



# Lower Sioux Indian Community

Native American Culture and Government

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# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Location

- Located in Redwood County— two miles south of Morton and east of Redwood Falls
  - About 70 miles from Mankato
- 1,743 acres of tribal land
- Minnesota River Valley homeland
- Land is rich agricultural land and in the wooded bluffs
- Community built on the hillside and uplands



# Lower Sioux Indian Community—History

- Minnesota is the Dakota origin
- Reservation is land that was permitted to the Dakota through treaties
  - Specifically, the Traverse de Sioux Treaty in 1851 which left them with the Lower (Redwood) Agency
- Primarily Mdewakanton Band of Dakota
- Prior to 1862, the Minnesota Dakota, consisted of four bands known as the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute and the Sisseton and the Wahpeton
  - Lived along the Minnesota River
- In August of 1862, they waged war against the United States because of unfulfilled treaty
- United States punished the Dakota

# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Members

- About 145 families
- A total tribal population of 982
- Preserve history of the tribe
- Tribally funded health insurance policies cover the medical costs
  - Redwood Falls and Willmar hospitals
- Redwood Falls is the public school for the community Indian children
- Also, an Indian-focused charter school was formed at Morton
  - Tribe provides financial help for education beyond high school
  - Working to improve graduation rates (currently 66.9 percent)
- Recreation Center
  - “Provides a wide array of recreational activities for all ages. Housed in a state-of-the-art multi-purpose facility, recreation programming promotes the health and well-being of the mind, body and spirit.”

# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Government

- The Lower Sioux Community Council is elected
- Constitution, Ordinances, and Resolutions
- Tribal court
  - Organized in 1993
  - Civil cases including contract law
  - Workers' compensation cases
  - Various governance matters

# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Constitution

- Preamble
  - Similar to the Preamble of the US Constitution
- Name, Territory, Membership, Governing Body, Power, Elections, Removal, Referendum, Land, Game Laws, Court of Domestic Relations, Mineral Rights, Amendments
- Articles
  - Duties of Officers, Oath, Salaries, Meetings, Cooperation

# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Enterprise

- Until the mid-1980's the Tribe struggled financially
- Since 1972, the Tribe has made hand thrown, hand painted, traditional Dakota pottery
- Leases gravel pits
- Jackpot Junction opened in 1984
- Dacotah Ridge Golf Course in 2000

# Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel

- South of Morton, Minnesota and on the West side of the Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Opened October 1984
- Operated by 859 employees
- First Casino in the state of Minnesota
- Features
  - 440,000 square feet of gambling
  - 1,250 slot machines
  - 375-seat bingo hall that offers regular and matinee sessions
  - The Lower Sioux Lodge is a AAA three diamond rated 379-room hotel
  - Four different restaurants
  - Variety and country bands every weekend



# Dacotah Ridge Golf Course

- 4 miles East of Jackpot Junction Casino
- Designed by Rees Jones
  - Famous architect
- 18 holes on 240 acres
  - Natural wetlands, Wabasha Creek, 14-acre lake, mature trees and 7,109 yards of ranging
- Wabasha Creek Restaurant
  - Seats 110 people

# Lower Sioux Indian Community—Features

- Strive for continual development economically
- Recreation Center
  - Multipurpose Room
  - Gym
  - Workout Room
  - Computer Lab
- Environment Services
  - “To ensure the health, welfare, and safety of tribal members while protecting and conserving the earth’s natural resources for today’s and future generations”
- Behavioral Services
  - Promote Healthy Living
  - Chemical Dependency Treatment
  - Mental Health Services

Clinic opening July 2015



# Works Cited

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