

STANDING ROCK RESERVATION

Tribal/Agency Headquarters: Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538
Sioux County, North Dakota
Corson, Dewey and Ziebach Counties, South Dakota

Federal Reservation: 1873

**Population of enrolled members
on the reservation:** 6,000

Total Reservation Population: 10,080

Density of 0.4 persons per square mile.

Labor Force: 4,000

Unemployment rates: 69%

Language: Lakota/Dakota and English

**Standing Rock Sioux
(Lakota/Dakota Bands):** Hunkpapa
Blackfeet
Yanktonais



LAND STATUS:

Total Area:	2,345,544 acres
Tribal Trust & Allotted:	1,754,983 acres
Fee & Private Owned:	1,274,271 acres
Reservoir Taken area:	67,820.81 acres
Timber Reserve/Trust	3,760 acres
Water:	19,673 acres

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

LAND:

The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation is thirty-four miles south of Mandan, North Dakota. The reservation straddles the North Dakota and South Dakota border. The largest land base is on the South Dakota side of the reservation. The reservation on the North Dakota side begins with the Cannon Ball River, which runs along the north boundaries into Cedar Creek on the northwest end. The reservation border ends at the Perkins County and Adams County line in the west and the eastern side of the Missouri River is the east boundary of Standing Rock. The southern border of Standing Rock Reservation ends with the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation border. The total land area of the Standing Rock is 2.3 million acres and of those 1,754,983 acres is tribal owned. Our aboriginal land covers the James River in North Dakota to the Platte River in Nebraska, to the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming in the west, to the Missouri River in the east. The Black Hills is the center of our aboriginal lands. The land is an important part the Lakota/Dakota culture, history, traditions, and way of life.

CULTURE:

The Great Sioux Nation called The Lakota, Dakota, Nakota Nation, Tetons and/or the Western Sioux, (also referred to as the Teton, the Santee and Yanktonais). The people of the Sioux Nation refer to themselves as Lakota/Dakota/Nakota, which means friend or ally. The United States government took the word Sioux from Nadowesioox, a Chippewa (Ojibway) word, which means little snake or enemy. The French traders and trappers who worked with the Chippewa (Ojibway) people shorten the word to Sioux.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe encompasses the bands of Hunkpapa and Blackfeet of the Lakota Nation, and Ihunktonwan and Cuthead bands of the Yanktonais. The Lakota Nation or Great Sioux Nation includes the Seven Bands; Oglala, Brule, Minniecoujou, Hunkpapa, Blackfeet, Without Bows and Two Kettle. The Lakota Nation is an alliance called "*Oceti Sakowin*" or "*Seven Council Fires*". The Yanktonai Sioux (Nakota and Dakota) also called The Middle Sioux have the bands of the Yanktonai and Hunkpatina also called the Upper and Lower Yanktonais. The Yanktonai (little-end village) is One of the 7 primary divisions or subtribes of the Dakota, speaking the same dialect as the Yankton and believed to be the elder tribe. Subdivision of the Upper Yanktonai are the Wazikute, Takini, Shikshichena, Bakihon, Kiyuksa, Pabaksa, The other subdivisions of the Hunkpatina are Putetemini, Shungikcheka, Takuhayuta, Sanona, Ihasha, Iteghu, and Pteyuteshni.

This was a confederation of bands who spoke three dialects, the Lakota's speak an 'L' dialect, the Yanktonais (Ihunktonwan) and Cuthead Band speaks a "D" and "N" dialect. The Hunkpapa and Blackfeet belong to the Lakota Nation, the Cuthead band and the Ihunktonwan are a part of the Upper and Lower Yanktonais of the Dakota Nation all live on Standing Rock. The Hunkpapa and Blackfeet were buffalo hunters and referred to as the horsemen of the plains. The Yanktonais were a river-plains people who did some farming as well as buffalo hunting.

The Lakota and Dakota's oral tradition of a long time ago states that the people were one nation. The Lakota people slowly broke away and formed their other Bands. The Lakota/Dakota people still respect and live sacred ceremonies, which encompass the seven rites of the Lakota Nation bought by the White Buffalo Calf Woman.

The Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people have many social activities such as powwows, rodeos, and races celebrated in the summer months. Special ceremonies are held for individuals who accomplished one of the stages in their lives such as graduation or acceptance in the U.S. Armed Forces with traditional honoring ceremonies, give away, and feast to celebrate the accomplishments. Our way of life has passed down by oral tradition from the elders to the youth. The schools on the reservation teach our language and culture from head start age

to college level students. The future of Lakota/Dakota/Nakota people is in the hands of our children. The children of the Great Sioux Nation will bring us into the 21st century with hope and pride. The children will carry their language, culture, spirituality, and way of life into the future so that the people might live.

HISTORY:

Standing Rock has a long and colorful history. The aboriginal inhabitants of the land were the Mandan people, who lived along the shores of the Missouri River. The Arikara people were located along the southern part of the Missouri River and Grand River. The early 1800's the Mandan were decimated from smallpox disease. The remnant of the Mandan people moved north. The Lakota drove the Arikara north in 1823. The Mandan and the Arikara now live as part of the Three Affiliated Tribes. The Hunkpapa Band of the Lakota, were located on the open plains of Standing Rock around the Grand River area. The Blackfeet band of the Lakota, were located around the Wakpala and Kenel area.

In the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, the Great Sioux Nation retains the aboriginal land base. The Great Sioux Nation was reduced by the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty to the east side of the Missouri River and the state line of South Dakota in the west. The Great Sioux Nation land base was further reduced by the Agreement of 1889 which divided the nation into reservation across South Dakota and North Dakota.

In 1863 General Sully attacked the Ihunktonwan and other bands of peaceful Yanktonais Indians at Whitestone located near Ellendale North Dakota. They killed 300 Indians in the battle/massacre of mostly women and children. The survivors moved to the Standing Rock Reservation. The Yanktonais under Two Bears voiced objections to the reservation proposal in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty since they wish to remain on the East Side of the Missouri River.

By Executive Order dated March 16, 1875 the Standing Rock Reservation's northern border extended to the Cannon Ball River for the Ihunktonwan and Cuthead bands.

Sitting Bull was a spiritual leader and chief of the Hunkpapa band. He was born along the Grand River and he died close to the area where he was born in 1890. Sitting Bull fought to preserve the Lakota way of life. He refused to sell any part of the sacred land and move to the reservation. Sitting Bull had a vision of a great victory over the cavalry soldiers in the summer of 1876. The United State Government issued their demands that the Sioux Nation to move on to the reservations before December 31, 1875. The 7th Cavalry under General George A. Custer was requested to bring the Sioux bands in and place them on the reservation lands. On June 15, 1876, The Battle of the Little Big Horn between the 7th Cavalry and Lakota Nation with their allies Cheyenne and Arapahoe at Greasy Grass Montana took place. The Sioux Nation won a victory over General George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry.

The Great Sioux Nation scattered: some to Canada and others surrendered to the reservations. The Act of 1889 broke up the Great Sioux Nation into smaller reservations of which two million acres formed the Standing Rock Reservation. The Yanktonais and Cut Head Band reside on the North Dakota side. The Hunkpapas and Blackfeet on the South Dakota side of the reservations.

Sitting Bull objected to the reduction of the land and fought to preserve their way of life. Major James McLaughlin, Indian Agent for the Standing Rock Reservation ordered the arrest of Sitting Bull for alleged participation in the Ghost Dance. In the process of the arrest, Indian Police shot and killed Sitting Bull on December 15, 1890. The Hunkpapas who lived in Sitting Bull's camp fled to the south to Big Foot's Band at Cherry Creek. They traveled south to the Pine Ridge reservation to meet with Chief Red

Cloud. The 7th Cavalry caught them at a place called Wounded Knee on December 29, 1890. The 7th Cavalry took all the weapons from the Lakota people. The 7th Cavalry massacred 300 people at Wounded Knee and left the bodies to freeze in the snow.

