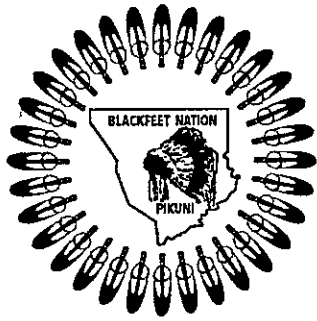


BLACKFEET NATION



P.O. Box 850, Browning, MT, 59417
Telephone: (406) 338-7521 / Fax: (406) 338-7530

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Iloff "Scott" Kipp, Sr. - Chairman
Lauren J. Monroe, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Patrick D. Armstrong, Jr. - Secretary
Melissa Augare - Acting Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Patrick D. Armstrong, Jr.
Marvin Weatherwax, Jr.
Lauren J. Monroe, Jr.
Iloff "Scott" Kipp, Sr.
Robert J. DesRosier
Everett Armstrong
Lyle Rutherford
Virgil Last Star
Shelly Hall

STATEMENT FROM THE BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

January 18, 2024

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has authorized the release of the most up-to-date information regarding land purchases under the Blackfeet Water Settlement. This statement addresses the false and negative propaganda on social media regarding spending and Tribal assets. The individuals posting such information give an inaccurate depiction of Tribal affairs that lack any substance of justice for the sole purpose of division and destruction of the Blackfeet People.

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council through its commitment to betterment of the Blackfeet People, REMAIN UNITED and will not allow the Tribe to fall into past antics driven by anti-progressive hate. A few bad actors with past failed agendas will not prevent the Blackfeet Tribe's monumental progress from continuing. That success is described in the attached report as summarized here.

Over the course of 4 years, while navigating a global pandemic, the Blackfeet Tribe increased the Blackfeet Nation's lands by thousands of acres through the Blackfeet Water Settlement and simultaneously provided each Tribal Member with per capita funds from the Birch Creek Settlement and assistance funds from CARES and ARPA funds. The lands, coupled with economic development and technological advancements, will be used to enrich and empower the Blackfeet People like never before. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council(s) established a professional system to address prior land purchase debacles and past failed land policies. Their commitment to enlist and utilize Blackfeet professionals and legal assistance resulted in the enactment of the 2019 Land Acquisition Ordinance. This Ordinance set the pathway to implement the Blackfeet Water Settlement's goal of land purchase. For the first time since the enactment of the Indian Reorganization Act, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council(s) accomplished an unprecedented mark for the Blackfeet Tribe--the return of thousands of acres of Fee lands and water rights back to the Tribe. By doing so, our sovereignty has been strengthened resulting in the reversal of the devastating effects of the loss of Indian land through the Dawes Act/Allotment period.

Furthermore, the recent land acquisitions provide economic opportunity for Blackfeet Tribal Member employment as foreseen through the Blackfeet Water Settlement. Whether a field or office employee, career opportunities in water technology, agribusiness, realty, appraisal, inspection, right-of-way specialty and construction related fields are now more possible for Tribal Members than ever before. The Blackfeet Tribe's commitment to the establishment of a standard of professionalism through best practices has ensured a smooth process of land acquisitions and the implementation of farm and ranch plans.

The progress since 2020 established through the actions of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council(s) translate to:

Water Settlement land Expansion: 27,206.92 acres
Land Purchase Expenditure under Settlement: \$36,843,911.83
Savings from Improvements in Land Purchase: \$8,172,338.20
Per Capita: \$44,202,825.00

Growth, land purchases, employment, savings, and Per Capita are clearly not the only topics to highlight on the Blackfeet Reservation. Resources are being poured into the improvement/development of services for those affected by drugs and alcohol, and for services relating to victims of crime through future reports. In relation to this narrative, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has approved the attached report, as prepared by the current Tribal Attorney, to be made public and made available on the Tribal Website.