



FLORIDA'S AMERICAN INDIAN and ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION

To most of Florida's citizens, American Indians and Alaska Natives exist only in museums, B movies and casino mythology.

Florida's Native American population constitutes 0.7 per cent of the state's total population. The 2000 Census of the Population reports that some 117,880 American Indian and Alaska Natives from 446 different nations, tribes, bands, pueblos and groups reside in Florida. According to population counts from the 2000 Census, Florida ranks eleventh nationally in Native American population. In contrast the 1990 Census data reported Florida's American Indian population as 36,335 and approximately 426,558 individuals reported some American Indian "heritage".

In the ten years between 1990 and 2000 the general American Indian population of Florida experienced an increase in: per cent of high school graduates 25 years and older (75.54%); median household income (\$33,117); per capita income (\$16,620); and per cent of persons in poverty (20.32%).

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida are the only federally recognized tribes whose governmental headquarters are located in Florida. (Approximately one-third of the members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, whose tribal headquarters is located in Escambia County Alabama, live in Escambia County or Santa Rosa County, Florida.)

The United States government and the State of Florida have established a government to government relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. As an integral part of this relationship the State of Florida and the United States government

have assumed a trust responsibility for the protection of the sovereign rights of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. Chapter 285 Florida Statutes gives special recognition to and defines the relationship between the State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND TRUST LANDS

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has 7 reservations located in west central and south Florida. The Seminole Tribal Headquarters is located at the Hollywood Reservation which is approximately 500 acres located near US - 441 and Stirling Road in Hollywood, Florida. The Seminole Big Cypress Reservation is approximately 52,000 acres located north of I-75 (Alligator Alley) in northwest Broward, southwest Palm Beach and southeast Hendry counties. The Seminole Brighton Reservation is approximately 36,000 acres located in northwest Glades County near the northwestern shore of Lake Okeechobee. The Fort Pierce Seminole Reservation is 50 acres located in St. Lucie County. The Tampa Seminole Reservation is approximately 40 acres located near I-4 and Orient Road on the eastern edge of Tampa, Florida. The Immokalee Seminole Reservation is approximately 600 acres located in northern Collier County south of Immokalee, Florida. Including additional trust lands in Broward County, the Seminole Tribe has approximately 89,350 acres of federal trust land in Florida.

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has 4 reservations located in south Florida. The Miccosukee Tribal Headquarters is located at the Miccosukee Tamiami Trail Reservation which is approximately 4 acres of federal trust land located on the Tamiami Trail (US 41) at 40 Mile Bend. The Miccosukee Tamiami Trail Reservation includes a strip of land 500 ft. wide by 5 miles long which is leased in perpetuity from the National Park Service. The Miccosukee Krome Avenue Reservation consists of approximately 25 acres located on the northwest corner of US 41 and Krome Avenue. The Miccosukee Dade Corners Reservation is approximately 1 acre situated on the northeast corner of US 41 and Krome Avenue. The Miccosukee Alligator Alley Reservation is approximately 74,800 acres which is bi-sected by I-75 in northwest Broward County. The State of Florida has granted a perpetual lease to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida on approximately 189,000 acres which is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Alligator Alley Reservation in Conservation Area IIIA.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, which has its tribal headquarters in Escambia County, Alabama, has a small amount of federal trust land in Florida.

TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP STATUS

The approximate 117,880 Native Americans who live in Florida are: members or citizens of "federally recognized" tribes or nations from other states; members or citizens of tribes or nations "recognized" by the Canadian government; members of tribes "recognized" by another state; members of "non-recognized" groups or non-affiliated individuals of Native American heritage. (The figure of 117,880 includes individuals who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races. The 2000 Census information contained in this document are derived from *US Census Bureau, Summary File 2 and Summary File 4.*) The two tribal groups with the largest reported population in Florida are Cherokee (approximately 29,602) and Creek or Muskogee (approximately 6,763). The data available from the US Census Bureau does not provide information regarding the formal tribal affiliation or citizenship, if any, of individuals who identify as having Native American "heritage" or Indian "ancestry". (ie. If an individual lists Cherokee for the race question, the individual may be a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, of Cherokee descent or none of the above. The Native American population of Florida is diverse and has many different cultures, agendas and concerns, as does Florida's non-Native American population.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024
(954)966-6300**

**Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144
(305)223-8380**

**Poarch Band of Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502
(334)368-9136**