

ETHNOVETERINARY TREATMENT OF HORSES BY THE GREAT SIOUX NATION



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INTRODUCTION

- ✕ Many Native American nations hold a strong reverence for Mother Earth and all living creatures (Gilmore 1977).
 - + Accumulated knowledge about environment through observations.
 - + Skills developed utilizing surrounding flora for food, medicine, homes and clothing.
 - + Plants were also used to care for their horses and other domesticated animals.



CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HORSES AND THE SIOUX NATION RUNS DEEP

- ✖ Horses were introduced to the Sioux People by the Cheyenne.
- ✖ By the 18th century Sioux had become dependent of horses in daily lives.
 - + Sunka-wakan was the name given to horses which means “sacred dogs” (Bonvillain & Porter 1994).
 - + Quickly adopted for their capability for transportation covering long distances and carrying heavier loads.



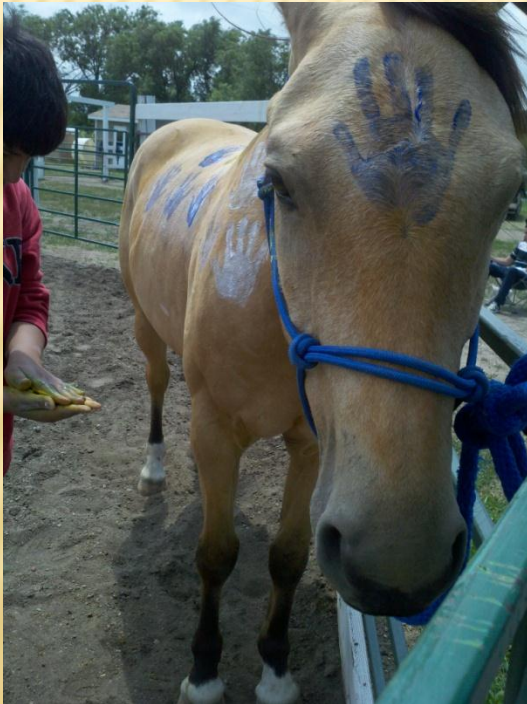
HORSES REVOLUTIONIZED THE ECONOMY OF THE SIOUX PEOPLE

- ✖ Measured a person's wealth by the number of horses a family had.
 - + Ownership was a mark of prestige and with this possession families were given respect.
- ✖ Horses beauty, strength, and grace were honored in many stories across the nation.



IMPORTANCE OF HORSES TO THE PEOPLE TODAY

- ✗ Horses are still used on ranches, for memorial rides, horse races, and during rodeos.
- ✗ Most recently horses are being used for equine therapy to assist in understanding behavioral and mental disorders.

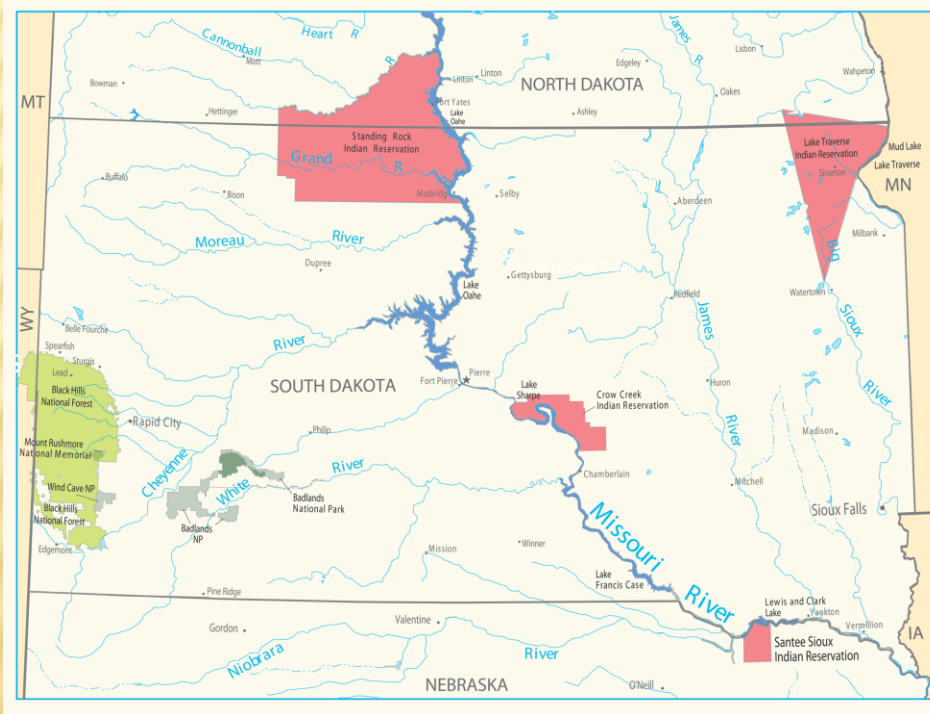


STUDY PURPOSE

- ✦ The proposed project has three main goals:
 - + 1) Discover and document native plant preparations for ethnoveterinary treatments used for horses through a literature review and interviews from elders and other community members.
 - + 2) Collect, press, and voucher the native plants discussed.
 - + 3) Make this body of knowledge accessible to the community.



