

A Summary of the Origin of the Title of all Lands
Held by the State of Minnesota in Fee or in Trust
on the White Earth Reservation

The following brief report was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources, Land Bureau to satisfy the requirements of Laws of 1984, Chapter 539, section 2.

The White Earth Reservation encompasses 32 townships with a land area of approximately 1,150 square miles. Its boundaries include portions of Mahnomen, Becker and Clearwater counties. The State of Minnesota holds title to 169,017.05 acres of land within the reservation boundaries which is twenty-three percent of the reservation land area. The state received title to sixty-six percent of the 169 thousand acres through tax forfeiture. Twenty-four percent of the 169 thousand acres was acquired in fee and ten percent was granted to the state by the federal government. (See Summary Table.)

SUMMARY TABLE - WHITE EARTH RESERVATION
Land Status and Means of Acquisition of State-owned Lands
within Reservation Boundaries - January, 1985
(acres)

County	Congressional Grant		Acquired	Consolidated Conservation	County Tax- Forfeited	TOTAL
	School Trust	Swamp- Trust				
Becker	15.15	2,732.81	11,872.69	----	64,159.59	78,780.24
Clearwater	----	7,073.15	7,383.10	----	36,459.74	50,915.99
Mahnomen	----	7,892.55	20,723.82	4,580.93	6,123.52	39,320.82
TOTAL	15.15	17,698.51	39,979.61	4,580.93	106,742.85	169,017.05

Tax-forfeited Land

The state lands acquired through tax-forfeiture are lands which were once privately owned, and which forfeited, after a specified time period, to the state due to non-payment of taxes. These lands are held in trust by the state for the taxing districts and administered by the counties.

Consolidated Conservation

Certain tax-forfeited lands in seven northern counties were subsequently brought under the control or administration of the Commissioner of Natural Resources when

Laws in 1929, 1931 and 1933 authorized the state to pay off ditch bonds held by the counties in exchange for property rights to those tax-forfeited lands with ditch liens against them.

Acquired

Acquired lands include lands which came into state ownership through fee purchase, gift, exchange, transfers from other governmental agencies, or condemnation from private ownership or from tax-exempt status. More than half of acquired state lands on the reservation were by means of county board resolutions. The origin of title in these cases was through tax-forfeiture.

Congressional Grant - School and Swamp Trust

The origin of title of trust lands was through congressional grants. The federal government at early periods in the history of the state, for purposes of supporting public schools and swamp improvements, granted these lands to the state. The school lands were granted in 1857 and Minnesota received its swamp land grant beginning in 1860.

Tables I and II, attached, provide ownership information, by township, detailing title origin and land status for administrative purposes.

TABLE I

WHITE EARTH RESERVATION
Means of Acquisition of State Land within Reservation Boundary
January 1985
Acres

