

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

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News Release
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Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018
#18-10-03

White Earth Reservation Business Committee extends Land Access Permits to descendants

WHITE EARTH, MINN. – During a special meeting held Monday, Oct. 15, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (RBC) passed a resolution reinstating land access for descendants of White Earth enrolled members.

A tribally issued card will be honored as a Land Access Permit for White Earth descendants that will allow access onto or through tribal land for the purposes of hunting, fishing and trapping during state seasons. Descendants will abide by state rules and regulations while exercising these privileges on tribal land.

The Tribal Descendant card will allow access onto or through tribal land for hunting, fishing and trapping as long as the cardholder is in possession of a current state license or permit. Those activities not allowed include the gathering of firewood, recreational (ATV, snowmobile, etc.) and camping without a tribal permit. These restrictions do not apply to roads that have easements or rights of way through lands owned by the tribe.

The descendant card will be issued by the White Earth Department of Motor Vehicle beginning today (Wednesday, Oct. 24). The card will be valid for four years and will cost \$35.

Individuals wishing to apply for a descendant card must provide proof of parent(s) or grandparent(s) enrolled with White Earth; these documents must be taken to White Earth Enrollments for issuance of a descendant letter prior to going to the Department of Motor Vehicle.

Land access was previously allowed by resolution but was rescinded in May 2016. The White Earth Reservation Business Committee recognizes that allowing descendants

access to tribal land will allow families to carry on traditional activities together.

Descendant Identification Card - \$35.00

Verification Form (\$25.00)

Enrollment Office: (218) 983-3285

To obtain a descendant identification card, individuals must go through the **application process with the White Earth Enrollment office first.** (Application fee \$25.00). 1st and 2nd generation descendants only.

Exemption: **If you have a descendant card in your possession but it is expired, you can renew it by bringing it in. If you do not have one, you will be required to go to Enrollments to complete the application process to verify your descendancy.**

Descendent verifications for first and second generations of an enrolled parent or grandparent: a first-generation applicant must have the enrolled member listed on the birth certificate to link lineage; second generation applicants must have their parent on the birth certificate that links to the first-generation non-enrollee descendant to the enrollee.

If any name change has occurred, proof of name change is required for processing the application. Examples; marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order name change, and/or state issued driver's license.

For further information or questions, please call Enrollments or go on the White Earth website and look under the Enrollment office banner: www.whiteearth.com

Descendant ID (\$35.00)

DMV Office:

To obtain a descendant identification card, individuals must bring in the descendent verification form (from the Enrollment office), along with another picture identification card (such as a state issued driver's license or identification card).

If you do not have a driver's license or identification card, you will be required to bring in two certified forms of identification along with a recent utility bill with your current address on it.

Other forms of identification documents accepted:

Certified birth certificate, un-expired U.S. passport, Social Security Card, U.S. Military Identification Card, certified secondary, or post-secondary school transcript, Canadian Social Insurance Card, certified court order with full name, date of birth with current address, un-expired photo permit to carry, government employee photo identification card for a U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction, U.S. Department of Defense Identification Card, government issued certified marriage certificate, etc. (for other forms, please visit: www.whiteearth.com under the public safety/motor vehicle webpage information).

The descendant cards will expire in four years from the date of issuance; no individual under 12 years old will be issued a descendant card. Cost of the card is \$35.00.

What are the Descendant ID's issued for:

The Descendant ID card will be honored as a land access card, for the purposes of hunting (big or small game, angling and trapping). They must be accompanied by Minnesota DNR permits, and descendants will abide by state rules and regulations, as well as state seasons and limits. You must have a White Earth enrolled member with you.

A White Earth Descendant ID card does not allow camping on tribal land without a permit, travel on or through tribal land for purposes other than those listed above, gathering of firewood, netting, ricing and off-road travel without a valid right of way or easement.

Tribal Descendant ID card holders may be subject to tribal jurisdiction for any violations not covered by state rules and regulations.

A White Earth descendant card will only be issued to individuals that have provided proof of parent(s) or grandparent(s) being enrolled in the White Earth Reservation.

Any violations by the card holder will revoke the descendant card as deemed necessary by the Director of Natural Resources.

Tribal Conservation Law Enforcement Officers will confiscate Descendant Cards from any persons in clear and blatant violations of state and/or tribal rules and regulations.

Descendant ID cards will only be reinstated upon review by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and after payment of a separate reinstatement fee.

Descendants will abide by state rules and regulations, seasons and limits during these privileges on tribal Lands.

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Resolution No. 057-19-001

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Reservation pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the revised constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and organized under Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984); and

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (RBC) has delegated the responsibility for regulating hunting, angling and gathering activities on the White Earth Reservation to the White Earth Natural Resource Department; and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC previously permitted descendants of enrolled White Earth tribal members to purchase Descendant identification cards through the Tribal Motor Vehicle Registration Department, and permitted descendants to access tribal lands for hunting purposes subject to restrictions; but the former RBC by motion rescinded the privilege for descendants to purchase a descendant identification card, and rescinded the privilege for descendants to hunt, angle and trap on tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC has reviewed the prior rescission of the privilege for descendants to obtain descendant identification cards and to access tribal lands to hunt, angle and trap in light of the Preamble to the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which provides for the promotion of "...the general welfare of ourselves and descendants...;" and the RBC has determined that it is consistent with the letter and the spirit of the MCT Constitution to once again permit descendants of White Earth enrolled members to purchase descendant cards, and to access tribal lands for hunting, angling and trapping purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee does hereby rescind the prior RBC motion dated May 9, 2016, disallowing the issuance of Descendant Identification Cards and disallowing the ability of descendants to access tribal lands for hunting, angling and trapping purposes; and hereby reinstates the policy of issuing Descendant Identification Cards and permitting card holders to access tribal lands for hunting, angling and trapping purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a holder of a Descendant Identification Card shall not be permitted to harvest wild rice or leeches, or net fish within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the holder of a Descendant Identification Card must comply with the following terms and conditions:

- Must possess a state license for the activity being exercised on tribal land, and must follow all applicable state rules and regulations.
- Be subject to violations of the Tribal Conservation Code, in addition to being subject to state rules and regulations.
- The Descendant Identification Card will be honored as a Land Access Permit for the purpose of hunting, angling and trapping on tribal lands.
- Descendants must be accompanied by an enrolled White Earth tribal member while exercising permitted activities on tribal lands.
- Tribal Conservation Officers will confiscate Descendant cards of those persons who violate tribal and/or state rules or regulations.
- A Descendant card does not permit the holder to camp on tribal land without a tribal camping permit; does not permit the holder to travel through tribal lands for activities other than hunting, angling or trapping; and does not permit the holder to gather firewood on tribal lands.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of 2 for, 0 against, 1 silent, a quorum being present at a special meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee held on October 15th, 2018 in White Earth, Minnesota.



Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman



Leonard Alan Roy, Secretary/Treasurer