



Thomas L. Hill Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity

2019 ISCORE

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You're on Stolen Land: Examining Environmental Racism Against Native Americans

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Acknowledgement of Stolen Land

Sioux, Meskwaki, and Sauk

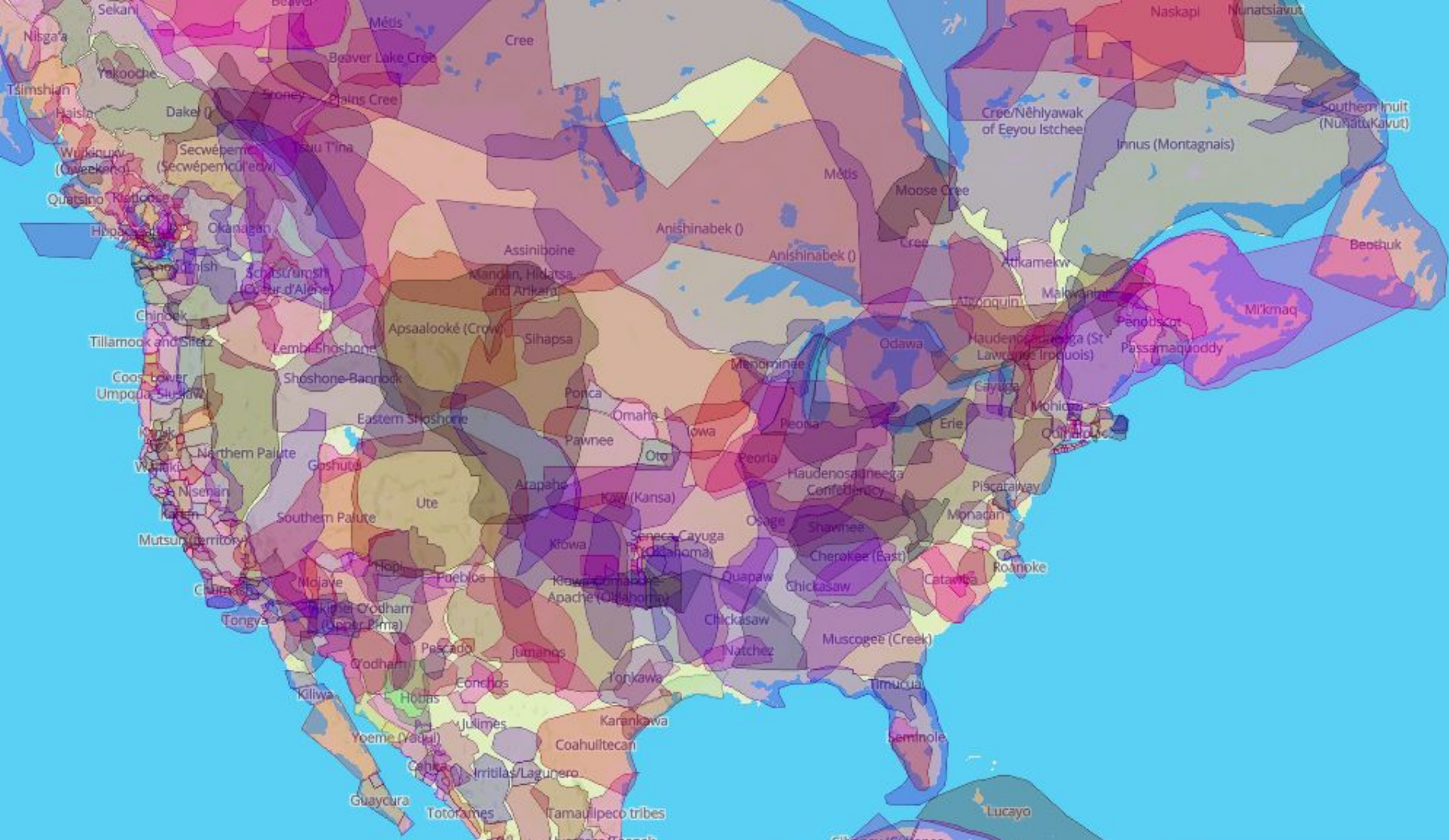
Agenda:

