



My Drift

Title: Ute Indians

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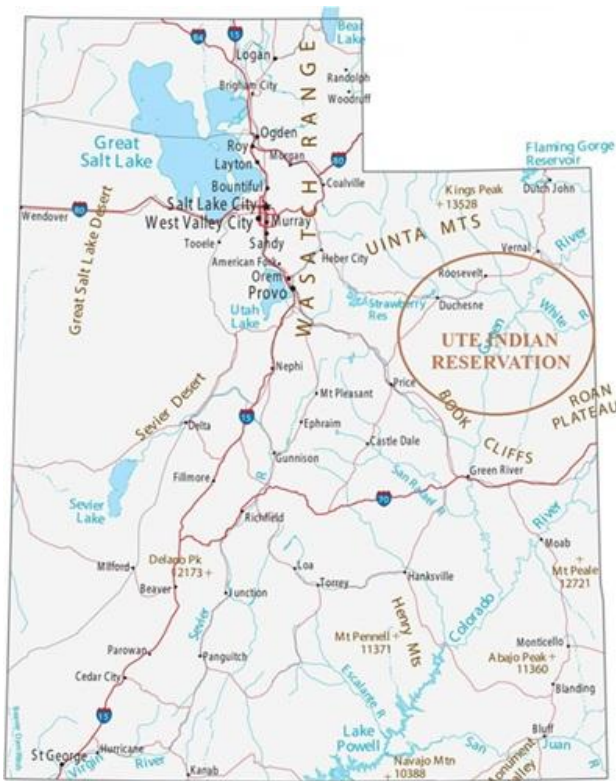


Historically, the Ute population, which at one time ranged across parts of Colorado, Utah, Northern New Mexico, Eastern Nevada, Arizona, and Wyoming, is estimated to have been around 8,000 in the early 19th century but declined to around 1,800 by 1920.

This large decline was mostly due to the invasion of their lands by the “White Man” that included the European explorers, gold miners, US Army Calvary, Mormon and other pioneers. The Ute Indians are a proud people and put up a good fight to keep their land but had no chance against the US Government.

The Ute people were first moved to reservations in 1861 when the Uinta and Ouray Reservation was established, and a large reservation was established for the Southern Utes in 1868, covering the western half of Colorado. However, in 1872 gold was discovered on the Ute reservation in the San Juan Mountains, leading to Utes being pushed west and losing most of the land they were given in Colorado.

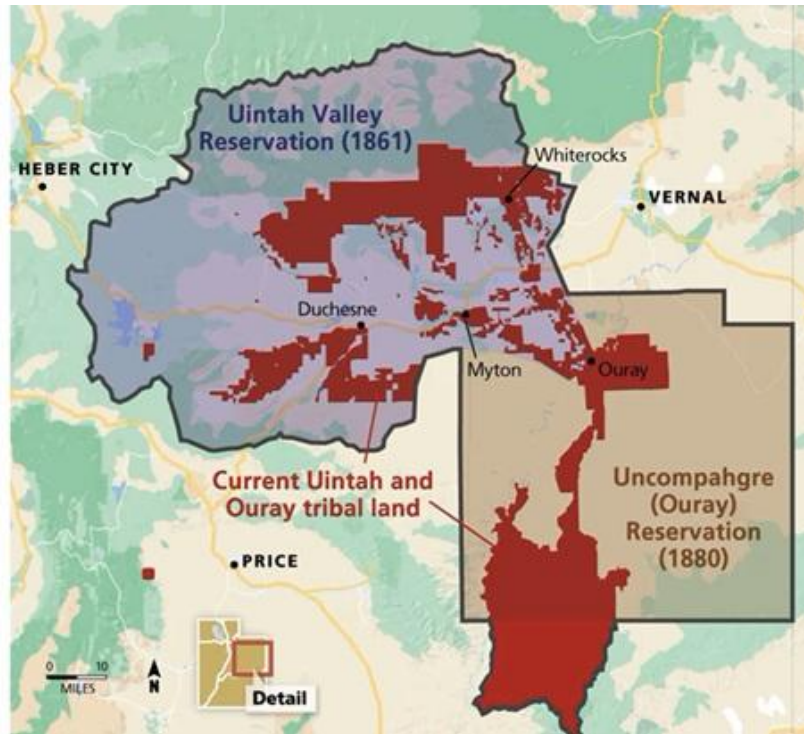
Today, the Ute tribe has three reservations with a total population of about 7,000 people: the Uintah and Ouray Reservation (2,070 tribal members), the Southern Ute Reservation (approximately 1,400 tribal members), and the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation (approximately 2,100 tribal members).



Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Uintah and Ouray Reservation:

- Located in the Uintah Basin, a three-county area in northeastern Utah about 150 miles east of Salt Lake City. (See above maps)
- It is the second largest Indian reservation in the United States, covering over 4.5 million acres or 7,036 square miles. The largest Indian reservation is the Navajo Nation, spanning over 16 million acres or over 27,000 square miles.
- The population is 2,070 members with over half living on the reservation.



- The Utah town of Fort Duchesne (population 1,600) is the tribal headquarters and the second largest community within the reservation boundaries.



- The largest community within the reservation boundaries is Roosevelt City (population 7,250). Roosevelt has become the region's educational center with Union High School, Uintah Basin Area Technology Center, and Utah State University's Uintah Basin Education Center all located there. Roosevelt is also the home of the only hospital in the county, Duchesne County Hospital.



Southern Ute Reservation:

- Located in southwestern Colorado. (See above map showing the Four Corners)
- This reservation covers approximately 1,061 square miles or about 308,000 acres.
- The tribal membership is approximately 1,400 people.

- About half the population is under 30 years old.
- The tribe is governed by a seven-member Tribal Council that is located in Ignacio, Colorado.



Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum



Ute Mountain Reservation:

- This reservation is located in southwest Colorado, southeast Utah, and northwest New Mexico.
- This reservation covers approximately 900 square miles (600,000 acres).
- The tribal membership is approximately 2,100 members.
- Approximately 1,700 residents live on the Colorado portion of the reservation.

- Main tribal population center is Towaoc, Colorado.



Chimney Rock



Ute Mountain Tribal Park



The Utes even have a Casino located in Colorado

- **About 350 tribal members live in the community of White Mesa on the Utah side of the reservation.**



The White Mesa community in Utah is a part of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, a federally recognized tribe with lands in southwestern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, and southeast Utah, and is known for its ancestral ties to the area and its ongoing struggles with the White Mesa Uranium Mill.

The White Mesa community faces significant challenges due to the presence of the White Mesa Uranium Mill, which is located on their ancestral lands and poses environmental and health risks. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the White Mesa community have actively protested the uranium mill and advocated for its closure and cleanup, organizing spiritual walks and rallies to raise awareness and seek support.

The State of Utah is Named after the Ute Indian Tribe.

Yes, the state of Utah is indeed named after the Ute Indian Tribe, also known as the Noochee, who inhabited the region. The Spanish used the term "Yutas" to refer to the Ute and other Paiute people in the area, and this term later evolved into "Utah".

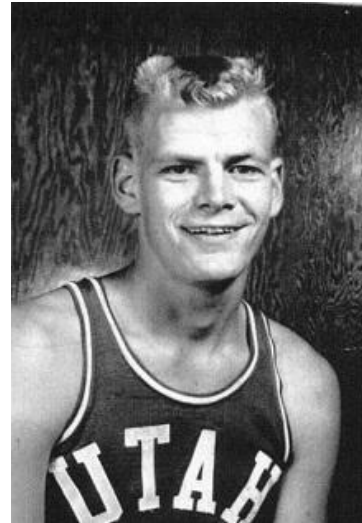
The University of Utah has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ute Indian Tribe that formalizes the university's respectful use of the "Utes" name in athletics. The university also has a Ute Proud education campaign that explains Ute Indian History and the Ute Indian Tribe's cultural and economic contributions to the state.

The University of Utah's intercollegiate athletic teams are known as the "Utah Utes". The men's basketball team is also known as the "Runnin' Utes" and the women's gymnastics team is known as the "Red Rocks".

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- Team Name: Utah Utes
- Mascot: Swoop, a red-tailed hawk
- Men's Basketball: Runnin' Utes
- Women's Gymnastics: Red Rocks

The University of Utah uses the name “Utes” for its sports teams, in honor of the American Indian tribe for which the state of Utah is named. The University of Utah has used the name “Utes” with full support of the Ute Indian Tribe since 1972.



