

# THE SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION QUICK FACTS



## Part A: Setting (geographic, social, economic)

The Apache people migrated south from northwestern Canada and Alaska around 1500 AD (Lupe, 1979). Apache legends state that they arrived from the north. In pre-colonial times, the indigenous territory of the various Apache bands extended from western Texas, through southern New Mexico and into eastern and central Arizona. A presidential executive order in 1871 established the joint White Mountain/San Carlos Indian Reservation, including the Aravaipa, Chiricahua, Coyotero, Mimbreno, Mogollon, Pinaleño and Tsiltaden Apaches. The reservation covers 3.5 million acres in Gila, Graham, Apache, Navajo and Pinal counties. An Act of Congress in June, 1897, divided the White Mountain Apache Reservation and the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Currently, the San Carlos reservation contains 1,853,841 million acres, almost the entire area is in trust lands. The San Carlos reservation is 20 miles east of the town of Globe, and 100 miles east of metropolitan Phoenix.

## Communities

The total tribal enrollment includes 13,246 people, with the enrolled tribal membership in residence on the reservation at 10,709 people. There are three main communities, San Carlos (tribal governmental seat), Peridot, and Bylas. Peridot and San Carlos are on the western side of the reservation, and Bylas is on the extreme eastern side of the reservation. Median family income was below \$20,000 (2000 U.S. Census). Unemployment rates are very high compared to the state average.

## Language

The Apache people speak a southern Athabaskan language, closely related to the Navajo language. The San Carlos

reservation is in the area of traditional Western Apache lands, but the government settled 13 different bands of the Apache on the reservation in the latter part of the 19th century, some of which manifested distinct dialects of the Apache language (Stevens, personal communication, 2006).

## Education

The San Carlos school district (mostly San Carlos and Peridot communities) currently includes 1350 total Tribal students at the primary and secondary levels at the following schools: Globe school district, 480; Miami School district, 75; Excel Alternative School, 62; and Fort Thomas school district (Bylas community and western Graham county), 512. Other private elementary schools also exist in San Carlos and Bylas. In 2003, the Adult Education program had 106 students receiving assistance, with 10 completing their GED. Also, in 2003, 50 students funded by the Job Training and Placement Program (44 in training and 6 in direct employment) were enrolled, and historically, over 74 percent of those involved in this program will find employment within 5 years of completing their training.

## Predominant Ecological Types and Significance

The diverse topography and ecology of the reservation includes elevations from 2000-7800 feet with average rainfall ranging from 12-22 inches. Habitats include: the Sonoran desert and riparian river habitats, high desert grass and shrublands, piñon-juniper woodlands, chaparral, oak woodlands, and ponderosa pine, spruce, fir, and aspen forests. Residents of the reservation harvest wild food, medicinal plants and materials for crafts. They cut mesquites, juniper, and piñon for firewood.

## Natural Resource-Based Economic Activities

### Ranching

Beginning in the 19th century, tribal members built up herds from cattle granted to them by the U.S. government. The formation of the R100 Tribal Ranch, in 1938, and San Carlos Cattle Associations, in 1954, began the development of cattle ranching that still exists today.

### Agriculture

Community members grow squash, gourds, watermelon, corn, and sugar cane in family plots. The San Carlos Tribal Farm grew 469 acres of cotton and 75 acres of alfalfa hay on irrigated lands in 2007.

### Hunting, Fishing, and Recreation

Hunting, fishing, and recreation permits sold by the San Carlos Fisheries and Wildlife Department provide revenue to the tribe.

### Timber and Fuelwood Harvest

San Carlos reservation has commercial forestry operations, including a tribally owned sawmill that is leased to Precision Pine.

### Mining

The reservation has a small open pit peridot stone mine—it is one of the few places in the world where this semiprecious green stone exists. Agate stones are also mined on the reservation.

### Water Resources

The tribe received a large amount of water rights settlement monies related to farming activities. As a result, tribal agencies and organizations may apply for grants through the water rights office for specific projects.

### The Apache Gold Casino

Has a Best Western hotel, a golf course that is consistently ranked the number 1 public golf course in Arizona, a restaurant, a convenience store, a convention center, a covered rodeo arena, and numerous types of casino games.

## Part B: History of Extension

BIA introduced extension to San Carlos reservation in the 1950's. Prior to that time, new agricultural technologies were introduced to the reservation population by BIA Reservation Indian Agents.

### EIRP and FRTEP Extension

The Extension Indian Reservation Program (EIRP) began in 1992 in San Carlos, and was established to serve Native

Americans through 1862 Land Grant colleges, such as the University of Arizona, through federal funding. The EIRP program name was changed to the FRTEP (Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program) in 2006.

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