Transboundary Grasslands Workshop

January 11, 2017

Kainai Ecosystem Protection Agency Division

KEPA

- Administration
- Survey &

  Monitoring
- Questions

Vison & Mission

- Is for Kainai to value and live in a clean, healthy and protected environment that supports a sustainable society and balances our economy and traditional connections to the air, water, land and animals

- Is to provide leadership through ecological consciousness and environmental stewardship by monitoring, resource management and conservation awareness, while promoting protection, sustainable development and partnerships

Mandate/Objective

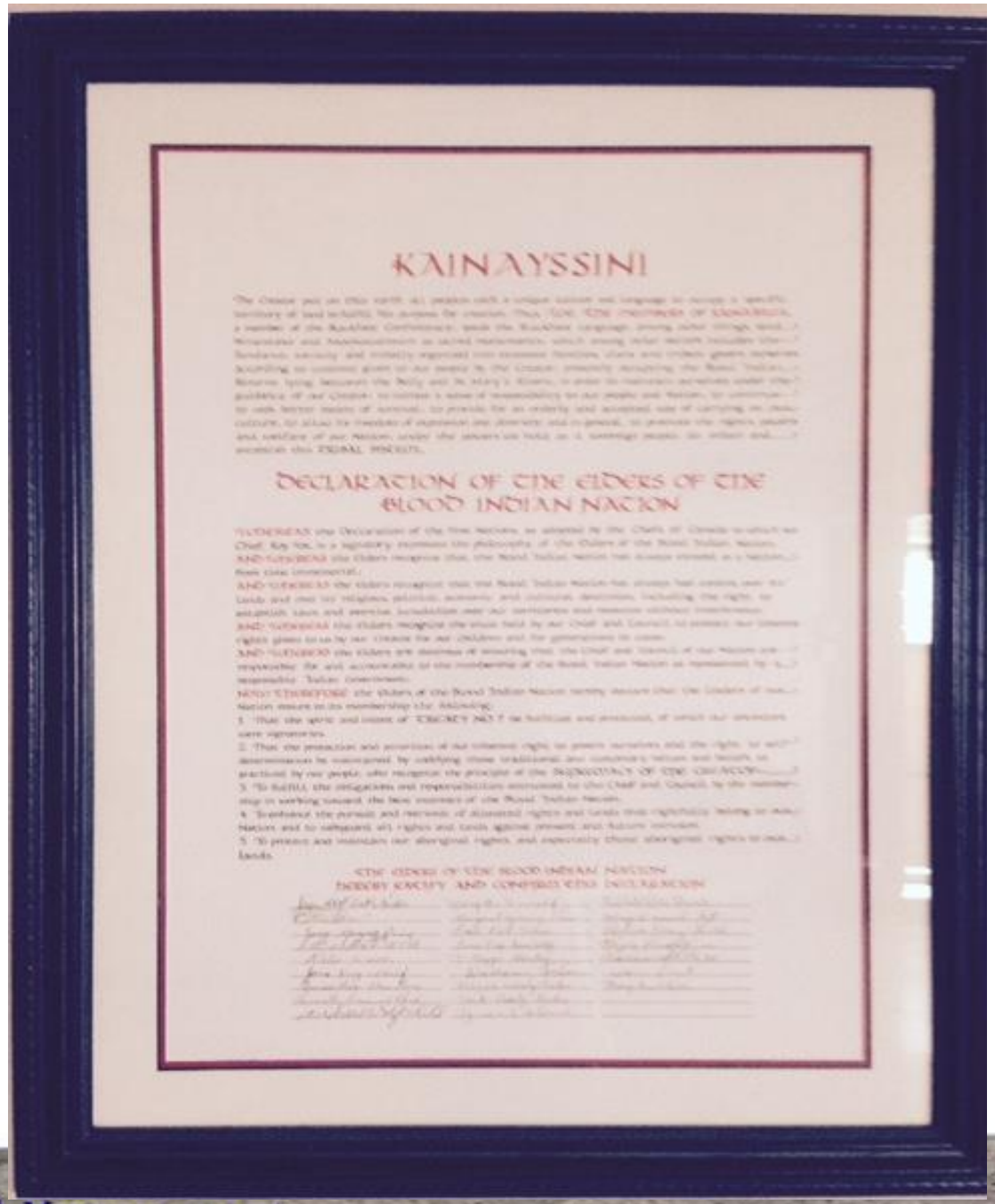
- To ensure the sustainability and protection of the Blood Reserve land, environment and natural resources.