The people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe slowly recovered from this injustice and continued to survive in their homeland. The people on Standing Rock are alive with history of the past and present. They are relatives to the great chief of all times, Sitting Bull, Running Antelope, Rain-in-his-Face Gall, Big Head, Two Bears, Bear Soldier, White Bull, One Bull, No Heart, Thunder Hawk, Grass, and many others continue to represent a culture like their ancestors.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to live by their treaties and preserve their way of life.

A chronological list of events:

1804 Lewis and Clark meet the Arikara near Mobridge, SD Lewis and Clark carried out court martial sentencing on Private Newman near the South Dakota border.

1804 Lewis and Clark stopped on the Cannon Ball River.

1807 Ensign Pryor lost 19 men in a battle with Grey Eyes who was one of the Chief that met with Lewis and Clark. Ensign Pryor was trying to return Chief Big White back to his people.

1809 Pierre Choteau and Manuel Lisa passed peacefully though the area and return Chief Big White back to the Mandan People.

1811 Manuel Lisa and Charbonneau set a trading post at present day Kenel, SD.

1812 It is written that the squaw of Charbonneau died of putrid fever at Fort Manuel and it is believed that this woman was Sakakawea. (John Littig’s diary)

1851 Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851

1863 The military fort established at present day Fort Yates

1868 Fort Laramie Treaty of 1968

1868 Grand River Agency established

1873 Grand River Agency moved to present day Fort Yates.

1874 Custer led an expedition into the Black Hills and found gold.

1875 Fort Yates was official named Standing Rock Agency

1876 Lakota/Dakota and allies win the battle at Little Big Horn against Custer and the Seventh Cavalry.

1878 Fort Yates is officially designated a military fort.

1881 McLaughlin became Indian agent on Standing Rock.

1881 Sitting Bull returns from Canada.

1889 The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe became a reservation.

1890 Sitting Bull killed by Indian police.

1890 Massacre at Wounded Knee.

1903 Fort Yates military post officially closed the men were sent to Fort McKeen and military graves relocated at this time.

1919 Indians who served in military in World War I recognized as citizens of the United States and entitled to vote in federal elections.

1924 Snyder Act confers U.S. citizenship to all Indians.

1946 First Tribal Chair Woman of Standing Rock was elected in 1946. Josephine Gates Kelly was elected to serve as the first Standing Rock Chairwoman. Mrs. Josephine Kelly was the first Indian woman delegate to a Republican National Convention.

1948 Army Corps of Engineers began construction of Oahe Dam.

1979 U.S. Court of Claims award Sioux Nation \$17.5 million and interest for taking of the Black Hills.

1980 U.S. Supreme Court affirms Court of Claims ruling in Black Hills claim and awards Sioux \$106 million. The court decries the taking of the illegal seizure of the Black Hills by the U.S. government, *“A more ripe and rank case of dishonorable dealings will never, in all probability be found in our history.”* Sioux overwhelmingly reject money settlement in the Black Hills case and seek return of the land.

2001 Standing Rock Historic Scenic Byway, Standing Rock’s 1806 became a North Dakota State Scenic Byway on November 7, 2001 and South Dakota Scenic Byway April 24, 2002.

2002 Fort Manuel was rebuilt The Kenel District rebuilt Fort Manuel and developed tourism in their community. Manuel Lisa built the Fort in 1811 and Sakakawea died in the fort 1812.

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBAL GOVERNMENT:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe became a reservation on March 2, 1889. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was defined by the Act of March 2, 1889 including all right-of-ways, 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 law of the United States. The United State Government works on three levels Federal, State and Tribal. The Tribal Governments have a government-to-government relationship with the United States. The Great Sioux Nation signed 1851 and 1868 treaties with the United States which are binding documents that retain our rights as a government.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe operates under a constitution approved on April 24, 1959 by the Tribal Council of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The Tribal Council consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and fourteen additional Councilmen elected by tribal members. The Tribal Council Chairman is the administrator of the tribe. The Tribal Council Chairman and Council serve a term of four years. Six of the fourteen additional Council members shall be residents of the Reservation without regard to residence in any district or state. Each of the remaining additional Council members shall be a resident of the district from which he is elected. The district people as a whole elect the At-large Council members.

