

**STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS  
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

**2009 — 2010 WORK PLAN**

Adopted June 29, 2009

Published By:



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### **Introduction**

The eight-member State-Tribal Relations Committee is unlike the other interim committees that have administrative rule reviews, agency monitoring, program evaluation, or the requirement to review draft legislation of agencies that the committee monitors. Instead, the committee has the following duties, as listed in 5-5-229, MCA:

- act as a liaison with tribal governments;
- encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation;
- conduct interim studies as assigned; and
- report its activities, findings, or recommendations to the legislature and propose any legislation recommended by the committee

In the past, the committee has fulfilled the liaison and cooperation responsibilities by visiting two or three Indian reservations during the interim and meeting with various state agency officials to discuss issues brought to the attention of the committee by tribal leaders and committee members.

### **Travel Schedule**

Starting with the 2001-2002 interim, the first interim for the newly constituted State-Tribal Relations Committee, the committee began visiting reservations.

2001-2002: Rocky Boy, Flathead (and Northern Cheyenne Reservation?)<sup>1</sup>

2003-2004: Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Reservations

2005-2006: Fort Peck and the Blackfeet Reservations

2007-2008: Flathead, Little Shell, and Crow Reservations

Although the travel schedule for each new STR interim committee is completely up to the members, other considerations notwithstanding, the historical rotation would suggest visits this interim to two or three of the following reservations: Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, and Rocky Boy. Members were requested to come to the organizational meeting with their preferences in mind.

Budgeting for the committee includes travel and per diem for two or three 2-day meetings expected for visits to the reservations in addition to three or four meetings in Helena. Travel is difficult much later than October or earlier than May, so visit dates are planned accordingly. Staff suggested dates for meeting this interim and members were requested to consider those dates and propose alternative times for ones that do not work well. The results agreed upon at the organizational meeting were as follows:

1st meeting:	Helena	June 29, 2009
2nd meeting	Rocky Boy	October 7-8

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<sup>1</sup> The official record shows the Rocky Boy and Flathead Reservations were visited but a member of the interim committee said the Northern Cheyenne also was visited.

3rd meeting	Ft. Belknap	October 8-9
4th meeting	Helena	January 14, 2010
5th meeting	Helena	April 8
6th meeting	Blackfeet	July 7-8
	Helena	September 1

### **Assigned studies**

In this interim, the committee has no studies assigned to it but may want reports (or presentations in order to be kept apprised) from other interim committees studying water issues, education, and health care or other issues of interest to committee members.

### **Target Issues**

State-tribal relations intersect with almost every conceivable sector of governance. The issues that the STR discussed and agreed to prioritize in its work plan for this interim flowed from (1) members' concerns, (2) issues raised by keynote speakers at the STR's organizational meeting, and (3) opportunities following from legislation in the 2009 Session that either passed, failed, or was drafted but not introduced. The STR agreed upon the following topics (not necessarily presented in sequence here):

<b>Issue Area: Law Enforcement</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Tasks / Products</b>	<b>Point Persons</b>
<b>Extradition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Describe the status of extradition agreements between Indian and non-Indian jurisdictions</li> <li>o Determine if substantive problems exist</li> <li>o If substantive problems exist, determine if STR committee can offer remedies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rep. Peterson</li> </ul>
<b>Prescription drug abuse</b>	<i>After other target issues in work plan met</i>	
<b>Recidivism</b>	<i>After other target issues in work plan met</i>	

<b>Issue Area: Cultural &amp; Historical Preservation</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Tasks / Products</b>	<b>Point Persons</b>
<b>Cultural &amp; Historical Preservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Overview pertinent laws, literature and draft legislation (including SB 488 of 2009 session)</li> <li>o Convene stakeholders at STR committee meeting to discuss key matters</li> <li>o End-product: Legislation requiring state agencies to cooperate with and recognize the authority of Montana tribal governments in the protection, preservation, and management of tribal cultural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sen. Windy Boy</li> <li>o Chair Reichner</li> </ul>

<b>Issue Area: Education</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Tasks / Products</b>	<b>Point Persons</b>
<b>Dropout rates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Overview Indian K-12 student dropout rates (including analysis of the dropout at-risk variable of teen pregnancy)</li> <li>o Delineate action by OPI on this issue</li> <li>o Delineate action by Vo-Techs on this issue</li> <li>o Consider whether STR can take steps to support the above actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sen. Laible</li> <li>o Rep. Boss Ribs</li> <li>o Sen. Stewart-Peregoy</li> </ul>

<b>Issue Area: Health</b>		
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Tasks / Products</b>	<b>Point Persons</b>
<b>Health care disparities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Study any health care disparity between Indian and low-moderate income Montanans vs. other Montanans               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Metrics for comparing general care among various populations</li> <li>o Also: metrics for comparing diabetes; mental health and suicide; cancer; heart and cardiovascular disease</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sen. Stewart-Peregoy</li> <li>o Sen. Brueggeman</li> <li>o Rep. Boss Ribs</li> <li>o Rep. Peterson</li> <li>o Sen. Windy Boy</li> </ul>
<b>Indian health service delivery mapped</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Overview sources and methods of Indian health care in Montana               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Indian Health Service</li> <li>o Other federal (and state?) sources</li> <li>o Roles the seven tribes play in health care provision</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Federal acts: Cite responsibility for Indian health care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Review the relevant citation(s)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Snyder Act of 1921 onward</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Discuss possible STR letter to Montana's congressional delegation</li> </ul>	