- To ensure applicable tribal, provincial and federal statutes and regulations are complied with, monitored, reported and ultimately enforced

Administration

Duties and Responsibilities:

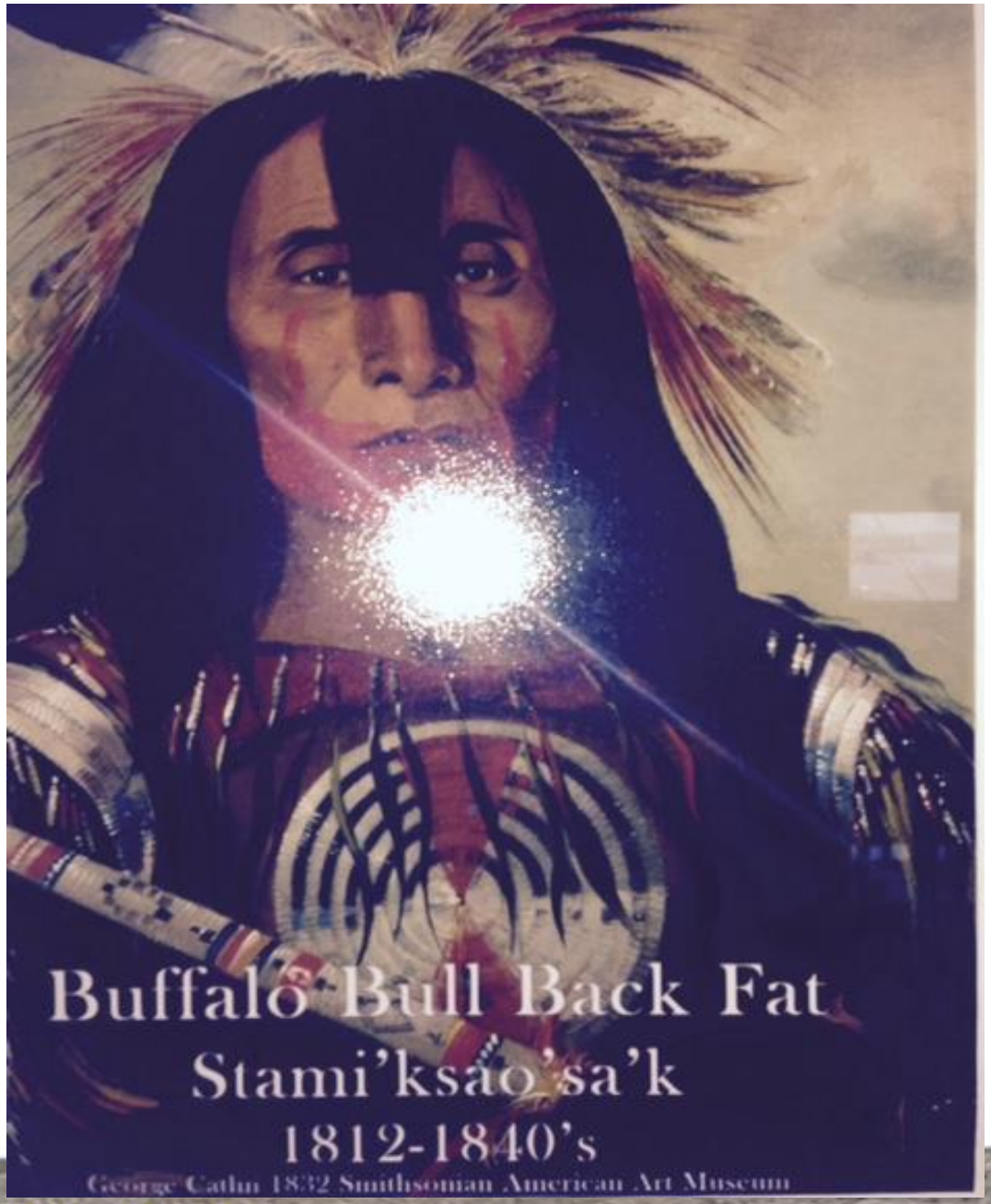
- Conduct field work to measure and record features of the environment, studying, assessing, and developing methods of controlling or mitigating adverse affects of human interaction with the environment
- Developing conservation and monitoring programs, eg. Monitoring of Species at Risk
- Developing in collaboration with Blood Tribe Departments and Entities environmental response mechanisms to efficient and effective communication regimes are in place.
- Seek funding for environmental initiatives as there are no existent mandates to account for environmental activities.

