

Northern Cheyenne Rosebud & Wolf Mountains Battlefields Preservation Committee

A 2009 Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy is awarded to the Northern Cheyenne Rosebud & Wolf Mountains Battlefield Preservation Committee. The Committee is made up by Steve Brady, Otto Braided Hair, William Walks Along, and Conrad Fisher of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Would Conrad Fisher (?and William Walks Along?) please come forward to receive this award.

For years the Northern Cheyenne Rosebud & Wolf Mountains Battlefield Preservation Committee has worked for the preservation of these nationally significant battlefields, each of which stands out in the history of our nation as the places where the Cheyenne and Lakota people fought to preserve their homeland against the U.S. Army.

The Battle of Rosebud Creek in June of 1876 saw fighting between thousands of warriors and soldiers. The numbers, combined with the length of fighting, make Rosebud significant as the single largest battle of the Indian Wars. It also set the stage for Custer's subsequent defeat at Little Bighorn eight days later due to the warriors forcing the withdrawal of General Crook's column from the field.

The Battle of Wolf Mountains followed Rosebud and Little Bighorn by six months and drew to an end formal armed combat by the Lakota and Cheyenne. As a result of the struggle at Wolf Mountains, the Tribes recognized the limitations they faced in fighting

the United States forces, and their own inability to protect and provide for their families while simultaneously fighting a winter campaign against an army with a seemingly unending supply train.

Northern Cheyenne Committee members and Tribal President, Geri Small, worked with private land owners, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Montana Preservation Alliance to successfully list these sites in 2008 as Montana's 25th and 26th National Historic Landmarks, the National Park Service's highest honor for national cultural and historic sites. In the process they helped gain the support of the Montana Congressional delegation and the Governors' Office in skillfully moving the nominations through Washington DC.

Tonight we recognize the Northern Cheyenne Rosebud & Wolf Mountains Battlefield Preservation Committee for their tireless advocacy and leadership in bringing attention to and protecting these sacred and historic Montana landscapes.