1. What does land mean to Natives?
2. How much land was stolen?
3. Case study: The Black Hills:
 - a. Relocation to less productive land
 - b. Ruining the natural resources of the land (bison)
 - c. Desecrating the sacred land with white men's faces
4. Poor living conditions on reservations, lack of resources and utilities
5. Nuclear waste dumping
6. Lack of healthcare
7. Current events
8. Action steps

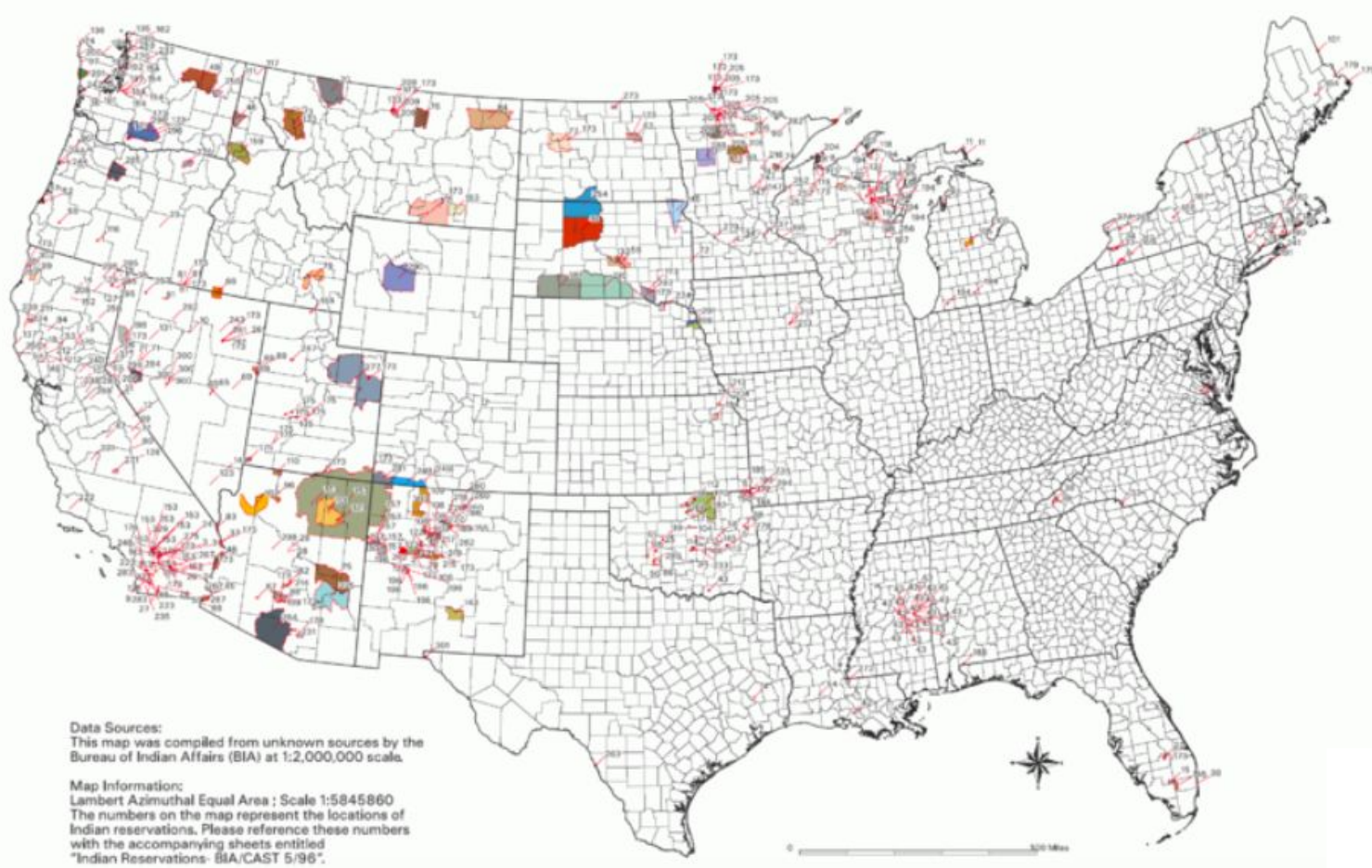
Creation Story: Sky Woman



What are some examples of environmental racism that you know of?