A “Not so Famous” Runnin’ Ute





Every year the Ute Indian Tribe performs on the University of Utah campus usually during half-time of a football game.

A few Ute Nation Chiefs

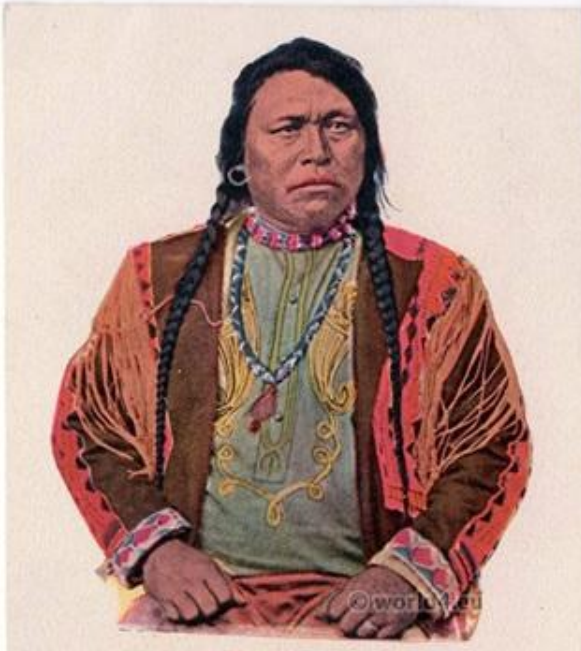


Chief Ouray



Chief Chipeta

A highly influential leader of the Northern Ute people in the late 19th century, known for his intelligence and diplomacy, Chief Ouray negotiated treaties and attempted to avoid conflict with whites. Chipeta or White Singing Bird (1843–1924) was a Ute Native American leader, and the second wife of Chief Ouray. She was born a Kiowa Apache, but was raised by the Utes



Chief Auray

Auray, Chief of the Ute Nation. The Ute lived in the vast landscapes of the Great Basin and subsisted almost exclusively on big game hunting.



Chief Sapiah

Sapiah (his Ute name), is also commonly known as Charles Buck and Buckskin Charley was the leader of the Ute tribe from about 1870 until his death in 1936

Indian Tribes in Utah

The Utes are not the only Indian tribe in Utah. It is home to five major Native American tribes: the Ute, Diné (Navajo), Paiute, Goshute, and Shoshone, with eight federally recognized tribes within these groups.

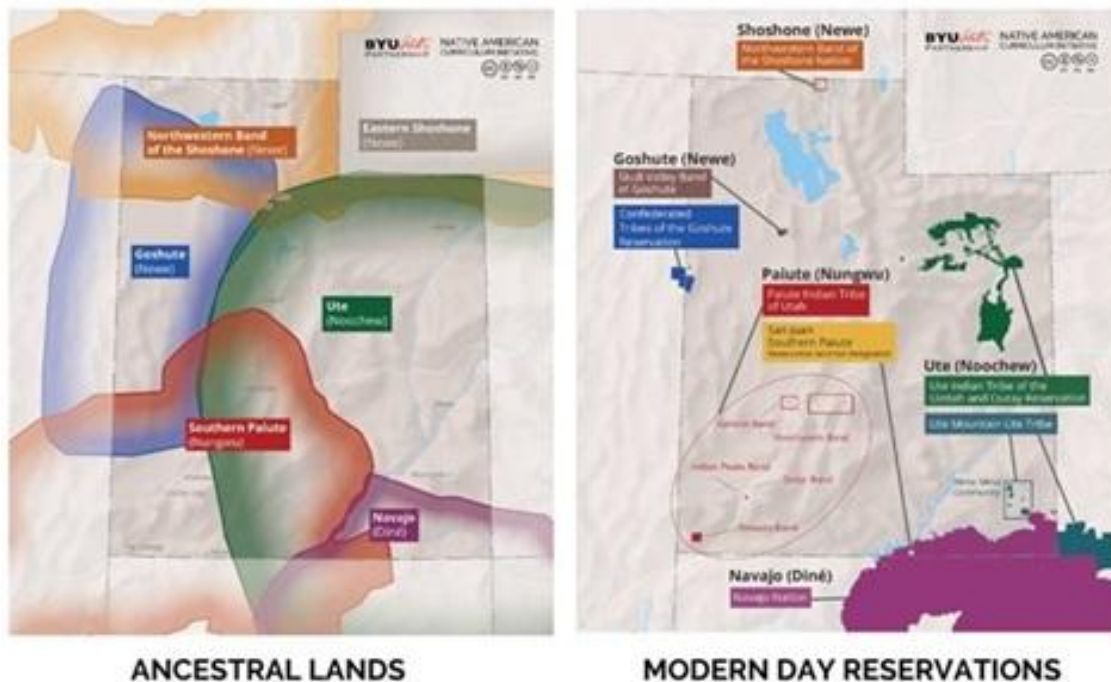
Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Five Major Tribes:

