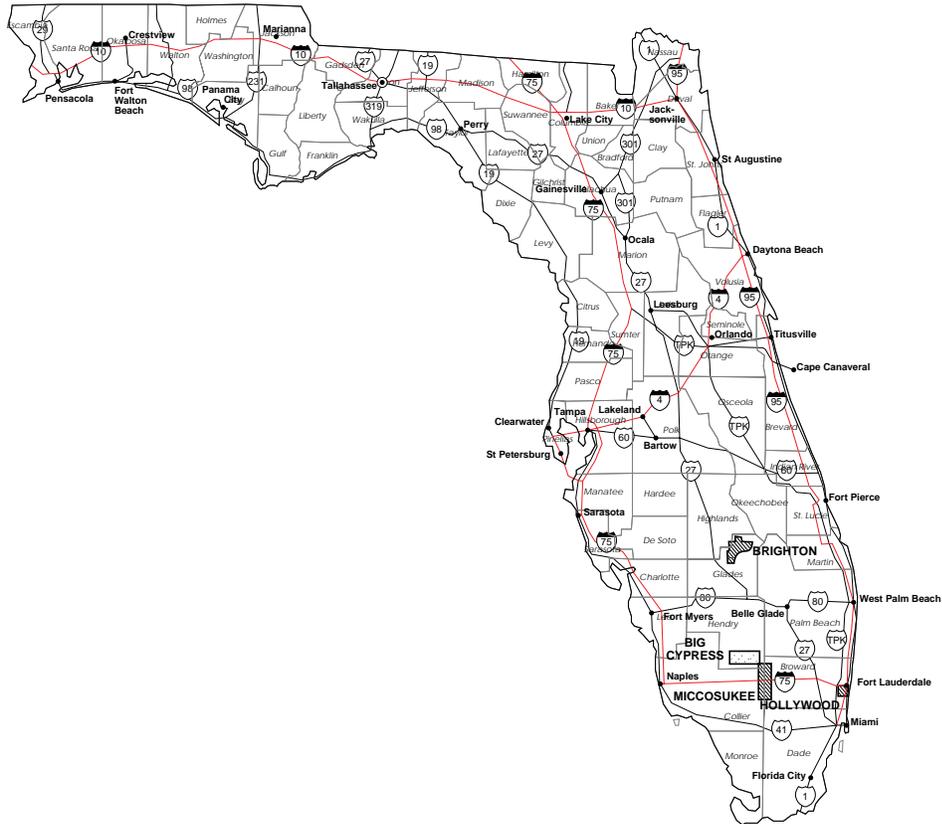


F L O R I D A



Big Cypress Reservation

Federal reservation
 Seminole
 Broward and Hendry counties, Florida

Seminole Tribe of Florida
 6073 Stirling Road
 Hollywood, FL 33024
 (305) 966-6300
 Fax: 792-3634

(See also Hollywood Reservation)

Total area	42,738.96 acres
Tribally owned (tribe, 1994)	52,3377 acres
Federal trust (BIA, 1993)	42,738.96**
	84,914.92*

Total labor force	271
High school graduate or higher	58.0%
Per capita income	\$5,366
Total reservation population	449

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

Big Cypress Reservation lies on the southern portion of the Florida panhandle, approximately 45 miles west of Fort Lauderdale. Big Cypress is the largest of the five Seminole reservations in the state. Lands purchased by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Seminoles were consolidated in the 1930s; three reservations were created, one of which was Big Cypress. The reservation lies in Broward and Hendry counties. *According to the BIA, there are 84,914.92 acres in federal trust in Broward County. **In Hendry County there are 42,738.96 acres. (For information about the Seminole Tribe, see Hollywood Reservation.)

GOVERNMENT

The reservation is governed by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Since the majority of the Everglades was drained, many members have been employed in cattle ranching or commercial agriculture. These activities generate millions in tribal income. (See Hollywood Reservation.)