Many Broken Promises



Data Sources:
This map was compiled from unknown sources by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at 1:2,000,000 scale.

Map Information:
Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area ; Scale 1:5845860
The numbers on the map represent the locations of Indian reservations. Please reference these numbers with the accompanying sheets entitled "Indian Reservations- BIA/CAST 5/96".





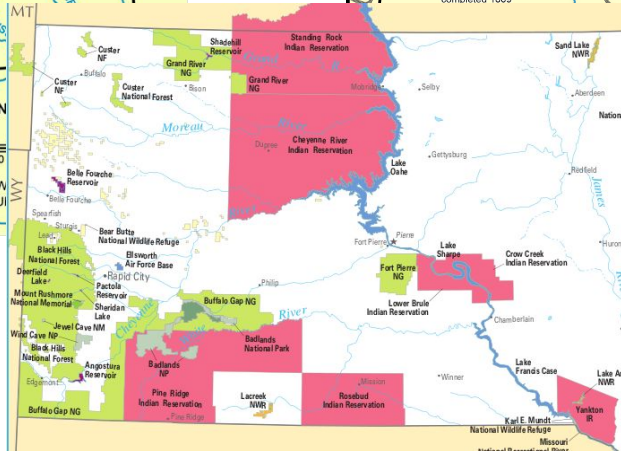
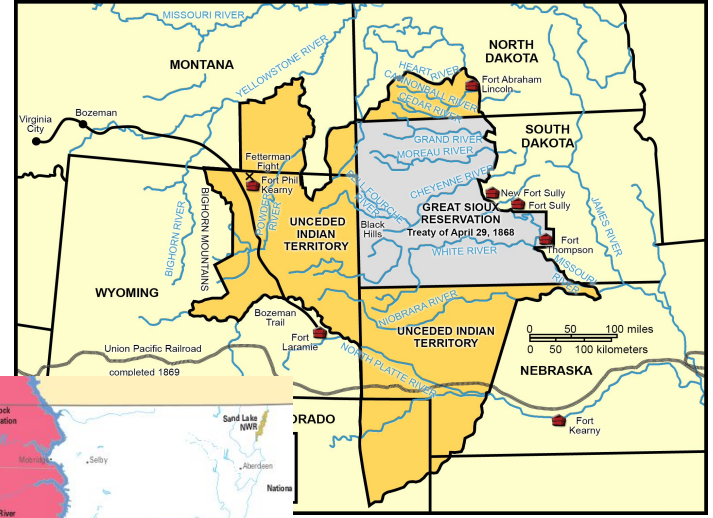
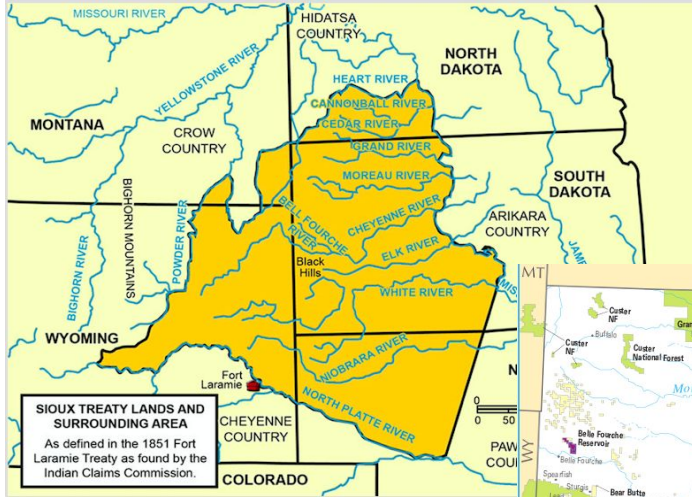
Now that you know more about how important land is to Natives, what are some things that you've learned?

