

# Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

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*Kootenai elders have passed down the history of creation and the beginning of time, much of it uniquely Kootenai and so sacred that it cannot be shared with outsiders.*

*It can be told, however, that the Kootenai people were created by Quilxka Nupika, the supreme being, and placed on earth to keep the Creator-Spirit's Covenant.*



# The Covenant says:

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*“I have created you Kootenai people to look after this beautiful land, to honor and guard and celebrate my creation here in this place. As long as you do that, this land will meet all your needs.*

*Everything necessary for you and your children to live and be happy forever is here, as long as you keep this Covenant with me.”*

# TREATIES WITH INDIAN TRIBES

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, Art. VI

“[A]ll Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the Supreme Law of the Land.”

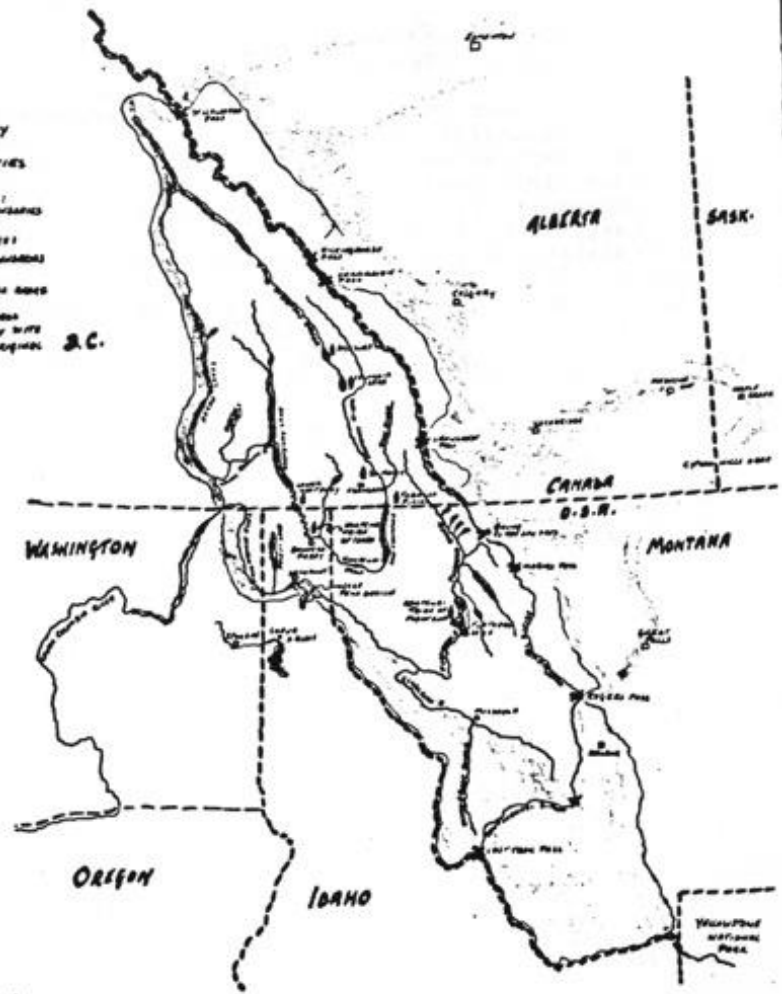
## TREATY OF HELLGATE, Art. III

“The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians; as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with citizens of the Territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing; together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries, and pasturing their horses and cattle upon open and unclaimed land.”

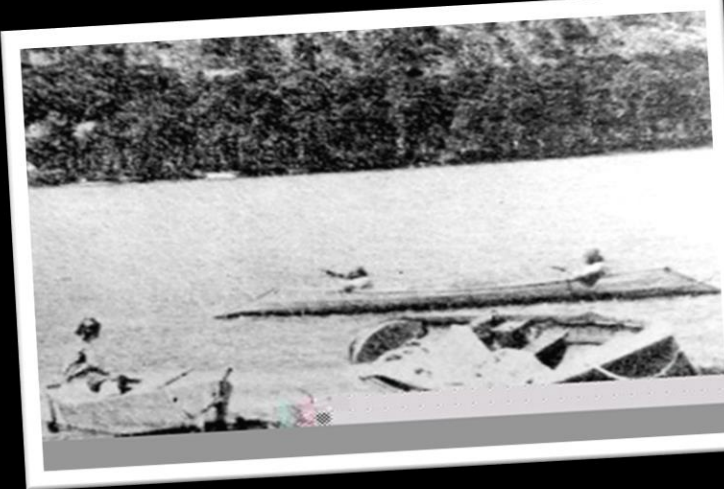


# Kootenai Aboriginal Territory

- LEGEND**
- ▲ - PRESENT-DAY KOOTENAI COMMUNITIES
  - SOLID LINES: NATIONAL BOUNDARIES
  - - - DOTTED LINES: ABORIGINAL BOUNDARIES
  - - GREEN ISLANDS: THESE ARE NOT PEACEFULLY WITH OTHER ABORIGINAL TRIBES.



Turney-High reported: “The Kutenai considered their land a fortunate one... Scarcity, need, and famine were so unusual that they were considered of supernatural origin. Scarcity of food predicted death in the immediate family and also, perhaps with some practicality, the presence of an enemy.”



NIKULISSIE AND HIS WIFE  
Mr. & Mrs. Artemesia Iron Paddle

He was the oldest member of  
the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
to receive an allotment.  
In 1892 he was eighty-three years old.

# Wildlife Projects

## 1. Grizzly Bear and Black Bear

A. Collaboration with USFWS grizzly bear monitoring and research program in the Selkirk & Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems since 2012

B. Installation of bear resistant food storage in the back country “high alpine lake trails” to reduce human-bear conflicts

## 2. Huckleberry Harvest Experiment

A. Berry harvest is an important treaty resource for the Tribe

B. The Tribe is concerned for the future of this culturally significant resource with increasing commercial harvest and different harvest techniques

C. Over harvesting berries reducing the amount available for wildlife and non- commercial berry pickers

D. Using harvesting techniques that are damaging to the bush and not as efficient harvesting method



# Wildlife Projects

## 3. Multispecies Mesocarnivore Monitoring Program

- A. Provide mesocarnivore information to meet the needs of the Forest Service's resource planning and management.
- B. Goal efficient monitoring (GEM) to answer monitoring questions about rare or low density mesocarnivores on Forest Service land identified as primary species for the program:
  - Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*)
  - Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
  - Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).
- C. GEM recognizes that population states are the most useful metric when understanding small populations.
- D. The goal of GEM and this program was to determine if National Forest lands were in the following "states" for the primary species:
  - Not present
  - Present
  - Single individual present
  - Multiple individuals of a single sex present
  - Multiple individuals, including both sexes present



