

BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD

The Burial Preservation Board was created in 1991 under the Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act. The purpose of the Board is to protect human skeletal remains, burial sites, and burial materials, found on state and private lands in Montana, from disturbance or destruction. It is also to resolve claims for repatriation of human skeletal remains and funerary objects.

BOARD MEMBERS

William Big Day, Crow Nation
Chair

Skye Gilham, Physical Anthropologist
Vice Chair

Michael Blackwolf, Assiniboine/Nakoda & Gros
Ventre/A'aninin

Tom Escarcega, Sr., Fort Peck Assiniboine &
Sioux Tribes

Conrad Fisher, Northern Cheyenne

Carl Davis, Montana Archaeological Society

Jessica Bush, State Archaeologist

Andy Lebrun, Montana Coroner's Association

Vacant, Little Shell Chippewa

John Murray, Blackfeet

Alvin Windy Boy, Chippewa Cree Tribes

Kevin Askan, Confederated Salish & Kootenai

Marika Jeanne Moore, Public Representative

BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD STAFF MEMBERS

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Administrative Support
DOA Director's Office
406-444-2032

TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Blackfeet Reservation
406-338-4000

Crow Reservation
406-638-2957

Flathead Reservation
406-675-4700

Fort Belknap Reservation
406-353-2933

Fort Peck Reservation
406-768-5565

Northern Cheyenne Reservation
406-477-8249

Rocky Boy's Reservation
406-395-4184

Little Shell Tribe Historic Preservation Office
406-315-2400

*This information will be made available in
alternate formats upon request.*

STATE OF MONTANA

Burial Preservation Board



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND HUMAN REMAINS

*A Guide for Coroners,
Local Law Enforcement,
and Property Owners*

If Human Remains, a Burial Site, or Burial Materials are Discovered:

- Cease all activity at the site and **immediately** call the Coroner.
- The Coroner may seize the remains if a criminal inquiry or inquest is warranted.
- If the Coroner determines an inquiry or inquest is not warranted, the Coroner shall call the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) **within 24 hours**. If SHPO cannot be contacted, the Coroner will call the nearest member of the State Burial Preservation Board or law enforcement at the nearest reservation.
- Unless there is suspicion of a crime scene or the Board has made another finding, **burial sites and human remains must be protected and preserved in place regardless of ethnic origin, burial context, or age of burial site.**
- All burial sites must be avoided and not physically disturbed. Montana Code Annotated, Title 46, Chapter 4 does not authorize removal of remains solely for documentation of ethnicity or age or other study. **Removal or disturbance of human remains other than in a coroner's inquiry or inquest should occur only after other alternatives (primarily preservation in place) have been considered by the Board.**

Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act Procedures

NOTE: A person may be subject to criminal and civil penalties for violating the Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Protection Act [22-3-808, MCA]