Or some assumptions that you've had that you've now realized are inaccurate?



“The buffalo gave us everything we needed. Without it we were nothing. Our tipis were made of his skin. His hide was our bed, our blanket, our winter coat. It was our drum, throbbing through the night, alive, holy. Out of his skin we made our water bags. His flesh strengthened us, became flesh of our flesh. Not the smallest part of it was wasted. His stomach, a red-hot stone dropped in to it, became our soup kettle. His horns were our spoons, the bones our knives, our women's awls and needles. Out of his sinews we made our bowstrings and thread. His ribs were fashioned into sleds for our children, his hoofs became rattles. His mighty skull, with the pipe leaning against it, was our sacred altar. The name of the greatest of all Sioux was . . . Sitting Bull. When you killed off the buffalo you also killed the Indian.”

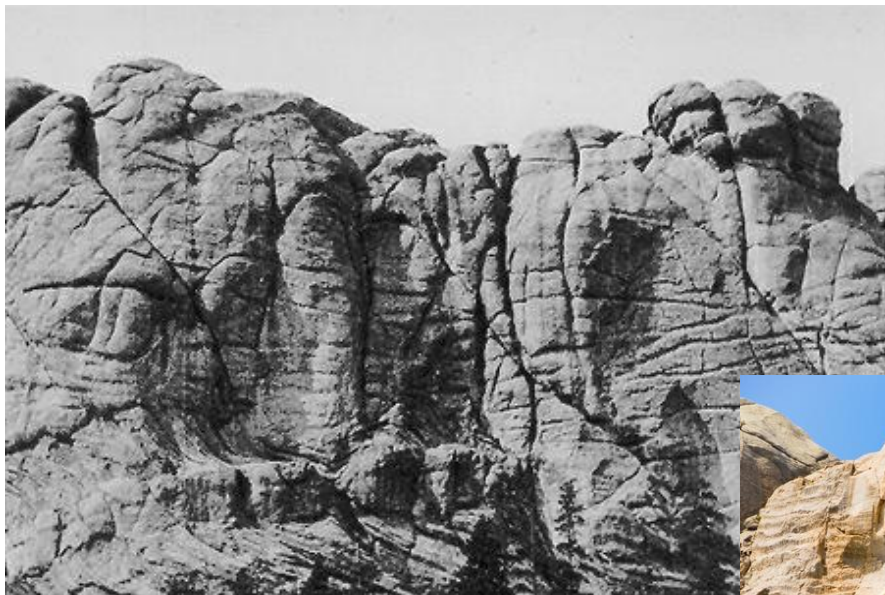
The Pahá Sápa



Have you been to Mount Rushmore or Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills?

Did you know that they are on stolen land?

What impacts do you think these tourist attractions have on the Native population that is indigenous to the Black Hills?



