



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH
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Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Biography
Chairwoman Laurel Ann Yellowhorse

Hello, my names is Laurel Ann Yellowhorse, I am the Tribal Chairwomen for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah consists of five Bands: Cedar Band, Shivwits Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, and Koosharem Band. Below is a brief history of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.

After repeated government actions to diminish Native Americans, the termination policy was instituted in 1953, driven by Senator Arthur Watkins (R) of Utah, who chaired the Indian Subcommittee and whose intent was to eliminate federal supervision and trust responsibility of the bands of Southern Paiutes, who never meet the termination criteria as outlined in the Zimmerman Report and should have never been terminated.

The Paiutes of Utah consequently suffered a dramatic diminishing of their culture, tradition, and people during the termination era. Termination was devastating for the Paiute and almost led to their extinction; for every birth, there had been three deaths. The life expectancy was forty-two years of age. Nearly one-half of the Paiute membership died due to ill health, poor housing conditions, and nutritional deficiencies. Inadequate healthcare, housing, education, and no economic growth left the Paiutes in bleak living situations with poverty and social disruption. Many of the children had been taken and placed in foster care, placed in the Indian Placement Program run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or adopted out

The five Paiute Bands established the Utah Paiute Tribal Corporation in 1972 with the goal of uniting the Bands in the fight to restore its federal recognition. In doing so, the Corporation began performing governmental functions and operating as a governmentally organized Tribe, as reflected in the Tribe's modern-day governance structure. On April 3, 1980, Congress restored the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah's federal recognition pursuant to the Paiute Restoration Act, P.L. 96-227, which restored the federal trust relationship to the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. The PITU Restoration Act established the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah as a federally recognized Tribe comprised of five constituent Bands (Cedar, Indian Peaks, Kanosh, Koosharem, and Shivwits).

Respectfully submitted,

[Laurel Yellowhorse \(Mar 11, 2026 13:48:18 MDT\)](#)

Laurel Ann Yellowhorse
Chairwoman
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah