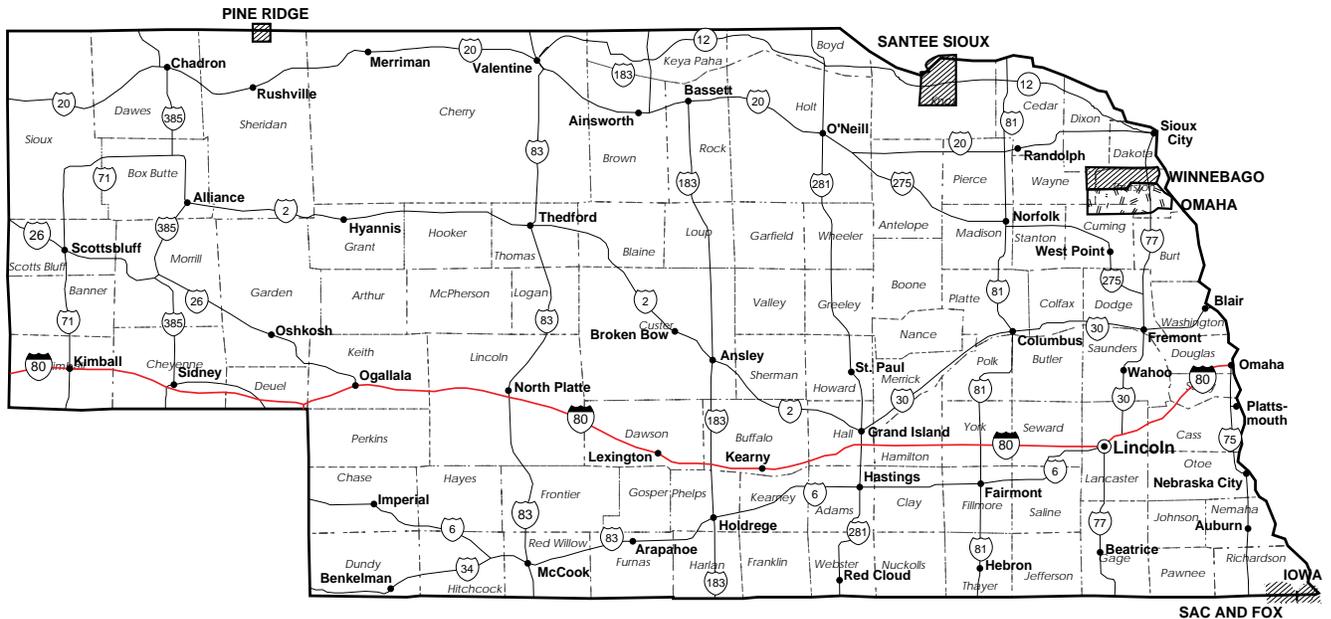


NEBRASKA



Iowa Reservation (See Kansas)

Pine Ridge Reservation
(See South Dakota)

Omaha Reservation

Federal reservation
Cuming and Wayne counties, Nebraska

Omaha Tribe
P.O. Box 368
Macy, NE 68039
(402) 837-5391

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Federal reservation
Knox County, Nebraska

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760
(402) 857-3391
Fax: 857-3736

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Ponca Tribe split into the northern tribe in Nebraska and the southern tribe in Oklahoma as a result of the U.S. government's decision to assign the Ponca Reservation in Nebraska to the Sioux Indians. Hence, the Ponca were forced to relocate to Oklahoma in 1876. Three years later, 30 Ponca returned to their homeland and were ultimately permitted to remain, eventually settling on a 26,236 acre reservation in Knox County, Nebraska. The Dawes Act of 1887 initiated the allotment of this reservation to individual members,

