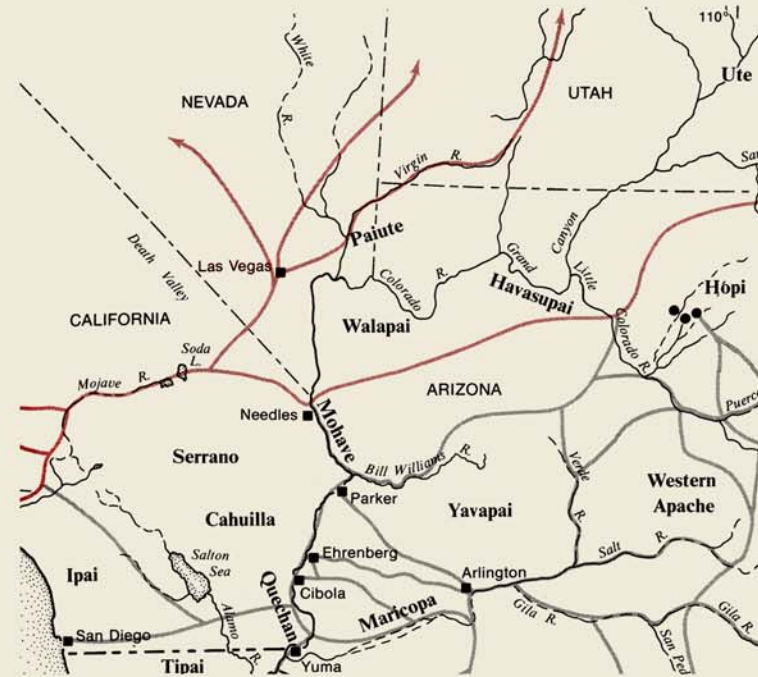


Sunset Regional Park

Native People of Paradise Valley



Traditional trade routes in the Southwest.
– Adapted from Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 10, Smithsonian Institution

Evidence shows that about a thousand years ago farmers and traders from the Southwest, people from the lower Colorado, and Southern Paiutes lived in and visited Paradise Valley. We know the Paiutes hunted, planted gardens, made pottery, and camped along Duck Creek, which flowed past Sunset Park. They also traded with the peoples of Nevada, Southern California, Utah and Arizona.

When the Spanish Trail opened in 1829-30, only Southern Paiutes lived in the Las Vegas Valley. Spanish Trail caravans raided Paiute camps for slaves. Since Paiutes had neither horses nor guns, they hid from outsiders, so travelers thought no one lived here.

The Mormons arrived in 1855 and developed a more cooperative relationship with the Southern Paiutes. The Mormons and later ranchers took the land along Las Vegas Springs, Las Vegas Creek, and Kiel Spring, leaving the Paiutes their small Paradise Valley camps.

When Paradise Valley was settled in 1908, the Southern Paiutes lost their camps and gardens. Some worked on the new ranches; others scattered. In 1911, the Paiute Indian Colony was established in Las Vegas to give a permanent home to the Paiutes of this area.

“Limping Jack” Holmes, a Shoshone worker on Tomiyasu Ranch, early 1920s.
– Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV



Early photo of a Paiute ramada.
– Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV

Leon Rockwell in door of Paiute shelter at mouth of Las Vegas Wash, 1909.
– Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV

