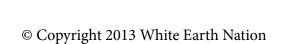


2012





 $www.white earth.com\\www.facebook.com/White Earth Nation$



White Earth Nation State of the Nation Report





To preserve, promote and enhance our quality of life.

Aaniin

Greetings from the great White Earth Nation! Another year has passed and tremendous progress has been made towards our mission: To preserve, promote and enhance our quality of life. Our historic resilience as a people persists today as we continue to march forward working to serve the needs of all of our citizens.

The success of our gaming operations continues to primarily provide for the programs, services and activities offered throughout the year. We are grateful for what we have, at the same time vow not to rest on our laurels as there is much work to be done. Education, training, community health and safety and business diversification remain primary priorities for White Earth to grow and develop as a nation.

We take pride in many happenings from the past year including the opening of the new Circle of Life Academy and creation of White Earth Enterprises. We look ahead with

optimism to the coming year for things such as the opportunity to strengthen our sovereignty through a vote on constitutional reform and completion of a new health dialysis center. Please take a moment to view the following pages to learn more about these initiatives, as well as many others that are occurring.

We are excited about the progress we have made and look forward to continued opportunities to build our future.

Miigwech,

Como Afrizano

Erma J. Vizenor Chairwoman White Earth Nation





White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Erma J. Vizenor Chairwoman

Robert J. Durant Secretary/Treasurer

Irene "Rene" Auginaush
District I Representative

Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts
District II Representative

Kenneth "Gus" Bevins
District III Representative

Directors

Ron Valiant
Executive Director

Angela Bellanger
Behavior Health
Ben Bement
Human Services
Burny Tibbetts

Public Works

Joan LaVoy

Education

Jerome Lhotka

Economic Development

Elizabeth St. Clair Deputy Director

Joe Plumer
Judicial Services
Larry Olson

Elizabeth Foster-Anderson
White Earth Enterprises

Lois Edwards
Human Resources

Mike Swan
Natural Resources

Patricia Butler

Health

Randy Goodwin
Public Safety

Scott Omlid

Finance

Jen McDougall

Housing

Vision: The White Earth Tribal Council will be a proactive organization that makes sound decisions promoting mino-bimahdiziwin (The Good Life). The White Earth Nation will be a safe place where all people have access to quality employment, housing, education, health and human services. While we protect our inherent right to self-governance and identity, we are a community of respect where cultural, historical and environmental assests are treasured and conserved for future generations.



The largest Indian population in Minnesota calls itself Anishinaabe, which in our language means "the original people." White Earth Nation is located in the north central United States near our Canadian First Nations brothers and sisters and in proximity to Gitchi Gumi (Lake Superior). Within our boundaries are all of Mahnomen and parts of Becker and Clearwater counties of north-central Minnesota. Although this Nation was reserved under the 1867 Treaty between the Mississippi Band of Chippewa Indians and the United States, our rich heritage far precedes this event. We are one of seven Chippewa/Ojibwe nations in Minnesota and while we no longer live as our ancestors of the past we have kept alive our culture and heritage in almost every aspect of present day life.

As is true for all Anishinaabeg living in Minnesota, the story of the White Earth people begins in ancient times in the eastern part of the United States. There, our ancestors lived before coming to the forest and lake country of eastern and northern Minnesota. As our legends and stories tell us, the people of White Earth, along with many other Anishinaabeg, migrated west from the eastern shore of Turtle Island (North America) stopping and settling in many places thousands of years ago. The people were instructed by a prophet to travel west until they found the food that grows on the water; manoomin (wild rice).