however, seriously weakening the group's coherence and structure. The tribe remained on what was left of their reservation until the 1950s, when federal termination policy targeted them. By 1966, the tribe's last 834 acres had been dispossessed. After a 24 year struggle, the Ponca were able in 1990 to regain federal recognition through the Ponca Restoration Act, and are currently in the process of reacquiring their former reservation lands.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Historically, the Ponca have been described as a small prairie-plains tribe. They descend from the Dhegiha group within the Siouan linguistic family. The heart of the traditional Ponca homeland is situated along the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri Rivers in northeastern Nebraska and southern South Dakota, and east to Sioux City, Iowa. The tribe was a relative latecomer to the central Plains, with most estimates placing the time of their arrival in the Nebraska area as during the 17th or early 18th century. Four treaties were negotiated between the federal government and the Ponca, with the second one resulting in the exchange of their 2.3 million acres of tribal land for a 96,000-acre reservation. During the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, even that land was lost, as it was inadvertently assigned to the Sioux. Subsequently, the Ponca were ordered to move to Indian Territory in 1876. A resistant band (led by Chief Standing Bear) decided to return to its former homeland, however, thus defying government orders and heading north. The band was arrested and placed into detention on the Omaha Reservation in Nebraska, setting the stage for the famous Trial of Standing Bear in 1879. The trial established the Ponca's rights to their homeland on their old Nebraska reservation, of which over 26,000 acres were carved out for them. This returned band became known as the Northern Ponca, while the Oklahoma band became the Southern Poncas.

The band persisted in its right to state and federal recognition, ultimately gaining both. It is primarily concerned with economic development and the reacquisition of its former reservation land base these days, having reacquired 413 acres and being actively engaged in obtaining two additional tracts, which also total about 413 acres. When acquired, such land is taken into trust by the secretary of the interior, after review by the Solicitor General.

Presently, the tribe's primary source of income is from federal contracts, grants, and a number of land leases. The Poncas have a solid cultural identity, maintaining the vitality of their traditions through ceremonies and daily practice. Chronic health problems and a lack of health care have plagued the band for years; eligibility for health care services in the wake of federal recognition holds great promise in alleviating that burden. Finally, while most Poncas would like to see the reestablishment of a reservation near Niobrara, such an outcome appears unlikely due to conditions imposed upon the tribe in its restoration agreement. Nevertheless, the tribe is clearly making progress in healing the cultural and economic breach left by termination.

GOVERNMENT

The Ponca are still finalizing their new tribal government, which consists of a Tribal Council, headed by a chairperson and secretary, and elected by the General Council. The Council directs all tribal affairs and business, including the Tribal Business Authority. The Council is working on a constitution, which will be submitted to the BIA for approval and then to tribal members for ratification.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Ponca territory lies in the heart of the great American grain-belt, with corn and wheat being of particular importance. Though there are currently no figures, significant numbers of tribal members

make their living through some affiliation with the region's agriculture industry.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe recently received a \$4.5 million HUD grant to be used for economic development projects.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribal government currently employs 43 tribal members through its various departments, including the departments of Health, Human Services, Education, and Economic Development.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The Tribal Council is currently in the process of developing an industrial park.

SERVICES

With the tribal area spanning a broad region of northeastern Nebraska, there are countless businesses within the area, a number of which are either owned by tribal members or serve as a source of employment. As for tribally owned businesses, the Business Authority is in the process of developing feasibility studies for various businesses in each tribal service area.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The tribe hosts an annual pow wow at the Old Agency Building in Niobrara, along with several other special events that attract considerable numbers of visitors. A state park in Niobrara has an exhibit honoring Chief Standing Bear of the Poncas. Lewis and Clark Lake, near the tribal headquarters, offers fishing, water activities, and picnicking.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Highway 20 (east-west) and Highway 81 (north-south) are the major routes through the tribal area. The nearest commercial air service is located in Sioux City, Iowa, and Yankton, South Dakota. Commercial bus and trucking lines serve the region, while the Missouri River (at the border of Nebraska and South Dakota) provides for some water-based transportation opportunities.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

As the tribe is presently without a land base, all utilities and other facilities are provided on an individual residential basis through municipal and/or regional utility servers. A clinic provides health care for Ponca members. A community center with a variety of facilities is in the process of being developed at the tribal headquarters in Niobrara. Students attend local public schools. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hold the status of "nonresident tribe," with designated service areas in each of six different counties.

