



KAIBAB BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



SHIVWITS BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



CEDAR BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



Kanosh Band of Paiute Indians
KANOSH BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



KOOSHAREM BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



INDIAN PEAKS BAND
OF PAIUTE INDIANS



PAIUTE INDIAN
TRIBE OF UTAH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paiute Tribes respond to USU Confirmation of Graves at the Panguitch Indian Boarding School

PANGUITCH, UTAH— Members of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Shivwits Band of Paiutes, Cedar Band of Paiutes, Indian Peaks Band of Paiutes, Kanosh Band of Paiutes, Koosharem Band of Paiutes, and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Impacted Indian OR Paiute Tribes), are devastated after learning that a USU survey confirmed two Kaibab Paiute children, four Shivwits children, as well as additional children from other Indian Tribes, are likely buried on the grounds of the former Panguitch Indian Boarding School.

The Panguitch Indian Boarding School was operated from 1904 – 1909 and, as with all other Indian Boarding Schools of this era, was driven by the assimilationist policy intended to strip children of their Native language, culture, and heritage. These children were taken from their families at very young ages, were not permitted to communicate in the only language they had ever known and were forced into manual labor to maintain the facility.

Over the past couple of years, researchers have provided historical evidence that there were children buried in unmarked graves near the school. The results of the survey confirmed the presence of graves. “Our hearts go out to the families of these children as we are left to consider how best to honor and memorialize their suffering. This is but the first step toward healing and reconciliation and we will, in collaboration with the descendants of those children we believe we’ve identified, determine what our next steps will be,” stated Ona Segundo, Chairwoman of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.

The news of the findings was shared with the Impacted Indian Tribes by Utah State University (USU) and Steven Lee pursuant to agreements between the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Shivwits Band, and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and USU. In accordance with the Agreements, and in consultation with the Impacted Tribes, USU representatives and Steven Lee performed a remote sensing survey using ground penetrating radar and magnetic gradiometry at and around the site of the former Panguitch Boarding School. Based on the results of the remote sensing survey coupled with historical research, they confirm approximately twelve (12) internments located on the school’s property.

Hope Silvas, Chairwoman of the Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians, reflected on the children. “When we first gathered to find you, far away from home we felt your spirits welcome us with mischief and happiness only we could recognize and respect. Our hearts filled with sorrow and anger to hear of your mistreatment, to forcefully change your spirits into someone you are not. We will remember you always and how you walked here in life. Our tears will fall as we sing for you. May your spirits journey home in a good way to reunite with your family who also wondered where you went.”

The Impacted Indian Tribes extend their sincere gratitude to Dr. Molly Cannon and Dr. Judson Byrd Finley of USU and Steven Lee for their tireless work, expertise, and support on this most important and sensitive matter.