

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation  
Tribal Council Resolution on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Adopted June 1, 1999

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes:

WHEREAS, THE Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead nation wish to authorize a tribal position on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration; and

WHEREAS, for thousands of years prior to the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806, the people of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes inhabited their aboriginal territories, including the entirety of Western Montana; and

WHEREAS, the traditional way of life of the people of the Flathead Nation maintained a pristine and natural world of abundance encountered by members of the expedition; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes out of traditional norms of hospitality, gave critically needed aide, comfort, support and guidance to the expedition; and

WHEREAS, the Expedition, unknown to the Salish and other tribes, helped lay the basis for incursions into tribal territories and the taking of tribal resources, and for later relations with the non-Indian society, and

WHEREAS, the perspective and experience of Native people about the Expedition and its aftermath has been generally ignored and misrepresented in histories and presentations to the public; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity exists that the growing public interest in native cultures and support for their survival will occur; and

WHEREAS, another important moment in that history of relations between the tribes and the non-Indian society was the negotiation and signing of the Treaty of Hell Gate of 1855; and

WHEREAS, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Hell Gate will be commemorated in the year 2005,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Tribes:

1. Recognize the importance and opportunity of activities relating to the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and also of the sesquicentennial observance of the Treaty of Hell Gate of 1855; and
2. Agree to participate in selected activities relating to the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and to assign Tribal representatives to the committee being

establish to establish policy, initiatives, and organize events relating to these observances; and

3. Establish and 2005 Multi-Interest Policy Objective and Events Committee to implement the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' objectives. Such committee will consist of one representative from each of the following Tribal departments and programs: Tribal Council, Salish and Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee, Kootenai Culture Committee, Natural Resources, Tribal Preservation Office, Tribal Education, People's Center, Salish Kootenai College, and one or more historians and a Committee Coordinator of the Committee's choosing;
4. Adopt the following statement as the Purpose of the Observance, to guide the 2005 Multi-Interest Policy Objectives and Events Committee;

*"In the bicentennial observance of the Salish encounter with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and in the sesquicentennial observance of the Hell Gate Treaty, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes shall seek to:*

*Ensure accuracy and completeness of histories of these events; and*

*Educate the general public, relevant officials, and decision makers about the meaning and importance of these events; and*

*Promote respect for and understanding of tribal sovereignty; and*

*Promote respect for and understanding of tribal traditional cultures and languages, and the urgent need to take action to ensure their survival; and*

*Promote protections and restoration of the natural environment within the aboriginal territory, to ensure the future survival of all aspects of the rich, natural heritage known by the tribes and members of the Expedition." And*

5. Instruct the committee to pursue the development of a major initiative in the preservation and restoration of natural and cultural resources upon Tribal, State, Federal, and local resources. This initiative would draw from the unique situation of Western Montana as the only region along Lewis and Clark's route where virtually all elements of the natural and cultural world of 1805 still survive, in some measure today. The objective will be to ensure the survival of all elements from animal species to human languages 200 years from now.
6. Instruct the committee to pursue all means of achieving the Committee's objectives, in accordance with the Tribal Constitution, by-laws, and regulations, including involvement of the relevant organizations and committees and, if necessary, outside funding sources.