## N17ay | PLACE OF SMALL BULL TROUT

The Missoula Area and the Séliš & Qlispé People

or millennia, the Missoula Valley has been a place of great importance to our people, the Séliš (SEH-leesh, also known as 'Salish' or 'Flathead') and Qlispé (Kah-lee-SPEH, also known as 'Kalispel' or 'Pend d'Oreille').

This is a vital part of our aboriginal territories, a landscape filled with cultural meaning, reflected in the selected place-names on this sign. Some names come from our creation stories. Others refer to our traditional way of life and the resources, such as bull trout, that were particularly abundant here. The confluence of Rattlesnake Creek and the Clark Fork River is known as Nł<sup>9</sup>aycčstm, meaning Place of Small Bull Trout. The shortened form of this name, Nł?ay, is used by Salish speakers to refer to the city of Missoula.

The west side of the valley, including the prairies around Fort Missoula,

was the greatest bitterroot digging ground in all of our vast aboriginal territories. Until the 1960s, when development made it impossible to continue, our people gathered here every spring to offer prayers of thanks for this staple food and dig for several weeks.

In 1855, just a few miles west of this sign, our tribal nations met with U.S. officials to negotiate the Hellgate Treaty. The treaty established the sovereign Flathead Reservation, and guaranteed our continued use of tribal homelands for traditional purposes.

Today, Séliš and Qlispé people maintain a vital connection to the Missoula area. We are active members of the community, engaging in this transformed world even as we maintain and revitalize our connection to the ancestors.

Ep Stmtú **HAS CURRANTS** Mill Creek

REFERRING TO WATER renchtown area

**N**mlšé

Snłpú Nšiytétk<sup>w</sup>s COMING-OUT-INTO-THE-OPEN'S CREEK O'Keefe Creek

PLACE WHERE YOU COME OUT Base of Evaro Hill

> TWO WATERS Lavalle & Butler Creeks

Bigcrane family at annual bitterroot dig, 2009. Courtesy SQCC

<sup>7</sup>amtqné SOMETHING SITTING ON TOP Site above Cyr Gulch

> WATER IN A DEEP VALLEY Deep Creek

Čłx<sup>w</sup>mx<sup>w</sup>mšná (Sophie Moiese) digging bitterroot

near Ft. Missoula, 1945. Univ. of Montana, 91-6083.

**PLACE OF COTTONWOODS GRASS VALLEY** 

> TREE-LIMB-STRIPPED-OFF Council Grove

Nmesulétk<sup>w</sup> SHIMMERING COLD WATERS Middle Clark Fork River

Nstetčcx<sup>w</sup>étk<sup>w</sup>

Bitterroot River

SMALL AREA OF DOUGLAS FIRS

Nccqełpé

Blue Mountain

**RED-OSIER DOGWOOD WATERS** 

LITTLE WIDE CREEK YOU

**PLACE WHERE** SOMETHING IS CUT OFF AND COMES TO A POINT Missoula Valley

Sxwplstwé

Fort Missoula

McCauley Butte

NAME OF A SÉLIŠ WOMAN

Nł?ay Sewłkws SMALL BULL TROUT'S WATERS Rattlesnake Creek

> Nmqwe **HUMPED MOUNTAIN** Mount Jumbo

PLACE OF THE KILLERS and city of Missoula

Nł?aycčstm PLACE OF SMALL BULL TROUT Rattlesnake Creek-Clark Fork confluence

Slo?té

Esmod IT'S A MOUNTAIN **Mount Sentinel** 

HAS WHITE CLAY Naaycčstm Sewłk<sup>w</sup>s **BULL TROUT'S WATERS** 

Clark Fork-Blackfoot Rivers

PLACE OF BULL TROUT

Bandmann Flat

Blackfoot -Clark Fork Confluence

FLINT-STUCK-IN-THE-GROUND WATERS **Upper Clark Fork River VALLEY WHERE TWO RAVINES MEET** Pattee Canyon

Snčle?xwqwi Nccqełpétk<sup>w</sup> PLACE WHERE THE EGGS HATCH SMALL-AREA-OF-DOUGLAS-OF-FIRS WATERS Around Mouth of Miller Creek Deadman Gulch

> STEEP TRAIL Between Lolo & Missoula

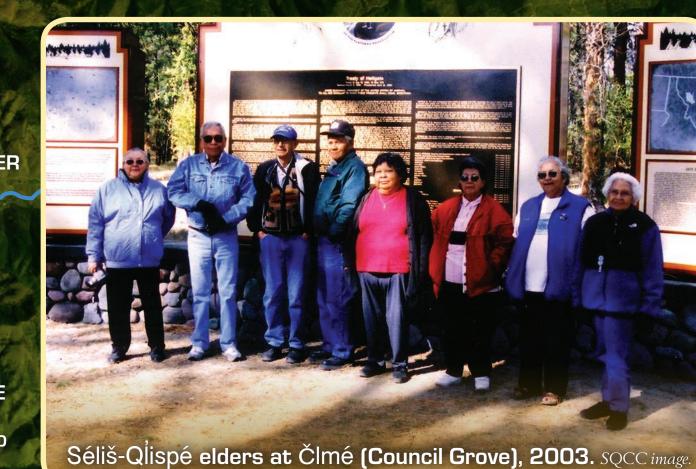
Naptnišá Trail to the Nez Perce Lolo Trail

Tmsmłi NO SALMON Lolo area

HAS VIRGIN'S BOWER Miller Creek

Esnxaxasci **GOOD-SINGING PLACE AREA ALONG BITTER-ROOT RIVER** 

> Q<sup>w</sup>lotqné **SOMETHING SEPARATE** STICKING UP ON TOP Two rocks on ridgetop across from Lolo



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