SERVICES

There are several individually owned stores near the residential community.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The tribe owns two major tourist attractions: The Big Cypress Entertainment Complex, and the Swamp Safari. The entertainment complex hosts major concerts and festivals throughout the year. Swamp Safari offers visitors wildlife exhibits and a replica of traditional Seminole dwellings called chickees. Visitors may camp overnight in one of 30 chickees. There is also an RV park and campground. The Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds and the other attractions are located north of U.S. Interstate 75.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Interstate 75 crosses the reservation east-west, and Florida State Route 833 traverses it north-south. All transportation and shipping facilities are available in Fort Lauderdale, approximately 40 miles to the west, and in Miami, approximately 50 miles southeast.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Children may attend the tribal school. The tribe also operates a community center. Community facilities have been improved with tribal revenues generated from gaming, agriculture and livestock, and tobacco sales. Prior to 1974, the U.S. Public Health Service installed a central sewer system for residential homes. Health care is available at the IHS clinic. The Glades Cooperative supplies electricity.

Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Seminole Tribe was federally recognized in 1957, and the Seminole organized their government under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Most of the reservation land is devoted to commercial agriculture and cattle grazing. Tribal citrus crop sales generate approximately \$4 million annually. The tribe owns close to 6,000 head of cattle. (See Hollywood Reservation.)

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The Brighton Reservation Industrial Park encompasses 10 acres, 1.5 of which are presently used for a 4-H complex and a half acre of which is used for a turtle farming and processing plant.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Brighton Reservation has an RV park which has 70 hookups, a swimming pool, and a convenience store. Special events include an annual tribal festival during the second week of February and the annual Brighton Field Day during the third week of February.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Florida State Route 721 traverses the reservation in a north-south direction. The Palm Beach International Airport lies approximately 90 miles to the west. Bus transportation is available in Brighton, eight miles to the north.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Children may attend the tribally operated day school located on the reservation. Prior to 1974, the U.S. Public Health Service built a central sewer system for residential homes. Health care is available on the reservation. The Glades Cooperative supplies electricity.

Brighton Reservation

Federal reservation
Seminole
Glades County, Florida

Seminole Tribe
Route 6, Box 666
Okeechobee, FL 33472
(813) 763-4128

(See also Hollywood Reservation)

Total area	35,805 acres
Tribally owned	35,805 acres
Federal trust	35,805 acres
Total labor force	159
High school graduate or higher	51.0%
Per capita income	\$5,304
Total reservation population	528

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

Brighton Reservation is located northwest of the shores of Lake Okeechobee in southern Florida, approximately 90 miles west of West Palm Beach. The reservation consists of lands purchased in the 1930s by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Seminole Indians. The more than 35,000 acres are owned by the Seminole Tribe and held in trust by the federal government. (See Hollywood Reservation for information about the Seminole Tribe.)

GOVERNMENT

The reservation is governed by the Tribal Council of the

Florida State Reservation

State reservation
Miccosukee and Seminole
Broward County, Florida

Seminole Tribe of Florida
6073 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024
(305) 966-6300
Fax: 792-3634

Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians
P. O. Box 44021, Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144
(305) 223-8380,
Fax: 223-1011

Total area	104,000 acres
State trust	104,000 acres

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

More than 100,000 acres in the Florida Everglades were set aside by the State of Florida for the use and benefit of the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians of Florida in 1960; the Seminole Tribe administers the northern portion and the Miccosukee Tribe the southern portion. The reservation is adjacent to the Big Cypress Reservation and is located in south central Florida. The reservation was established to provide Indians an area to hunt and to fish only. However, subsistence patterns have changed and today limited grazing permits are issued to Indian livestock owners. Some of this

land may now be in federal trust. In 1993 the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that 84,914.92 acres of tribally owned lands were held in trust by the federal government, a portion of which may belong to the Big Cypress Reservation.

GOVERNMENT

The reservation is governed by both federally recognized tribes in Florida. (See Hollywood Reservation and see Miccosukee Reservation for information about the tribes).

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Limited grazing of cattle is permitted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Both commercial and residential construction are planned.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reservation is accessible from Florida State Highway 84.

into the Everglades. They remained at war with the U.S. Government from the 1830s, when Chief Osceola was captured by U.S. troops, until 1934 when the tribe finally signed a truce agreement with the United States.