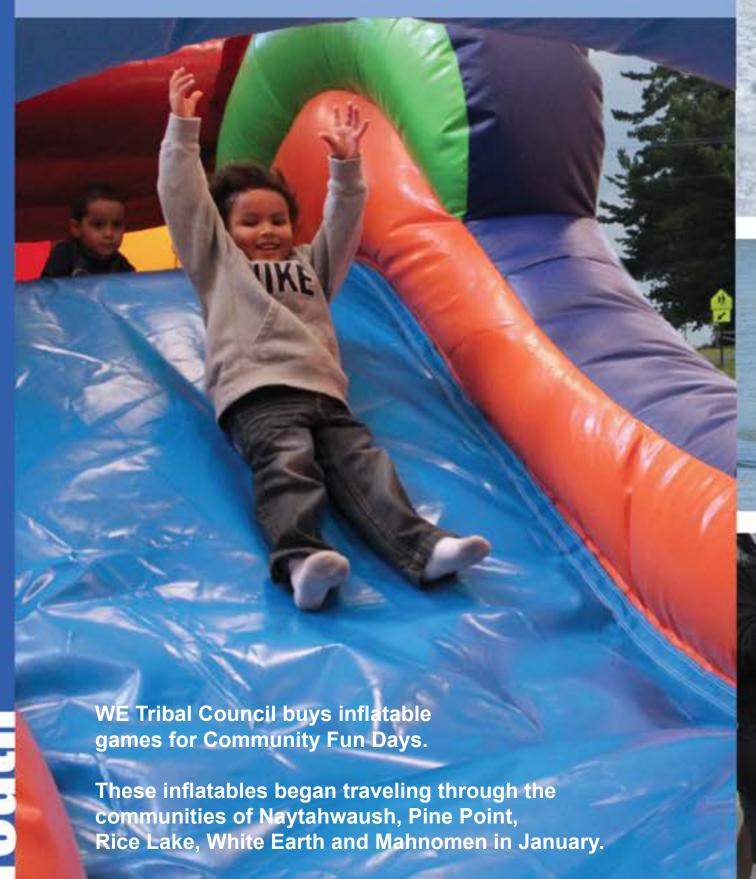
Unfortunately, like so many other Native Nations, slowly over time our land, resources and culture were taken beginning in 1837 and continuing through subsequent treaties, federal acts and on through the "Termination" period of the 1950s. To understand the history of White Earth, it is necessary to understand much of the story of American Indian people has been left out of history books, or begins only after Europeans arrived here.

The people of White Earth are resilient and although we were left with a nation of fractioned land, poverty and economic challenges, we continue to value our heritage, language and culture. We are a progressive nation determined to exercise our sovereignty, play a key role in this country and state and secure a successful future for the next seven generations.

For additional information please visit www.whiteearth.com.



Community Fun Days







Kids Ice Fishing

Each year White Earth Natural Resources host 10 Ice Fishing events for area Head Start schools. Kids learn how to catch fish through the ice while having fun outdoors with the staff.

Cops n Bobbers

The White Earth Natural Resources Department along with the White Earth Police Department hosted the Cops n Bobbers event. Nearly 75 kids participated in fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities.

Sturgeon Release

The White Earth Natural Resource Department along with the USFWS and Rainy River First Nations stock over 10,000 fingerling sturgeon between two lakes on the Reservation. To support the restocking efforts of sturgeon on the White Earth Reservation, the Naytahwaush Community Charter School raised \$702.00, which was donated to the Natural Resource Department.







New Circle of Life Academy

New Circle of Life Academy opens on September 4 with 168 students in grades K-12. Total cost of final construction over \$13 million dollars.

Pine Point School was awarded a \$35,000 USDA grant for HVAC improvements and \$60,000 for a playground installation. They also added a new service truck, outdoor classroom, 2 new smart boards, new bus garage and with the help of Tribal Council, a new basketball court.





Race to the Top Early Learning Challege

The White Earth Nation was chosen as one of the four transformation zones in Minnesota to implement the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. White Earth Nation will receive \$1,197,553 over four years to increase access to high quality early childhood for children by providing early childhood scholarships and supporting quality rated programs. The White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program has enrolled over 63 children in the Early Learning Scholarship Program to date.





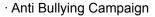


White Earth Mii-gii-way-win Advisory Board

Last fiscal year the Donations Committee comprised of White Earth Nation and Shooting Star Casino employees approved 111 donation requests for a total of *\$100,000*. Some of the approvals would include:

- · White Earth Elders Christmas Party
- · White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program
- White Earth Career Fair
- · Local Community Councils
- · Ogema Fire Department
- White Earth Fire Department
- · Waubun School
- · Mahnomen School
- · Circle of Life
- · NTW Charter School
- · Wild Rice Camp
- · Maple Syrup Camp





- · Festival for Fathers and Families
- · Waubun Summer Rec Program
- · Mahnomen Summer Baseball Program
- · Baagosendan Program
- · Local Food Shelves
- · Waubun Preharvest Festival
- · Ogema Community Days
- · Anishinabe Legal Services
- · Waubun School Forest
- · Detroit Lakes School, Native American Awareness Week







- 5k Walks and runs
- COL graduation
- White Earth Urban Members Holiday Party held at Mols American Indian Center
- White Earth Urban Office Urban Council
- Children's Storyland
- Naytahwaush Ambulance and Twin Lakes Fire Hall
- Opening of White Earth Tribal and Community
 College cultural learning center
- Dove shelter Grand opening
- WE Tribal Police go mobile with high-tech command center
- Native Alive Campaign safeTalk
- WETCC ABE & MSCTC Satellite Carpentry
 Program Commencement
- Native Alive 24/7 emergency call center









The White Earth Nation Health in collaboration with Sanford Health will begin construction of a new Dialysis Center, 24 hour fitness center, additional office and clinic space. After two years of planning and seeking funding the project is moving forward and anticipating completion in 2013.





