

The Paiute Tribe of Utah

The book "A History of Utah's American Indians" writes the stories of Utah Native Americans using native perspectives, and is a secondary source. [Chat GPT used for easier reading]
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46nwms.6?searchText=The+Goshute+Indians+of+Utah>

Up until the mid-1600s, the Utes and Paiutes lived in very similar ways. This began to change when the Utes got horses. Horses allowed the Utes to travel faster and farther, which led to many changes in their culture. Over time, horses also hurt the mostly friendly relationship between the Utes and Paiutes. The Utes started attacking Paiute villages and capturing women and children, who were taken as slaves and traded in the Rio Grande Valley and in California. The Navajos and the Spanish also carried out slave raids. Because of this, the Paiute population became unbalanced, with fewer men than women and children. In 1776, the Dominguez-Escalante group from Santa Fe became the first Europeans to record a visit to Utah Paiute lands.

By the mid-1800s, the Paiutes had only met a small number of Euro-Americans, mostly traders, travelers, and trappers. The Old Spanish Trail, which ran from Santa Fe to California, was heavily used from about 1830 to 1850 and went directly through Paiute territory. Most people traveling on the trail were heading to the rich farmland of California. As travel increased, it passed through Paiute farming areas so often that the Paiutes were forced to leave fields that were too close to the trail. There were only a few conflicts. These included occasional gunshots fired by settlers and some livestock stolen by the Paiutes.

Original

Up until the mid-1600s, the Utes and Paiutes essentially shared a similar way of life. Once the Utes acquired the horse, however, a series of cultural changes took place among the Utes based on the mobility provided by horses. Later, the horse would prove to be devastating to their generally friendly relationship with the Paiutes, as the Utes began to raid Paiute villages and take women and children as slaves to trade in the Rio Grande Valley and in California. Other slave raids also came from the Navajos and the Spanish. This activity created a population imbalance among Paiutes of males to females and children. In 1776 the Dominguez-Escalante party from Santa Fe made the first recorded European visit to Utah Paiute lands.

Through the mid-1800s the Paiutes had encountered only a few Euro-Americans, primarily traders, travelers, and trappers. The Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe to California flourished from 1830 to about 1850 and passed right through the middle of Paiute territory. Most of the travelers were passing through to the fertile fields of California. Eventually the traffic through some Paiute farming areas was so heavy that the Paiutes had to abandon fields that were too close to the trail. Skirmishes were few, being limited to random potshots by the intruding pioneers and the theft of some livestock by the Paiutes. (pg 128-129)