The years between 1870 and 1914 represent an era wherein the Seminole relied on intensive hunting, trapping, and trading. Tribal members traded alligator hides, otter pelts, bird plumes, and the like for guns, ammunition, canned foods, clothing, and hand-cranked sewing machines. This relatively amicable balance was destroyed by the 1920s Florida “land boom,” wherein Florida began to drain the Everglades and displace the tribe from its land. During the Great Depression and on through World War II, most Seminoles eventually migrated to the federal reservations in south Florida. It was at this time that the tribe began to adopt cattle herding, wage labor, and non-Indian customs regarding schooling, health care, and religion. The tribe received federal recognition in 1957. During the late 1950s, the Eisenhower Administration targeted the tribe for termination. With the assistance of the state’s congressional delegation and Indian rights advocates, the Seminoles evaded termination. In the wake of this episode, they organized under the terms of the Indian Reorganization Act. Serving as a counterpoint to this acculturation process was a band of traditionalists who retained camps deep in the Everglades and resisted the evolution taking place on the reservations. In 1962, this band formed the Miccosukee Tribe, dedicated to preserving traditional social and spiritual values.

During the past two decades, the Seminoles have grown into a strong sovereign force under an inspired and articulate leadership. Traditional ways remain in the form of special cultural events and in the highly regarded Seminole arts and crafts scene.

GOVERNMENT

In 1953, the Seminole Tribe of Florida organized under the provisions of the 1934 IRA, ratifying its constitution in 1957; the tribe was federally recognized in the same year. The tribe is now governed by two separate bodies: the five-member tribal council; and the board of directors of a federally chartered corporation, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Both are elected by tribal members, and neither body is subservient to the other. The tribal council is responsible for most governmental activities, including the delivery of services to tribal members. The board of directors’ sole responsibility is the economic development of the tribe.

ECONOMY

During the late 1970s, tribal leadership moved the tribe into its most profitable enterprise—high-stakes bingo—which generates multi-million dollar annual revenues. This, along with highly profitable cigarette sales, now underwrites many of the tribe’s social services, as well as providing an annual cash dividend to tribal members. Some of these services include expanded recreational facilities, community centers on each Seminole reservation, a tribal school on the remote Big Cypress Reservation, and improved health care facilities. Tribal health care also serves as a solid source of income to a growing group of practitioners.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agriculture and livestock represent major sources of income and employment for the Seminole Tribe. Primary crops include bell peppers, strawberries, and lemon and grapefruit groves. Citrus crops alone generate more than \$4 million annually. The tribe also maintains a herd of approximately 6,000 head of cattle. The herd includes brood cows, herd bulls, yearlings, and two-year-olds. These activities are limited to the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations.

Hollywood Reservation

Federal reservation	
Seminole	
Hendry County, Florida	
Seminole Tribe of Florida	
6073 Stirling Road	
Hollywood, FL 33024	
(305) 966-6300	
Fax: 792-3634	
Total area	480 acres
Tribally owned (tribe, 1994)	540 acres
*Five Reservation area (approx.)	89,330 acres
Total labor force	249
High school graduate or higher	60.9%
Per capita income	\$4,382
Total reservation population	80

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Hollywood Reservation is located south of Ft. Lauderdale, just west of Hollywood and the Atlantic Ocean. The reservation is in a highly populated urban area and is the location of the Seminole Tribe of Florida headquarters.

*The Seminole Tribe also governs the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Tampa Reservations. The reservations consist of approximately 166 square miles of land scattered throughout five south and central Florida counties: Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The modern-day Seminole descend from the Yamasee Indians who were driven from the Carolinas in 1715, and from Oconee and Creek Indians who moved into Florida to escape the influx of white settlers to the north. In 1821, Florida was annexed by the United States and subsequent pressure for Seminole lands and farms by the new settlers led to the government’s attempt to forcibly remove the tribe west of the Mississippi. Eventually a portion of the Seminole Tribe was transported to Oklahoma and became one of the Five Civilized Tribes. The Florida Seminoles escaped removal by fleeing

CONSTRUCTION

The tribe owns considerable heavy equipment for use in excavation, road building, and the clearing of reservation lands. Additionally, a number of tribal members make their livings in the construction trade, some finding work through tribal renovation projects.

