

2022 GOVERNOR’S TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT – AGENCY NARRATIVE SUBMISSION FORM
(for the reporting period July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Purpose: The Tribal Relations Report showcases the state-tribal cooperative work and highlights efforts in support of the Governor’s vision for Montana.

1. **Submission Date:** June 20, 2022
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana Technological University Graduate School
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Victoria Pagan **Phone/Email:** vpagan@mtech.edu
4. **Activity Name** *(the file name should reference this topic):*
5. **Program Staff Name:** Victoria Pagan **Phone/Email:**406-496-4102

6. **Select Tribe(s) Involved:**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Belknap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackfeet | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Peck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Cree | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Shell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confederated Salish & Kootenai | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cheyenne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crow | |

7. Please specify when this state-tribal activity started and if it is ongoing or finalized.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Started before FY 2022 | <input type="checkbox"/> Started during FY 2022 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing/Long-Term | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed/finalized during FY 2022 |

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8. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe the **purpose** of the state-tribal activity, its **significance**, major **accomplishments**, and overall **impact**. Please include a **brief description** of the state program contributing to the activity, timelines, cost and monetary contributions, location, other partners, etc.

Montana Tech’s Graduate School participates in and contributes to efforts to increase the participation and graduation of American Indian students with master’s and doctoral degrees. These efforts include the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP) and the PNW COSMOS (Pacific Northwest Circle of Success Mentoring Opportunities in STEM) Alliance for Graduate Education. SIGP provides financial support, mentoring, and networking to American Indian students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) on-campus, research-based master’s and PhD programs. Montana Tech, MSU, and UM participate, along with Purdue, University of Arizona, University of Alaska (Anchorage and Fairbanks), and the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry. The National Science Foundation-funded project “Mental Health Opportunities for Professional Empowerment in STEM (HOPES)” 5-session faculty workshop series started with two Indigenous Mentoring Workshops, led by Tech and SIGP alumna, Shanara Spang Gion (via zoom). Also, our student baseline survey had about 62 responses, of which 3 identified as Native or multiracial/native: 5%.

Montana Tech has been a partner in SIGP for over 10 years, and typically enrolls one to four students. Its purpose is to increase the participation of American Indians and Alaska Natives in STEM graduate study through welcoming and supportive campus environments that cater to the needs of indigenous students and their families. Over 80% of the students complete their degrees, and we actively invite and host visits by prospective students.

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9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe **any new law, rule, or policy** related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.

N/A

10. If available, provide noteworthy **data** regarding the impact of your program on tribal communities, such as the number of American Indian people served, jobs created in Indian Country, leveraged funds stimulating economic development, etc.

Many American Indian graduates from Montana Tech Master’s programs work in their or other tribal communities or for the BIA, having a significant positive impact (economic and in other ways) in Indian Country. This impact is not possible to quantify reliably.

11. Are there **photographs** to support the narrative? () Yes (X) No

Please submit photographs in JPEG format, in high resolution (300 DPI minimum) and specify below the file name, caption and credit for each photograph.

Photo File Name:

Photo Caption (include the name of the event/persons, location, and date):

Photo Credit:

12. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the Governor’s Tribal Relations Report?

N/A at this time.

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1. **Submission Date:** 6/20/2022
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** MBMG
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** John LaFave **Phone/Email:** (406) 496-4306 jlafave@mtech.edu
4. **Activity Name** (*the file name should reference this topic*):
5. **Program Staff Name:** John LaFave **Phone/Email:** (406) 496-4306 jlafave@mtech.edu

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The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) operates a groundwater monitoring network cooperatively with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to monitor long-term changes in groundwater levels on Flathead Reservation. This informal cooperative effort began in 1993 and with the CSKT Water Resources Program. The MBMG assists with data collection and loads CSKT collected data into the Ground Water Information Center Database.

9. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe **any new law, rule, or policy** related to your program that impact state-tribal relations, Indian people and tribal communities.
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The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) secured funding to install two groundwater monitoring wells on the Blackfeet Reservation, east of Browning, to monitor long-term changes in groundwater reservation. The wells will be drilled in July 2022. The MBMG will assist the Tribal Water Department with data collection and store data in the Montana Ground Water Information Center Database.

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This work is being done in conjunction with the Blackfeet Water Department to build water-resource monitoring capacity on the reservation. The wells will also be used by the Blackfeet Community College to help train students enrolled in the environmental technician program.

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1. **Submission Date:**6/20/2022
2. **State Agency/Division/Program:** Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
3. **Narrative Coordinator Name:** Mike Stickney **Phone/Email:** 406 496-4332/mstickney@mtech.edu
4. **Activity Name:** Seismic monitoring on the Flathead Reservation
5. **Program Staff Name:** Mike Stickney **Phone/Email:** 406 496-4332/mstickney@mtech.edu

6. **Select Tribe(s) Involved:**

- | | |
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9. The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) operates seven seismograph stations cooperatively with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to monitor seismic activity within and near the Flathead Reservation. This cooperative effort began in 1996 and has continued annually with cooperative agreements. The MBMG Earthquake Studies Office assists with maintenance and repairs of seismograph stations, analyzes data collected from these stations together with the rest of the Montana Regional Seismic Network, and reports seismic event locations and magnitudes to the national earthquake catalog. In July 2020, the MBMG installed a new replacement computer at the Safety of Dams Office in Ronan that collects seismic data from all seven stations and forwards them to the Earthquake Studies Office in Butte for analysis and archival. The MBMG rapidly notifies CSKT Safety of Dams Office personnel with information about the locations and magnitudes of earthquakes that may affect dams on the Reservation.

During fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) the MBMG located 87 earthquakes on the Flathead Reservation with magnitudes ranging from less than 0.0 to 1.8. No earthquakes within or surrounding the Flathead Reservation during this time period were large enough to trigger dam inspections. Two site visits to seismograph field sites were used to perform maintenance and repairs.

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None.

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