

# Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: Population Projections

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Wilder Research

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Wilder Research.



## Background

- In 2012, Wilder Research was contracted by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) to conduct a study about the tribe's population and projected changes to the population through the year 2098 under several different enrollment criteria scenarios
- This study is part of an effort to reform MCT's constitution



## Methods

- Obtain and review the 1941 MCT Base Roll
- Survey of tribal members (N=785, statistically representative sample) to learn more about non-MCT blood among tribal members and their descendants
- Complete population projections
  - Subcontracted Dr. Tom Gillaspy, MN State Demographer for 30+ years



## Scenarios under consideration

- **Scenario 1:** no changes are made to the enrollment criteria (1/4 blood quantum, all MCT blood)
- **Scenario 2:** changes are made to the enrollment criteria to allow all Chippewa/Ojibwe blood from a federally recognized American Indian tribe or Canadian First Nation to count toward the required 1/4 blood quantum
- **Scenario 3:** changes are made to the enrollment criteria to allow all blood from any federally recognized American Indian tribe or Canadian First Nation to count toward the required 1/4 blood quantum
- **Scenario 4:** changes are made to the enrollment criteria to reduce the minimum blood quantum required to 1/8 MCT blood
- **Scenario 5:** changes are made to enrollment criteria to eliminate blood quantum requirement and instead use lineal descent (direct lineage from 1941 MCT base roll)



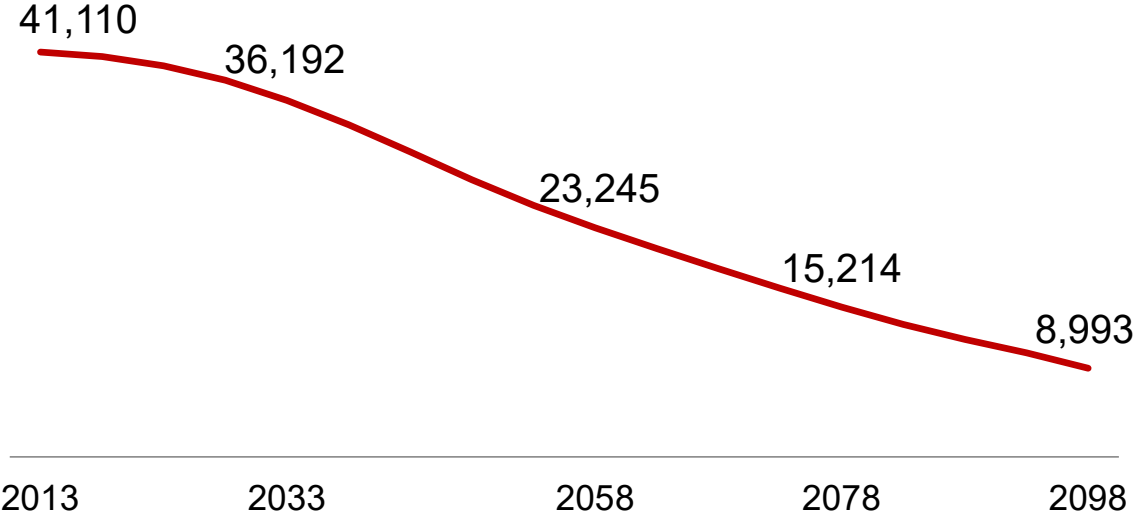
## Limitations

- Projections are based on 2013 MCT population (enrollment) data and assumptions about future patterns of births and deaths based on historical Census data
- Because MCT is a small population (and some Bands are VERY small), fluke incidents can greatly change a population's trajectory