FISHERIES

Though endangered and vastly degraded since their heyday, the Everglades remain an incredibly rich and impressive source of wildlife, fishing included. This does not stand as a significant source of tribal income at this time, however. These resources are found on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations.

GAMING

The tribe operates Class II gaming facilities on its Hollywood, Tampa, Immokalee, and Brighton reservations.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribe employs a total of approximately 2,500 people, both Indian and non-Indian, through its various departments and reservations. These include road-building projects, renovation projects, administration of HUD and other federal contracts, health care, and child care centers, among others.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The tribe owns a 10-acre industrial park on the Brighton Reservation. (See also Brighton Reservation.)

MINING

Mineral resources on Seminole tribal lands consist primarily of dolomite and high-quality sand.

SERVICES

The tribe operates a number of businesses, including nine smoke shops, several arts and crafts shops, a plant and tree nursery, and a native village shop. There are at least a dozen individually owned shops throughout the five reservations. Two drive-in theaters are also located on the Hollywood Reservation.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Other tribally affiliated ventures include a swamp safari park and village, a traditional native Seminole village, and airboat tours of the Everglades from the Hollywood Reservation. The swamp safari park is located on the Big Cypress Reservation, as is the tribe's large entertainment complex. (See also Big Cypress.) The Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum in Hollywood features a great diversity of exhibits and collections, as well as nature trails. An individual member owns a wildlife and Seminole cultural exhibit which features alligators, exotic reptiles, and replicated early dwellings of the Seminole.

TRANSPORTATION

The tribe maintains a small fleet of school buses and employs several drivers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Major highways serving the various Seminole reservations include Interstate 75, the Tamiami Trail, Interstate 95, the Florida Turnpike, and Highway 27. Commercial air service is available at the Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (5 miles from the Hollywood Reservation), and at an airstrip on Big Cypress. Commercial bus lines serve the Hollywood Reservation, as do rail facilities. Commercial trucking companies serve most areas of the Seminole tribal lands. Numerous canals and waterways intersect tribal lands, many of which are negotiable by boat.

The town of Hollywood, three miles from the reservation, is located on the Florida Turnpike (U.S. Interstate 95) and is approximately 20 miles north of Miami, which features an international airport and all commercial transportation and shipping facilities.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The tribe maintains community centers and recreation facilities on each reservation. Florida Power and Light provides electricity to most portions of the tribal community. Water and sewer services are provided through municipal systems on the Hollywood, Tampa, and Immokalee reservations. Southern Bell provides telephone service to most areas. The tribe has established health clinics with staff doctors on each reservation. Children mostly attend area public schools, riding tribal schoolbuses from 15 minutes to one hour, depending on the location.

Immokalee Reservation

Federal reservation	
Seminole	
Collier County, Florida	
(See also Hollywood Reservation/Seminole Tribe of Florida)	
Total area	599.68 acres
Tribally owned	599.68 acres
Federal trust	599.68 acres

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

In the 1980s, Florida took land into trust for the Seminoles and the Immokalee Reservation was born. In 1993, the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that 599.68 acres were held in trust for the Seminoles by the federal government. The reservation is located near the town of Immokalee in the Everglades, about 30 miles southeast of Fort Myers. (See Hollywood Reservation for information about the Seminole Tribe.)

Miccosukee Reservation

Federal reservation	
Miccosukee	
Dade County, Florida	
Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians	
P. O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station	
Miami, FL 33144	
(305) 223-8380,	
Fax: 223-1011	
Total area	75,145 acres
Federal trust	333 acres
Total labor force	295 (BIA 91)
High school graduate or higher	18.5%
Per capita income	\$5,462
Total reservation population	72
Tribal enrollment	550 (BIA 91)

