

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian and staff

Date: December 7, 2021

Re: Native Lands Acknowledgement Statement

Staff request that the State Library Commission consider adopting and implementing the use of a native lands acknowledgement statement that both acknowledges the tribal history of our region as well as our close work with Montana tribes.

Background information: [UM's School of Public Health ups the ante on Native land acknowledgements - Missoula Current](#)

Salish and Kalispel example:

"___[entity, organization, or person]___ acknowledge[s] that we are in the homelands of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we offer our respect for their history and culture, for their ancient and continuing presence in this landscape, and for the path they have shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come."

If the Commission wishes to proceed with this recommendation staff request that an ad hoc subcommittee of the Commission work with staff to develop and appropriate statement for the State Library and recommendations for its meaningful application.