STUDY AREA



- ✗ Focus on the Lakota and Dakota People of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.
- ✗ Today, the Great Sioux Nation's territory encompasses some 200,000 km² including parts of South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska (Minahan 2002).

STUDY AREA

- ✗ EuroAmerican colonization led to the westward migration to the Prairie Bioregion.
 - + Includes mixed grasslands, river basins and occasional outcrops which covers the central region of the US and into Canada (Kindscher 1987, Great Plains Flora Association 1986).
- ✗ Sioux composed of seven bands.
 - + Lakota, Dakota and Nakota People
 - ✗ Slight differences in language dialects and geographical locations.



METHODS- INTERVIEWING

- ✘ Prior to the interview, individuals were given an Informed Consent explaining the project to protect their intellectual property rights as requested in Standing Rock's IRB.
- ✘ Snowball technique to conduct semi-structured interviews (Bernard 1994; Martin 1996).
 - + Gather information regarding native plants useful to the therapeutic treatment of horses.
- ✘ Methods of recording include
 - + Written notes and audio digital recording where appropriate and with permission.
- ✘ Invite experts to continue sharing stories about horses and plants during field interviews.

METHODS- PLANT COLLECTION

- ✕ The experience in the field helped us understand culturally how to collect, harvest and prepare plants.
- ✕ Pressed and vouchered all useful native plants mentioned in interviews and literature.
 - + Vouchers will be deposited at Sitting Bull College and the Missouri Botanical Garden.



RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Pedimelum argophyllum</i>	Matho thinpsinla	Roots used as energy stimulant
<i>Oenothera suffretescens</i>	Tatawabluska	Chewed plant then rubbed on hands to attract horses



Silverleaf scufpea
P. argophyllum



Scarlet Gaura
O. suffretescens

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Peji hcaka	Excellent forage for horses
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Wanawizi cikala	Applied as poultice to sore backs of horses



http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PASM

Western wheatgrass
P. smithii



American Licorice
G. lepidota

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Asampi iyatke	Whole plant fed to horse to treat urinary tract infection
<i>Dichanthelium oligosanthes</i>	Peji wakan	Believed to be poisonous to horses



Yellow Prairie Cone Flower
R. columnifera



Panic Grass
D. oligosanthes

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Canlogan wastemna	Roots pulverized and put on a sleeping mans face so this horses can be easily stolen
<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Hu pestola	Roots burned to allow horses to be easily caught



Field Sagewort
A. campestris



Yucca
Y. glauca

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Onosmodium molle</i>	Sunkacan kanhuipiye	Used as rubbing solution to relieve sore muscles
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Ichape hu	Roots burned to ease distemper in horses



False gromwell
O. molle



Echinacea
E. Angustifolia

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	Pte ichiyuha	Infusion made to relieve cough
<i>Dyssodia papposa</i>	Pispiza tawote	Infusion made to relieve cough



Curlycup gumweed
G. Squarrosa



<http://www.nps.gov/wica/naturescience/wildflowers-fetid-marigold.htm>

Fetid marigold
D. papposa

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Chanyah u	Inner bark used as forage for horses during harsh winter months
<i>Liatris sp.</i>	Tate e cannuga	Roots may be used to increase endurance or in stories overcome fear of water



Cottonwood
P. deltoides



Blazing star
Liatris sp.

RESULTS

Scientific Name	Lakota Name	Use to Treat Horses
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Hante sa	Decoction made from leaves and cones to relieve coughs
<i>Astragalus crassicarpus</i>	pte tawote	Considered to be good medicine for horses



Juniper
J. virginiana



Groundplum
A. crassicarpus

CONCLUSION

- ✗ Information found will be shared in printed and electronic summary forms as a presentation to the public and to the Tribe.
- ✗ Study will provide a valuable resource to the community by compiling information that can be used today and for future generations.
- ✗ Community members will have access to the voucher specimens and compiled interview data for purposes of learning and education.
 - + As a tool to preserve their traditional ecological knowledge.
 - + Encouragement for the launch of new scientific research projects and community activities.
 - + Species identified as most important to the community can be targeted for future conservation and restoration activities.

CONCLUSION

- ✘ Plants are still a vital part to the community of Standing Rock
- ✘ The significance of plants extends to the care of their horses.
- ✘ Horses play an increasingly important role within this society from their traditional uses to modern equine associations or recently



“These horses are a mirror to your soul. This horse will show all the emotions you are feeling”- Phillip Bird Horse
(shown with grandson Urijah Truth, seventh generation descendent of Chief Running Antelope)

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Leona Many Wounds- Claymore

Great Grandma



QUESTIONS?



Mitakuye Oyasin
We are all related