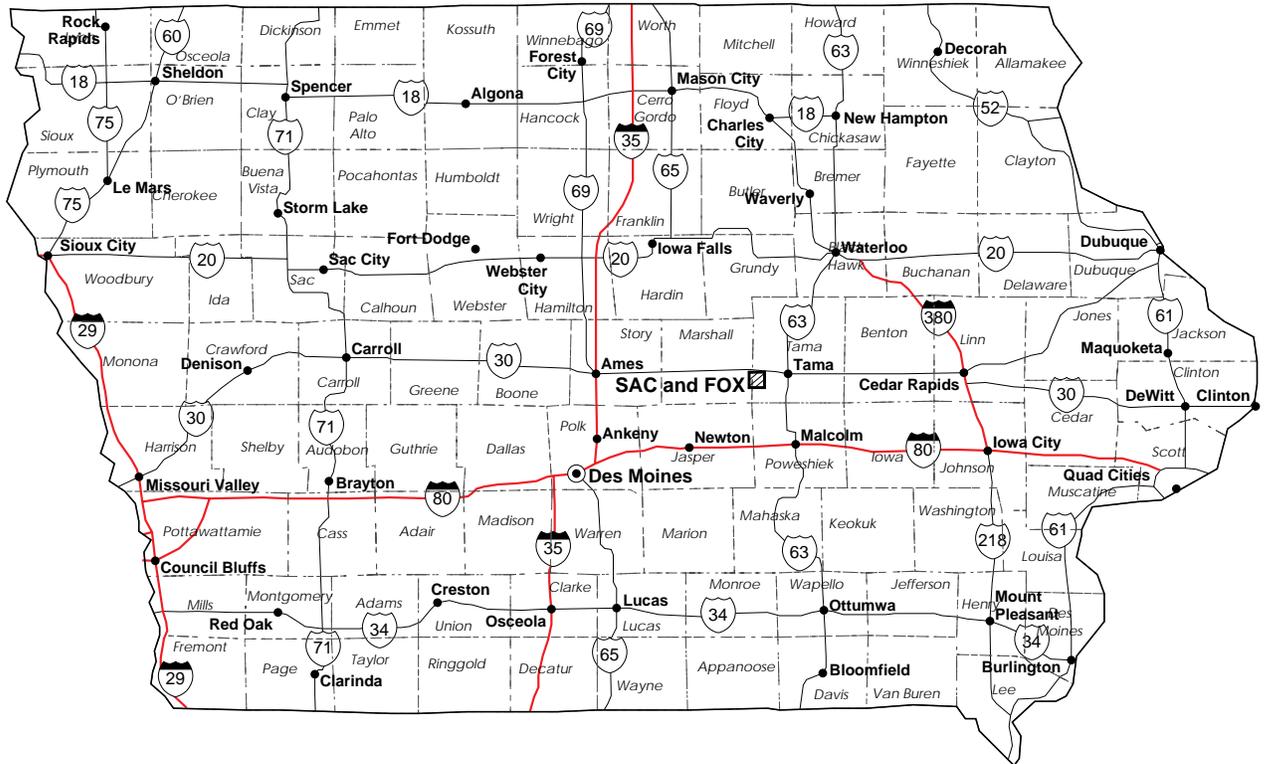


IOWA



Sac and Fox Reservation

Federal reservation
 Mesquakie
 Tama County, Iowa

Sac & Fox Tribal Office
 3137 F Avenue
 Tama, Iowa 52339
 (515) 484-4678/5358
 Fax: 484-5424

Total area	4,300 acres
Tribally owned	4,300 acres
Total labor force	218
Unemployment rate	24.8%
High school graduate or higher	65.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.5%
Per capita income	\$4,716
Total reservation population	586

of the Sac & Fox are located in the south central region of Tama County, Iowa. The Mesquakie Indian Settlement lies approximately 130 miles from the Mississippi River, the state's eastern border. The Iowa River enters the reservation at its eastern edge and continues through to the reservation's southeast corner.

While the tribal lands are held in federal trust, all acreage has been purchased by the tribe. The settlement has grown from the original 84 acres, purchased in 1857, to about 3,500 acres in trust plus another 700 acres subject to life estate. Moreover, the Mesquakie are currently paying for another 1,100 acres which will be placed in trust when the debt is cleared. All lands are commonly owned with no individual allotments.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

As member, of the Algonquian confederacy, the Mesquakie (commonly called the Sac and Fox Tribe) originally lived along the eastern seaboard. Pressure from White settlers and encroachment from other tribes caused them to migrate to an area around Lake Michigan.