Sac and Fox Reservation
(See Kansas)

Santee Sioux Reservation

Federal reservation
Santee Sioux Tribe
Knox County, Nebraska

Santee Sioux Tribe
Route 2
Niobrara, NE 68760
(402) 857-3302
Fax: 857-3307

Total area	9,358.06 acres
Tribally owned	3,599 acres
Total labor force	274
High school graduate or higher	67.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4.9%
Per capita income	\$4,401
Total reservation population	504
Tribal enrollment	2,200

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Santee Reservation is on the northeastern Nebraska-South Dakota border, approximately 110 miles northwest of Sioux City. It is on the shores of the Lewis and Clark Lake, which is formed by the Niobrara River. The village of Santee is on the reservation. An Act of Congress established the reservation in 1863.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Santee Sioux who live on the Santee Reservation are descended from Sioux, mostly of the Santee band, placed there by the federal government after conflicts between the Indians and the federal government in Minnesota in the 1860s. A constitutional government was formed on the reservation as early as 1875; its constitution and bylaws were ratified in 1936. Farming, hunting, fishing, and gathering were the chief subsistence activities on the reservation. In the early 1990s, despite economic need, a majority on the reservation voted against establishing a casino and in favor of focusing on cultural renewal through a tribal high school and community college.

GOVERNMENT

The Santee Sioux Tribe is organized as a federal corporation; its constitution and bylaws were ratified in 1936, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. The tribal charter was ratified in 1936. An elected tribal council of 12 members governs the tribe. The council has a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer elected by the council members. All terms are three years.

ECONOMY

A medical equipment firm in the village of Santee employs approximately 25 reservation residents. Some residents commute to jobs in Sioux City, Yankton, Omaha, and Lincoln.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe is a member of the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation, together with the Omaha and Winnebago tribes.

MINING

Lime, gravel and sand deposits exist and had not been developed as of the mid-1990s.

SERVICES

A gas station and shoe repair shop exist on the reservation.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Lake Lewis and Clark offers camping, swimming, water skiing, fishing, and boating. A resort on the reservation is owned by non-Indians.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Nebraska State Highway 12 runs east-west through the reservation, intersecting with north-south U.S. Highway 81 approximately 32 miles east. State Road S-54D connects Highway 12 with the village of Santee. Two interstate motor carriers service the reservation. Bus service is available at Niobrara, approximately 3 miles west. The nearest commercial air and rail services are 30 miles distant, in Yankton, South Dakota.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A community center serves reservation residents. The North Central Public Power District supplies the reservation with electricity. The village of Santee has its own municipal water supply. A public library and a U.S. Public Health Service clinic serve the reservation.

Winnebago Reservation

Federal reservation
Winnebago
Thurston County, Nebraska

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071
(402) 878-2272
Fax: 878-2963

Total area	27,537 acres
Tribally owned	4,241 acres
Federally owned	4.29 acres
Individually owned	23,282 acres
Total labor force	387
High school graduate or higher	70.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.8%
Per capita income	\$4,908
Total reservation population	1,154

