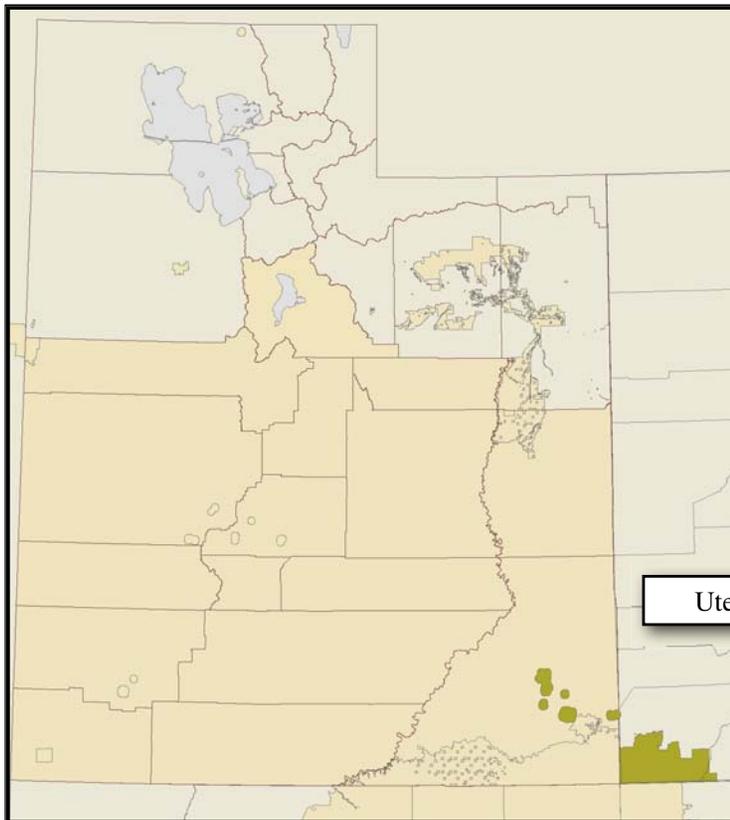


Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Profile

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

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
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Ute Mountain Ute

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UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE—OVERVIEW



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Governance

Current Issues

The Utes historically roamed throughout Colorado, Utah, and northern New Mexico moving with the seasons for the best hunting and harvesting. As the west became occupied by white settlers, treaties with the US government forced the three bands of Southern Utes to move into the Four Corners region. The current Ute Mountain Ute Reservation was formed in 1897 by the Weeminuche Band of Utes after they established a camp on the western end of the old Southern Ute Reservation, in what is today called Towaoc. Towaoc is at the base of Sleeping Ute Mountain, which resembles a sleeping Indian with his headdress. The Allotment Act moved land from tribal ownership into individual ownership and caused a devastating loss of land. The Restoration Act partially corrected this by returning 222,000 acres to Southern Utes in 1937.

Today, the 597,000 acres reservation is located primarily in Montezuma County, Colorado and partially in New Mexico and Utah. The terrain ranges in elevation range from 4,600 feet along the San Juan River to 9,977 on Ute Peak and from badlands to grasslands and mesas. A second community at White Mesa, Utah, is a satellite to the main reservation. The Colorado Ute Water Settlement Act of 1988 brought an end to over 100 years of legal battles for the tribe's water rights and has brought the tribe their first piped drinking and irrigation water.

The tribe has strived for modern self-sufficiency in this harsh landscape. Endeavors such as the new Farm & Ranch Enterprise, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Ute Mountain Casino, and oil and gas allowed over 900 people to be employed in the tribes enterprises and programs, making the tribe the second largest employer in the Four Corners area.

As of January, 1999 1,019 enrollment for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is 1,968 members, and the majority still live in Towaoc and White Mesa. The tribal census shows the largest part of the membership is in the twenties and younger age group.

<http://www.utemountainute.com/>

http://www.ausbcomp.com/redman/ute_mountain.htm

Ute Mountain Utes. Robert W. Delaney, Historical Society of New Mexico