- **Ute:** The state of Utah is named after this tribe, who historically inhabited the region.
- **Navajo:** While their primary lands are in Arizona, the Navajo Nation extends into Utah and New Mexico.
- **Paiute:** The Paiute people traditionally live in central and southwest Utah, as well as parts of Nevada, California, and Arizona.
- **Goshute:** The Goshute, also known as the Western Shoshone, are related to the Shoshone and live in the western deserts of Utah.
- **Shoshone:** The Shoshone people, including the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, historically occupied parts of Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nevada.

Eight Federally Recognized Tribes in Utah:

- **Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation**
- **Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation**
- **Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah**
- **San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe**
- **Skull Valley Band of Goshute**
- **Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation**
- **Ute Mountain Ute Tribe**
- **Navajo Nation**



Forced Removal of US Indian Tribes from their Ancestral Lands

The forced removal of many US Indian tribes from their ancestral lands was a pivotal period in US history, driven by the desire for land expansion and resources. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 paved the way for the forced relocation of tribes to the "Indian Territory" west of the Mississippi River. This resulted in devastating journeys, like the Trail of Tears, where thousands of Native Americans perished.

Key Aspects of the Relocation:

Indian Removal Act (1830):

This act authorized the government to negotiate treaties that would force Native American tribes to relocate from their eastern lands to areas west of the Mississippi River.

Forced Relocation:

Despite attempts to present the removals as voluntary, many tribes resisted and were forcibly relocated by the US military.

The Trail of Tears:

The forced march of the Cherokee Nation from their homes in the southeastern United States to Oklahoma resulted in the deaths of thousands of Cherokee people.

Impact on Tribes:

The removals had a devastating impact on the culture, traditions, and survival of the affected tribes.

Tribes Affected:

The Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole were among the most prominent tribes forcibly relocated under the Removal Act.

Continued Relocation Policies:

Even after the initial removals, policies continued to displace and assimilate Native American communities into white society, including urban relocation programs in the mid-20th century.

Resilience and Resistance:

Despite the hardships, many tribes demonstrated resilience, resisting the removals and maintaining their cultural identity.

Short Story about my wife Patsy and the Ute Indians

In the early years of our marriage, I brought my Hawaii family to Utah to meet my Utah family and to do some sightseeing. Patsy and I stopped in Fort Duchesne on our way to Vernal, Utah to see the dinosaurs at the Dinosaur National Monument.

In Duchesne, they have several souvenir shops where you can buy Ute Indian stuff. Patsy wanted to get a bunch of things to take back to Hawaii. So, while I went to a regular store for a few things, Patsy went shopping at the Indian shops. Later while we were driving, Patsy told me that the sales lady at the souvenir shop spoke to her in Indian – a language my wife had no clue what was being said. The sales lady thought my wife was a Ute Indian.

In addition to that, one day I was at my hometown Pool Hall having a cold beer and talking to someone I knew from the “old days”. He mentioned that he saw

me and my wife at the grocery store, and he was wondering if I married an Indian.

Well, I didn't tell Patsy about this because I don't think she was too happy about people thinking she was an Indian.



**Me and Patsy on our way to Indian Country
(Patsy passed away on 19 July 2023 at age 80)
My wife was born in Hawaii but was 100% Japanese
Does she look like an Indian to you?**

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