

THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

Part A: Setting (Geographic, Social, Economic)

The aboriginal territory of the Hualapai Tribe encompassed millions of acres across the northwest corner of Arizona south of the Colorado River. Although this area of occupation has been greatly reduced, the Hualapai Tribe manages over 400,000 hectares of lands extending across parts of three counties: Mohave, Coconino, and Yavapai (Map 1). The Tribal capital, Peach Springs, is located on historic Route 66 midway between Seligman and Kingman. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad travels on a line south of Route 66. Construction of Interstate 40 bypassed the community in 1978, impeding opportunities for tourism-based economic growth (Hualapai Tribe, 2006). Nevertheless, the Reservation welcomes large numbers of sightseers, river rafters and hunters, and the Tribal capital serves as a gateway to world-famous attractions of Grand Canyon West and Supai, the home of the Havasupai Tribe.

The main Hualapai Reservation was established by Executive Order in 1883. This U-shaped area is bordered by Grand Wash Cliffs on the West, the Colorado River to the North, and the Havasupai Reservation to the East. However, Hualapai tribal members were living in a number of areas outside the Reservation boundaries. The Valentine area, formerly known as the Hualapai Indian School Reserve and set aside at the turn of the 20th century, was later added as trust land. Several tribal families continued to reside on traditional lands along the Big Sandy River in southeastern Mohave County. One of these properties was brought into trust status, some additional lands are still held by individual members in fee status. The Tribe has also acquired additional properties through purchase and donations including the Clay Springs Ranch, the Hunt Ranch, the Cholla Canyon Ranch, and a property near Truckee, California. The Clay Springs Ranch has been restored to trust status.

Table 1. Hualapai Tribal Lands as of 2007

		Approximate Area (acres)
Trust lands		
	1883 Reservation	993,083
	Valentine	806
	Big Sandy	64
	Clay Springs	6526
Fee lands		
	Truckee Triangle	
	Hunt Ranch	467
	Cholla Canyon Ranch	360
	Truckee Property, California	203
Total		1,001,509

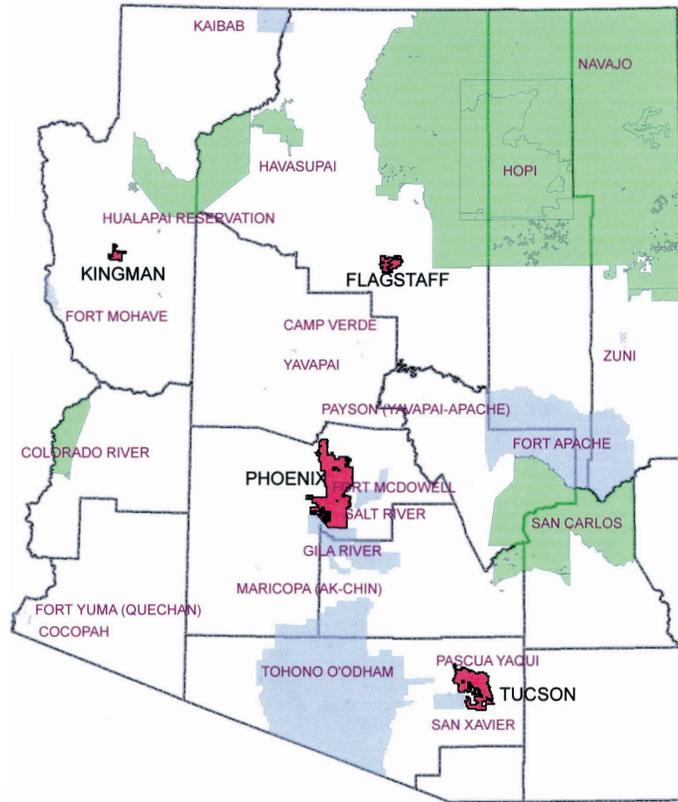


Figure 1. Map of Indian Reservations in Arizona

Communities

The U. S. Census of 2000 estimated the population of the Hualapai Reservation and trust lands at 1353 persons. These persons reside in several housing areas in the community of Peach Springs, Valentine, and Big Sandy. Several dozen tribal members live in Kingman. Grand Canyon West has temporary housing and plans to establish permanent housing for employees.

The census of 2000 showed that within the main community of Peach Springs, 99.7% of the population was Native American, the median age was 24.4 years, and 6.3% was older than 65. Approximately 40% of the population had graduated from high school or received a GED, and approximately 7% had a post high school degree. Median family income was \$17,292, with a per capita income of \$6,756.

Language

The Hualapai language belongs to the Pai language family. There are annual gatherings of Pai speakers from several tribes in Northwest Arizona to celebrate this linguistic heritage. According to the 2000 census, 62% of the sampled population in Peach Springs spoke a language other than English at home.

Schools

The Peach Springs School District is part of the State of Arizona School System. Peach Springs Elementary School serves grades K-6. Music Mountain High School serves grades 7-12 with enrollment averaging 60 students. Mohave Community College has a center in Peach Springs, which allows students to take classes locally and through distance learning.