*Six Grandfathers
Mountain of the Lakota*



Mt. Rushmore

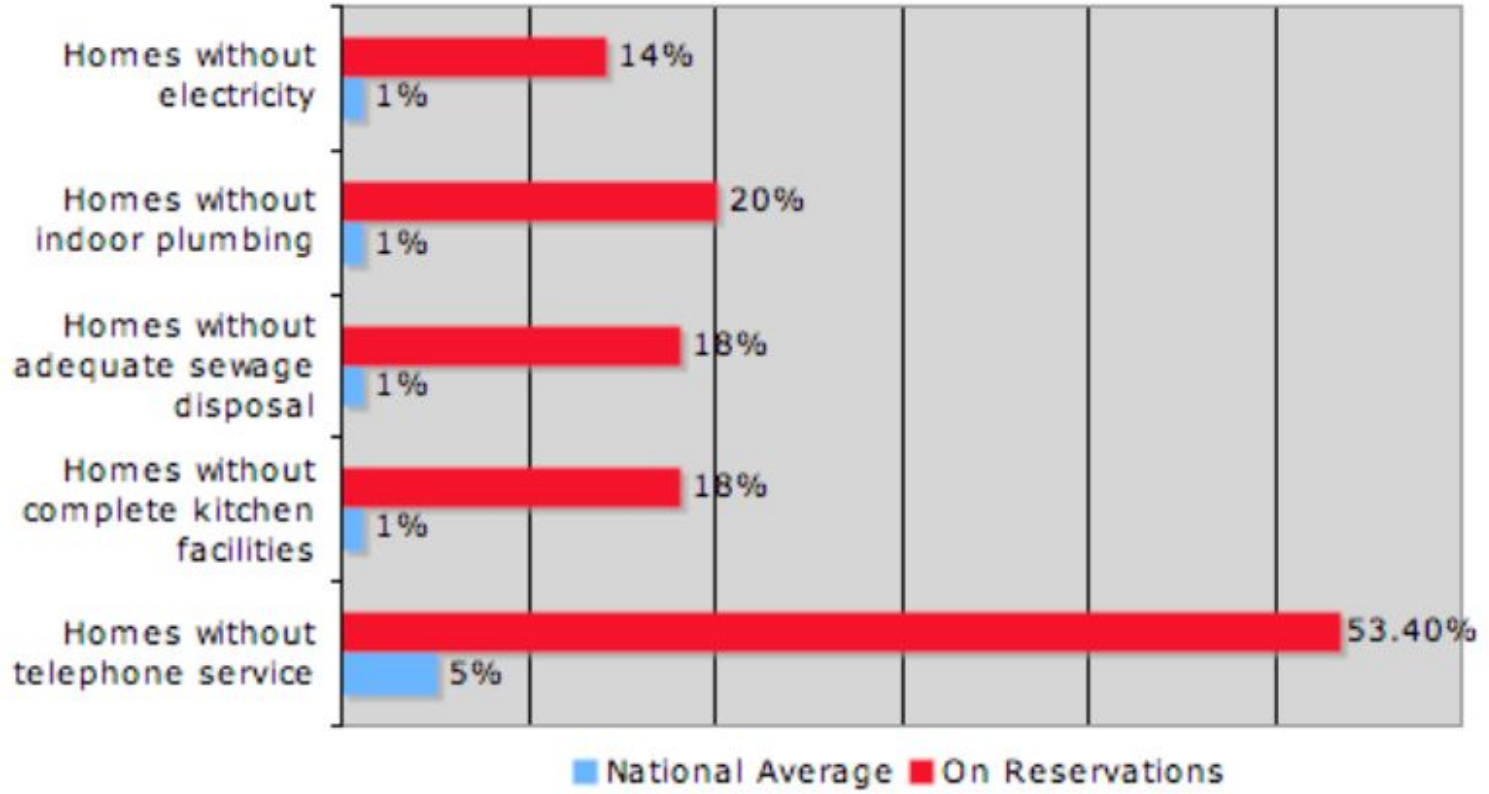
The "Honorable Memorial" of Lakota Chief Tāsunka Witko