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Miccosukee Reservation is located in Dade County, Florida,

approximately 40 miles west of Miami. The Miccosukee Tribe holds 333.3 acres within the reservation in accordance with its 50-year permit from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service. This consists of a strip of land 5.5 miles long and 500 feet wide, known as the Tamiami Trail. It is restricted from commercial development. Another part of the reservation consists of three 600-by-65-foot tracts dedicated to the tribe in perpetuity by the State of Florida for the sole use and benefit of the Miccosukee. In addition to this reservation, the Miccosukee Tribe shares the Florida State Indian Reservation, dedicated in perpetuity by the state to the tribe.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Creek Indians once inhabited large areas of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and other areas that became southern states. As the European occupation of America proceeded, there were heavy clashes between British and Spanish interests in native Creek lands, and many Creek Indians emigrated to what is now Florida to avoid these conflicts. These emigrants became known by the Creek word "simanoli," meaning separatist; simanoli is the origin of the Seminole Tribe's name. In the 19th century the federal government fought three wars against the Seminole in Florida and finally managed to remove most of them to reservations. The Miccosukee, however, lived nomadically and evaded U.S. troops. As early as the 1840s, Miccosukee Indians had established significant settlements in the Everglades. Using handcrafted canoes, Indians with animal hides and other items for trade or sale could easily navigate the river between the edge of the Everglades and the heart of early Miami. Members of the tribe often participated in commerce with non-Indian traders on the Miami River. When the rest of the Seminole signed a treaty with the United States in 1937, the highly independent Miccosukee did not join in. In 1962 the Miccosukee received federal recognition and formally organized themselves as a tribe. Many of its members are related by blood to the Seminole, but the tribe is wholly separate from the Seminole politically. Membership in the Miccosukee Tribe is open to Florida Indians of Seminole heritage who make formal application.

GOVERNMENT

The Miccosukee Tribe was formally organized on January 11, 1962, with the adoption of a constitution and bylaws pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The governing body is the general council, composed of all members of the tribe of 18 years and over. The tribal business council consists of five elected officers of the general council, selected by majority vote every five years.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agricultural and aquaculture projects were under consideration by the Miccosukee Business Council in the mid-1990s.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Since the 1970s the Miccosukee Tribe has engaged in a comprehensive planning process addressing land use, enterprise development, health and human services, infrastructure, transportation, communications, education and community development. Economic goals include deriving income through sustainable use of reservation land, fostering job training and employment opportunities, establishing agriculture and aquaculture as major sources of income, becoming economically self-sufficient, and strengthening tribal government through control of economic development. In the early 1990s the Miccosukee Business Council was negotiating with representatives of the city of Miami to create a small-scale traditional Indian village in Lummus Park on the Miami River,

less than a mile from downtown Miami. The complex would include an arts, crafts and cultural exhibition center, a gift shop, a performance amphitheater and a tribal restaurant across the river from the park, all staffed and administered by the Miccosukee Tribe.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribal government employed four reservation residents in the early 1990s.

SERVICES

A restaurant and a gift shop are open for business on the reservation.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highway 41 runs through the reservation east-west. There is an international airport available in Miami, approximately 40 miles distant. Commercial bus lines serve the reservation; all other transportation and shipping services are available in Miami.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A community water system serves the residential units on the reservation. Electricity is sold to the residents by the Florida Power and Light Company. The reservation has a clinic operated by the U.S. Public Health Service, which also built sewage facilities to serve the community.

Tampa Reservation

	Federal reservation	
	Seminole	
	Hillsborough County, Florida	
	(See also Hollywood Reservation/Seminole Tribe of Florida)	
	Total area	39.41 acres
	Tribally owned	39.41 acres
	Federal trust	39.41 acres

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Tampa reservation lies on the eastern outskirts of Tampa, Florida near the intersection of U.S. Interstate 4 and Highway 92 (Hillsborough Avenue). The Seminole Bingo and a museum are two attractions on the reservation. The reservation is also home to a village of Seminole tribal members. Tribal offices are located in Hollywood. (See Hollywood Reservation.)

ECONOMY

GAMING

The Seminole Gaming Complex is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It offers high-stakes bingo, poker tables, video pull-tab machines, and is hoping to expand to offer more gaming.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

A museum which features a traditional Seminole village is located near the gaming operation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Seminole Tribe of Florida maintains a community center for area tribal members on the Tampa Reservation. Children may attend Tampa area public schools.