Predominant Ecological Types and Significance

The main reservation is topographically diverse, ranging from 1500 feet at the Colorado River to over 7300 feet along the Aubrey Cliffs on the eastern portion of the Reservation. Ecological communities include riverine communities along the lower Colorado River, Mohave desert scrub, high desert grasslands, piñon-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine forests. Traditionally, plants and game were harvested from all these communities, and many tribal members continue to harvest wild plants and game today. Today, the Tribe uses riverine communities and rocky canyons along the Grand Canyon for recreation, manage upland areas for livestock ranching and big game hunting, cuts firewood from dead juniper trees, and occasionally logs ponderosa pine trees. The Tribe administers rafting and boating trips along the Colorado River, which forms the northern boundary of the Reservation.

The Tribe also monitors water quality at dozens of springs and wetlands and has conducted restoration activities at several of these sites.

Natural Resource-Based Economic Activities

Ranching

Tribal members began ranching when the BIA sold 150 head of cattle to individuals in 1914 (Hualapai Tribe, 2006). Four livestock associations were established in 1938 (Hualapai Tribe, 2006). Today, each of these Associations is permitted to run between 400 and 800 animal units, primarily as cow-calf pairs. The Tribe established a Tribal Herd on a fifth district in 1941, but this enterprise was divested in 2004 (Hualapai Tribe, 2006). The cattle breeds include Hereford, Beefmaster, Angus, and various crosses. The Tribe leases grazing rights on the Hunt Ranch and Clay Springs Allotment.

Gathering

Tribal members harvest piñon seeds and often sell them at tailgate stands. Community members make cradleboards and baskets for other tribal members and also sell them to the public. Tribal people collect native plants for beverages, foods and medicines. Some of the plants that they commonly gather include skunkbush, agave, arrowweed, willows, and Mormon tea. The Tribe, at one time, managed two enterprises, an arts and crafts enterprise, and a doll-making enterprise to promote traditional crafts.

Agriculture

A few community members maintain small home gardens and the Cultural Resources Department maintains a community garden. Typical plantings include corn, beans, watermelon, pumpkin, squash and fruit trees, including peaches. Within

the Big Sandy community, tribal members historically raised various crops for sale in Kingman. The Tribe also once leased land to a local non-Indian farmer to raise alfalfa for commercial sale. The Tribe has pastures that can be irrigated at the Cholla Canyon Ranch and at Frazier's Well.

Aquaculture

The Tribe's Natural Resources Department operates a fish facility with twelve ½ acre ponds to raise native fish for restocking into the Colorado River.

Hunting

The Tribe sells hunting permits for bighorn sheep, turkey, antelope, javelina, and elk.

Tourism

The Grand Canyon Resort Corporation (a tribally owned and managed enterprise) oversees tourism. Activities include river rafting, helicopter tours, a lodge with a restaurant, and the Skywalk, a glass-bottomed walkway offering a unique view of the Grand Canyon.

Timber and Fuel Wood Harvest

The Tribe sold over 20,000 million board feet of timber from 1984 to 2003. Tribal members harvest juniper and other woodland trees for heating their homes.

Mining

Historically, mining has been an important economic activity for Hualapais. The Reservation contains substantial deposits of limestone, copper, uranium, sand, gravel, and flagstone. Flagstone mining is the only mining currently in operation, and it is leased from the Tribe by a tribal member.

Table 2. Major Programs and Primary Collaborators

PROGRAM	ISSUES	ACTIVITIES	COLLABORATORS
Youth Education Programs	Need for youths to be positively engaged in community activities and to be engaged in livestock production	Youth livestock projects for county fair	Local 4-H club (volunteers), Tribal Agriculture Program
Range Programs: Tribe and Livestock	Cultivate knowledge of the natural resources of the Reservation	Summer Youth Camp Ethnobotany Project Boys and Girls Club	Department of Natural Resources
Range Programs: Tribe and Livestock Associations	Conserving range resources used by livestock and wildlife	Workshops and field days Range Monitoring	Department of Natural Resources
Livestock Management: Tribe and Livestock Associations	Improve effectiveness of cattle production	Annual livestock meeting Workshops and field days	Tribal Agricultural Extension Program Regional Center for Rural Development
Community Gardening	Encourage local food production as hobby and to promote healthy lifestyle	Workshops Programs with Boys and Girls Club	Boys and Girls Club Elementary School Green Arrow Program
Water Resources Conservation	Safeguard water quality and wetlands	Trainings and short workshops	Department of Natural Resources

Part B: History Of Extension

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducted extension programming on the Reservation for several decades. The agent provided 4-H programming, with a focus on livestock and family sciences. Frank Hunt was the extension agent for many years. The Tribe contracted with the Agricultural Extension program in the mid-1980s. Following Mr. Hunt's retirement in the late 1980s, Joel Querta was brought over from the BIA to assume those responsibilities. Today, the Tribe's Agriculture program administers livestock permitting, manages rangeland resources, and assists with 4-H programs.

Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program Agent

Liz Didier was the first agent dedicated to the Reservation through the Arizona Cooperative Extension Program based at the University of Arizona. She served from 2002 until September 2005. Jonathan Long was the second agent, serving from May 2006 until May 2007. Terry Crowley is the current program assistant with the FRTEP program.

References

Hualapai Tribe. (2006). *Hualapai Tribe 5-year Economic Development Plan*. Peach Springs, Arizona: Author.

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