- WETCC receives \$158,000 Tribal Initiative grant for computers, equipment
- White Earth Substance Abuse prevention specialists are going throughout White

Earth Nation to talk to youth on substance abuse and making positive choices.

 Juvenile Wellness and DWI Courts offer an alternative to mainstream judicial processes, allowing for greater successful outcomes and breaks self-defeating behaviors and promote safety and well-being.

Storm Relief

An outreach center staffed by Constituent Services and White Earth Home Health was opened at the White Earth Family Office Located in Cass Lake MN. White Earth Nation Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and Housing Authority removed trees, limbs, and debris from 40 home sites





The Oshki Manidoo Center is owned, operated and licensed by the White Earth Nation. We are a 90 day residential alcohol and drug treatment program for Native and Non-native youth, with a Native American cultural emphasis. Culture is embraced and practiced throughout all aspects of campus life brining a holistic method of healing to our youth and families.

Circle Back Center, operating under a grant by the United States Office of Juvenile Justice Department, works closely with other White Earth Nation youth service programs at improving communication and collaboration among services providers and decrease duplication of services.

- Juvenile Court Diversion Project,
 Peacemaking Circles, in partnership with
 Minnesota Department of Human Services,
 Minnesota Department of Corrections and
 Becker, Mahnomen and Clearwater Counties
- Elders Fishing
- Drug Prevention Training at SSC

- Naytahwaush Charter School takes top honors at White Earth Science Fair
- Foundation that awarded grant to WE teens reaches milestone: over 3,000 girls helped
- White Earth Nation hosts Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference







Highlights

- Added protection of Indian Sacred Sites
- Sanford Health hire Native American Healers
- Cobel Settlement
- Nelson Timber Settlement MN Chippewa Tribe Distribution Act
- Hearth Act Tribal Control of leasing
- Tribes create Native Youth Alliance of Minnesota
- Senate passes legislation protecting Native domestic violence victims
- Government Tribal Law and Order Act
- White Earth represented at Annual Tribal Nations Conference in DC
- 2nd annual historical trauma conference
- USDA Home Repair Grants Available
- Tribal Nations Education Committee
- Democratic Senator Al Franken visits White Earth to discuss education and drug issues

Constitutional Reform

Constitutions and a code of values is nothing new to Anishinaabeg. In fact many of the ideas of our people were adopted into the constitution of the United States. A constitution should be a clear reflection of the people and shift the power from a few influential leaders to the people. Constitutional reform is imperative to the sovereignty, self-determination and economic development of White Earth Nation. The current constitution, that was a forced implementation by the US government in 1934, was rewritten and then ratified in 2009 to include ideas and concepts based on Anishinaabeg culture and values. This constitutional voting process will be funded 100% through a Bush Foundation grant in the amount of \$379,771 and no tribal dollars will be used ensuring an unbiased vote. Soon, the citizens of White Earth Nation will be able to decide on the proposed constitution and create a legacy for future generations.

Human Service Transfer

Strengthening our sovereignty by demonstrating our capabilities:

The White Earth Band of Ojibwe Human Services Project has begun to accept legal responsibility for providing human services to tribal members early in 2013. Passed by the Minnesota legislature in 2011, this transfer will occur first with tribal members living in Mahnomen County and will start with the White Earth Nation doing eligibility determination for Minnesota Health Care Programs. The assumption of legal responsibility for other human service programs will follow.



Solar panels

The White Earth Natural Resources Ice Cracking Office received funding from Bureau of Indian Affairs to install solar panels. In an effort to "Go Green", the office is less reliant on non-renewable energy sources.

Biomass

In mid-2012 White Earth Nation launched a biomass feasibility study for wood chip fueled hot water boilers at Shooting Star Casino, reducing high energy cost and dependency on fuel oil.

