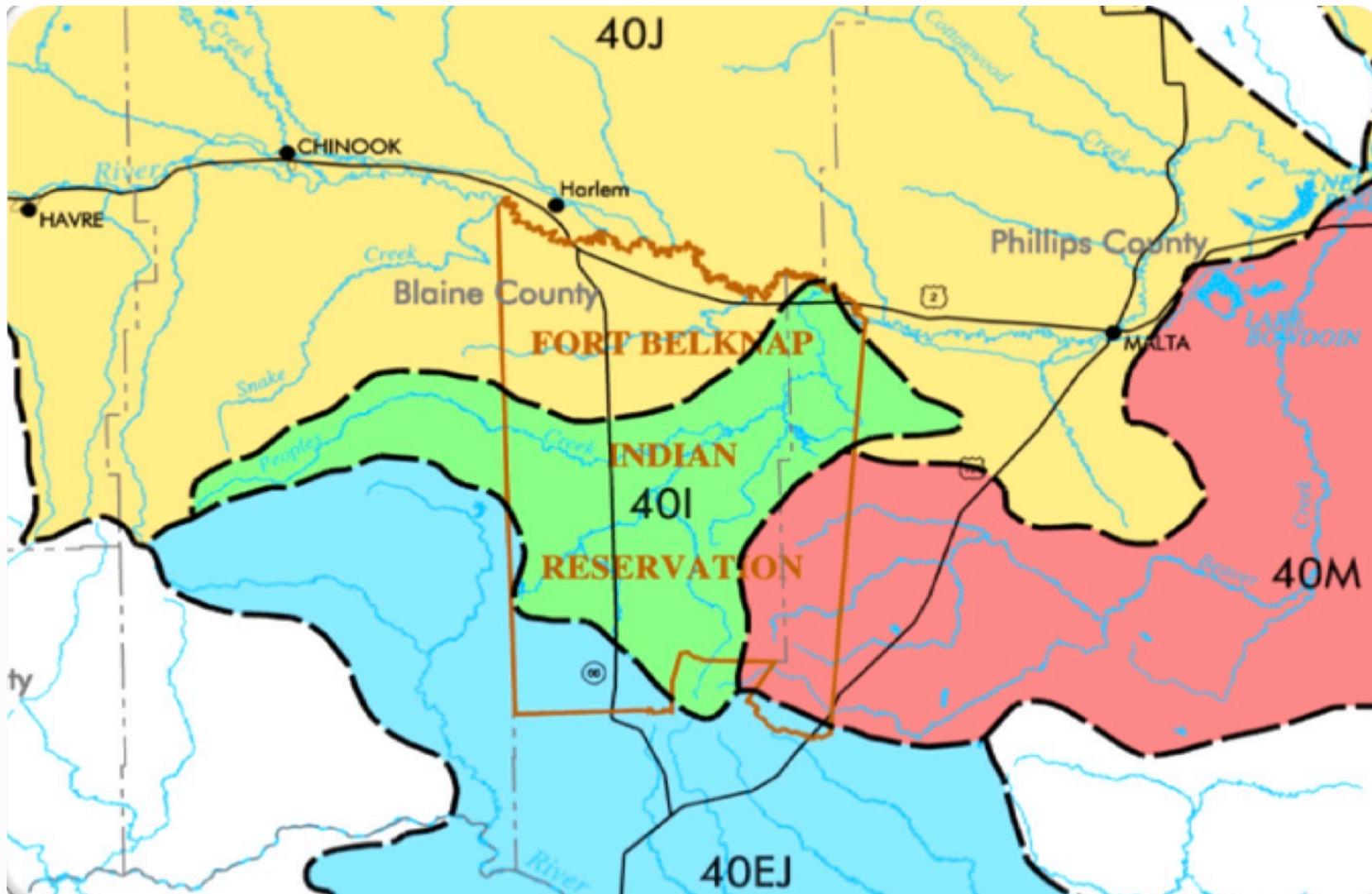
Names Tribes Call Themselves: A Key

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Salish / Sélish | Blackfeet / Niitsitapi (Pikuni) | Gros Ventre / A'aninin | Northern Cheyenne / Tsetsêhesêstâhase and So'taa'eo'o |
| Pend d'Oreille / Q'ispé | Chippewa (Ojibwe) / Annishinabe | Assiniboine / Nakoda, Nakona | Crow / Apsáalooke |
| Kootenai / Ksanka | Plains Cree / Ne-i-yah-wahk | Sioux / Lakota, Dakota | Little Shell Chippewa / Annishinabe and Métis |

Seven Reservations in Montana



FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION HYDROLOGIC BASINS

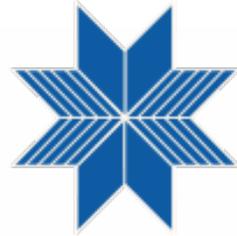




President Jeffrey Stiffarm with State Partner, Montana Lt. Gov. Kristen Juras, testifying on July 12, 2023, at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; with Councilmen Brian Wing and Gino LeValdo providing additional support.

Key Features of the FBIC Reserved Water Rights Settlement: A Rural Infrastructure Bill

- Ratify the 2001 Fort Belknap-Montana Water Compact
- Rehabilitate and expand the Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Projects
- Improve the Tribal Domestic Water and Sewer Systems & develop the Lake Elwell Project to ensure safe and clean domestic water across the Reservation
- Establish the Tribal Water Rights and Resources Department
- Return Ancestral lands to the FBIC
- Rehabilitate a portion of the Milk River Project to ensure a sufficient and reliable water supply in the Milk River to protect both existing non-Indian state water users and expanding Tribal water use.



PATTERSON EARNHART
REAL BIRD & WILSON LLP

NATIVE LAW GROUP

Joanne Harmon Curry

1900 Plaza Drive

Louisville, CO 80027

jcurry@nativelawgroup.com