The Tribal Council meets the first week and third week of every month for general council business. The second week is designated as the Economics Committee, Health Education & Welfare Committee and the Judicial Committee to meeting. The last week of the month is for Gaming and other specials initiatives that come up during the month. Every employee must turn in a monthly report of all office activities preformed each month.

CLIMATE:

The average rainfall is 16-17 inches during the summer season. The average growing season lasts four months, May to August. The average snow fall in the winter months

moderate to heavy during the winter weather. The temperature in the winter is from 30 below zero to 17 above zero lasting from November to March. The average temperature in the summer is 80 degrees and could range from 69 degrees to 110 degrees from June to August. The area suffers from occasional drought in the summer and severe blizzard in the winter. The spring and fall time is pleasant on the plains.

Standing Rock Reservation Eight Districts.

POPULATION PER DISTRICT:

1. Fort Yates, ND	1,961
2. Porcupine, ND	219
3. Kenel, SD	259
4. Wakpala, SD	707
5. Running Antelope, SD	695
6. Bear Soldier, SD	758
7. Bullhead (Rock Creek), SD	692
8. Cannon Ball, ND	847

TRANSPORTATION:

The Lewis and Clark Trail or Historical Highway 1806 runs along the Missouri River. The 1806 runs into Highway 24, which runs along the communities of Cannon Ball, Fort Yates, Kenel and Wakpala, and back to 1806 on the South Dakota side. Highway 6 runs from Mandan, North Dakota to South Dakota lines, Highway 13 from the South Dakota line to Mobridge, South Dakota connects to Highway 12 which extends from Mobridge to Lemon, South Dakota crossing east to west of the reservation. Highway 39 runs from Flasher, North Dakota south by McIntosh, South Dakota. The charter buses and limousine services come to Prairie Knights and Grand River Casino daily. The Greyhound Bus services are located in Bismarck. The nearest commercial airline is in Bismarck, North Dakota, seventy-five miles north of the reservation. Standing Rock Public Transportation Program as a community service, is provided by Sitting Bull College for public Indian and non-Indian passengers transportation for the Standing Rock Reservations since 1989. Standing Rock Public Transportation Schedule Passenger Fee: \$2.50 one-way ride MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

TRIBAL ECONOMY:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribes major economic occupation is cattle ranching, farming and gaming. The SRST has established various economic ventures such as Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge, the Grand River Casino and Resort, Prairie Knight Marina to employ the tribal people on the reservation and plans to develop more enterprises.

We are making efforts to develop our reservation for the next generation. The Tribe currently operates Prairie Knights Quik Mart, Prairie Knights Marina, The Bay, Standing Rock Farms, Ambulance Service, Chief Gall Inn Youth Center, Children’s Home Project (Lake Oahe Group Home), Elderly Protection Center, Environmental Protection Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Repatriation Office, and the Tourism Office for the people of Standing Rock.

The districts also operate businesses such as the Bear Soldier Bingo and bingo operations in Cannon Ball, Fort Yates and Porcupine, which supports their local districts.

Bear Soldier has a grocery store; Cannon Ball has a convenience store/gas station; Bullhead has a Trading Post; and Little Eagle has a Laundromat. Enrolled members of Standing Rock own their own businesses. The Standing Rock Cable Vision INC, White Buffalo Store, Missouri Drift Inn, Taco Johns, Henry Standard, Tim’s Conoco & Laundromat, Richie’s Ponderosa Plaza, Spirit of Standing Rock Coffee shop, Diamondz Bar, Beauty Saloon, and Restaurant, in Fort Yates.

There are non-Indian owned businesses throughout the reservation, primarily in McLaughlin, Selfridge, Solen, and McIntosh. We are in the planning process of continued economic development for the people of Standing Rock.