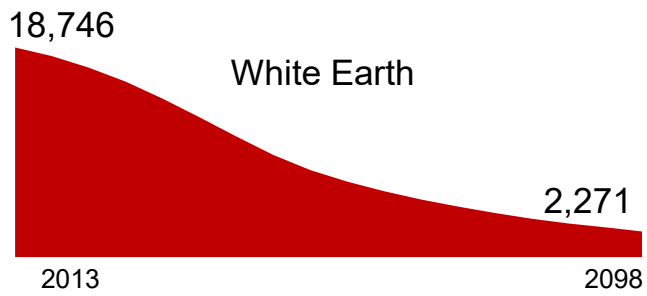
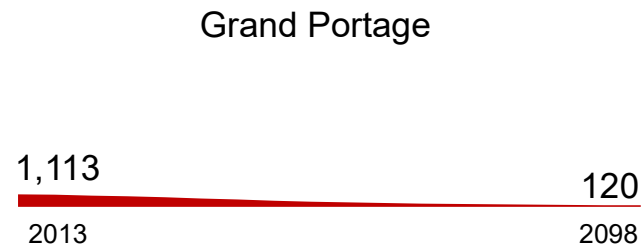
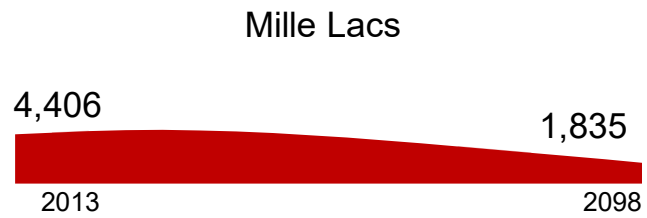
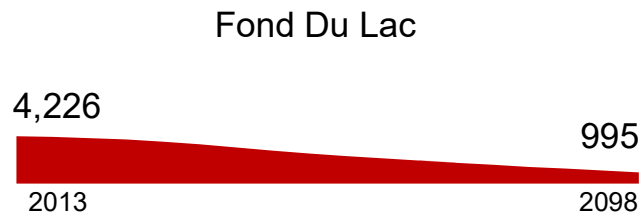
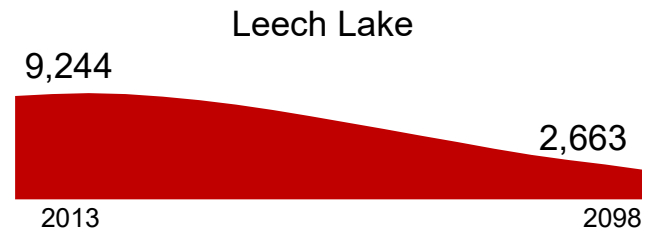
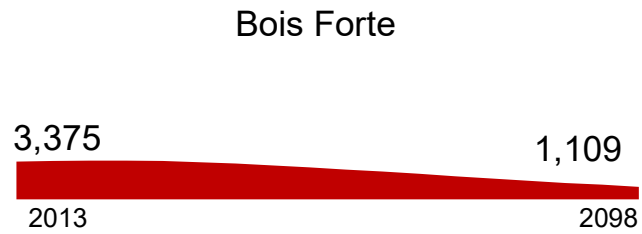
## Scenario 1

Total population assuming no changes are made to the enrollment criteria (1/4 blood quantum, MCT blood)

