



# White Earth Reservation Community Profile

## Lodging and Meeting Facilities

- Shooting Star Casino, Hotel and Event Center
- Maplelag Resort, Callaway
- Pinehurst Resort, Naytahwaush
- Cedar Crest Resort, Waubun
- Pappy's Café, Waubun

## Educational Facilities

- White Earth Tribal and Community College
- St. Michael's Elementary School
- Pine Point School
- Circle of Life School
- Waubun, Ogema Elementary Schools
- Waubun High School
- Mahnomen Elementary and High School
- Naytahwaush Charter School
- Even Start, Early Childhood
- Nine Head Start Classrooms

## Changes

In 1990, the White Earth Reservation had a 73% unemployment rate. The 2000 Census indicates 57.2% of our people are employed. The Per Capita Income in 1990 was \$12,474. In 2000, it appears the Per Capita Income for Indians on the White Earth Indian Reservation was \$15,472. The increase in employment and the rise in income is primarily due to the Tribe's Principal Economic Activity—the Shooting Star Casino, Hotel and Event Center. Other businesses owned by the Tribe are the Manicoc Mall in Mahnomen, Ojibwa Building Supplies located in Waubun, White Earth Sanitation, and Ojibwa Business Supplies, both of which are in Waubun. These Tribal Businesses are major employers of our Indian population. Each Tribal Business provides a living wage and excellent benefits

## For More Information

Contact the White Earth Tribal Council  
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Telephone: (218) 983-3285  
[www.whiteearth.com](http://www.whiteearth.com)

The White Earth Reservation encompasses the county of Mahnomen, the northern two tiers of townships in Becker County and some of the western two tiers of townships in Clearwater County for a total of approximately 990,000 acres. There are 530 lakes and many acres of forest.

There are five incorporated cities within the White Earth Reservation, all located along US Highway 59; the cities are Callaway, Ogema, Waubun, Mahnomen and Bejou. Major Minnesota cities near the Reservation include Detroit Lakes (10 miles south), Bemidji, and Park Rapids.

Currently, the land within the Reservation borders is 90% privately owned by non-Indian individuals and only 10% is controlled by the White Earth Tribal Government.

One significant area located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Reservation is the Itasca State Park in the Heartland area of Minnesota. The park, which contains the source of the Mississippi River, is the second largest in the State park system.

The Reservation was established March 19, 1867 with the Mississippi. The White Earth Band of Ojibwa has 19,506 enrolled members, but only 4,055 tribal members live within the boundaries of the reservation.

The White Earth Tribal Council is the largest employer in Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen Counties with over 1600 employees.

There are many places for you to see and visit during your stay on the Reservation. We encourage you to visit The Shooting Star Casino and Event Center, located in Mahnomen, Minnesota, which is owned by the White Earth Band of Ojibwa. Tribal government headquarters are located in White Earth, Minnesota, which is in Becker County. Hospitality is one of the largest fields of economic activity for the Tribe.

## Climate

Winter is the longest of four seasons experienced in this region. January is the coldest month with July being the warmest. Recorded temperatures range from minus 51 degrees F. to a high of 100 plus degrees F. The annual average temperature is in the 40 plus range. The average annual rate of precipitation is 22.6 inches, and an average of 37 inches of snow fall yearly. During winter, frost can penetrate to a depth of greater than eight feet.

## Population

White Earth Reservation	9,188
Enrolled Indians in or near boundaries	4,055
Mahnomen County	5,190
Becker County	30,000
Clearwater County	8,423
Minnesota Total Population	4,919,479

## Transportation

Persons within the Reservation boundaries have access to U.S. Hwy. 59, Minnesota Highway 113, which is designated as a scenic highway, and Minnesota Highway 200.

Transit service or local bus service is offered in Mahnomen County, Becker County and the White Earth Reservation.

Airlines: The County of Mahnomen has an airport but it is not used for commercial traffic. Commercial airline service may be obtained at the Hector International Airport in Fargo, North Dakota. Grand Forks International Airport in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Bemidji Regional Airport in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Amtrak service is offered at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Freight trains stop in Mahnomen, Callaway and Waubun to load grain from local elevators.

Winter Truck Line, Inc. is the only trucking firm located within the boundaries of the Reservation, but there are several truck lines within the area.

## Communications

Internet service can be found throughout the reservation boundaries. DSL is available, as well. Telephone Service is provided by Arvig Communications and Quest. Cellular telephone service is provided most frequently by UniceL within the Reservation boundaries, but other cellular services are available. Cable, CATV and Satellite Television service is provided by Arvig Communications, Direct TV and Dish Network.

Daily newspapers arrive on the Reservation from the *Fargo Forum* and the *Minneapolis Star/Tribune*. Local weekly newspapers are the *Mahnomen Pioneer* and the *Detroit Lakes Tribune*. The White Earth Tribe has a bi-weekly newspaper, the *Anishinaabeg Today* with over 12,000 recipients. Mahnomen and Ada have local radio stations. There are multiple radio stations in Detroit Lakes, Fargo and Park Rapids. The White Earth Tribe provides an hour of weekly radio service through Park Rapids for Tribal members.

## Medical Services

Tribal members and descendants can obtain medical services at the White Earth Indian Health Service Clinic. The Indian Health Service has two Satellite Clinics—one in Naytahwaush and the other in Pine Point. The Indian Health Service provides dental, optical, mental health and pharmaceutical care. Any person can obtain medical services in Detroit Lakes, Mahnomen or Fargo, North Dakota. St. Mary's Hospital is located in Detroit Lakes and the Mahnomen Health Center is located in the city of Mahnomen.

## Government Services:

Tribal Government: The White Earth Tribal Government has elected officials. There is a Chairperson, a Secretary/Treasurer and three District Representatives.

County Government: Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen

City Government: Callaway, Ogema, Waubun, Mahnomen, and Bejou.

Police Protection: Each of the counties has cooperative agreements with the White Earth Tribal Government. The White Earth Tribe established a Community Policing force in the 1990's. Law enforcement is shared between the Tribe and the counties. City Police Services are available in Mahnomen, Waubun, Ogema and Callaway.

Fire Protection for each community is through volunteer service. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has Forestry Fire Protection with assistance from DNR.

## Churches

Predominant religious affiliations within this area are Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran and Episcopalian. Other churches may be found within the area.

## Area Scenic Attractions

Some of Minnesota's most beautiful country can be found within the boundaries of the White Earth Reservation. Nestled among the forests and gently rolling hills of this sparsely populated area are 530 pristine lakes of rare beauty. Abundant wildlife, waterfowl, excellent fishing, and campsites attract sportsmen and naturalists alike.

Other nearby attractions are Itasca State Park, "where the Mississippi begins", Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and White Earth State Forest.

Tourists and area residents alike revel in the numerous opportunities afforded by this natural lake country. Swimming, scuba diving, and water skiing are popular in the summer, while winter offers ice fishing, cross country skiing and an extensive network of snowmobile trails. Spectacular fall foliage provides magnificent vistas before this land becomes carpeted with snow.

## Special Events

- White Earth Pow-Wow (Week-end closest to June 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Families First Week
- Fishing Derbys
- Ogema Days
- Diabetes Camp
- Waubun Harvest Fest
- Brain Development Conference
- Naytahwaush Harvest Fest
- Pine Point Pow Wow
- Scheduled Snowmobile Events
- Mahnomen County Fair