
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE



Project Title:	Walker River Paiute Tribe Yadaua Language Design and Implementation Program
Award Amount:	\$448,772
Type of Grant:	Language
Project Period:	9/30/2003 – 7/31/2007
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 2 jobs created
- 2 Native American consultants hired
- 15 elders involved
- 100 youth involved
- \$216,224 in resources leveraged
- 50 people trained
- 16 partnerships formed
- 7 products developed
- 1 language survey developed
- 100 language surveys completed
- 4 language teachers trained
- 800 native language classes held
- 100 youth increased their ability to speak a native language
- 25 adults increased their ability to speak a native language

BACKGROUND

The Walker River Paiute Tribe counts 2,172 enrolled tribal members, the majority of whom live in Nevada. Over the past 100

years, factors such as the influx of non-Indians, mixed marriages between members of different tribes or races and federal assimilation policies has led to the deterioration of the Paiute language. In a recent survey, the Tribe discovered that only ten fluent speakers remained, and all were of advanced age. Concerned about the loss of their language, the Tribe has sponsored the Numu Yadaua (The People Speak) Project since 1997.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Project was to preserve and retain the Agai Dicutta language of the Northern Paiute language family.

The Project's first objective was designed to develop an Agai Dicutta language program and dictionary using information gleaned from interviews of the Tribe's remaining fluent speakers. Staff interviewed the ten remaining Paiute speakers using tape recorders and camcorders and entered the interviews into a computer program, utilizing the information to develop a language curriculum and a dictionary. Sadly, by the end of the Project's timeframe,

eight of the ten fluent speakers had passed away.

The second objective was to implement intergenerational Paiute language classes in the community. Project staff taught approximately 800 language classes to local kindergarteners, 5th-8th graders and an elders’ group that met to improve language learning and speaking. In all, staff taught Paiute to 125 community members, 100 of whom were youth.

The Project’s final objective was to archive its language materials for the development of a comprehensive Paiute language program, including a documentary film, website and a language resource library. Staff archived tribal language materials on CDs and developed videos, audiotapes, dictionary reading books and a newsletter. By the Project’s end, staff had not completed the language website, but was consulting with a regional university to complete the objective. Through the Project, sixteen partnerships were fostered with neighboring Paiute language programs, and the sharing of the newly developed language materials took place.

The Project’s main challenge was a delayed start resulting from the late hiring of the Project Director. To ensure Project success, ANA granted a ten-month extension.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The Project implementation brought youth, parents and elders together to share stories, history and cultural traditions. Parents interacted with their children while assisting them with language learning exercises. Youth are now approaching their grandparents to learn words, history and traditional customs, thereby strengthening family relationships. Tribal elders expressed relief knowing the language and culture will live on in the youth.

Implementation of the Project allowed tribal youth to become familiar with traditional religious practices and repatriation activities during language classes. Students and parents reported increases in self-esteem. Tribal members shared that prior to the Project, there was a prevalent feeling that something was missing in the souls of the people, specifically the lack of language and culture essential to identity and tribal integrity. Tribal members reported the Project revitalized the Paiute language as well as their sense of cultural identity by bringing back traditional ways and values. One parent of participating children reported, “Without this program we wouldn’t have our language.”

“Inside the community there was an awakening, or realization, of how desperate we [on the reservation] are for saving our language.”
 Project Staff Member

WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA



Project Title:	Washoe Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Project
Award Amount:	\$199,874
Type of Grant:	Environmental
Project Period:	9/1/2003 – 1/31/2007
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 jobs created
- 11 people employed
- 25 elders involved
- 10 youth involved
- \$154,450 in resources leveraged
- 82 people trained
- 4 partnerships formed
- 1 product developed
- 4 environmental codes/regulations/ordinances developed
- 4 environmental codes/regulations/ordinances enforced

BACKGROUND

The Washoe Tribe's traditional homeland surrounds Lake Tahoe in Nevada, their spiritual center. The Tribe inhabits four geographically separated communities stretching over 65,000 acres in three counties and two states. The Washoe Tribe counts approximately 2,000 currently enrolled members.

In 1994, the Washoe Tribal Council passed the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The

fundamental goal of the Plan was to enable the Washoe people to return to their traditional lands surrounding Lake Tahoe. In meeting this goal, the Tribe planned to mitigate the impact of commercial, residential and industrial development adjacent to their lands through the return to traditional stewardship practices on Lake Tahoe and by continuing to expand the application of Washoe stewardship throughout their homeland. To achieve this ambition, the Washoe Tribe desired to solidify its self-governance in the environmental regulation field.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Project was to revise the Tribe's existing environmental codes, write new regulations to more effectively implement the codes, and hire two Environmental Rangers for enforcement.

The Project's first objective was to collaborate with Tribal Council, Tribal members and legal, court and law enforcement staff to revise existing environmental codes. Project staff developed four codes: animal control, water quality, property maintenance and off-road closure to vehicles. The Tribe's legal staff

reviewed and finalized the codes and Tribal Council formally adopted them.

The second objective was to hire two Environmental Protection Rangers and to develop memorandums of agreement (MOAs). These MOAs were to be between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency and the Washoe Tribe as to the environmental enforcement abilities and responsibilities for each agency on the public lands adjacent to tribal lands. Project staff endured a lengthy hiring process for the Rangers, due to the unique law enforcement and environmental expertise necessary to qualify for the position. The prolonged vacancies necessitated a two-year extension from ANA. Once hired, Project staff and Tribal Police trained the Rangers to enforce the Tribe's environmental codes and ordinances. The difficulties in hiring for these positions limited Project outcomes. Finally, Project staff held meetings with the organizations stated above and partnered with them to train the Rangers, but it is unclear whether formal agreements have been signed.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The Washoe Tribe created two new law enforcement positions to combat environmental degradation on both reservation and allotment lands in Northern Nevada. The Rangers reduced the numbers of fuel wood and wild game poachers on the Washoe Pine Nut Allotments, as well as squatters illegally trespassing on these lands. The Rangers were also instrumental in mapping the Tribe's allotments in an effort to better understand accessibility and fire management issues.

At the community level this project has assisted in the protection of the many cultural and environmental resources found throughout the tribal land. The closure code

developed and implemented by project staff has halted off-road vehicle access to a fire-damaged area allowing the affected land to regenerate. The Rangers, with assistance from Tribal Police, enforced the property maintenance code which began to clear tribal land of derelict automobiles. This code's enforcement has improved aesthetics, groundwater purity and child safety. The community has also benefited through the elimination of clandestine methamphetamine labs on Washoe land.

Jimmy Levi, the Tribe's Environmental Coordinator, concluded, "The Washoe Environmental Protection Department wants to send a clear message that we will not stand for the desecration of our lands and resources, and to let all violators know that your days are numbered."