# Scenario 1: Total population



# Scenario 1: Population by band

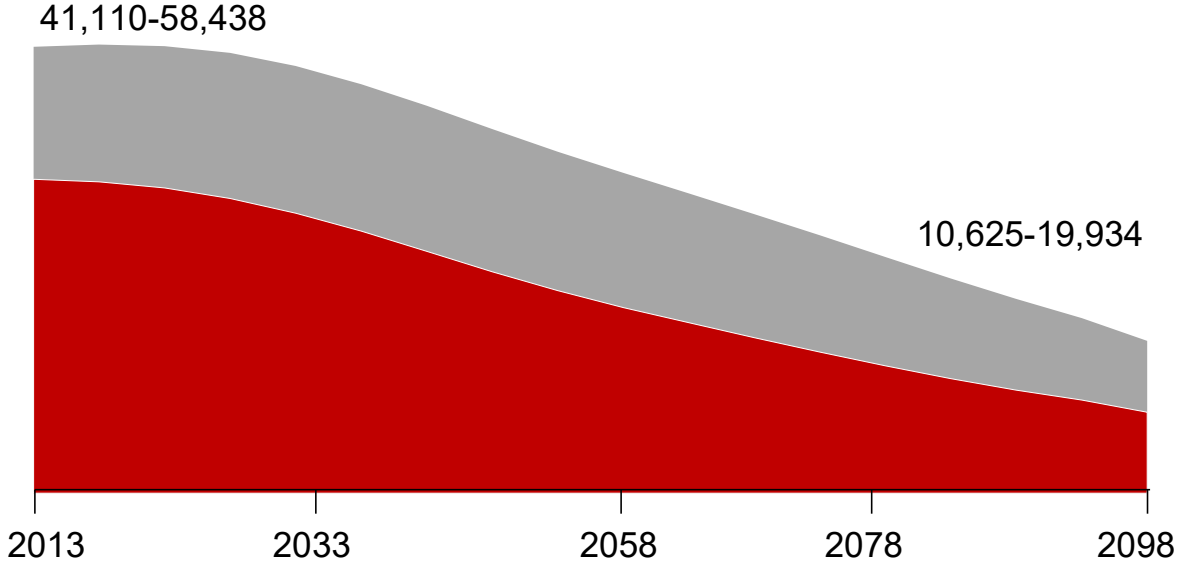




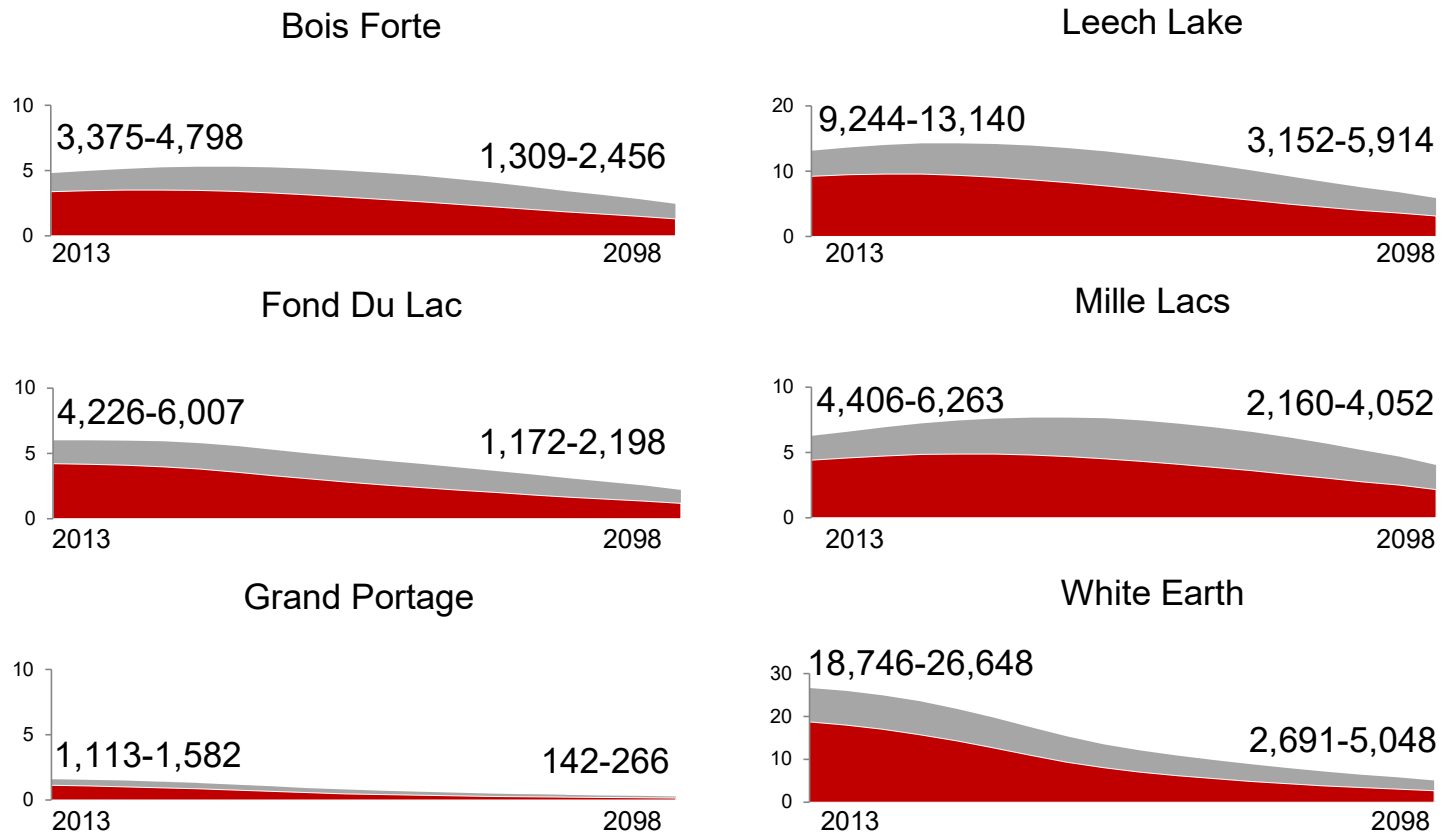
## Scenario 2

Total population assuming changes are made to the enrollment criteria to allow all Chippewa/Ojibwe blood from a federally recognized American Indian tribe or Canadian First Nation (not just MCT blood) to count toward the 1/4 threshold to be eligible for enrollment

