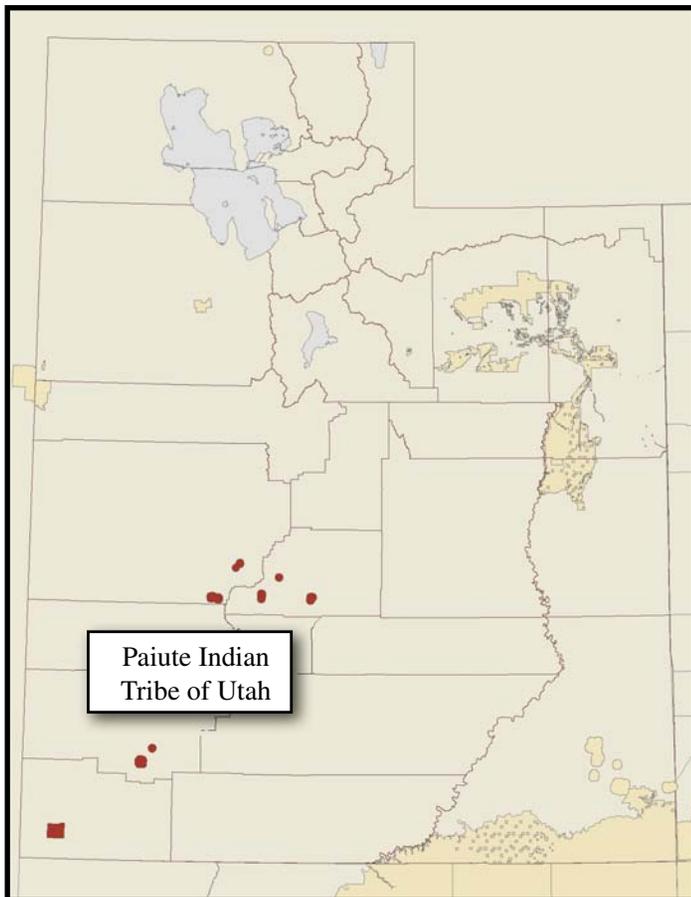


Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Profile

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**

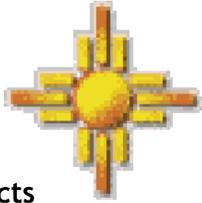
Prepared by:
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with assistance from:
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Utah Division of Indian Affairs



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PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH—OVERVIEW



Contacts

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
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Governance

Tribal Council—one member from each band area and a Tribal chairperson.

Organized under provisions of the 1980 Restoration Act, P.L. 96-227, the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and the Tribal Constitution.

Current Issues

Restoration of lands lost due to termination
Water supply
Economic development

Tribal Land

Approximately 32,650 acres

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah historically occupied the southwest corner of the state. In the late 19th century, the Paiute Bands in southern Utah coalesced into five bands: the Shivwits, Indian Peaks, Kanosh, Cedar, and Koosharem. Reservations were established between 1903 and 1929 for all but the Cedar Band whom the federal government overlooked. In 1954, the bands were terminated from federal recognition, making all five bands ineligible for any federal assistance for 26 years. The termination period between 1954 and 1980 had devastating social and economic consequences. Nearly one-half of all tribal members died during this period for lack of health resources and lack of adequate income to meet their needs. About 15,000 acres of former reservation lands were lost, primarily due to the inability to pay property taxes. Pride and culture diminished dramatically.

On April 3, 1980 Congress enacted *The Paiute Restoration Act*, (P.L. 96-227), restoring the federal trust relationship and federal recognition all five bands of Paiute. Four years later, Congress passed *The Paiute Reservation Plan* in order to recover lands lost due to termination. A new reservation land base was created in 1984 from 4,800 acres of BLM land, but the original lands lost were not included. The lands are small parcels and undeveloped. Lands were selected based on their economic potential and as a result most of them are located along I-15 and I-70. As a compromise, the Paiute Tribe agreed to a \$2.5 million irrevocable trust fund to be set up to assist the Tribe in Economic Development and Tribal Government.

As of September 1997, there are 709 members of the Paiute Tribe amongst the five bands. The Paiute Tribe is a young tribe. According to the latest Health Department data, 16% of the membership is over the age of 55 and 84% are under the age of 55, including 47% 16 years of age and younger. The Southern Band of Paiute now number approximately 709, and they are making great strides in economic development to return to their previous stature in Utah history. The Southern Band have their headquarters in Cedar City, Utah.

A History of Utah American Indians (2000). Ed. Forrest S. Cuch. Utah State University Press, Logan Utah
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Profile, Utah Division of Indian Affairs 1997
<http://dced.utah.gov/indian/Today/paiute.html>