

Native Research Network: Promoting Integrity and Excellence in Research

July 30, 2010

Pick-up Location: Holiday Inn Convention Center (Front Lobby), Rapid City, South Dakota

Pick-up time: 12:15 PM

Return time: 8:00 p.m.

OGLALA LAKOTA NATION, PINE RIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Oglala Sioux/Lakota Tribe is part of the Great Sioux Nation of the Titowan (Teton) Division. The Lakota culture's emphases on kinship, family, community ties, and spirituality have been key to the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of its people. The Pine Ridge Reservation is situated in southwestern South Dakota on the Nebraska state line about 50 miles east of the Wyoming border. The reservation area includes over 2,000,000 acres of land spanning 7 counties. The reservation has a tribal enrollment of 49,000; the majority reside in isolated rural areas. The Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the most economically disadvantaged regions in the United States. Shannon County, which lies entirely within the reservation borders, is ranked the second poorest county in America, with a poverty rate of 52%, and has never been outside of the top-five poorest county listing on any of the censuses taken over the past 40 years.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe's major economic occupations are cattle ranching and farming for tribal operators. The tribe operates a large Parks and Recreation Department and offers guided buffalo hunting expeditions. The region is home to the Prairie Wind Casino, a tribally owned and operated casino located west of the Reservation. Politically, the Pine Ridge Reservation is divided into 9 District communities. All 9 Districts hold monthly community meetings as well as many social gatherings, (e.g., Pow-wows, wakes, and elder meals) at their community service centers. The Oglala Sioux Tribe is governed by an elected body consisting of a 5-member Executive Committee and a 16-member Tribal Council, of all whom serve a 2-year term. The Tribal Council Chairman is the Administrative head of the tribe and is assisted by the Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, a Fifth Member, and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

TOUR SCHEDULE TO PINE RIDGE RESERVATION:

**Tentative Agenda*

12:00 – 12:15pm	Holiday Inn Convention Center Gather in Hotel Lobby	Pick up box lunch
12:15pm	Depart for Kyle, SD on the Pine Ridge Reservation: Lunch on Bus	Discussion of Selected Research Programs during the trip to Pine Ridge.
1:30-3:00pm	Oglala Lakota College (OLC) started in 1971; 1400 students; offers AA, BA, Masters degrees http://www.olc.edu/	Welcome by OLC President Tom Short Bull followed by tour
4:00 – 5:00pm	Wounded Knee Massacre Site: in 1890, about 300 Indian people were massacred here by the US troops.	A Lakota Tribal Historian will lead and interpretative discussion throughout the tour.
6:00 – 7:30pm	Thunder Valley: Native Youth on the Move, a non-profit organization to empower youth in Lakota traditions and values. http://www.thundervalley.org/	Nick Tilsen, Executive Director; Traditional Meal at Ceremony House
7:45pm	Depart for Rapid City	Arrive at hotel @9:15pm