

**Help us protect** our cultural resources. These are invaluable resources and cannot be replaced.

It is against the law to engage in any illegal act listed in this brochure. If you suspect a violation DO NOT get involved or approach the scene! You can help by reporting it to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

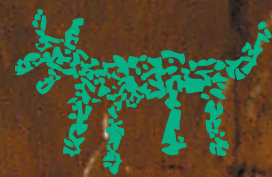
**406-293-4112**

Or to the local Forest Service office:

**406-293-6211**

For more information on cultural resources in Montana contact:

[www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo)



“We have 14,000 years of history here. When you take artifacts, you take away a page from our tribal history.”



Photos courtesy of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.



**One person's trash is another person's treasure only is true at yard sales**

Cultural resources belong to everyone. They are not the property of looters and vandals. Cultural artifacts are not a renewable resource. Once taken or damaged, these resources and the knowledge of our past is LOST to all of us. Cultural resources should be left in place and honored.



Help us protect the  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
and **History**  
of the  
**KOOTENAI RIVER**





## Protecting Our Past for Our Future

In cooperation with federal agencies, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes protect cultural resources. The tribes also work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to protect these resources.

For thousands of years Native American people have lived on the Kootenai River. They gathered food, hunted, fished, lived in villages, worshipped in sacred places, and carefully buried their dead.

As time passed, non-Natives moved into the area, built homes, and occupied the land in different ways. Like the Native Americans, they too, worshipped in special places and carefully buried their dead.

All people have left evidence of their lives on and around the river. These remnants are the legacy of our history and the heritage of all



people. Removing or damaging these resources or artifacts is like tearing a page from our living history.

## It's a Crime

Did you know it's against the law to remove or vandalize cultural resources and artifacts? Cultural resources are any material remains of past human life. There are federal, state and tribal laws protecting these resources. Violation of these laws may be punishable with fines and/or prison terms.

There are people on the river and on nearby public lands destroying and removing our cultural resources everyday.



## Examples of Illegal Acts

- **Do not** take or move artifacts including bottles, tin cans, arrowheads, etc.
- **Do not** deface a pictograph or petroglyph.
- **Do not** use a tool to dig, probe, or remove an artifact from the ground (A tool can be any instrument—even a stick).
- **Do not** dig for or possess human remains.
- **Do not** use off-road vehicles where prohibited.



Scarred trees are valuable cultural resources marking a time of travel by foot or horse. These trees need to be preserved and not vandalized or cut down.



## How can I help?

You can help by immediately notifying law enforcement if you see any of the illegal acts listed in this brochure.

- Share the information in this brochure with family members and friends.
- Respect special places and encourage others to do the same.
- Do not touch, disturb, or pick up cultural resources.
- If you witness an illegal act, use caution and **DO NOT** approach the scene! As safely as possible record information such as license plate numbers, physical descriptions, and location, and report it to law enforcement as soon as possible.