RECREATION:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has two Casinos, the Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge located near Cannon Ball, North Dakota and the Grand River Casino and Resort near Wakpala, South Dakota. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe plans to develop their tourism business with The National Native American Scenic Byway, Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail, Prairie Knights RV Park, Fort Manuel, the Bay cabins, the Bay RV park, historic and nature tours, and site development with their historic site. The Tribe has a tourism website at <http://www.standingrocktourism.com> and a Tourism Office located in Fort Yates, North Dakota.

Standing Rock has a beautiful landscapes of hills, valleys, rivers, creeks and badlands. The Missouri River, Cannon Ball River, Grand River, Oak Creek, Cedar Creek and many other creeks flow though out the reservation. We offer boating, swimming, fishing, camping, hiking along our borders.

One of our traditional events through the summer months is the pow-wow or wacipi that is open to the public.

Come, learn the ancient dances of the Lakota/Dakota people, and hear the songs of long ago.

THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE DISTRICT POWWOWS:

Memorial Day Pow-Wow Kenel, SD Traditional/Contest

2nd Weekend in June..... Cannon Ball..... Contest

3rd Weekend in June Porcupine..... Traditional

1st Weekend in July Bear Soldier..... Contest

4th Weekend in July..... Little Eagle Contest

1st Weekend in August..... Fort Yates..... Contest

2nd Weekend in August (VJ Day)..... Rock Creek..... Traditional

3rd Weekend in August Wakpala Traditional

Standing Rock College Graduation Powwow in May.

SRST - Chemical Prevention Program Annual Sobriety Run in May.

SRST - Community School Powwow in May.

SRST - Veteran’s Day Powwow in November.

Other recreational activities and honoring with special meaning;

Big Foot Ride in December in memory of all that died at Wounded Knee.

Little Big Horn Ride in June to honor the memory of Victory for the Lakota Nation.
The Chief Ride on Memorial weekend in May.

Annual Calf Roping events held in the surrounding Ranches.

Annual Rodeos Fort Yates 1st weekend in August
Major McLaughlin James Days in June.

During the year other sports activities such as Basketball, Softball, Volley Ball and Horseshoe tournaments are held in the Districts.

The water sports such as boating, fishing are popular along the Missouri River, Grand River and Cannon Ball River.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Coop Inc. and Moreau-Grand Electric Coop. supply electricity and natural gas to the reservation and surrounding areas. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will be developing its own utilities company and telephone company. The West River Telephone Company provides telephone service to the reservation. The Tribal MR & I Water Distribution System supplies water lines to the districts to bring clean water to all enrolled members. Many enrolled members in the rural districts still use well water. The U.S. Public Health Services operates a hospital at Fort Yates and smaller clinics in the Fort Yates, McLaughlin, and Cannon Ball Districts.

HOUSING:

The Standing Rock Sioux tribal members live in cluster and scattered site homes built by HUD housing on tribal and allotted land. The districts have standard low-income government HUD housing for rent to individual tribal members. Some of the Standing Rock members own their own homes in the rural areas. The need for housing is great on Standing Rock.

Hotels and motels accommodation on Standing Rock are located at Prairie Knights Lodge stationed next to the Prairie Knights Casino 15 miles north of Fort Yates, North Dakota and 8 miles south of Cannon Ball, North Dakota. We have three RV park next to The Prairie Knight Casino Resort and Grand River Casino at the Bay. Hotels and motels accommodation are located off the Reservation in Mobridge, South Dakota and to the north in Bismarck, North Dakota, the two largest communities bordering the reservation.

FUTURE:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe strives toward self-sufficiency for its people and its land. The tribe encourages new business ideals for the Standing Rock Reservation. We are planning for a Cultural Resource Center/Museum on the reservation, which will include archive and genealogy center. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe wants to ensure that the people, culture, tradition and way of life continue into the 21st Century, to ensure that our children carry on the knowledge of our traditions, language and culture. The Elders pass our history onto the youth which make them our most valuable resources. We will continue to grow as a people with our culture, history and way of life.