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# Appendix D: Indian Nations

*The American Indian Digest*

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*An Indian reservation* is an area of land held in trust by the Federal Government reserved for Indian use (see Tables D.1 and D.2). The Secretary of the Interior is the trustee for the United States. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible to the trustee for administration and management of Indian trust lands.

- Approximately 300 reservations are Federally Recognized totaling some 55 million acres.
- 44 million acres are tribal trust lands.
- 11 million acres are individually owned.
- There are 12 State-recognized reservations.

Indian nations range in size from some California rancherias of less than 1 acre to the Navajo Nation at more than 17 million acres.

A few reservations are 100 percent tribal trust lands, and others are almost entirely owned by individuals.

## Indian Nation Resources

Some Indian tribes have an impressive array of resources on their trust lands. It seems poetic justice that some of the desolate reservations have become valuable land because of minerals resources, pristine resources, and urban locations.

- 44.0 million acres in range and grazing.
- 5.3 million acres of commercial forest.
- 2.5 million acres of crop area.
- 4 percent of U.S. oil and gas reserves.
- 40 percent of U.S. uranium deposits.
- 30 percent of Western coal reserves.
- \$2 billion in trust royalty payments.

Historically, Indians have been allowed to occupy lands until an economic and/or political requisition was mandated. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the cultivated lands of the five “civilized tribes” in the Southeastern States, and the discovery of oil in Oklahoma are

**Table D.1.—Indian Landholdings in Acres**

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	<b>Individual Trust Allotments</b>	<b>Total Indian Land</b>
Navajo	AZ, NM, UT	14,715,093	717,077	15,432,170
Tohono O'odham	AZ	2,773,850	320	2,774,170
Pine Ridge	SD	749,883	1,314,624	2,064,507
Cheyenne River	SD	1,150,546	872,843	2,023,389
San Carlos	AZ	1,826,541	0	1,826,541
Wind River	WY	1,710,169	101,196	1,811,365
Rosebud	SD	1,135,230	641,009	1,776,239
Ft. Apache/White Mt	AZ	1,664,972	0	1,664,972
Hopi	AZ	1,560,993	220	1,561,213
Crow	MT	408,444	1,107,561	1,516,005
Standing Rock	ND, SD	422,512	825,822	1,248,334
Ft. Berthold	ND	596,257	604,409	1,200,666
Yakima	WA	904,411	225,851	1,130,262
Colville	WA	1,023,641	39,395	1,063,036
Uintah & Ouray	UT	1,007,238	14,318	1,021,556
Hualapai	AZ	992,463	0	992,463
Blackfeet	MT	302,072	356,630	937,702
Ft. Peck	MT	391,769	512,914	904,683
Jicarilla	NM	823,580	0	823,580
Warm Springs	OR	592,143	51,348	643,491
Flathead	MT	581,907	45,164	627,071
Ft. Belknap	MT	235,595	385,376	620,971
Ute Mountain	CO	588,825	8,483	597,308
Red Lake	MN	564,452	0	564,452
Ft. Hall	ID	260,837	299,041	489,878
Pyramid Lake	NV	476,729	0	476,729
Laguna	NM	458,933	2,165	461,098
Mescalero	NM	460,678	0	460,678
Northern Cheyenne	MT	318,072	118,875	436,947
Gila River	AZ	274,278	97,652	371,930

Source: Annual Report of Indian Lands, BIA Office of Trust Responsibilities, Sept. 30, 1985; BIA area offices Aberdeen, SD, Billings, MT, and Phoenix, AZ.

**Table D.2.—State With the Greatest Acreages of Indian Land**

<b>State</b>	<b>Tribal</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Government<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Land</b>
Alaska	44,086,773	884,100 <sup>b</sup>	0	10.7
Arizona	19,775,958	311,579	90,697	27.7
New Mexico	7,252,326	630,293	270,276	10.5
Montana	2,671,416	2,868,124	11,803	5.9
South Dakota	2,399,531	2,121,188	1,606	9.2
Washington	2,097,842	467,785	3,164	5.6
Utah	2,286,448	32,838	87	4.3
Nebraska	2,141,996	43,208	7	4.4
Wyoming	2,908,095	101,537	1,296	3.2
Nevada	1,147,088	78,529	4,946	1.7
Oklahoma	96,839	1,000,165	2,298	2.5
Idaho	609,622	327,301	32,532	1.3
North Dakota	214,006	627,289	624	1.9
Minnesota	779,138	50,338	103	1.5
Oregon	660,367	135,052	378	1.3
Colorado	795,211	2,805	32	1.2
California	520,049	66,769	808	0.6
Florida	153,874	0	333	0.4
Maine	163,570	0	0	0.7
New York	118,199	0	0	0.3

<sup>a</sup>Land within a reservation which has been reserved by the Federal Government for schools, agency buildings, and so forth.

<sup>b</sup>This includes the 44 million acres distributed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and owned in fee title by Alaska Natives.

Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs Acreages of Indian Lands by State, 1990.

explicit examples. The 500-year history of Indians versus the U.S. Government speaks for itself. *Congress giveth and Congress can taketh away.*

A few reservations are 100 percent occupied by Indians, and others are almost entirely occupied by non-Indians.

- According to the 1990 Census, there are 808,163 people living on Indian reservations.
- 437,431 (54 percent) are Indians; 388,000 Indians lived on 78 reservations with a population of 1,000 or more.
- 370,732 (46 percent) are non-Indians.

The 1830 Removal Act precipitated the infamous “Trail of Tears,” which refers to the 1838 forced march of some 15,000 Cherokee Indians from their coveted farmlands in the Southeastern United States to Oklahoma Indian territory. More than 4,000 Indians died during the march from disease, exposure, and starvation.

In a broader context, the “Trail of Tears” was typical of the forced removal of some 60,000 members of the five “Civilized Tribes” (the Cherokee, the Creek, the Chickasaw, the Choctaw, and the Seminole) that lasted for nearly 10 years.

The forced removal was in violation of a Supreme Court decision by Chief Justice John Marshall in favor of the Indians to which President Andrew Jackson responded, “John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it.”