



Prairie Island Indian Community

ABBY WEGNER

History

- ▶ Mdewakanton
 - ▶ “Those who were born of the waters
- ▶ Descendants of the Mdewakanton Band of Eastern Dakota
- ▶ Involved in the Great Sioux Uprising
- ▶ Some of the Mdewakanton came back to Minnesota after the hanging and exiling to Nebraska
- ▶ 1899 the reservation was established by act of Congress in 1889

Population & Land

- ▶ 800 people
 - ▶ Not all of them live on the reservation
 - ▶ Due to limited land
- ▶ 1800 acres of trust land
- ▶ 426 acres of taxable fee land
- ▶ 249 acres of fee land
- ▶ 1290 acres of land were given to replace damage done by flooding



The Buffalo Project

- ▶ March 1992 the community accepted a male bison bull
 - ▶ From the Lakota Nation of South Dakota
- ▶ 1993 additional bison cows were purchased
- ▶ 40 bison in 2005
- ▶ Buffalo project supports:
 - ▶ Culture
 - ▶ Spirituality
 - ▶ Provides nutritional meat
- ▶ The goal is to keep growing the herd to provide



Treasure Island

- ▶ Employs 1500 people
 - ▶ 486 tribal members
- ▶ Generates \$13 million in annual state and federal taxes
- ▶ Spends \$50 million annually with Minnesota businesses
- ▶ 200 new business have been created to support the casino



Nuclear power

- ▶ Power plant was put on the reservation
- ▶ One of the rods malfunctioned
- ▶ The plant was taken down
- ▶ A nuclear storage locker was put up by their daycare
- ▶ The tribe was not happy about it and has been trying to get rid of nuclear waste

Government

- ▶ Separate from both state and federal government
- ▶ Governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the community
- ▶ 5 member Tribal Council
 - ▶ Elected every 2 years
- ▶ Court consists of
 - ▶ Chief judge
 - ▶ Appellate court
 - ▶ Clerk of court
 - ▶ Guardian ad litem
 - ▶ Probation officer

Works Cited

- ▶ <http://www.prairieisland.org/community/buffalo/>
- ▶ <http://www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mn/prairie.htm>
- ▶ http://mn.gov/indianaffairs/tribes_prairieisland.html
- ▶ <http://www.e-physician.info/NPI-1821305129-MN>