2000

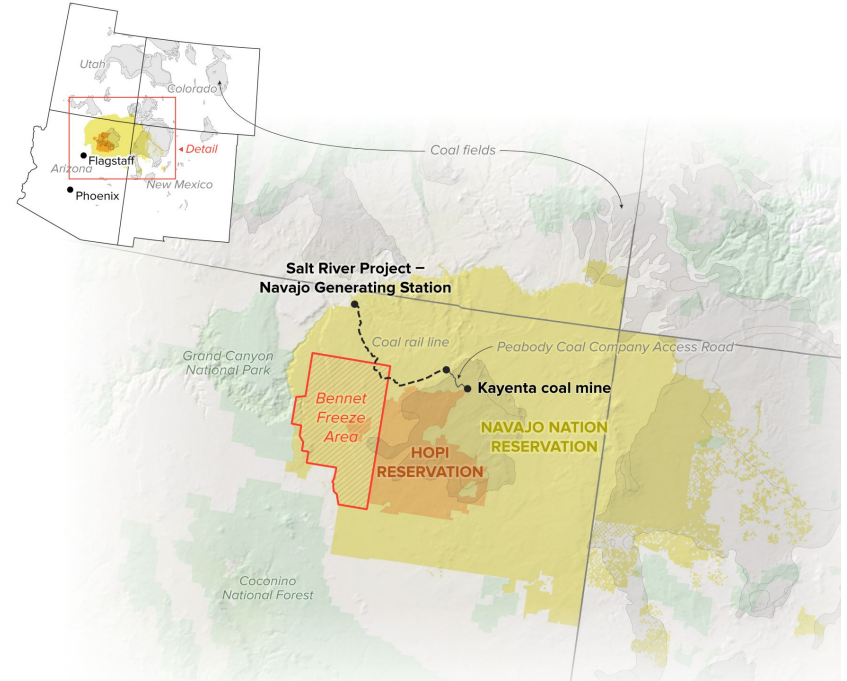


2016

Reservation Housing Characteristics Compared to U.S. National Averages



The Navajo Generating Station



Nuclear Waste and Native Americans



“You know what uranium is, right? It’s this thing called nuclear weapons. And other things. Like lots of things are done with uranium. Including some bad things. But nobody talks about that.”