# Scenario 2: Total population



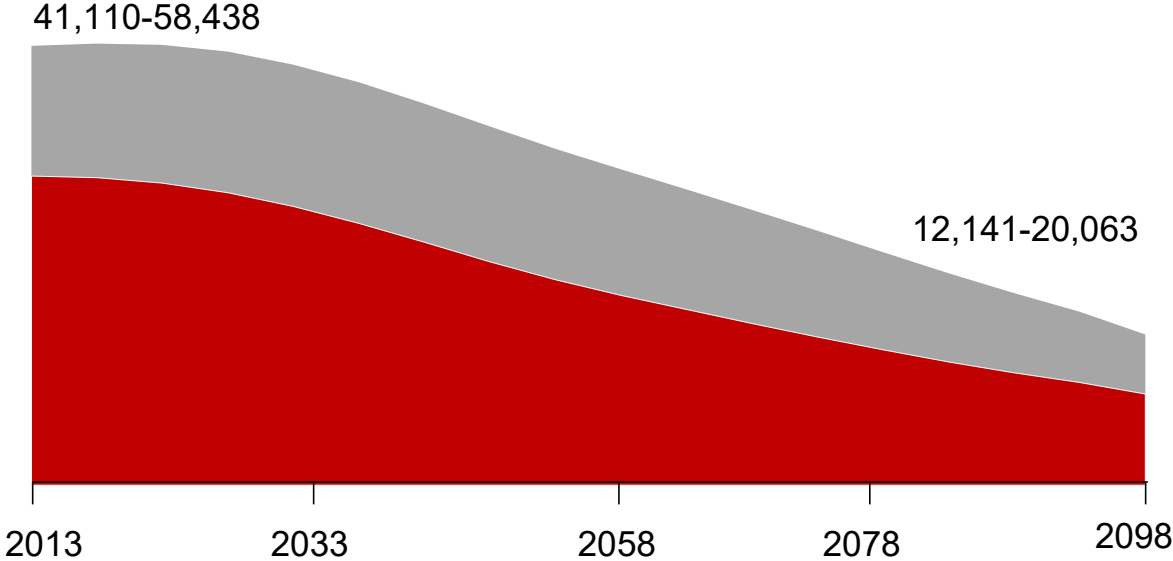
# Scenario 2: Population by band



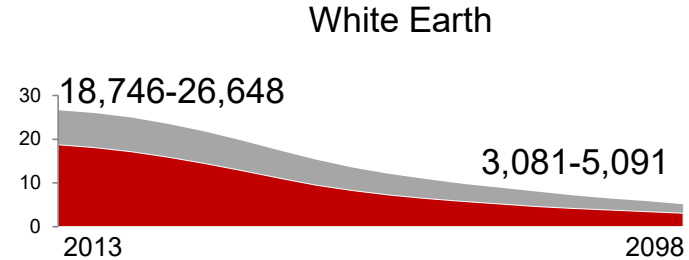
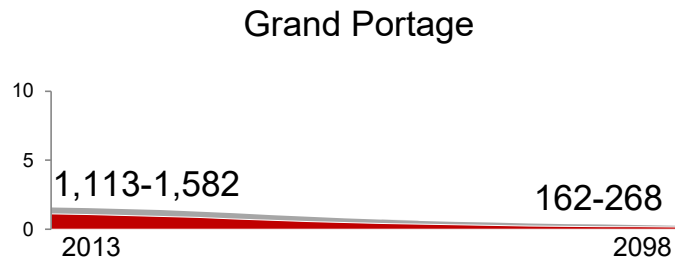
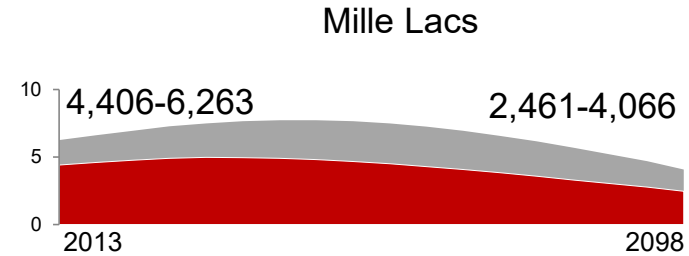
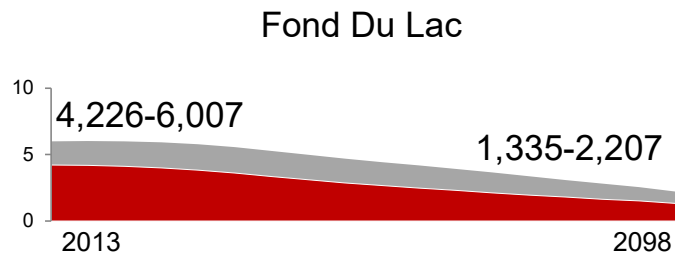
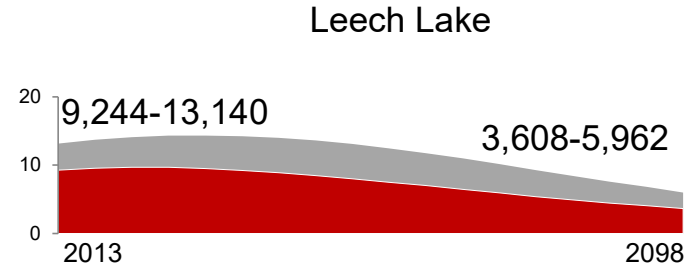
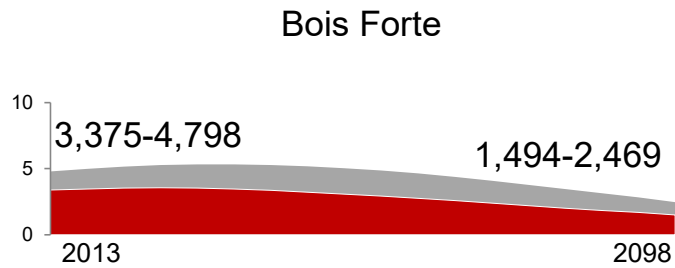
## Scenario 3

Total population assuming changes are made to the enrollment criteria to allow blood from any federally recognized American Indian tribe or Canadian First Nation (not just MCT blood) to count toward the 1/4 threshold to be eligible for enrollment