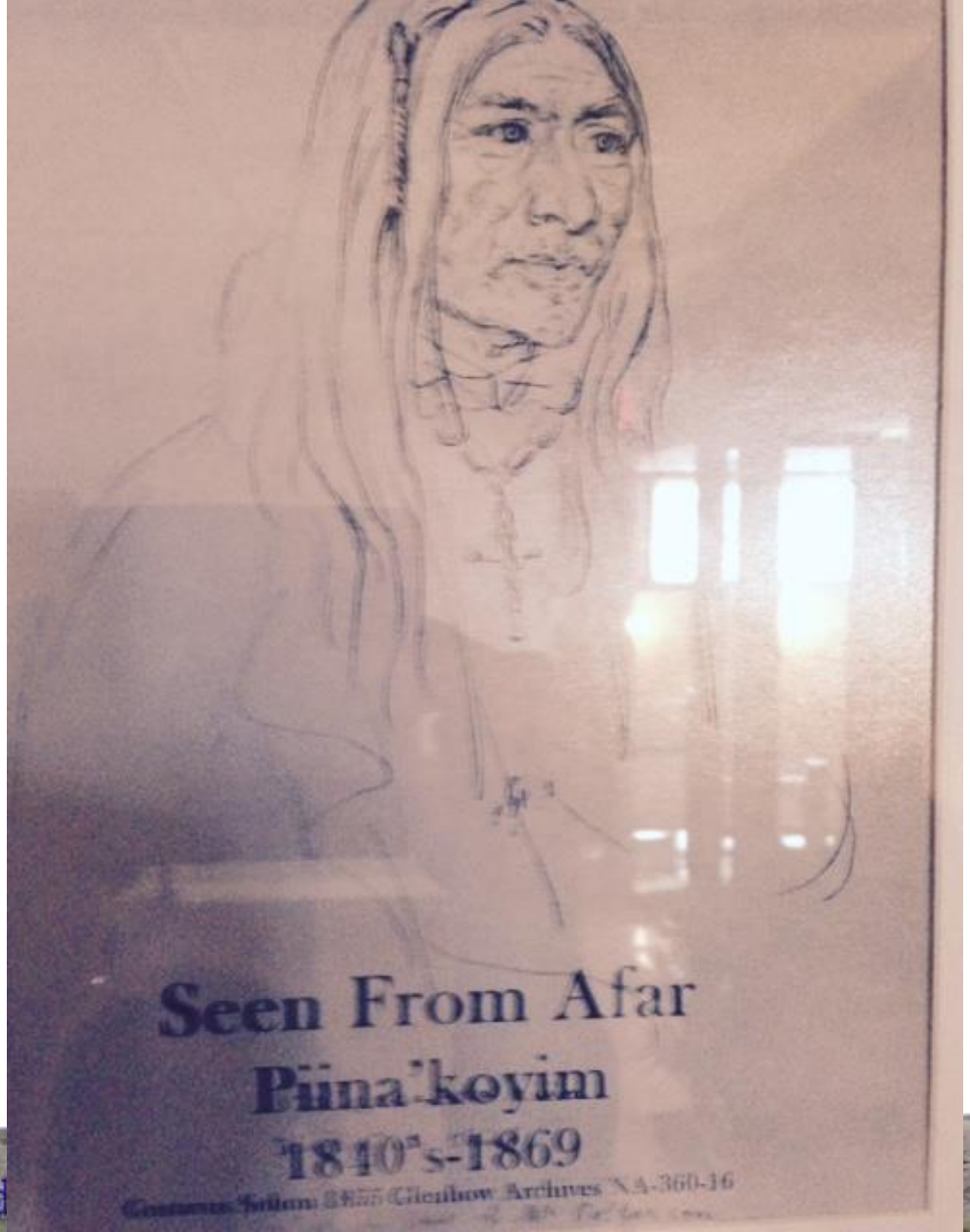


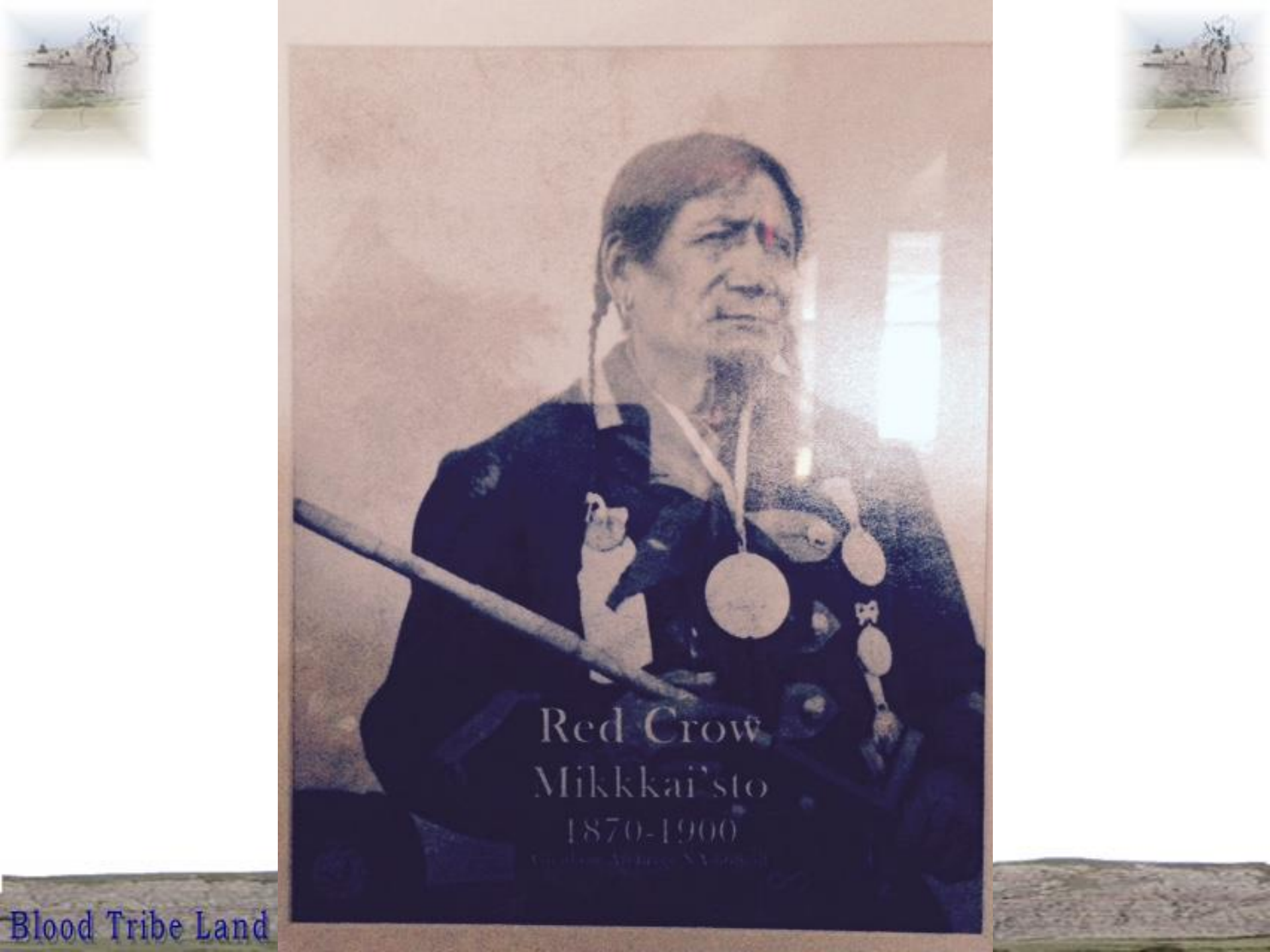
KAINAYSSINI

DECLARATION OF THE ELDERS OF THE BLOOD INDIAN NATION

Blood Tribe Land Management


Buffalo Bull Back Fat
Stami'ksáo'sa'k
1812-1840's
George Catlin 1832 Smithsonian American Art Museum


