Figure 1. Targeting specific layers within the Bearpaw Formation, nocturnal fossil poachers create shallow trenches (between lower white layer and the river) in this area between the Salberg and Aurora mines.

Figure 2. Small shovel-made excavations (light patches between skyline and rusty colored layer) have been made by surface collectors at Big Indian Cliffs.
Figure 3. Not even the daring collectors from the Blood Tribe can reach the partially exposed ammonite (oblong white object) resting precariously above the St. Mary River at Big Indian Cliffs. Photo by K. Mychaluk.

Figure 4. Close-up of same ammonite in figure 1. Note specimen is partially weathered away (no longer circular in shape) and colored white due to a coating of calcite which typically covers the beautiful Ammolite layers within.
Figure 5. Localized faulting, probably due to ice loading during the last glaciation, can greatly impact mining of ammolite as it can displace economic horizons (like Zone 4). This photo illustrates an up-thrown block along the St Mary River downstream of the Aurora Mine. Note the displacement of the white bentonite (volcanic ash) layers. The scale is indicated by the power pole above the outcrop.

Figure 6. Korite’s Salberg open-pit mine operated from 2004 to 2008 and exploited Zone 4 of the Bearpaw Formation.
Figure 7. Pronghorn and other ungulates call the St. Mary River valley home.

Figure 8. View from Big Indian cliffs towards the Aurora Ammolite mine (stockpiled topsoil seen in upper left) and Salberg Mine (stockpiled topsoil seen in upper right). View is downstream to the southeast.
Figure 9. Edward “Ed” Eaglechild of the Blood Indian Reserve poses below Big Indian cliffs with a recently collected ammonite.