

Federal policies enacting the immiseration of Native Americans

From economic self-sufficiency to welfare dependency

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Solving the “Indian Problem”

- 1492 to 1890: A military and national security problem
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs originally housed in the War Department
- Late 19th century a redefinition of the “problem”
 - How to humanely facilitate the extinction of Native people
 - Population nadir in 1890: ~228,000
- Two-pronged policy
 - Children: boarding schools (1879 to present)
 - Adults: land allotment (1887 to 1934)

The aftermath of allotment and boarding schools

- Boarding schools: forced assimilation and vocational training
 - 1893: 156 schools with ~14,000 students
 - Language extinction
 - Family disruption
 - Trauma and historic antipathy towards schooling
- Land allotment: privatizing tribal lands
 - Tracts of land allotted to individuals with fee simple title
 - “Surplus” lands sold to White settlers
 - Massive land losses
 - Reservation checkerboarding: complex land tenure patterns an impediment to planning and development





Allotment in severalty

- “The desire for property of his own may become an intense educating force. . . . Discontent with the tepee and the starving rations of the Indian camp in winter is needed to get the Indian out of the blanket and into trousers,—and trousers with a pocket in them, and with a *pocket that aches to be filled with dollars!*” (Merrill Gates, presidential address, Lake Mohonk Conference, 1896)
- Tribal land loss
 - 1881: 156,000,000 acres
 - 1900: 85,000,000 acres
 - 1930: 30,000,000 acres
- Causes: economic distress, tax foreclosure, fraud

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

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OF
YOUR OWN



EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE



POSSESSION

WITHIN

THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre
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THE RICHEST LAND!

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The Grand Rush will close September 1, 1911.

Attention is called to the fact that the Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush. The Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush. The Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush.

ABOUT THE LAND.

The Government has a large tract of land in the Indian Territory, which it has set apart for the purpose of settling the Indians. The land is of the best quality, and is well watered. It is also well timbered, and is suitable for farming and stock raising. The Government is now offering the land for sale, and is hoping to sell it at a low price. The land is being sold in small tracts, and is being sold to the highest bidder. The Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush. The Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush. The Government is not responsible for the results of the Grand Rush.

AN OFFICE OF THE

WM. C. BRANHAM,

Indianapolis, Indiana.

REPRESENTATIVE

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If you will come over we will try and get the government to dismiss this suit. We think that they will do so if you state that you are satisfied with our contract as they have been dismissing a great many of these suits.

If you will come over in the near future I will go before the government attorney and see if we cannot get him to dismiss this suit.

Yours very truly,

THE COMMONWEALTH TRUST COMPANY.

PER

J. P. Allen

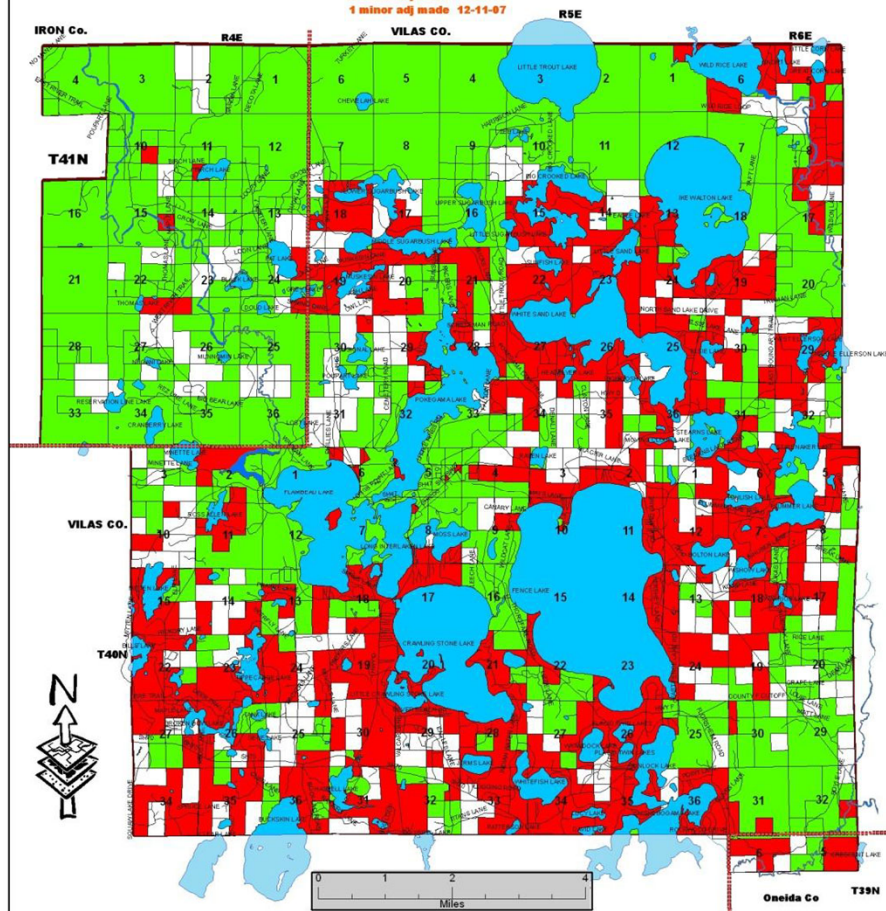


Lac du Flambeau Reservation landownership



May 3, 2007

2 minor adj made 11-27-07
1 minor adj made 12-11-07



Legend
ownership
Allotted land
Fee Land
Tribal land

Reservation Acreage=			86,548	100%
Allotted lands=			12,859	15%
Fee Lands=			22,391	26%
Tribal Lands=			33,770	39%
259 Lakes =			15,221	18%
Rivers & larger streams=			2,307	2%

Notice

This map is created using the best available data and is not a warranty of accuracy. The user assumes all responsibility for any errors or omissions. The user assumes all responsibility for any errors or omissions. The user assumes all responsibility for any errors or omissions.

The “Indian Problem” in post-war America

- The Indian New Deal: an interregnum in forced assimilation (1932-1948)
 - Allotment ends
 - Boarding school curriculums revised to be less repressive (emphasis on assimilation remains)
- Termination and Relocation (1951 to 1981)
 - “Getting the government out of the Indian business”
 - Termination: unilateral abolition of tribal lands (HCR 108, 1953)
 - Native resistance: Menominee (1958-75), Klamath (1961-86), 23 CA rancherias (1958-77,86)
 - Relocation: urban resettlement and vocational education
 - Over 100,000 participants: deemed a general failure
 - Discrimination and union obstructions



American Indian Self-Determination

- Richard Nixon: “Self-Determination without termination”
 - Message to Congress, July 8, 1970
- American Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (1975)
 - Public Law 93-638
 - Devolution of BIA oversight
- Relocation programs officially ended (1981)

Thank you!