Seen From Afar
Piina'koyim
1840's-1869
Glenbow Archives NA-360-16



Blood Tribe Land

Roy Fox
Makinimawa
1980-1992 & 1992-1994

Environmental Protection Staff

- **Environmental Protection Manager**:
  Kansie Fox
- **Environmental Technician**:
  Marsha Heavy Head
- **Invasive Plant Technicians:**
  Jared Panther Bone
  Nathan Mistaken Chief
- **Winter Program Students:**
  Luke Across the Mountain
  Chase Tail Feathers

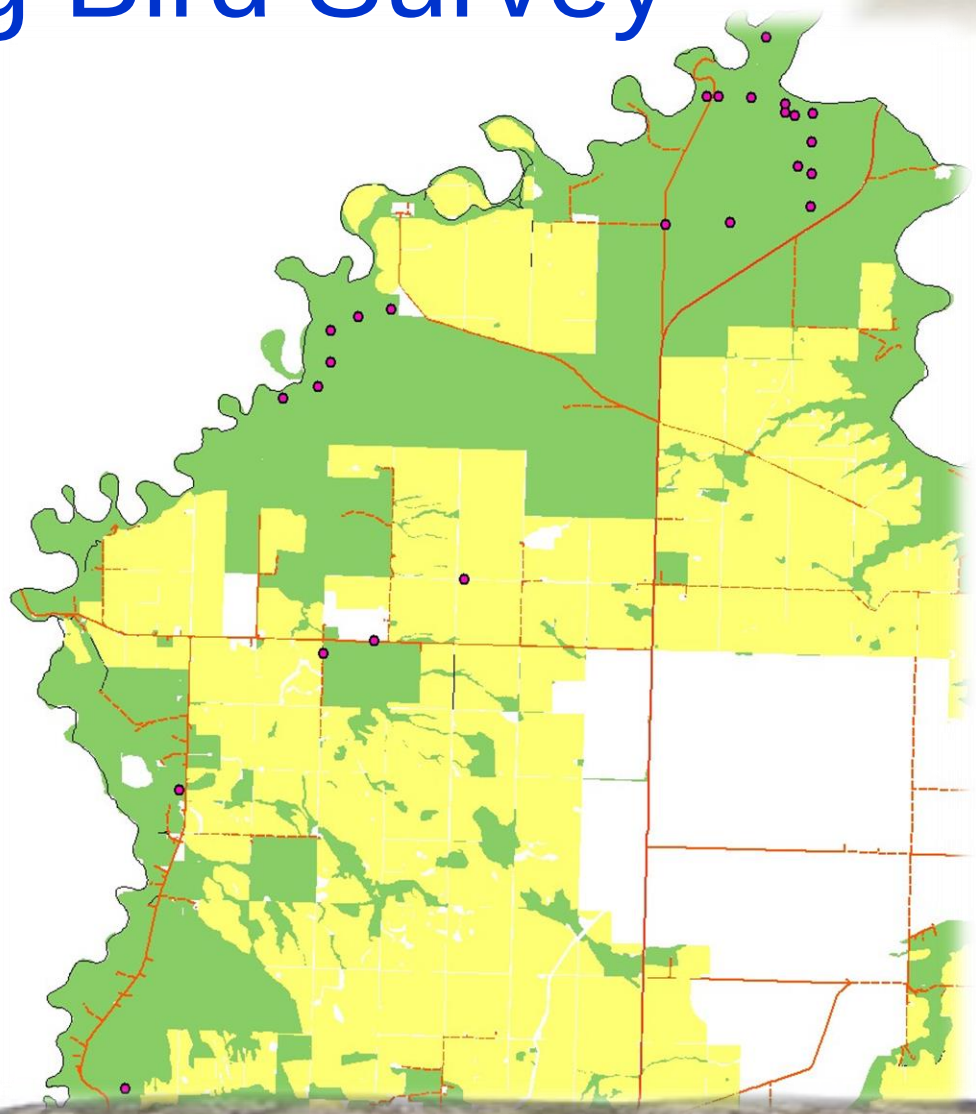
Survey & Monitoring Programs

Breeding Bird Survey

- Significant bird species found on Blood Tribe grasslands, large tracts of native grassland which accounts for 3% of total grass in Canada.
- 3 Species: Threatened status Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike and Sprague's Pipit
- 2 Species: Special Concern Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl
- decline in Ferruginous Hawk sightings.

Breeding Bird Survey

- The 2016 breeding bird survey includes identification of the following COSEWIC Species at Risk: Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Piping Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, and the Ferruginous Hawk.



Survey & Monitoring Programs

Goal

- species and habitat monitor, protection and recovery

Recommendations

- Policies for native prairie protection;
- Establish conservation area for large tracts of grassland and grassland species habitat
- Membership, department and leadership education
- Work in collaboration with Tribal Elders
- Educate Youth and general public

Survey & Monitoring Programs

Forest Health

- Recommendations provided for the development of hunting regulations/guidelines

Goal

- Sustainable Forest management Plan

Prioritize

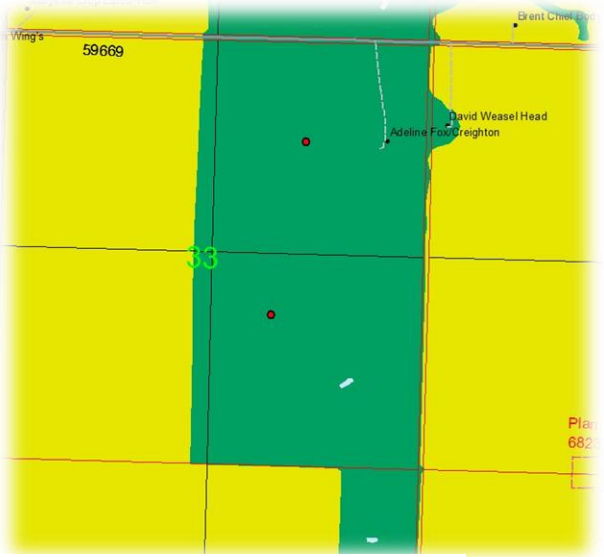
- traditional and ecological inventory of abundance and health of Forest ecosystem

Survey & Monitoring Programs

