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“Our people would talk about certain things that they wanted in those treaties. For instance, in that 1851 treaty they wanted to keep the miners and the settlers and the trappers and the traders and the ranchers out of our land.

And they asked for protection, they said, ‘Keep them out of our land...’ And that was the main point that they wanted. And they thought they got it.”

Grant Bulltail, (Crow) NMAI Interview, August 2016

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Mr. Bulltail reflects on the pressure that the Crow Nation was under at this time. Their homelands had already been invaded by trappers, traders, and miners. They believed the U.S. promise of “protection,” as stated in the treaty, because Native people shared an integrity of word—one’s word was integral to one’s honor and status.