



Communal Lands Project

Values, views and Perspectives of Tribal Members on the Pine Ridge Reservation

World Wildlife Fund

- Hundreds of years ago buffalo, elk, antelope, medicinal plants, birds and nests and indigenous people were plentiful across the Northern Great Plains.

The diverse wildlife that roamed these vast grasslands are not lost. They still call this place home, but their calls are muted and tracks and nests less abundant. WWF is working to restore this living prairie in the heart of North America. At the crux of our vision is a mosaic of private, public and tribal lands managed in a manner that benefits wildlife and local communities. We work with the ranching community, public agencies, tribal nations and other conservation partners to ensure that the richness of the prairie ecosystem is sustained and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

- “Right here in America is one of the world’s most threatened natural systems. The Northern Great Plains is as important as the Amazon or Arctic, and deserves our attention.” Martha Kauffman Managing Director, Northern Great Plains

The South Unit - 133,300 acres of Tribal Land

1904 last allotments made in South Unit

1948 Aerial/Gunnery Range created on Pine Ridge, 341,725 acres were taken

1968 –P.L 90-468 restored land to OST, allowed tribal members to repurchase their land and created the South Unit, by a management easement deed that expanded the Badland Monument

Early 70's Bureau of Indian Affairs range unit system is put in place, creating up to 10 range units in the south unit.

1976 MOA between OST and NPS

2010 – A general management plan was developed with tribal members and NPS

2012 OST Ordinance was passed to create a Tribal National Park, Preferred alternative

2013 OST Ordinance was retracted and the core team was disbanded.

Significance of this land - HOPE

Last Ghost Dance was held at the Strong hold, cultural and spiritual sites.
Significant resources – fossils, ancient camp fire rings, geologic formations, grazing
133,300 acres of Tribal, consolidated land – food sovereignty, conservation, future hope



What work I am doing – Oglala Voice

- How do I engage the tribal council in supporting development and implementation of a survey, as they manage the tribal land?
- Presented to the standing Land Committee, advised to bring the finished document.
- Created a working group to create the survey topics and questions to gather tribal members values, views and perspectives (it is a 5 page survey with 10 topics- wildlife values, south unit management, economic development, spiritual/cultural preservation, recreation, natural resource on SU & PR, thoughts and feelings about opportunities associated with buffalo on PR, about self)
- Prepared the application to the Research and Review Board (RRB). – referred back to council. Then EB&D committee. Then to each of the nine districts.
- Met with grassroots leaders, Naca's, Akicitas, land owners and many, many individuals.

The work cont'd

- Advised by council member to go to each and every district for approval, this took more than one meeting with several districts. First district to approve was Lacreek in February. Last district approval was in August.
- Created a paper survey that I take door to door and a electronic version that can be completed on tablet, phone or computer.
- Ultimately, will summarize and share data with the Districts and as a whole back to the people. I will print a thousand posters with the results, to get back to the people.
- And the final piece I hope to begin a discussion on establishing priorities based on survey results with the ultimate hope of creating a tribal management document that is led by input from the people.

An elder reflection...

- Be patient with yourself
- It has been decided that you are the one to do this
- Complete your work and always give thanks.
- In ending I add that in my work, I take my relatives with me, making sure that I feed them and thank them for going in front of me, many times to blaze a trail and provide me comfort and peace as I travel what sometimes, I think, is a lonely trail with many obstacles, but in reality “they” are with me and my work continues...



ENTERING
PINE RIDGE
INDIAN
RESERVATION