Range Health (2016)

- ~320/38,465 (0.83%) acres assessed

- "**Healthy with Problems**" at 63.5%. Mainly due to low litter score. If proper management is implemented, status will improve over time.



Health Categories

Healthy: A health score of 75 or greater.
All of the key functions of health rangeland are being performed.

Healthy with Problems: A health score of 50 to 74%.
Most but not all of the key functions of healthy range are being performed. This score is an early warning that adjustments to management are needed. Recovery to a healthy category can normally be accomplished within a few years.

Unhealthy: A health score of less than 50%.
Few of the functions of healthy range are being performed. Management changes are essential and many years will be required to regain a healthy status..

Rangeland Health Survey

Short – Term Goals:

- Organize outreach and create educational programs for Blood Tribe members/ranchers/farmers through workshops, distribution material, etc.

- Increase resources for more consistent and representative data: due to insufficient field staff

Survey & Monitoring Programs

Weed Management

- The primary goal of the noxious weed control program is to identify areas of occurrence and to deploy control mechanisms where appropriate.
- The Blood Tribe has been actively controlling the noxious weeds on the reserve since 1989. Prior to 1989, Cardston Ag. Services did control of weed infestations, with support from Lethbridge Research Stations biological control program.

- In 2000, there was 10,000 acres approximated by the Lethbridge Research Station to be infested with leafy spurge; generally occurring along the St. Mary and Old Man Rivers.
- Presently we have developed a successful program that is working with land occupants in controlling and managing issues and learning new processes in eradicating noxious weeds.