In order to reduce the fuel oil and propane costs for the casino's boilers systems, White Earth Nation will obtain a biomass boiler that will replace 60% to 70% of the energy output capacity currently created by the oil and propane system. This new biomass system should pay for itself as soon as 2-3 years. With an ample supply of renewable wood chips to fuel the system available in the region this system will decrease the overall energy cost to Shooting Star Casino.

Wind

One of the best sources of renewable energy is the power of the wind. Our region is in a prime location to utilize this advantage. White Earth Nation has installed two wind turbines in the fall of 2012. One was installed at the White Earth Community Service Center in Naytahwaus and the second one is located at White Earth Business Products in Waubun. Each turbine is expected to produce about 112,000 kilowatt hours of electric power annually, offsetting facility power costs.



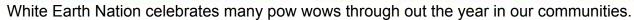












- Honoring our Mother's Pow Wow White Earth
- Harvest Fest Pow Wow Naytahwaush
- Native American Heritage Pow Wow Naytahwaush
- New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow Naytahwaush
- Callaway Pow Wow Callaway
- Rice Lake Memorial Day Pow Wow Rice Lake
- Pine Point Pow Wow Pine Point
- Head Start Pow Wow Naytahwaush
- Circle of Life Pow Wow White Earth
- Annual White Earth Celebration and Pow Wow - White Earth









Please join us for the 145th Annual White Earth Celebration and Pow Wow June 14 - 16, 2013





White Earth Nation is declared a wolf sanctuary





The Ma' iingan has a special relationship with the Anishinaabe. Our creation story explains that Ma' iingan is a brother to Original man. That together they traveled throughout the earth naming everything but when they had finished the creator separated them and sent Original man and Ma' iingan on different paths, but indicated that as brothers, what happens to one of them will happen to the other.

The White Earth Nation Tribal Council, the first Minnesota tribal leadership to respond; declaring on August 20th, 2012, the territory within the original 1867 exterior boundaries of White Earth Nation a Sanctuary for our brother; Ma' iingan.

1855 Treaty Authority

The White Earth and Leech Lake Nations, in defense of the 1855 treaty, have created a conservation code to one day regulate hunting and fishing for band members not just on their reservations, but across much of northern Minnesota. The code would even regulate off-reservation spearing and netting on some lakes. The tribes want to co-manage resources within the treaty area with the state Department of Natural Resources. If that occurred, the tribes would issue hunting and fishing permits to band members. Violators would go to tribal rather than state court.

Website dedicated to language revitalization anishinaabemodaa.com

As a result of Strategic Planning, the White Earth Tribal Council formed a Traditions, Language and Culture (TLC) Committee to focus on revitalizing the language and increase efforts in preserving and promoting our traditions and culture.

White Earth, to date, has received four grants to support the revitalization of the Ojibwe language from Minnesota's Legacy Funds. These funds are granted out to organizations thru the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Through the grants we have been able to provide Head Start, Child Care and Boys and Girls Club Staff with Ojibwe language training. Along with this training the TLC committee provides day long workshops followed up with weekly Skype sessions with attendees. In turn the staff have been teaching students conversational Ojibwe through songs, games, and daily routines. Through a grant, The Child Care and various Head Start locations have received iPads loaded with Book's in Ojibwe, audio flashcards and access to short movies in Ojibwe.

The TLC is actively supporting Ojibwe round tables, cultural classes, ceremonial drums, and traditional camps.













A few "Star" facts about Shooting Star Casino:

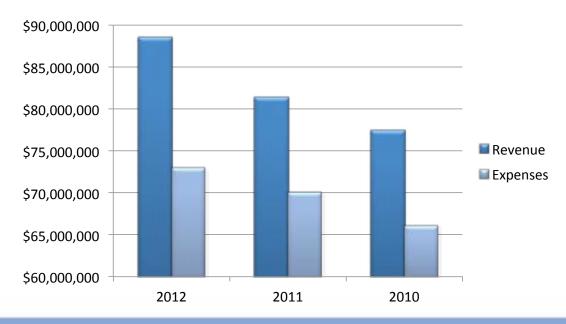
- May 1991 construction began for the main casino.
- Gaming operations began in November 1991 in temporary facilities with 107 slots.
- The new facility was completed and operations moved to the new facility for the grand opening in May 1992 with 985 slots.
- Golden Eagle Bingo opened its doors in June 1993.
- May 2000, construction for the Event Center addition began.
- May 2001, Event Center opened with performances by Ty Herndon, Sammy Kershaw, and Lorrie Morgan live on the Event Center stage.



