

**STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

2013 — 2014 WORK PLAN

Adopted _____, 2013

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Introduction

The eight-member State-Tribal Relations (STR) Interim Committee is unlike other interim committees that have administrative rule reviews, agency monitoring, program evaluation, or the requirement to review draft legislation of agencies that the committee monitors. The STR committee can potentially have the need to interact with *any* state agency because issues affecting the tribes can cut across all government functions. Instead, the committee has the following duties, as listed in 5-5-229, MCA:

1. act as a liaison with tribal governments;
2. encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation;
3. conduct interim studies as assigned; and
4. report its activities, findings, or recommendations to the legislature and propose any legislation recommended by the committee

In the past, the committee has fulfilled the liaison and cooperation responsibilities by visiting two or three Indian reservations during the interim and then meeting with state agency officials to discuss issues brought to its attention by tribal leaders and communities. Conversely, visits to the tribes provide opportunities for the committee to bring agency personnel who can speak of state-tribal issues of importance to an agency. In conducting its role as liaison and an entity that can foster cooperation the STR committee is mindful of the jurisdiction of government at the local, state, federal, and sovereign tribal levels and of processes or negotiations that have been ongoing (in some cases for years).

Travel Schedule

Starting with the 2001-2002 interim, the first interim for the newly constituted State-Tribal Relations Committee, the committee began visiting reservations. This has been the rotation:

2001 - 2002: Rocky Boys and Flathead
2003 - 2004: Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Reservations
2005 - 2006: Fort Peck and the Blackfeet Reservations
2007 - 2008: Flathead, Little Shell, and Crow Reservations
2009 - 2010: Rocky Boys, Fort Belknap, and Blackfeet Reservations
2011 - 2012: Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck

Although each new STR committee determines its travel destinations, notwithstanding other considerations, the historical rotation would suggest visits this interim to the **Flathead** and **Crow** reservations and with the **Little Shell** leadership. Note that:

- ✓ dates selected by the committee for reservation visits are contingent upon the given tribe's interest and availability, and
- ✓ leadership of the tribes that we do not visit during this interim are of course invited to attend our Helena meetings.

Budgeting for the committee includes salary, travel, and per diem for multi-day meetings expected during visits to the reservations in addition to the meetings in Helena. Travel can of course be difficult much later than October or earlier than May, so STR visit dates are planned accordingly. At their organizational meeting on June 26, STR committee members will be asked to *consider* the following:

1st meeting:	June 26	Helena
2nd meeting	September 19-20	Crow Reservation
3rd meeting	January 13	Helena
4th meeting	April 28-29	CSKT Reservation
5th meeting	July 24-25	Little shell (Great Falls) and Helena
6th meeting	September 8	Helena

Assigned studies and Monitoring of New Law

In this interim, the STR committee has no studies assigned to it but may want reports (or presentations in order to be kept apprised) from other interim committees studying water issues, education, bison, and health care or other issues of potential interest to committee members.

Language Preservation Pilot Program: The STR committee has been tasked to report any findings, comments, or recommendations regarding each local program and the Montana Indian language preservation pilot program to the 64th legislature. It will do so based upon information provided at each STR meeting by the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission within the Montana Department of Commerce as well as by the designated advisory board of each participating tribe.

Target Issues

State-tribal relations intersect with almost every conceivable sector of governance. The issues that the STR committee discusses and agrees to prioritize in its work plan for this interim flow from (1) members' concerns, (2) issues raised by keynote speakers at the STR's organizational meeting, and (3) opportunities following from legislation in the 2012-2013 legislative session that either passed, failed, or was drafted but not introduced.

Target issues *also* flow later from (4) discussions held at reservations the STR committee visits. Thus there must also be room left in the Work Plan to take up these yet-to-be-determined topics too. The following topics (not necessarily presented in sequence here) may be considered a starting point for discussing the committee's priorities.

State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee Work Plan
Prepared by Casey Barrs

	June 26, 2013	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA
Committee Priorities						
Language Preservation Pilot	✓ Pilot overview	✓ Reporting	✓ Reporting	✓ Reporting	✓ Draft findings	✓ Finalize findings

Tribal Visits & Resulting Priorities	Tribe TBA →	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA
	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested

		Tribe TBA →	Date TBA	Date TBA	Date TBA
		✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
		✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
			Tribe TBA →	Date TBA	Date TBA
			✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
			✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested