

## Hunter- Gatherer data sheet

### 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Northern Paiute, Numic, Uto-Aztecan
- 1.2 ISO Code: pao
- 1.3 Location: Great Basin in eastern California, western Nevada, southeast Oregon, and southwestern Idaho.
- 1.4 Brief History:
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Pyramid Lakes and Walker River reservations had schools in the late 1800's. Schools were established at sites of bigger tribal communities. In the early 1990's Indian schools were established throughout smaller communities.
- 1.6 Ecology:
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, and density: The Northern Paiute population was 1,430 people as of the year 2000. There were approximately 14 communities in the early 1990's. The size of communities ranged from 20 Paiute at Winnemucca tribe to almost 2000 Paiute at the Pyramid Lake tribe.

### 2. Economy:

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate: Pinon Pine nuts are an essential winter food. Rice grass, roots(tubers), and berries were also a part of the diet.
- 2.2 Main protein source: ducks( were shot with blunt arrowheads to stun to be caught) , rabbits (caught in large communal activates using nets), mountain sheep, deer, and antelope. Some bands fished while other in dryer areas hunted lizards, grubs and insects.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bows and arrows were the choice of weapon for hunting. They also used "rabbit sticks" to club the rabbit after it was caught in net. Later in Paiute history they received guns from the whites.
- 2.4 Food Storage: acorns were stored in conical granaries until they were processed.
- 2.5 Sexual Division of production: Females did most of the gathering of plants. They also were in in charge of managing the home life, and rearing the child. Children would help the mother gather food.
- 2.6 Land Tenure:
- 2.7 Ceramics: brown-ware pottery
- 2.8 Specified Sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Canoes/watercraft:

### 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 adult height:
- 3.2 adult weight:

### 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at Menarche:
- 4.2 Age at first birth: usually the women was young at her first birth.
- 4.3 Completed family size: Large families were the norm

- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval:
- 4.5 Age first marriage:
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: Divorce was possible and simple
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous:
- 4.8 Bride purchase, bride service, dowry:
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions:
- 4.11 Homosexual activities:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy:
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception? Are the fathers recognized? :
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly:
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process:
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape:
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse: true cross cousin marriage and also pseudo cross cousin marriage was practiced.
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms:
- 4.19 Gifts to extramarital partners:
- 4.20 If mother dies who raises child:
- 4.21 Adult sex Ratio:
- 4.22 Evidence for Couvades:
- 4.23 Distinction for potential fathers:
- 4.24 Kin avoidances:
- 4.25 Joking relationships:
- 4.26 Patterns of descent for certain rights: Kin ties were recognized bilaterally
- 4.27 Incest avoidance rules:
- 4.28 Formal marriage ceremony:
- 4.29 In which way does one get a name: usually there is a ceremony were the grandmother names the child approximately 30 days after birth.
- 4.30 Marriage within community or outside community: Most marriages were within the community but marriage outside of the community was not uncommon.
- 4.31 Are marriages arranged: Arranged by parents or grandparents
- 4.32 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

**5. Socio-political organization and interaction:**

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: mostly small family group sizes lived together. Because of the arid weather of some regions couldn't support large groups living together.
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: Tribes and groups moved around a lot because they were hunter-gatherers and moved with the food. In the fall when food was abundant it allowed more people to group together but in the winter when food was scarce the groups were much smaller.
- 5.3 Political System: Paiute tribes had chiefs who acted as advisors: They chose when it was time for a ceremony and to make sure everyone had food. They did not have absolute power because the tribes believed everyone was equal.

5.4 Post marital residence: married couples would usually live the women's family until their first born arrived. Then they would move into the husbands village afterwards.

5.11 Trade: Paiutes would trade other tribes for seashells.

## **6.Ritual/ Ceremony/religion**

6.1 Specializations: Shamans were abundant throughout the Paiute culture. Men and women could be Shamans. Paiute believed in supernatural things such as water, thunder, and animals.

6.3Deaths received more ceremony than did birth. Before funeral observations they would have a cry ceremony. The cry ceremony would be performed a year or two after the death occurred. At birth there was a naming ceremony anywhere from 1 to 30 days after the birth.

6.4 Other rituals: There was the ghost dance, Round dance is one of the oldest and most common dances performed before hunting and gathering seasons.

6.5 Cultural material: Paiute people had popular songs associated with hand games, round dances and doctor curing's.

6.10 Death and after life beliefs: Death was accepted as a normal part of life. Usually the body was buried with the head facing west where the spirit would travel until reaching the land of the dead. Singing and dancing helped thought to help the dead leave their family and friends to head to the next life.

6.13 Religion: Paiute religion was based off totemic spirits who possessed super powers.

## **7 Adornments**

7.1 Body paint: face paint was used for special occasions and rituals.

7.2 Piercings: Men and women would pierce their ears to wear feathered quail bones.

7.4 Scarification: Men and women wore tattoos on their face.

7.5 adornments: Men and women wore necklaces made of sea shells.

7.6 Ceremonial/ ritual adornment: Paint was used for rituals

## **References:**

1. <http://sierrahistorical.org/archives/monoindians.html>
2. <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/paiutes.htm>
3. <http://www.crystalinks.com/paiute.html>
4. [http://www.cabrillo.edu/crsmith/noamer\\_gbasin.htm](http://www.cabrillo.edu/crsmith/noamer_gbasin.htm)
5. [http://staff.jccc.net?scorbett01/native%20americans/na\\_5.htm](http://staff.jccc.net?scorbett01/native%20americans/na_5.htm)

I believe the Northern Paiute were traditional hunter gatherers because I found no information about them herding or raising crops. I did hear about the southern Paiute growing crops but nothing about the northern Paiute. They hunted and fished for their food. They also gathered their vegetables from the area around them.