

POTAWATOMI AWARD

The Indian Claims Commission recently granted a \$2,094,573 award to the Potawatomi Nation of Indians on behalf of the United Nations of Chippewas, Ottawas, and Potawatomi Indians of the Waters of the Illinois, Milwaukee, and Manitoocuk Rivers. The award represents additional compensation for more than 3½ million acres of land in Illinois and Wisconsin ceded to the United States by the Indians under a treaty in 1829.

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RECREATION MEANS INCOME TO THE MESCALERO

The Mescalero Tribe of southern New Mexico estimates that one-third of the annual tribal income is derived from outdoor recreation opportunities on the reservation. The estimate includes fees charged by the Tribe for fishing and hunting permits and for use of picnic areas and campgrounds. It does not take into account additional income from a tribally-operated ski resort.

One lake alone--Eagle Lake--contributes \$10,000 annually to tribal coffers through the sale of fishing permits. Almost two and one-half acres in size, this manmade lake was constructed in 1961 for \$15,000 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under its Soil and Moisture Conservation Program. A multipurpose project, the lake supplies good trout fishing, provides water conservation, flood control, and a water supply for livestock and wild game.

In 1964, Eagle Lake supplied 5,000 "angler-days" of fishing during the 4-month season. For a lake of its size, this approaches the saturation point for angler use, and is a good indication of its popularity with fishermen.

The many potential sites for similar manmade lakes on the reservation, plus the scheduled opening in July of a new fish hatchery, indicate further opportunities for development of recreational fishing areas.

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