US 93 on the Flathead Reservation: What’s Next?

By Whisper Camel-Means
Certified Wildlife Biologist
Confederated Salish and Kootenai
Tribes
Goals

 Safety of the Traveling public—I mean “safety of US!”

 Spirit of Place

 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity
Approx. 10 miles remain

Homelands not ceded after the 1855 Hellgate Treaty with Selis, Qlispe', Ksanka people.
Glacier NP Total Recreation Visitors

~3 Million visitors in each of the last 3 years

Data from: https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/
GNP Visitation by Month

Data from: https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/
Montana State Parks Experience Record Attendance for Fourth Straight Year

Flathead Lake state parks drew the most visitors in Montana during peak season.
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Spirit of Place

‘the road is a visitor and that it should respond to and be respectful of the land and the Spirit of Place’

Ec̓xey tʔes n̓mƛ̓mnwe Ɂu sqelixʷ l xʷiʔxʷeyʔul

“It is as if the Indian People are mixed in with the animals”
In 1999, facilitated meetings introduced MDT and FHWA to CKST’s “Spirit of Place” holistic approach.

Goals established for project:

• Develop an understanding of the land and the relationship the Salish and Kootenai people have with the land;

• Find ways the land can shape or influence the road;

• Develop concepts that respect the integrity and character of the place, people, and wildlife;

• Restore habitat areas that have been fragmented by the road and surrounding development;

• Respect and restore the way of life in small communities along the road; and

• Create a better visitor understanding of the place that the Salish and Kootenai people call their homeland.
Goals

 Safety of the Traveling public — I mean “safety of US!”

 Spirit of Place

 The Future: Improving from what we have Learned

 Adaptive Management, Realities of Maintenance, Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity
4(f) Designation--
CSKT Wildlife
Habitat
Protection
Area

Mollman Pass Trail
Wild Protected Areas

- Tribal
- State
- Federal
- Land trust
Crossing Structure Locations
Overpass
Questions?

Corwin "Corky" Clairmont
Split War Shield Cast handmade
paper, lithograph and mixed media
2001