

# PROCLAMATION OF THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

## Badger Two Medicine

RE-AFFIRMATION 2014

- WHEREAS: The Blackfoot Confederacy is made of the three Blackfoot Tribes in Canada, and the Blackfeet Tribe of the United States; and
- WHEREAS: The Badger Two Medicine is within the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people, and was set aside as part of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation by the Lame Bull Treaty of October 17, 1855; and
- WHEREAS: The leaders from the three Blackfoot Tribes in Canada and United States: Piikani, Siksika and Blood Bands of the Blackfoot were signatories to the 1855, Lame Bull Treaty.
- WHEREAS: The location of the Badger Two Medicine in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem between Glacier National Park and the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas, with its isolated and dramatic mountain features, and its richness in rare and sensitive plant and wildlife, have long made it a critical part of our oral history, creation stories and ceremonies of the Blackfoot people, as well as an important plant gathering, subsistent hunting, fishing and timbering site which continues to be vital to the religious, cultural and subsistence survival of the Blackfoot people; and
- WHEREAS: Short term gains from energy development will have a progressive deterioration of the quality of the water and waterways of the United States located in Badger Two Medicine, and disrupt processes of plants, animals and aquatic life essential to Blackfoot culture and ceremony; and
- WHEREAS: The Badger Two Medicine was included within the area ceded by the Blackfeet Tribe in 1895, but the cession was not intended to be permanent, and the Tribe continues to assert our ownership to the area; and
- WHEREAS: In 1982, the U.S. Forest Service, without consultation with the Blackfeet Tribe, granted 47 oil and gas leases in the Badger Two Medicine, said leases are a threat to the pristine condition of the Badger Two Medicine and to the cultural and religious values of the Blackfoot people; and
- WHEREAS: The Blackfeet Tribe firmly believes the oil and gas leases in the Badger Two Medicine were let in error; and
- WHEREAS: The entire area of the Badger Two Medicine has been designated a Traditional Cultural District (TCD), under the National Historic Preservation Act, by the Keeper of National Register of Historic Places; and
- WHEREAS: Energy development in the Badger Two Medicine would be considered "adverse effects" and irrevocably change the character of the Badger Two Medicine and would impact and interfere with the pristine and isolated nature of the area and the Blackfoot people's use of it for cultural, historical and religious purposes and would also interfere with the hunting, fishing and timbering rights of the Blackfeet Tribe:

### NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY;


The Blackfeet Tribe joins with members of the Blackfoot Confederacy to proclaim that it will not consent and will not approve any energy development within the Badger Two Medicine and vigorously oppose any proposals for such development; and

The Blackfoot Confederacy supports all efforts by the Montana Congressional Delegation to provide a means for energy company leases in the Badger Two Medicine to be canceled for violating the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act and projected "adverse effects" to the Blackfeet culture.

### CHIEFS AND HEADMEN OF THE BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

Dated this 24th day of October, 2014, Blackfeet Headquarters, Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Browning, Montana.




  
Harry Barnes, Chairman  
Blackfeet Tribe



  
Clayton Small Legs, Chief  
Piikani Nation



  
Charles Weasel Head, Chief  
Blood Tribe




  
Vincent Yellow Old Woman, Chief  
Siksika Nation

### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing Proclamation was adopted by the Blackfoot Confederacy in a duly called, noticed and convened Special Session at Blackfeet Headquarters, in Browning, Montana, and assembled the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014 with four (4) Headmen present to constitute a quorum and with a vote of four (4) FOR and zero (0) OPPOSED.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

  
Tyson T Running Wolf, Secretary  
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council