



Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana
625 Central Avenue West
Great Falls MT 59401

To: State-Tribal Relations Committee, 63rd Montana Legislature, Jonathan Windy Boy, Chair

From: Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana (LST), Gerald Gray, Jr., Chair

Re: A Bill to substitute Montana placenames that incorporate the derogatory words “Halfbreed and/or Breed” with names from the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana’s combined traditional historic languages: Chippewa, Cree, & Michif. This bill arises from and is framed as a LST activity of the Montana State Legislature’s “Montana Indian Languages Preservation Pilot Program (2013, SB0342/MILP3).”

Date: July 24th, 2014

Rationale: The words “Halfbreed,” and its diminutive “Breed,” are racist terms that have long been used hurtfully, stemming from the reconfiguration period of American and Montana history. The terms question the “legitimacy” of inclusion of certain peoples (to whom it is applied) within the American and Montana nation-state projects. By an implied hierarchy of racial preferences, they assign a lesser human and civil rights status to mixed-heritage Aboriginal peoples. The terms were made placenames in Montana as Euroamericans overlaid hegemony on preexisting Aboriginal culturescapes, emblazoning the social pecking order on the land itself. The use of the terms “Halfbreed” and “Breed” is well documented in the historical literature of Montana as oppressive to our state’s first peoples, especially Montana’s “Landless Indians.” The terms from old retain currency in certain quarters, with a resurgence in contemporary Montana society. Montana changes; newcomers from across the earth join us. Old biases die hard; not all tradition is good. Critical issues currently face tribal nations as a consequence of historically impose blood quantum rules of “legitimacy” relating to tribal enrollment. Like the words “Nigger” and “Squaw,” the use of “Halfbreed” and “Breed” is at once inaccurate, untrue, unkind, and unacceptable. As with the terms “Nigger” and “Squaw,” taking a stand on the words “Halfbreed” and “Breed” is a powerful teaching tool, offering a lesson to Montana’s citizenry that “race” is a fictive devise of the colonial era to unjustly divide and oppress peoples (re: the human genome). We are all better served within our society by being more aware, considerate, and appreciative of our complex diverse cultural and polyethnic heritage as Montanans.

References: Susan Byorth Fox, Executive Director, Montana Legislative Services Division, 406-444-3066; Casey Barrs, Research Analyst, Montana Legislative Services Division, 406-444-3957; Casey Winn Lozar, Program Manager, STEDC, 406-841-2821; Jason Smith, State Director of Indian Affairs, 406-444-3702; Gerry Daumiller, State Library/NRIS, Geographic Names Theme Lead, 406- 444-5358.

HOUSE BILL NO.

INTRODUCED BY:



AN ACT REQUIRING STATE LANDHOLDING AND LANDMANAGING AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY ALL GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND PLACES UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION USING THE WORDS "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED"; REQUIRING THE AGENCIES TO REMOVE THE WORDS "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED" FROM ANY MAPS, SIGNS, OR MARKERS WHENEVER AGENCIES UPDATE MAPS OR REPLACE SIGNS AND MARKERS BECAUSE OF WEAR OR VANDALISM; AND PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY GROUP TO DEVELOP REPLACEMENT NAMES AND NOTIFY APPROPRIATE AGENCIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Naming of sites and geographic features -- replacement of words "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED" -- advisory group. (1) The coordinator of Indian affairs shall appoint an advisory group that will serve on a volunteer basis to consult with local agencies, organizations, and individuals in developing names to replace present site or geographic names that contain the words "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED".

(2) Each agency of state government that owns or manages public land in the state shall identify any features or places under its jurisdiction that contain the words "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED" and inform the advisory group of the agency's identification of features or places containing those words. The agency shall ensure that whenever the agency updates a map or replaces a sign, interpretive marker, or any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the words "HALFBREED AND/OR BREED" is removed and replaced with the name chosen by the advisory group.

(3) The advisory group shall:

(a) notify the U.S. forest service, the Montana departments of commerce and natural resources and conservation, and any other entity that compiles information for and develops maps for the state or for public use of the name change so that it may be reflected on subsequent editions of any maps or informational literature produced by those entities; and

(b) place a formal request with the United States board on geographic names to render a decision on the proposed name change so that the new name will be reflected on all United States board on geographic names maps.

Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa.

Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 1, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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Prepared for Gerald Gray, Jr., Chair of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana,
by Nicholas Vrooman, Ph.D., Northern Plains Folklife Resources.

Identified Geographic Placenames in Montana using the words "Halfbreed" or "Breed."

Feature Name ▲	ID	Class	County	State	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation*	Map**	BGN Date	Entry Date
<u>Breed Creek</u>	769196	Stream	Toole	MT	490900N	1111718W	2890	Whitlash	01-JAN-1964	04-APR-1980
<u>Halfbreed Creek</u>	772071	Stream	Mussells	MT	462540N	1083420W	3199	Roundup	01-JAN-1908	04-APR-1980
<u>Halfbreed Lake</u>	772072	Lake	Stillwater	MT	455732N	1090703W	3937	Wheat Basin	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Halfbreed Lake National Wildlife Refuge</u>	772073	Park	Stillwater	MT	455639N	1090642W	3944	Wheat Basin	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Pine Island Rapids</u>	772074	Rapids	Cascade	MT	471055N	1114824W	3379	Hardy	01-JAN-2004	01-JAN-2000

<u>Big Breed Creek</u>	779767	Stream	Rosebud	MT	464846N	1074109W	2802	Kincheloe Ranch	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Blind Breed Gulch</u>	769027	Valley	Fergus	MT	470503N	1091856W	4285	Pike Creek	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Breed Creek</u>	769195	Stream	Fergus	MT	470439N	1092535W	3921	Lewistown	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Breed Creek</u>	769196	Stream	Toole	MT	490900N	1111718W	2890	Whitlash	01-JAN-1964	04-APR-1980
<u>Breed Creek Mine</u>	804042	Mine	Liberty	MT	485204N	1110854W	5394	Haystack Butte	-	01-JAN-1995
<u>Breed Spring</u>	769197	Spring	Petroleum	MT	465959N	1080102W	3041	Breed Spring	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Breed Springs</u>	769198	Spring	Garfield	MT	465536N	1073835W	3120	Dutton Ranch	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Breedtown (historical)</u>	1762134	Populated Place	Teton	MT	Unkn	Unkn	-	Unknown	-	02-SEP-1997
<u>Half Breed Creek</u>	784461	Stream	Cascade	MT	471122N	1110609W	4518	Evans	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Halfbreed Creek</u>	772071	Stream	Mussel shell	MT	462540N	1083420W	3199	Roundup	01-JAN-1908	04-APR-1980
<u>Little Breed Creek</u>	773415	Stream	Rosebud	MT	464853N	1074056W	2805	Kincheloe Ranch	-	04-APR-1980
<u>Mosby Halfbreed Crossing</u>	774406	Populated Place	Garfield	MT	465932N	1075301W	2510	Mosby	-	04-APR-1980