

HEADS UP

UPDATES AND ISSUES

DIVERSITY AND
CIVIL RIGHTS



Vol.1. Issue 3 10.01.06

November is American Indian Heritage Month

USU Extension annually serves approximately 8400 American Indians in programs throughout the state. The statewide Civil Rights goal is to provide service to at least 33% of this population. To date we serve about 20% of the estimated 41,000 American Indians in Utah. As a group, American Indians represent 1.3% of Utah's population. Plan now to share with others in your community the rich heritage of American Indians by recognizing these cultures with unique programs and recognitions that serve their needs during the month of November. Resource ideas to assist you and "thought you should know" are provided in this newsletter.

History and Location of Utah Tribes

The name Utah comes from the Ute tribe and means "people of the mountains". American Indian tribes recognized federally in Utah include the Ute, Dine' [Navajo Nation], Goshute, Paiute, Bannock, and Shoshoni people. Bannock: This tribe and the Shoshoni people roamed over the northern part of Utah as far as the Uintah Mountains, and beyond Great Salt Lake. Goshute: The Goshute were a small body of Indians inhabiting the region about Great Salt Lake in northern Utah. They were long supposed to be a mixture of Ute and Shoshoni but are now known to have been connected only with the Shoshoni. Dine' [Navajo]: This tribe occupied, at least at times, a small part of the southeastern section of Utah as far as the San Juan River. Southern Paiute: The Southern Paiute occupied the southwestern part of Utah. Western Shoshoni: The Western Shoshoni extended into northern Utah; they included the Goshute, as above stated. The Ute tribe formerly occupied the entire central and west portions of Colorado and the east portion of Utah, including the east part of Salt Lake valley and Utah valley. On the south they extended into New Mexico, occupying much of the upper drainage area of the San Juan. Currently the tribe resides primarily in the Uintah Basin.

You can learn more about the cultures of these Utah American Indian groups at <http://www.native-languages.org/utah.htm>

Referring to American Indians as a Group – "Thought You Should Know"

The term, 'Native American,' came into usage in the 1960s to denote the groups served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs: American Indians and Alaska Native (Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of Alaska). Later the term also included Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in some Federal programs. It, therefore, came into disfavor among some Indian groups. The preferred term is American Indian. Over the years, the people whom these words are meant to represent have made their preference clear: the majority of American Indians/Native Americans believe it is acceptable to use either term, or both. Many have also suggested leaving such general terms behind in favor of specific tribal designations. As the publisher and editor of *The Navajo Times*, the largest Native American-owned weekly newspaper, puts it, "I . . . would rather be known as, 'Tom Arviso Jr., a member of the Navajo tribe,' instead of 'Arviso, a Native American or American Indian.' This gives an authentic description of my heritage, rather than lumping me into a whole race of people."