- Donald J. Trump, 2018

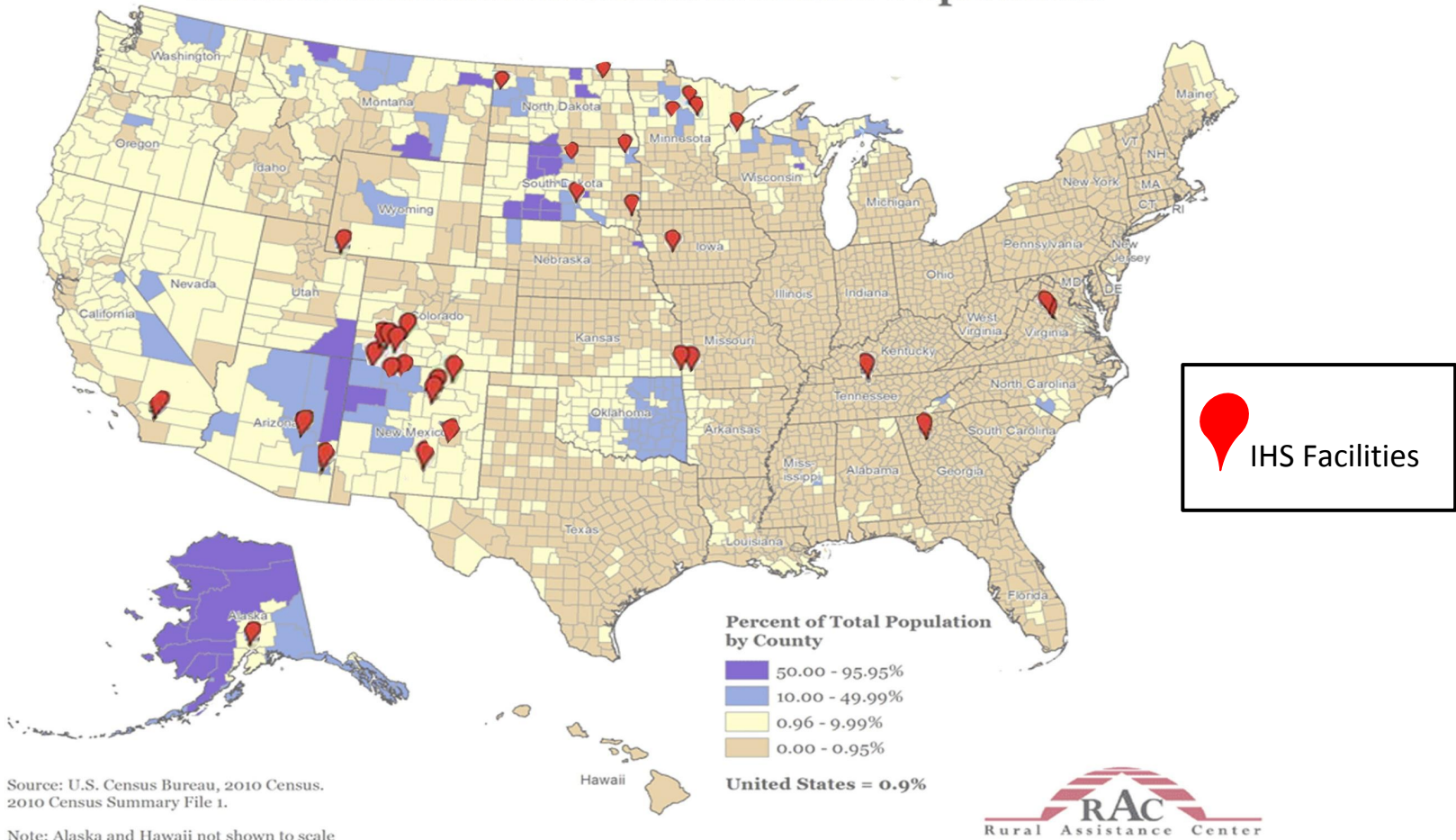




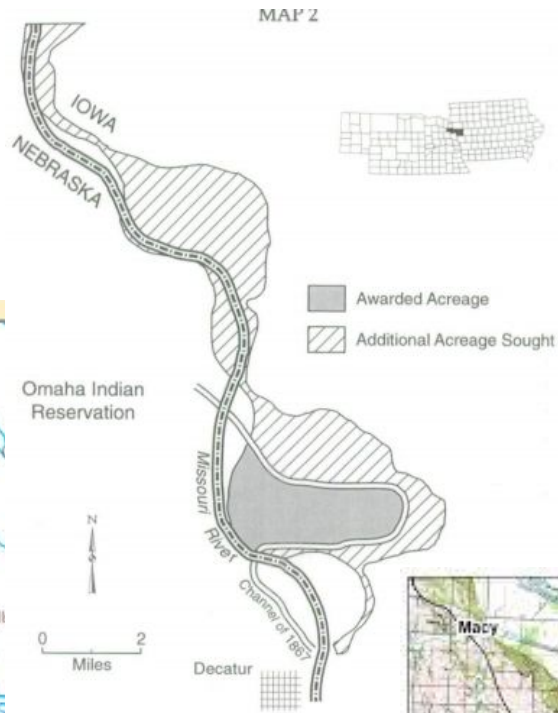
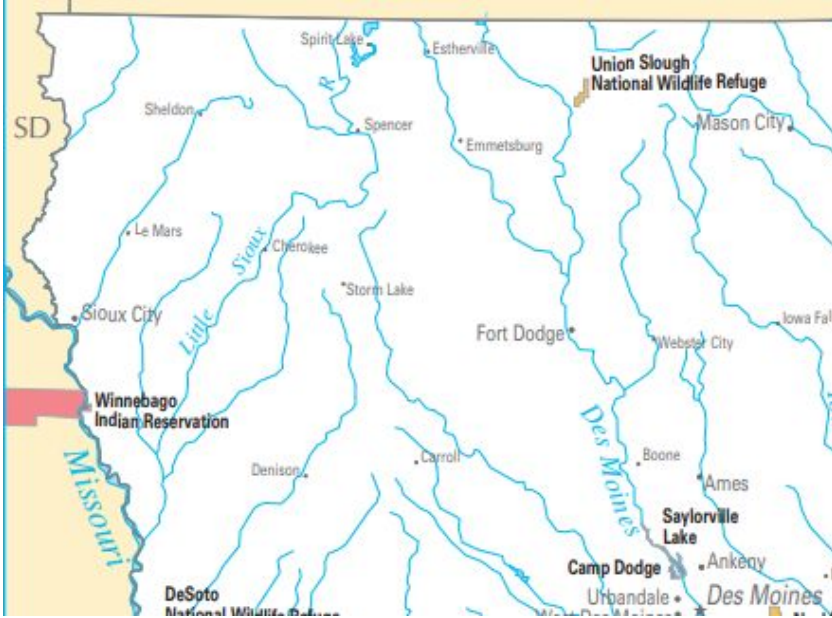
Impact of Radiation Poison on Health