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

Known as the Mesquakie Indian Settlement, the reservation lands

The Mesquakie, Red Earth People, traditionally occupied permanent villages of rectangular houses and subsisted on summer

crops. During the winter months, the tribe followed the herds and lived in portable wigwams.

Toward the end of the 18th century, the tribe moved west and settled along the Mississippi River. At this time, they became allied with the Iroquois and later with the Five Nations in the French and Indian Wars. The name "Fox" became associated with the Mesquakie during this period. After moving across the river from the Sauk group, around what is now Rock Island, Illinois, the federal government condensed the identities of both groups by referring to them as "Sac and Fox."

After the Blackhawk Wars in 1842, the Mesquakie were forcibly removed to a reservation in Kansas. To prevent a forced resettlement to Indian Territory in Oklahoma, the tribe returned to the Mississippi River Valley in Iowa and purchased its own land. This property, originally 84 acres, was placed in trust with the Governor of Iowa. In 1896, the Bureau of Indian Affairs assumed jurisdiction over the tribe, and the land is now held in trust by the United States Government.

The Mesquakie consider themselves a conservative people and are currently attempting to integrate economic development without corrupting their traditional culture. Presently 80 to 90 percent of the Sac and Fox people continue to speak the Mesquakie language. The settlement has hosted an annual pow wow for more than 75 years where numerous indigenous groups meet to celebrate their heritage and express their spirituality.

GOVERNMENT

The Mesquakie Settlement is governed by a seven-member tribal council. Members are elected for four-year staggered terms. While there are no tribal police on the reservation, an annual stipend from the Iowa State Legislature provides funds for a part-time sheriff.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

While the majority of the settlement's tillable land is not currently under cultivation, the tribe leases 520 acres of farmland to farmers who raise corn and soybeans. The tribe earns an annual income of \$28,000 from these leases. In addition, individual tribal members use agricultural land for both farming and pasture. Many residents tend small gardens, up to an acre, which accounts for the remaining tillable land in use.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Tribal Council has chartered the Mesquakie Enterprise Corporation to direct the future economic development of the Mesquakie Settlement. The corporation is headed by a seven-member board of directors. Four of the members are appointed by the Tribal Council, while the remaining three seats are filled by representatives from area businesses and

professional corporations. Currently, the Mesquakie Enterprise Corporation is considering the following projects: constructing a laundromat, building a service station and truck stop, and building an outlet shopping mall.

FORESTRY

The settlement lands are scattered with approximately 1,400 acres of timber woods including high grade walnut, black oak, hard/soft maple and white pine.

GAMING

Gaming represents the tribe's primary revenue source. Both a bingo hall with a seating capacity of 1,500 and a casino are on the reservation. Visitors may play bingo seven days a week with three daily sessions. The Mesquakie Casino opened in December of 1992. Since its opening, the attendance has been so great that there is often up to an hour wait for admittance. The tribe is planning a 70,000 square-foot expansion of the existing facility.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Approximately 65 tribal members are employed by the Tribal Council in both administrative and social service positions.

SERVICES

The Mesquakie Enterprise Group operates the Mesquakie Trading Post, a convenience store and gas station which employs eight to ten people. The store is located on the reservation approximately five miles west of Tama, on the south side of Highway 30. Operating under a franchise from the Car-Go convenience store operation, the Mesquakie Trading Post offers sheltered pump service including diesel fuel, the usual food and drink items, Indian fry-bread, and some souvenirs.

INFRASTRUCTURE

One major gravel road traverses the settlement, running northwest to southwest, and connects with Highway 30 to the north. While there are numerous gravel roads and lanes branching off the Settlement road, they can be impassable during the spring and winter months. Interstate 80 lies 25 miles to the south of the reservation; while Interstate 35, which connects Minneapolis/St. Paul and Kansas City, lies 35 miles to the west. The closest rail and bus service is available in Tama, three miles to the east. Tama also has a small, sod-surfaced runway to accommodate small aircraft. The nearest commercial airports are in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The reservation homes, gaming facilities, and trading post are served by an underground aeration system for sewage treatment. The tribe installed a deep, fresh-water well; a pumping station; and a 30,000-gallon reservoir in 1983. Some residents continue to rely on shallow wells for their water supply. The tribe provides for the health of its residents under a contract from Indian Health Service. The appointed Director of Health Care Services oversees the reservation's medical clinic and its other health care programs. A full-time family physician and a part-time podiatrist are employed by the clinic. The tribe has also provided a 20-room apartment complex for its elderly residents. Reservation children attend school, pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade, on the Mesquakie Indian Settlement.