Erma J. Vizenor commemorates Shooting Star Casino 20 year anniversary and honors 47 associates with over 20 years of service.

"A sincere thank you to all of our associates who's dedication and commitment has made Shooting Star what it is today".

SSC Financials



From jackpots and drawings to world class entertainment and fine dining Shooting Star remains the destination of choice in our area and continues to grow!

Overall casino revenue increased by over 8% in 2012 lead by an over 9% increase in gaming revenue!

In 2012 over \$5.9 million was invested in property improvements to better serve our guests - examples include the gift shop and deli remodels.

We remain committed to strengthening the local economy and providing careers for our tribal members.

In 2012 nearly 1,000 people are employed earning over \$28 million in wages and benefits. Our current workforce is 64% Native American and the management team at Shooting Star is 73% Native American. New hires in 2012 were 88% Native American.

Enterprises

It is no secret White Earth continues to push a diversification strategy for longterm financial stability beyond gaming. 2012's efforts include the formation of White Earth Enterprises, LLC. White Earth Enterprises, Board and Management role will include; providing oversight to subsidiary companies, strategic management services to subsidiary companies, business development services to subsidiary companies, prospecing business investment in new and existing companies and safeguarding tribal assets. In 2012, we made a concerted effort to improve the operations of existing subsidiaries by outsourcing our financial accountability, increasing internal controls structures and improving operating efficiencies.

White Earth Enterprises, LLC currently operates four subsidiary companies including White Earth Sanitation (White Earth Solid Waste), White Earth Building Supply (formerly

Ojibwa Building Supply), White Earth Business Products (formerly Ojibwa Office Supply) and White Earth Builders. While our past focus has been serving tribal interests our future goals are to continue to increase our business to outside consumers, as highlighted by the focus on the White Earth Builders project, as well as a renewed effort on overall service levels for our tribal customers.

White Earth Builders recently complete a Civil Construction Project in southern Minnesota, as a contractor for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Diversion Project

In 2013, we continue to work with all of our subsidiary companies to position them for continued

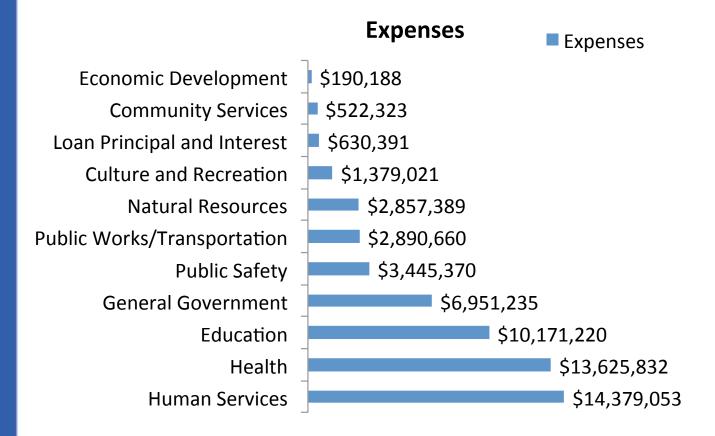
growth. We are actively identifying opportunities to partner with other tribal entities, and explore

viable and valuable strategic partnerships in the coming years. By leading the way in this effort, we

will further establish ourselves as a leading force in economic development within Indian Country.



Total Tribal Expenditures



White Earth Nation expenditures decreased from \$62 million in 2011 to just over \$57 million in 2012 largely in part to the completion of significant capital projects such as the new Circle of Life Academy. As our program and service offerings continue to expand our footprint as the local economic engine grows as well.

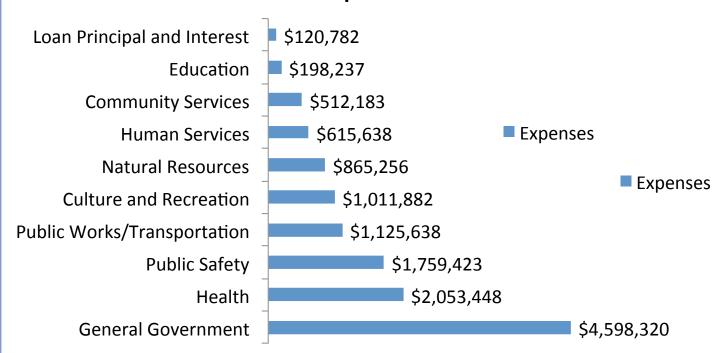
In 2012 White Earth Nation provided over \$33.3 million in payroll and benefits. This number grows to over \$61.8 million annually when coupled with our associates at Shooting Star Casino!