# Scenario 3: Total population



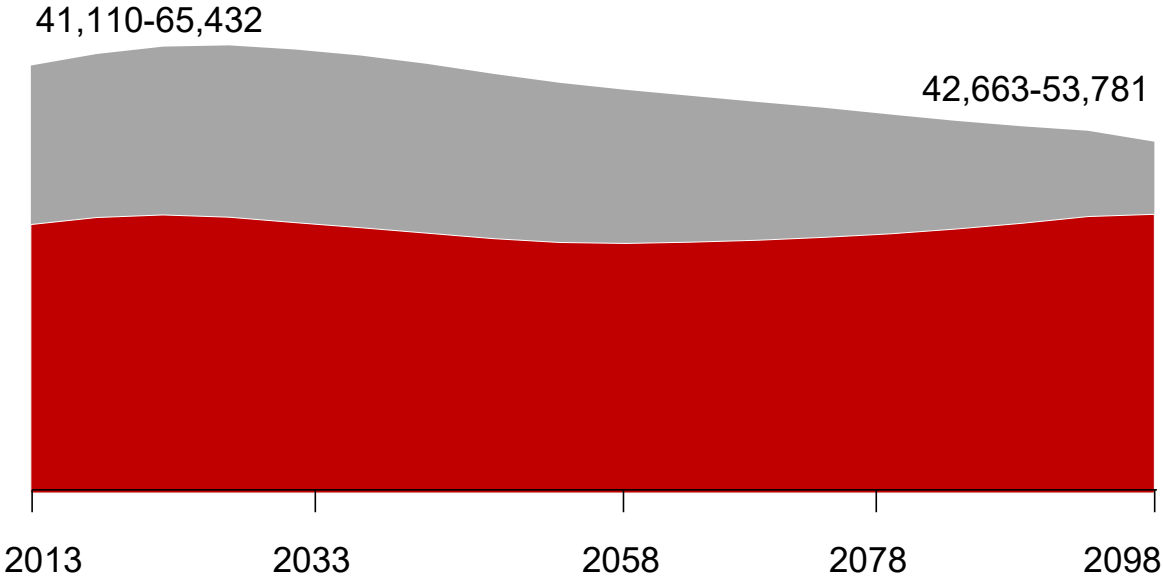
# Scenario 3: Population by band



## Scenario 4

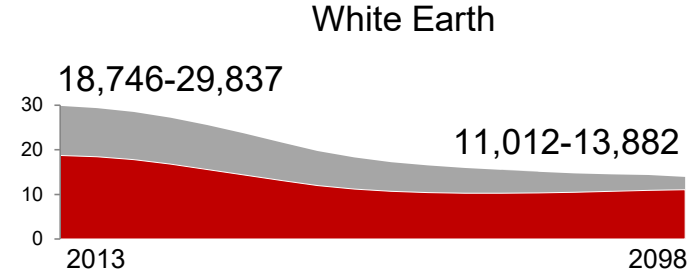
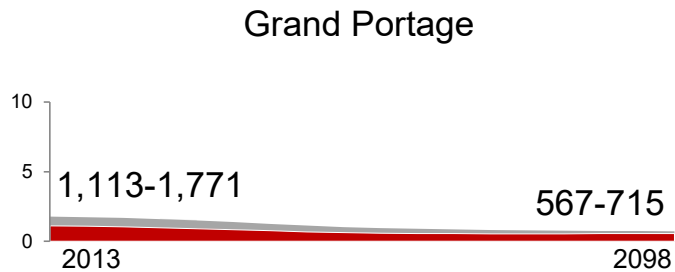
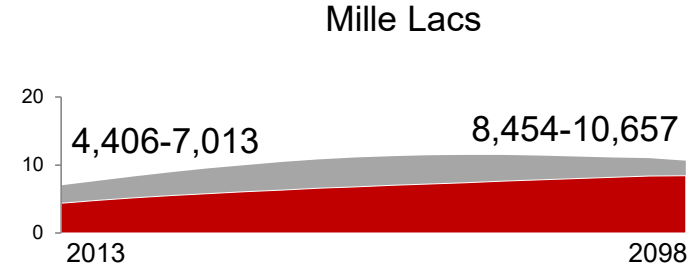
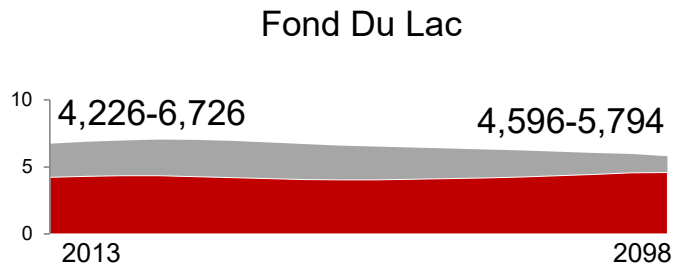
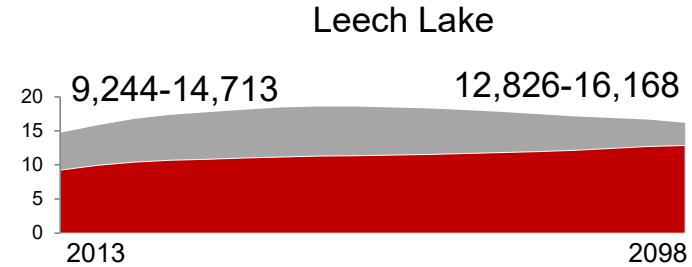
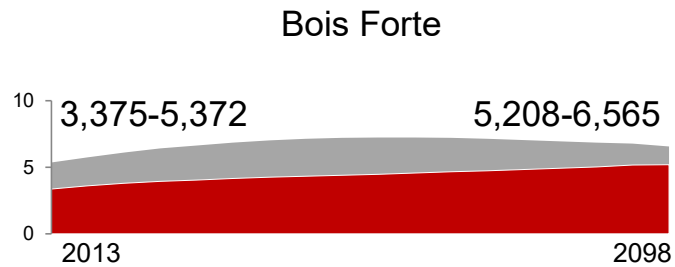
Total population assuming the enrollment criteria is reduced to 1/8 MCT blood to be eligible for enrollment

