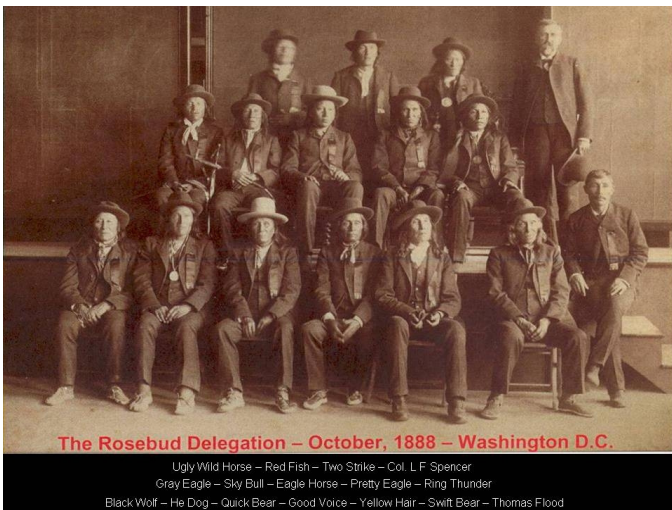


Rosebud Reservation

Demographics



In the 1880's, the Tribes of the Great Sioux Nation signed treaties with the United States establishing the boundaries of the Tribes and recognized their rights as a sovereign government. The Sioux Tribes consist of the Seven Original Council Fires, one of which is known as the Lakota. The Sicangu (Rosebud) people are from that Council Fire. The Rosebud Sioux Tribal lands were originally reduced to a reservation by the U.S. Congress in the Act of March 2, 1889 which identified all the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota reservations in what is known as the Great Sioux Settlement. The boundaries were further reduced by subsequent Homestead Acts. The Sicangu people were moved five times before the Rosebud agency

was finally established. Previous agencies were located on the Whetstone Agency near the Missouri River, White River Agency along the Big White River, Spotted Tail Agency at Rosebud Creek, and the Ponca Agency located near the west bank. The Sicangu Lakota (Rosebud Sioux) have the status of a sovereign nation which gives them the right to elect their own officials, regulate their own territory, manage tribal affairs, and create and enforce their own tribal laws.

The Tribal governments maintain jurisdiction within the boundaries of the reservation including all rights-of-way, waterways, watercourses and streams running through any part of the reservation and to such others lands as may hereafter be added to the reservation under the laws of the United States. The Tribal government operates under a constitution consistent with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and approved by the Tribal membership and Tribal Council of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The Tribal Council consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, a Sergeant-At-Arms, and twenty additional Council members that are elected by the Tribal members.

The Rosebud Sioux Reservation is located in south central South Dakota and borders the Pine Ridge Reservation on its northwest corner and the State of Nebraska border to the south. The Reservation has a total

area of 922,759 acres (1,442 sq. mi.). The Tribal headquarters is located in Rosebud, SD. There are twenty communities within the Reservation including Ideal, Winner, Butte Creek, Okreek, Antelope, Ring Thunder, Soldier Creek, St. Francis (Owl Bonnet), Spring Creek, Two Strike, Grass Mountain, Upper Cut Meat, Swift Bear, Parmelee,, Rosebud, Black Pipe, He Dog, Corn Creek, Horse Creek, Bull Creek, & Milks Camp.

Tribal Enrollment Statistics

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe Enrollment Office has the authority to assign identification numbers to applicants who have been approved for membership with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. As of February 24, 2003 there were 24,426 living enrolled tribal members, of which 20,762 tribal members living on the Rosebud Sioux Indian.

Labor

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sinte Gleska University, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Todd County School District, St. Francis Indian School and the Indian Health Service provide the majority of employment. The major economic occupation on the Rosebud Reservation is cattle ranching and farming for a number of Tribal members. The second largest employer is the Rosebud Sioux Tribe through the provision of administrative and other services and through Tribally operated schools. Sinte Gleska University is also a large employer, as well as the Rosebud Casino. The Tribe also operates a Tribal Ranch, a hunting program for small game, big game, and waterfowl. The unemployment rate is 85%. The per capita personal income for Todd County ranked 66th out of 66 counties in the State.

A 1999 U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Labor Force Report indicated that there were 22,870 tribal members with a total of 19,440 eligible for services, 6,804 under the age of 16, 11,132 are between the ages of 16-64, 1,504 over the age of 64, 8,084 are not available for work, with a total work force of 3,048. There were 2,009 employed, and 1,039 unemployed with an unemployment rate of 34%. The report indicates that there are 1,607 who are employed of which 80% are still under the poverty guidelines.

* It is important to look at the 11,132 tribal members that are between the ages of 16 to 64 and the 8,084 tribal members that are not available for work and the 3,048 individuals that are available for work. The report states that this total estimates the number of individuals who were over the age of 16 and who were included in a tribe's service population, but because of personal circumstances were not able to assume or sustain gainful employment. These 8,084 tribal members are not counted in the unemployment rate of 34%. Should these 8,084 individuals be available for work then you would have 11,132 individuals available for work for an unemployment rate. The tribe estimates that 11,132 are available for work, with an actual 82% unemployment rate.

Roads & Highways

The road system in the Rosebud Reservation includes Highway 18 east and west through the middle of the reservation to a junction with Highway 83 which bisects the Rosebud on a north to south line the entire width of the reservation. All weather hard top roads service most of the communities on the reservation, however, isolated communities are serviced by gravel roads. As a result most homes on the reservation are inaccessible during periods of blizzards or heavy rain. Approximately 76% of the people on the reservation have access to an automobile.