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Tribal General Fund

Expenses



As a segment of total expenditures, the general fund makes up a significant portion of overall expenses. This fund consists of income from gaming revenue, grants, cigarette tax and sales tax, some of which are restricted to specific designated purposes. 2012 general fund outlays totaled **\$12.8 million** and were allocated by the Tribal Council as outlined below.

2012 Grants Awarded

Funding Source/Project	Amount
MMCDC- Circle Back Center	\$5,000
ARVIG- Circle Back Center	\$5,000
Mn. DOT- Tribal Transit	\$37,398
Mn. CD- Early Intervention & Recovery Support	\$300,000
US DOE- Renewable Energy Development	\$247,118
HUD- Health Addition/Dialysis Center	\$600,000
USDA- Naytahwaush Fire Hall Equipment	\$29,600
USDA- White Earth Fire Hall Equipment	\$24,300
FTA- Tribal Transit	\$402,392
Mn. Family Violence- DOVE	\$191,213
MARDAG Foundation- Elbow Lake Center Kitchen	\$10,000
Coordinated Tribal Assistance Grant- DOVE	\$1,138,937
USDA- Naytahwaush Fire Hall Equipment	\$37,500
ACF- Tribal Court	\$333,175
MHFA- Tribal Housing and Public Works	\$500,000
Bush Foundation- Constitutional Reform	\$379,771

Total grants awarded were \$4,241,404 while total grant applications totaled \$13,105,261. We are very excited about our success with our grant applications as the overall process continues to be more competitive and federal, state and local budgets continue to decrease.

Programs and Services Directory

Health	218-983-3286	Wildlife	218-983-3285 ext 5804	
Circle Back Center	218-983-3285 ext 6404	Zoning	218-573-3007	
Women's Wellbriety Center	218-936-5653	Economic Development	218-983-4640	
Substance Abuse	218-983-3286 ext 1297	Public Relations/Newspaper	r 218-983-3285 ext 5903	
Elderly Nutrition	218-983-3286 ext 1266	White Earth Public Safety	218-983-3711	
Mental Health	218-983-3286	Public Works	218-983-3263	
White Earth Ambulance	218-983-3286 ext 1263	Water & Sewer	218-204-0264	
Community Health	218-983-3286	Fleet	218-983-3292	
Diabetes Project	218-983-3286 ext 1356	Transit	218-983-3283	
Health Education	218-983-3286 ext 1356	Solid Waste		
Oshki Manido	218-751-6553	Finance	218-983-4645	
Human Services	218-935-5554	Education	218-983-3285	
Homeless Program	218-983-3285 ext 6106	White Earth Child Care	218-983-3285	
Food Distribution	218-935-2233	Early Intervention Program	218-983-3285 ext 5306	
Vocational Rehab	218-935-5554	Scholarships	218-983-3285 ext 5304	
Employment and Training	218-935-5554	Headstart	218-983-3285	
Resource & Support	218-935-5554	Boys & Girls Clubs		
DOVE	218-983-4656	White Earth	218-983-3174	
Judicial Services		Rice Lake	218-694-3539	
Court	218-983-4648	Pine Point	218-573-3328	
Legal	218-983-4649	Naytahwaush	218-935-5554	
Indian Child Welfare	218-983-4647	Mahnomen	218-936-6010	
Child Support Enforcement	218-983-3101	Elbow Lake	218-734-2419	
Natural Resources	218-573-3009	Callaway	218-375-2220	
Land Office	218-983-4650	Housing	218-473-4663	
Invasive Species	218-573-3007	Enrollment & Vital Statistics	218-983-3285	
Conservation	218-935-2578	White Earth Land Settlement	218-751-7168	
Emergency Management	218-935-2488	Human Resources	218-983-4646	
Environmental Affairs	218-935-2488	Veterans Service Office	218-983-3285 ext 5904	
Fisheries	218-573-3007	Gaming	218-935-2148	
Forestry	218-335-5967	Energy Assistance Program	218-473-2711	
Water Quality	218-935-2488			
Wetlands/Prairie Restoration 218-935-2488 ext 2102				

White Earth Nation

Physical Address 35500 Eagleview Road Ogema, MN 56569 Mailing Address P.O. Box 418 White Earth, MN 56591

^{*} Financial information based on 2012 unaudited financial statements.