

FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION

Gros Ventre (A'aninin) and Assiniboine (Nakoda)

Tribal Seal Description: “Created by George “Sonny” Shields, the emblem of the Fort Belknap Reservation’s seal is the traditional shield, symbolizing the shield’s protection of the two tribes, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine. The shield illustrates the protection for the two tribes [in] the past, present and future, and protection against the loss of tribal culture, tribal identity and tribal land base. The circular shape of the shield symbolizes life itself, or the constant cycle of life, each living thing dependent on one another for life.

The four directions and the four seasons are symbolized in the use of the four colors: red for summer, yellow for fall, white for winter, and green for spring.

The buffalo skull symbolizes the existence of two tribes on the reservation, who function as a whole. The colors divide it, yet the skull remains as one. The skull has a jagged line from horn to horn representing the Milk River, a major tributary of the Missouri. Snake Butte is illustrated above the skull. This butte is a well-known landmark for tribes throughout the North.

The two arrowheads facing each other emphasize the strong traditional ties with the past. Seven feathers hang from the shield. Each feather is for every two of the twelve council members who represent the reservation’s three districts and the center feather represents the tribal chairman.”

Tribal Website: <http://www.ftbelknap.org/>

Fort Belknap Timeline: <http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Social%20Studies/K-12%20Resources/Fort%20Belknap%20Timeline.pdf>