Climate

The climate is harsh. The average rainfall is 16-17 inches during the summer season, while the snowfall averages from moderate too heavy in the winter. The area can experience occasional droughts in the summer and severe blizzards in the winter. The temperature in the winter can be 30 degrees below zero with a 25

degrees above zero average. The average temperature in the summer is 80 degrees but will range from 69 degrees to 110 degrees from June to August. As a result the growing season lasts only three months, June to August. The wind averages 18 mph per day annually.

Topography

The topography of the reservation consists of rolling hills, woodlands, river valleys, stock dams, and lakes. The following is a summary of the major land uses found within the reservation:

Historically, the Sicangu Lakota were warriors, hunters and were expert horsemen and buffalo hunters. The native flora and fauna are still very important to the Rosebud Sioux. The Tribe has endorsed a plan to reintroduce buffalo to the Great Plains. The Tribe is working with the Great Plains Restoration Council to map out the first steps in developing a "Buffalo Commons". In addition, there is a proposal to reintroduce the Black-Footed Ferret on the Tribal lands of the Rosebud Sioux. The reintroduction is intended to reestablish the prairie ecosystem and the predator-prey relationship between ferrets and prairie dogs.

Housing

The Rosebud Housing Authority manages over 1000 housing units in the district communities and on rural sites scattered throughout the reservation. Funding for these programs are through HUD Low Rent and Mutual Help home ownership housing programs. Other housing is available through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service for their employees. Privately owned housing is limited.

The words "ROSEBUD" and "SIOUX" are actually NOT part of the Lakota vocabulary. ROSEBUD is the site name for the Federal Agency designated for the Sicangu People in 1877, so named because of the abundance of wild rosebuds that grew in the area. Sioux is derived from the French spelling of an OJIBWA word, Nadowisiwug (Nadowe - snake and lwug - small thus little snakes or enemy) given to the SANTEE in the mid-1600s. The U.S. government officially recognized the LAKOTA as "SIOUX" in 1825 and has applied this alien term to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota in official documents ever since.

The word SICANGU is pronounced "see-CHONG-ghoo".

More properly known as SICANGU (Burnt Thigh), the Rosebud Sioux are from the Teton Lakota Band of the OCETI SAKOWIN (Seven Council Fires). The name SICANGU, according to oral history, originated when a sudden prairie fire destroyed a Lakota village. Many children, as well as men and women, on foot some distance from the village, were burned to death. People who could get to a nearby lake saved themselves by jumping in. Many were badly burned about the upper legs from running through tall, burning grass and this led to the name SICANGU (Battiste Good's Winter Count 1862-63), which the French later translated as BRULE or BURNT.

Crow Creek Reservation

The **Crow Creek Indian Reservation** is located in parts of [Buffalo](#), [Hughes](#), and [Hyde](#) counties on the east bank of the [Missouri River](#) in central [South Dakota](#) in the [United States](#). It has a land area of 1,092.09 km² (421.658 sq mi) and a [2000 census](#) population of 2,225 persons. Its major town and capital of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe is [Fort Thompson](#), located immediately west of the dam of the same name, which holds back [Big Bend Reservoir](#) (also known as [Lake Sharpe](#)), one of the [Missouri](#) Mainstem reservoirs constructed by the US Army [Corps of Engineers](#) in the [Pick-Sloan Plan](#).

The people of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are a mixture of Dakota and Nakota speaking "Sioux", who settled on the reservation after escape or exile from [Minnesota](#) following the [Dakota War of 1862](#) in Minnesota, and were relocated from de-established Indian Reservations further east in South Dakota. Although considered to be a part of the [Great Sioux Reservation](#) by some writers, the Crow Creek Reservation, established in 1862, has always been separate.

The reservation originally included bottom lands along the Missouri, which had been farmed by [Arikara](#) and other tribes prior to these tribes being wiped out in [smallpox](#) and other epidemics in the 1700s; today, several Arikara or Mandan villages are archeological sites on the Crow Creek Reservation. Lake Sharpe flooded much of this land, forcing relocation of Fort Thompson and other settlements, and worsening the economic conditions in the area. Allotment and land sales reduced both the amount of land in tribal and Indian ownership, and even the boundaries of the Reservation shrank between its establishment in 1862 and modern times.

The Reservation, and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, is organized into three Districts. The Tribe runs its own school, the Crow Creek Tribal Schools system with an elementary school at Fort Thompson and a K-12 boarding and day school at Stephan, approximately 10 miles north of Fort Thompson. Most of the Tribe's land is leased to a few large ranching families, and unemployment is high. The Tribe operates the Lode Star Casino and Hotel and attracts many tourists to the reservation, the archeological sites, Lake Sharpe's fishing and boating, and people traveling. The reservation is located southeast of [Pierre](#), and north of [Chamberlain](#). It is reached via [South Dakota Highway 47](#) or [South Dakota Highway 50](#) off [Interstate 90](#), or via [South Dakota Highway 34](#) east from Pierre.

The [Lower Brule Indian Reservation](#) is located immediately across the Missouri River from the Crow Creek Reservation.

A monument at Big Bend Dam dedicated in 2002, the Spirit of the Circle Monument, honors the more than 1,300 people who died of malnutrition and exposure over a three-year period in the 1860s at the reservation following the forcible removal of the [Santee Sioux](#) that resulted from their defeat in the [Dakota War of 1862](#).^[1]

Tribal Information

- Reservation: Crow Creek Reservation; Buffalo, Hyde, and Hughes Counties
- Division: Santee, Yankton
- Bands: Mdewakanton (People of Spirit Lake), Ihanktonwan (People of the End)
- Land Area: 125,591 acres
- Tribal Headquarters: Fort Thompson, SD
- Time Zone: Central
- Traditional Language: Dakota
- Enrolled members living on reservation: 1,230
- Major Industry: Agriculture