# Scenario 4: Total population





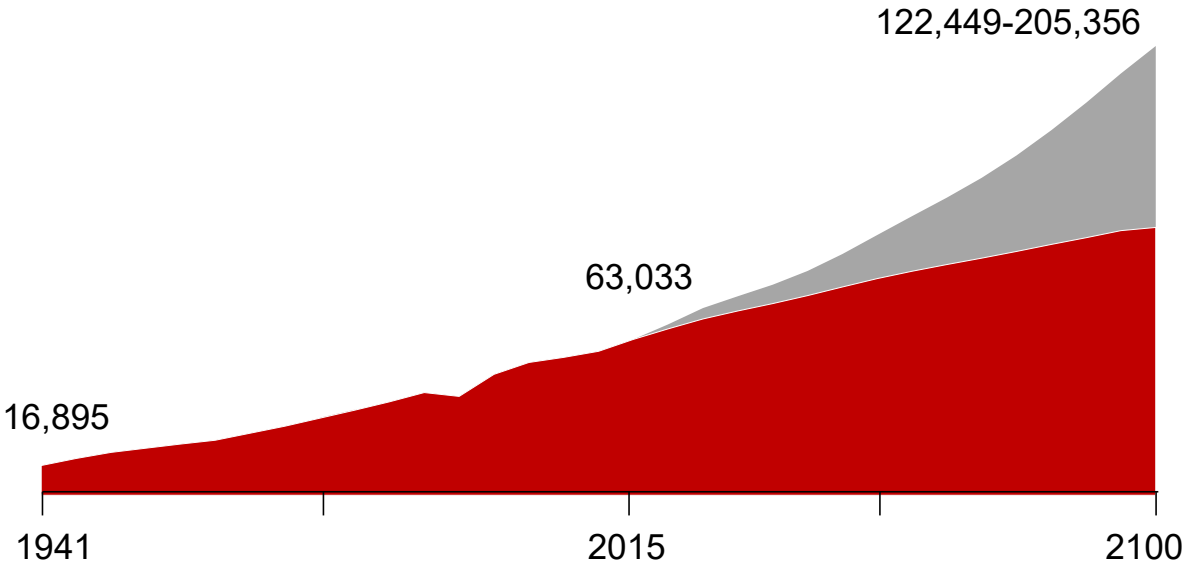
# Scenario 4: Population by band



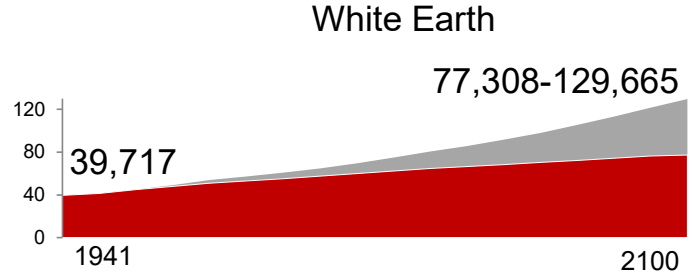
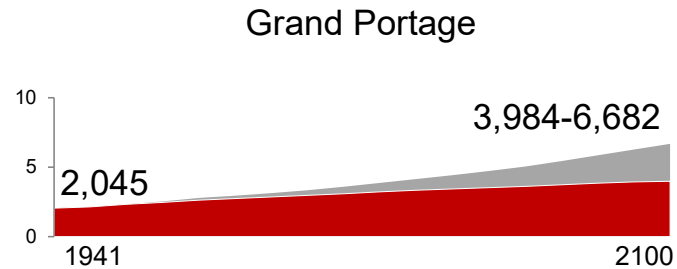
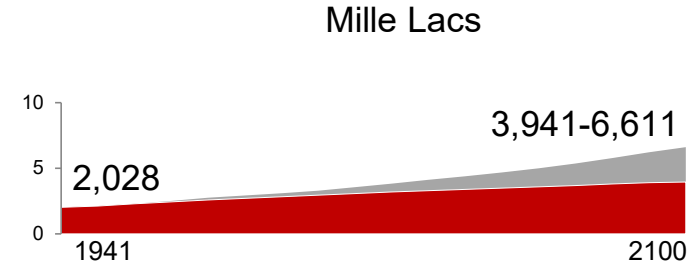
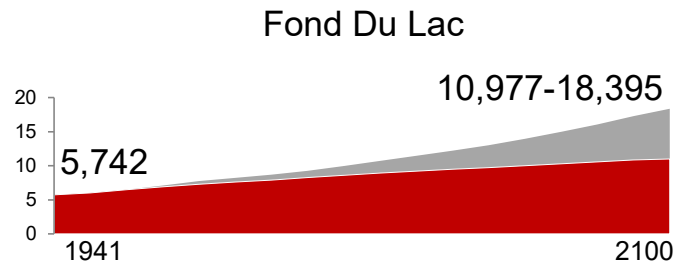
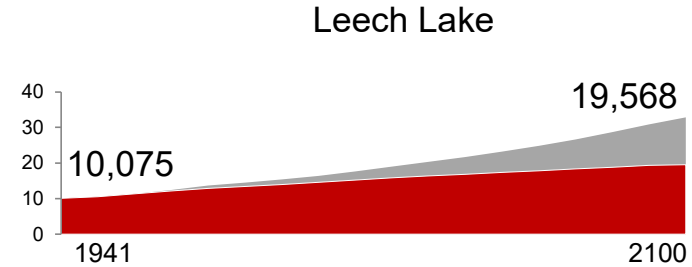
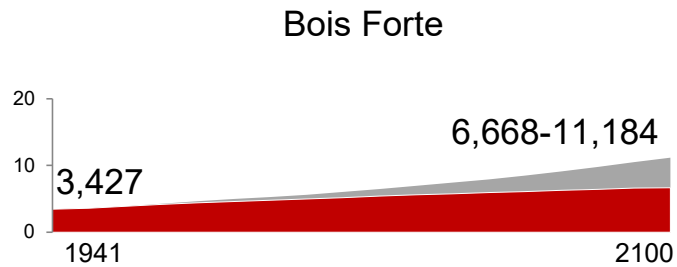
## Scenario 5

Total population assuming the enrollment criteria is changed to lineal descent

# Scenario 5: Total population



# Scenario 5: Population by band





## Conclusions

- MCT's population will decline if you keep  $\frac{1}{4}$  blood quantum requirement
  - Population will stabilize over the rest of this century if MCT changes to  $\frac{1}{8}$  blood quantum (but would likely decline later due to mechanics of blood quantum)
  - Population will grow if MCT changes to lineal descent
- There are some differences by Band but this pattern holds across all 6 Bands



## Recommendations

- Use this results of this study, plus other sources of good information about the MCT population (ex. enrollment records), to make good data-informed decisions about constitutional reform
  - Data can help focus when emotions run strong...
  - Share this info widely with tribal citizens before asking them to vote!
- Consider re-doing the study now or in the future to see how the projections have changed over time (ex. due to drug epidemic, COVID, etc.)
- Learn from other tribes