Township/ Range	County Name	Congressional Grant	Land Exchange	Gift	Tax Forfeiture	Condemnation	County Board Resolution	Purchase	Transfer of Custodial Control	Federal Deed or Patent	Condemnation From Tax Exempt Status	TOTAL
141/37W	Becker	18.45			1,922.04		2,429.96					4,370.40
141/38W		86.00		353.10	12,006.02		2.70	372.60		5.00		12,825.42
141/39W		130.09	15.15		1,967.25			5.00				2,117.49
141/40W		426.75			4,683.59			129.31				5,239.65
141/41W		361.20	21.50		937.55		80.00	422.75				1,823.00
141/42W		80.00	120.00					122.80				322.80
142/37W		540.73	80.00		12,143.16			2,908.21				15,672.10
142/38W		63.15	80.00		13,331.81		40.00	2,683.50				16,198.46
142/39W		554.62	12.81		9,844.85		290.00	559.20				11,261.48
142/40W		45.30	78.40		6,719.87			14.70				6,858.27
142/41W		128.54	20.00		603.45			93.40				845.39
142/42W		239.92	60.00				384.00	481.81			80.00	1,245.72
County Subtotal		2,674.75	487.86	353.10	64,159.59		3,226.66	7,793.28		5.00	80.00	78,780.28
143/38W	Clearwater	239.85	162.92		14,503.79		4,037.40	2,277.94				21,221.90
144/38W		1,871.25			16,160.23	480.00	151.25	80.00				18,742.77
145/38W		3,447.88			5,478.96	80.00	276.51					9,283.35
146/38W		1,351.25			316.76							1,668.01
County Subtotal		6,910.23	162.92		36,549.74	560.00	4,465.16	2,357.94				50,915.99
143/39W	Mahnomen	940.67			399.10		3,858.16	718.25	18.35			5,934.57
143/40W		580.90			1,527.77		6,152.84					8,261.51
143/41W		150.00			660.00							810.00
143/42W						160.00		1,008.00			200.00	1,368.00
144/39W		591.05			693.85		5.00					1,289.90
144/40W		205.50			583.34			5.10				793.94
144/42W					13.00							13.00
145/39W		2,211.90			120.00		4,028.98					6,360.88
145/40W		338.89			987.77		400.69					1,727.35
145/41W			176.75		118.96			600.00			122.00	1,017.71
145/42W		120.00	50.00					1,560.27			160.00	1,890.27
146/39W		1,126.42			1,152.80		840.00	3.00				3,122.22
146/40W		1,097.22	120.00		875.88			195.95				2,289.05
146/41W		80.00	44.00		2,089.01			125.20				2,338.21
146/42W		200.00	80.00		1,374.22			50.38			399.65	2,104.25
County Subtotal		7,642.55	470.75		10,595.70	160.00	15,285.67	4,266.15	18.35		881.65	39,320.87
TOTAL		17,227.53	1,121.53	353.10	111,215.03	720.00	22,977.49	14,417.37	18.35	5.00	961.65	169,017.05

WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

Land Status of DNR Administered Lands
Acres

Township	County	School	Swamp	Con-Con	Acquired	County Tax- Forfeited	TOTAL
141/37W	Becker		18.45		2,429.96	1,922.04	
141/38			86.00		733.40	12,006.02	
141/39		15.15	130.09		5.00	1,967.25	
141/40			426.75		129.31	4,683.59	
141/41			382.70		502.75	937.55	
141/42			80.00		242.80		
142/37			540.73		2,988.21	12,143.16	
142/38			63.15		2,803.50	13,331.81	
142/39			567.43		849.20	9,844.85	
142/40			69.05		69.35	6,719.87	
142/41			128.54		113.40	603.45	
142/42			239.92		1,005.81		
County Sub-Total		15.15	2,732.81		11,872.69	64,159.59	
143/38	Clearwater		402.77		6,315.34	14,503.79	
144/38			1,871.25		711.25	16,160.23	
145/38			3,447.88		356.51	5,478.96	
146/38			1,351.25			316.76	
County Sub-Total			7,073.15		7,383.10	36,459.74	
143/39	Mahnomen		940.67		4,594.76	399.10	
143/40			580.90		6,152.84	1,527.77	
143/41			150.00	660.00			
143/42					1,368.00		
144/39			591.05		5.00	693.85	
144/40			205.50		5.10	596.34	
144/42							
145/39			2,211.90		4,028.98	120.00	
145/40			338.89	134.20	400.69	853.57	
145/41				183.71	834.00		
145/42			170.00		1,720.27		
146/39			1,126.42		843.00	1,152.80	
146/40			1,177.22	171.90	195.95	743.98	
146/41			120.00	2,056.90	125.20	36.11	
146/42			280.00	1,374.22	450.03		
County Sub-Total			7,892.55	4,580.93	20,723.82	6,123.52	
TOTAL		15.15	17,698.51	4,580.93	39,979.61	106,742.85	169,017.05