Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and 3 Forks of the Flathead River
Native Land Acknowledgment
Native Land Acknowledgments in Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Native Land Acknowledgements

“A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.” ~ https://www.northwestern.edu/native-american-and-indigenous-peoples/

“Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.” ~ https://usdac.us/nativeland/
Key Things

“It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history.”

1) Reflection - why, what is the goal, what do you want for the audience to gain or do
2) Do your homework - who, history, events, names (people, places), pronunciations
3) Use appropriate language - do not sugar coat the past
4) Use past, present, and future tense when its needed and accurate - don’t always assume past tense
5) Doesn’t need to be grim - function as living celebrations of indigenous communities if that is accurate
6) There are many types of NLA, and who is delivering and the setting will make them all different, and each situation should be considered. Keep evaluating, reflecting, and reviewing

Source: https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/
Native Land Acknowledgments and Wilderness

Wilderness: “. . . retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation. . .” ~ Wilderness Act Section 2(c)

“Untrammeled” - the area is unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation; wild.
Examples

Organization’s Websites

Land Acknowledgement

SAWS acknowledges and honors the history, culture, and heritage of Tribal Nations and communities. The lands in each of the places we work are the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary homelands of Native people. Our offices in Asheville, North Carolina, and Roanoke, Virginia, stand on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary homelands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Tutelo people. We recognize the continuing experiences, rights, and values of Indigenous people, and have committed to learning and telling a more truthful story of the lands we live and work on. We are committed to building stronger relationships so that we can listen to, learn from, and support Native interests in our landscape.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Tribal Relations

Lands included within what is now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest were home to Indian people for thousands of years.
Examples

Wilderness Connect Profile Information

- **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness**: Historically what is now the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness was the territory of the Paranuche and Tabeguache bands of the Ute Tribe.

- **Ishi Wilderness**: The Yahi Yana Indians lived in this region for over 3,000 years before white settlers arrived around 1850 and promptly exterminated all but the handful who escaped into the harsh and remote canyons of what today is known as Ishi Wilderness. Ishi, whose name is the Yahi word for "man," was the last survivor of the tribe. You may find evidence of the Yahi Yana who lived here, historic pieces of all that remains of these people, and you should leave what you find alone.
Examples

Social Media

Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

The new puncheon will be half the size of the previous one and several of the decking boards can be reused. Aside from the nails, all of the building materials come from the forest directly around the area. Of course being in the Wilderness, only primitive tools will be used in its construction.

This is a great example of a successful joint project with our primary partner, the @u.s.forestservice! And also, three badass women getting work done for The Bob 👊

📍on the ancestral lands of the Ktunaxa and Blackfoot / Niisitapi

#lovethebob

Liked by westofthedivide and 274 others

AUGUST 21
Examples
Interpretive Panel

The San Francisco Peaks are held in the light of reverence by 13 local American Indian tribes, including the Pueblo of Acoma, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, the Tonto Apache Tribe, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni.

As you begin your hike, run or ride from this location, please understand that you’re entering a sacred landscape that is a place of worship and among the holiest sites in the world. Please speak and act respectfully, and make every attempt to leave no trace of your visit here.

Names for the Peaks in local languages:
Tsii Bina
Dzil Tso
Wii Hagiinbajah
Nuva’tukya’ovi
Wi’nakhinbache
Dook’o’oslkid
Nuvaxatuh
Wi’mun Kwa
Sunha K’hîchîchî Yalanne
Acoma
Apache
Havasupai
Hopi
Hualapai
Navajo
Southern Paiute
Yavapai
Zuni

The Forest Service is authorized and directed by the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 to develop and administer renewable resources on the nation’s national forests for multiple uses and sustained yield of products and services. On the Coconino National Forest, there are multiple, competing uses within proximity to the San Francisco Peaks that sometimes conflict with indigenous values.

“Hopisinom have spoken with one voice in opposition to the desecration of Nuvatukya’ovi that should not outweigh our Way of Life.” – The Hopi Tribe
Examples

Planning Documents - Wilderness Character Narratives, Mgmt Plans, etc

. . . We cannot undo this past, but we can hope to carry forward a tradition of reverence and respect for this exceptional landscape and the peoples who have called it home. The land that is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is and will continue to be deeply entwined with the histories and cultures of these peoples. The land that is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex is and will continue to be deeply entwined with the histories and cultures of these peoples. As Blackfeet tribal member Jesse DesRosier said of the wilderness, “We’ve always looked at those areas as very special, very sacred to our people...it was our medicine cabinet for traditional healing, it was our grocery store for hunting and gathering, as well as a place for solace and a place to go back to nature.”

~ Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Character Narrative
Examples

Public Meetings
Examples

Story Maps

We would like to acknowledge that this project does not tell a whole or complete story of these landscapes and offer our utmost respect to the many generations of people who have called them home.

The North Fork of the Flathead River flows for 153 miles through some of North America’s most iconic wild country from its headwaters in Canada’s Clark Range to its confluence with the Clark Fork River near Paradise, Montana. The river is known by many names, including *kqaskanmituk* in Ktunaxa, a language of the Kootenai people.
“All or part of every national forest and grassland is carved out of the ancestral lands of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. Indigenous communities across the country still maintain strong historical and spiritual connections to the land, connections that have not been extinguished despite changes in land ownership.” ~ Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon
More Examples

- Wz Ed Plans
- Interp Talks
- What examples can you share?
What It’s NOT

- National Historic Preservation Act Compliance, Section 106 disclosures
- Treaty Rights documentation
- Documentation of tribal consultation

- Remember the original intent of a Native Land Acknowledgment: A simple, powerful statement showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.
Resources

- Native Governance Center
- US Dept. of Arts and Culture Guide
- Northwestern University Native American and Indigenous Initiatives
- Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements
- Recreate Responsibly > Inclusivity in the Outdoor Industry
- Tribal Connections: USFS, Federal and Indian Lands and Land Cessions Viewer
- ESRI: Putting Place Names and Languages Back On Maps
- Native Land Digital
- Decolonial Atlas
- Rooted: Why Land Acknowledgements Should be Rooted into the Travel Experience