

NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE GREAT BASIN

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Pyramid Lake Paiute

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For over 10,000 years, we as Native People are still here

AGENDA

- Native Americans in the Great Basin
- Nevada Urban Indians 1975
- Tribal Sovereignty
- Right to Vote
- Questions and Answers

Native Storytelling

Native storytelling is a traditional way of passing down knowledge, culture, beliefs, and history through generations.

Stories helped Native Americans remain connected to each other and their homelands when they were forcibly relocated.

Today I will tell my story about the Natives in the Great Basin



Focus here

GREAT BASIN

— Modern international boundaries
- - - Modern state/province boundaries

PACIFIC OCEAN

SHOSHONE
PAIUTE
BANNOCK
SHOSHONE
WASHOE
GOSIUTE
MONO
PAIUTE
UTE

UNITED STATES

MEXICO





Pyramid
Lake NV
1978
Human
bones found

Zenobia

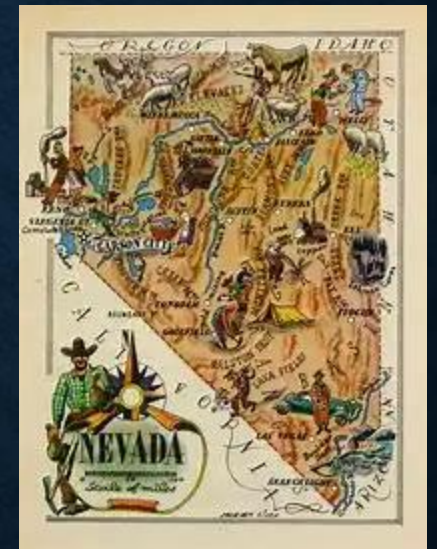
Wizards Beach

Monument Rock

Map data ©2024

NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE GREAT BASIN

- Three (3) original tribes in the Great Basin (Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe)
- The Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation was established in 1874 and operates under the Indian Reorganization Act Constitution and By-Laws approved by the Department of Interior.
- Shoshone Reservation was established in 1867 by President Andrew Johnson by Executive Order on June 14, 1867.
- Washoe Colonies established 1917. They are inhabitants of Lake Tahoe and the Great Basin.
- Reno Sparks Indian Colony established 1917 by the federal government for non-reservation Indians from the three (3) established tribes (Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe)
- Nevada Urban Indians Inc. Established 1975 to provide outreach and referral services in the Washoe County



PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

- The Pyramid Lake people survived in the Great Basin over 10,000 years.
- The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is located 35 miles north of Reno.
- Pyramid Lake Tribe Museum & Cultural Center
- Pyramid Lake War 1860
- Story of the Stone Mother
- Water babies
- Population to date is approximately 3,000 enrolled members.
- <https://pyramidlake.us/museum>



SHOSHONE TRIBES

- The Shoshone lived in the western Great Basin over 10,000 years. The Shoshone of historic times were organized into four groups: Western, or unmounted, Shoshone, centred in Nevada; Northern, or horse, Shoshone of northern Utah and Idaho; Wind River Shoshone in western Wyoming; and Comanche in western Texas, a comparatively recent offshoot of the Wind River group. There are many historical battles 1860-1900
- In Nevada:
 - Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
 - Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
 - Ely Shoshone Tribe
 - Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
 - Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
- The tribal population is approximately 6,000



WASHOE TRIBE

- Washoe people have lived in the Great Basin and the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains for at least the last 10,000 years.
- Washoe people territory is comprised of Lake Tahoe at its heart, to include Carson-Dresslerville-Stewart Colonies, and Woodfords Community.
- The Washoe people are a distinct group who share commonalities with both the Great Basin and California Cultures.
- They moved and changed with the seasons
- The population to date is approximately 1,200 members
- <https://washoetribe.us/>



RENO SPARKS INDIAN COLONY

- The Reno Sparks Indian Colony was established in 1917 whereas the federal government purchased 20 acres for non-reservation Indians who came to work and “camped” along the river. People called it the “Encampment”.
- The Reno Sparks Colony has expanded its property to approximately 15, 292 acres with 1200 tribal members. They have property in South Reno, Verdi, Sparks, and Hungry Valley Spanish Springs area and converted it to trust land.
- The local population is approximately 1,200 members; consisting of Paiute, Washoe, and Shoshone natives.
- <https://www.rsic.org/>



NEVADA URBAN INDIANS INC.

- During the mid-20th century, the Federal Government strongly encouraged Indians to stake out new lives in urban areas. Hence the Relocation Act 1956.
- Nevada Urban Indians, Inc. (NUI) established in 1975 to provide outreach and referral services to American Indians living in the urban areas of Washoe County and Carson City.
- Its mission is to promote American Indian/Alaskan Natives' culture, health, and well-being in the Northern Nevada region.
- Nevada Urban Indian population is estimated at 6,600 Native Americans in the area.
- <https://www.nevadaurbanindians.org/>





TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY



- Native Americans have significant rights of self government under the U.S Constitution, which has its root from their own sovereignty.
- There are 574 federally recognized American Indians and Alaska nation in the United States.
- Native American Tribes are sometimes described as “Nations within a Nation”.
- Sovereignty for tribes includes the right to establish their own form of government, determined membership, enact legislation and establish law enforcement and court systems.



RIGHT TO VOTE

- The 15th Amendment, passed in 1870, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”.
- The Snyder Act of 1924 explicitly declared Native Americans to be U.S. citizens that they became eligible to vote. Native Americans are citizens of the United States and have the right to vote in federal, state, and local elections.
- Native Americans can also vote in tribal elections - think of them as having dual citizenship in two sovereign nations, the U.S. and their tribe.
- Tribes run their own elections

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Federal Government

DOE & BIA

Tribal Nations

*Tribal Sovereignty
Constitution & Bylaws*

Tribal Administrations

Chairman
Tribal Administrator or CEO
Finance Director
Executive Director
Program Director
Human Resources Director
Attorneys

Tribal Departments

Public Works
Environmental/THPO
Water Resources
Tribal Court
EMS/Police
Transportation
Planning
Housing

Tribal Committees/Boards

Veterans
Housing
Gaming
School
Fisheries
Public Safety
Elections
Health
Personnel

SUMMARY

FOR OVER 10,000 YEARS, WE AS NATIVE PEOPLE ARE STILL HERE

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- Tribal Sovereignty
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- Questions and Answers