Using GIS to Understand How the Paiute People Irrigated Lands

Harry Williams – Tribal Elder
BryAnna Vaughan – Water Quality Coordinator
Brittni Brown – AmeriCorps Member; Watershed Project Coordinator
Members of the Bishop Paiute Tribe are descendants of the "Nu-Mu".

In 1912, the U.S. Government reserved over 67,000 acres of lands in the Owens Valley for the Native Americans of the area.

In 1932, President Hoover revoked the 67,000 acre reserved lands and placed them in watershed protection status for the City of Los Angeles.

In 1936, the City of Los Angeles wanted the remaining lands and the U.S. traded these lands for the 875 acres that are recognized today as the Bishop Paiute Reservation.
BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE
THE REDISCOVERY STORY
THEN THE SCHOLARS CAME

JENNA CAVELLE

- Visiting Research Scholar – UC Berkeley
  - Project: Recovering Cultural Memory: Irrigation Systems of the Owens Valley Paiute Indians
  - Sponsor: Judith Lee Stronach Prize

- Filmmaker – PAYA the Movie
  - A film that captures history in the making. Water Wars, the LA Aqueduct Centenary and the Native American movement (Idle No More) intersect in fascinating ways that make for a timely documentary.

- USC Media Institute for Social Change
  - MFAc Film & TV, USC School of Cinematic Arts
THEN THE SCHOLARS CAME

CHRIS MORROW

Water Resource Engineering – UC Davis
Graduate Research Fellow – National Science Foundation

Project Credits:
- Extensive GPS mapping of ancient irrigation ditch network
- Photo points
- Researched/colllected historic survey, irrigation and land ownership maps
- PAYA Documentary Report for Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
  - Funded by UC Berkeley Judith Lee Stronach Prize & BIA
- Sketch of Paiute man with Pavato

Note: many of the pictures in the presentation were taken by Chris – thanks!
Lidar data from City of Bishop Public Works Department

RAR file extraction into .LAS files

Calculated statistics

INITIAL DATA COLLECTION
BASE LAYERS
SURFACE ANALYSIS
HYDROLOGY TOOLS
REMOVING UNNECESSARY POLYLINE
ETHNOGRAPHIC MAP
FIELD CHECKING
Questions?

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