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Winnebago Nebraska Reservation spans 40,000 acres of crop land, woods, and pasture in northeastern Nebraska. Of this total, somewhat over 21,000 acres are individually allotted to tribal members. Located 60 miles north of Omaha and 20 miles south of Sioux City, Iowa, the reservation is bordered by the Missouri River (also comprising the Iowa state line) on the east and the Omaha Indian Reservation on the south.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Winnebago are part of the Chiwere Siouan linguistic family. Their preferred name for themselves is "Hochungra," or "people of the big voices." The tribe's ancestral homelands are in Wisconsin, in the region around Green Bay. The tribe was removed from its ancestral homelands in Wisconsin in 1840 and was placed on a

series of reservations in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and finally, in 1837, on their present reservation in Nebraska. During the 1880s, however, half of the tribe moved back to Wisconsin, where another Winnebago reservation exists today. The tribe lost two-thirds of its land due to the General Allotment Act of 1887. In 1975 the tribe was awarded \$4.6 million by the Indian Claims Commission for the land it lost in an 1837 land cession treaty with the federal government. The tribal council decided to use much of this award to develop three particular programs: land acquisition, credit, and a wake and burial program. In 1986, the tribe reestablished its sovereignty in terms of the reservation's legal system; the tribal court system now has jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters within tribal boundaries.

The region surrounding the Winnebago Nebraska Reservation has traditionally supported agriculture primarily. This remains a significant source of tribal income today. Otherwise, tribal businesses, particularly the casino, provide for much of the employment among members. Traditional culture remains relatively vital with many members belonging to the Native American Church and approximately 10% continuing to use the language. The tribe holds its annual Homecoming Pow Wow during the last week of July.

GOVERNMENT

The tribe is federally recognized and organized under the 1934 IRA. The 1936 constitution and bylaws were amended in 1968. The Tribal Council composed a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and five other members. All officers are elected to a one-year term, while the remaining council members are appointed.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Several tribally affiliated farms operate within reservation boundaries. The tribe (and individual members) leases many acres of its land to outside agricultural interests.

CONSTRUCTION

The tribe, in conjunction with the town of Winnebago, is currently developing private sector housing and a 75,000-square-foot strip mall. These projects are expected to employ significant numbers of tribal members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The reservation has been designated an Economic Development Zone by the federal government and the state of Nebraska, thus providing for incentives for businesses and manufacturers to locate there. The tribe has established a nonprofit corporation to assist small businesses gain a foothold on the reservation.

FISHERIES

There are several fishing sites on the reservation. A reservation fishing permit is required.

FORESTRY

The tribe maintains a forest preserve in excess of 200 acres along the Missouri River.

GAMING

The tribally owned Winne Vegas Casino stands as by far the single largest source of employment for tribal members. It presently provides work for about 650 persons, a large percentage of whom are tribal members.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The tribe is presently setting acreage aside for anticipated development of an industrial park.

SERVICES

The tribe operates the new Heritage Grocery Store, which employs 23 persons and grossed approximately \$1.3 million in 1994. They also operate a service station, which employs seven tribal members. And under current development is a tribally owned strip-mall.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The annual Homecoming Pow Wow, held each year in July on the reservation, remains the tribe's primary tourist draw. It is regularly attended by thousands of participants and spectators. Wild turkey and deer hunting on the reservation attracts hunters from across the United States.

TRANSPORTATION

Tribal members operate several small commercial hauling and van services.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reservation is on U.S. Highway 77. Both U.S. Highway 75 and State Highway 9 connect with Route 77 in the town of Winnebago. The nearest commercial air service is in Sioux City, 23 miles to the north. The tribe contracts with Arrow Stage Lines to provide bus service from Winnebago to several area towns, including Sioux City. Commercial rail freight service is available on the reservation. Several commercial trucking companies serve the town of Winnebago. Commercial barge service is available on the Missouri River, which runs through the reservation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Burt County Electric Company and the Nebraska Public Power Department furnish electricity to the reservation. People's Natural Gas provides gas service. The village of Winnebago maintains its own water and sewage systems. Health care is provided through a U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Winnebago. Critical and specialist care is available in Sioux City. The tribe is finalizing plans for a new hospital and retirement home. As for education facilities, the village of Winnebago maintains both a public elementary and high school. There is also a Winnebago campus of the Nebraska Indian Community College. The Blackhawk Community Center houses a gymnasium, senior center, meeting rooms, U.S. Post Office, police station, swimming pool, and a dental clinic.