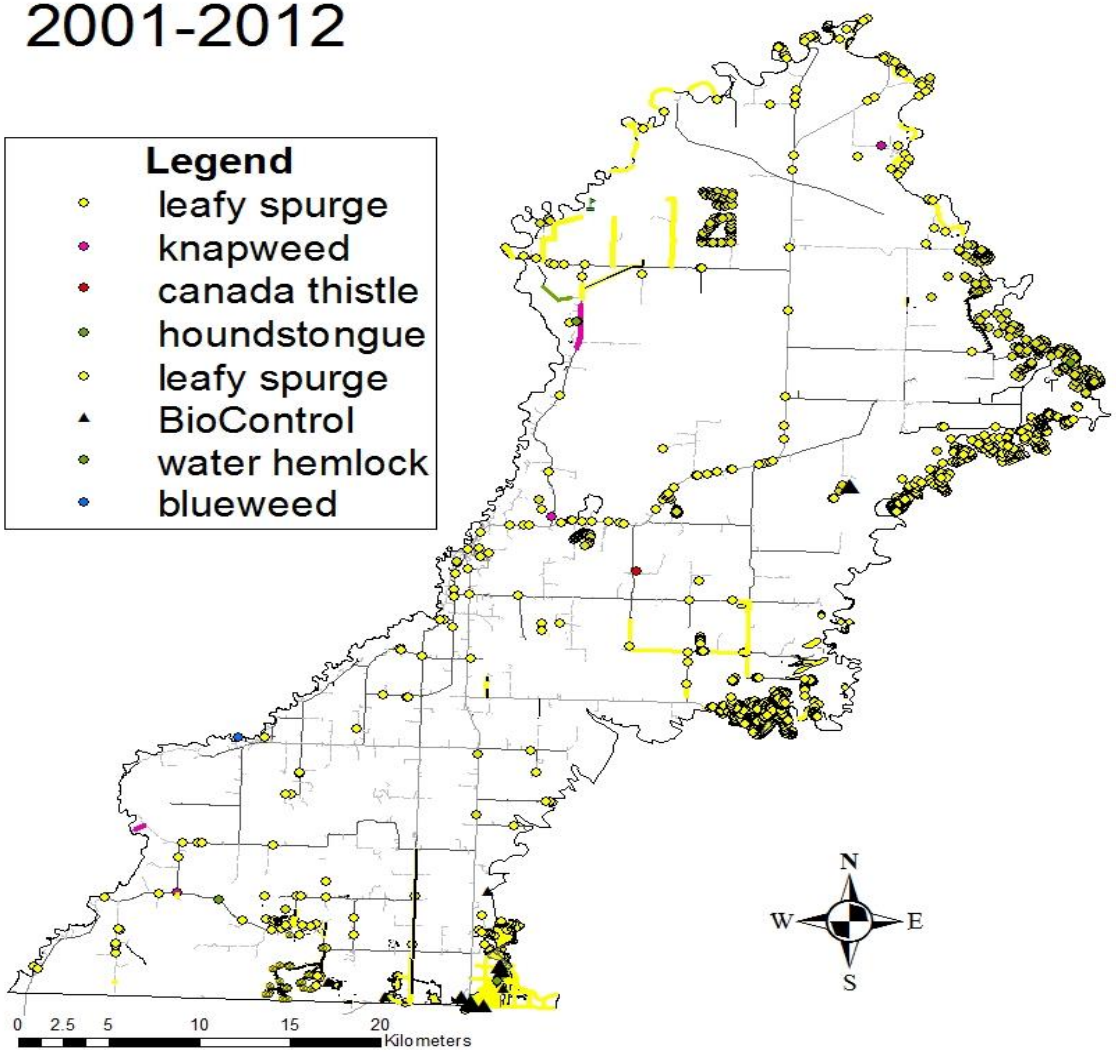
Survey & Monitoring Programs

Recommendations:

•More funding be allocated to the program.

•More (2 to 4) spray technicians and spray trucks.

•A comprehensive sheep grazing program for Leafy Spurge.

•Encourage greater involvement from other departments such as Public Works, KRI,BTAP and KBE

Blood Tribe
Weed Species Identification
2001-2012