- 2002: CDC admitted that they had previously underestimated the level of impact of radiation on the reservations
- Some Native American tribes are more than 10 times more likely to suffer from birth defects and cancer due to radiation poisoning
- Pine Ridge in South Dakota: Six times more likely to have a miscarriage
 - The toxins also end up in their breast milk
- Radiation poisoning has likely contributed to drastically increasing rates of Lupus among Nez Perce women in Northern Idaho
 - Diet largely consists of fish from the Columbia River
 - The nuclear plant that contaminated the Columbia River was closed in the 1960's, but it is estimated that the area will continue to have radioactive toxins present until 2030.

American Indian and Alaska Native Population



1975: Blackbird Bend



2018: Bears Ears & Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments



The view from Comb Ridge in Bears Ears monument.



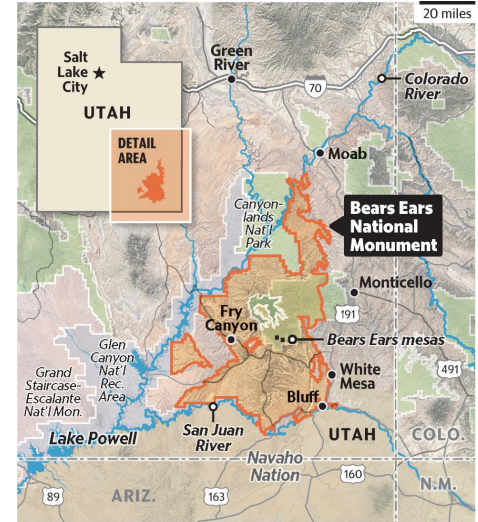
Rock art in the Indian Creek area



The twin Bears Ears bluffs.



Hotel Rock, inside Shash Jaa area



Sources: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Grand Canyon Trust ROBERT DORRELL, GraphFix Lab

The First Land Grant University

Consider the Implications...

- Historic home of the Sioux, Meskwaki, and Sauk people
- Forced removal
- European settlement
- Morrill Act 1862: Land Grants
 - Granted land to universities who were committed to offering practical education to all people, and valued spreading their knowledge and research beyond campus
- City of Ames 1864
- Iowa State University 1869



Now what?

MONEY

POLITICS

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

[Link to Further Resources:](#)



Education and Awareness

- Go to native-land.ca to find out whose land you're on.
- Borders are a social construct created by white men
- #NativeTwitter
- The hundreds of tribes are all different, can't generalize
 - (i.e. Some prefer "Native American" some prefer "American Indian" some prefer "Indigenous" some prefer their tribe name, etc.)
- If you're not Native, stop saying: spirit animal, tribe, powwow, savage, etc.
- White sage is a sacred plant, not for "witch kits"
- Thanksgiving, Columbus Day

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Thank You, and we will leave you with a quote from the book Braiding Sweetgrass

“The Honorable Harvest, a practice both ancient and urgent, applies to every exchange between people and the Earth. Its protocol is not written down, but if it were, it would look something like this:

Ask permission of the ones whose lives you seek. Abide by the answer. Never take the first. Never take the last. Harvest in a way that minimizes harm. Take only what you need and leave some for others. Use everything that you take. Take only that which is given to you. Share it, as the Earth has shared with you. Be grateful. Reciprocate the gift. Sustain the ones who sustain you, and the Earth will last forever.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer

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