



Lands of the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui



Climbing: An Indigenous Perspective

Ashleigh Thompson (Red Lake Ojibwe), M.A.

Nde (Chiricahua Apache) Lands, Cochise Stronghold

Timeline of Federal Indian Policy

1770s – 1820s	1830s – 1850s	1850s – 1890s	1870s – 1930s	1930s – 1950s	1950s – 1960s	1960s – 1988s	1988 – Present
Sovereign to Sovereign	Indian Removal	Reservation Period	Assimilation	Indian Self-Rule	Termination and Assimilation	Self-Determination	Self-Determination and Self-Governance

Looking towards Bears Ears from Navajo Nation

Indigenous People of Turtle Island

5.2 million Indigenous people (2010 U.S. census)

573 U.S. federally recognized tribal nations

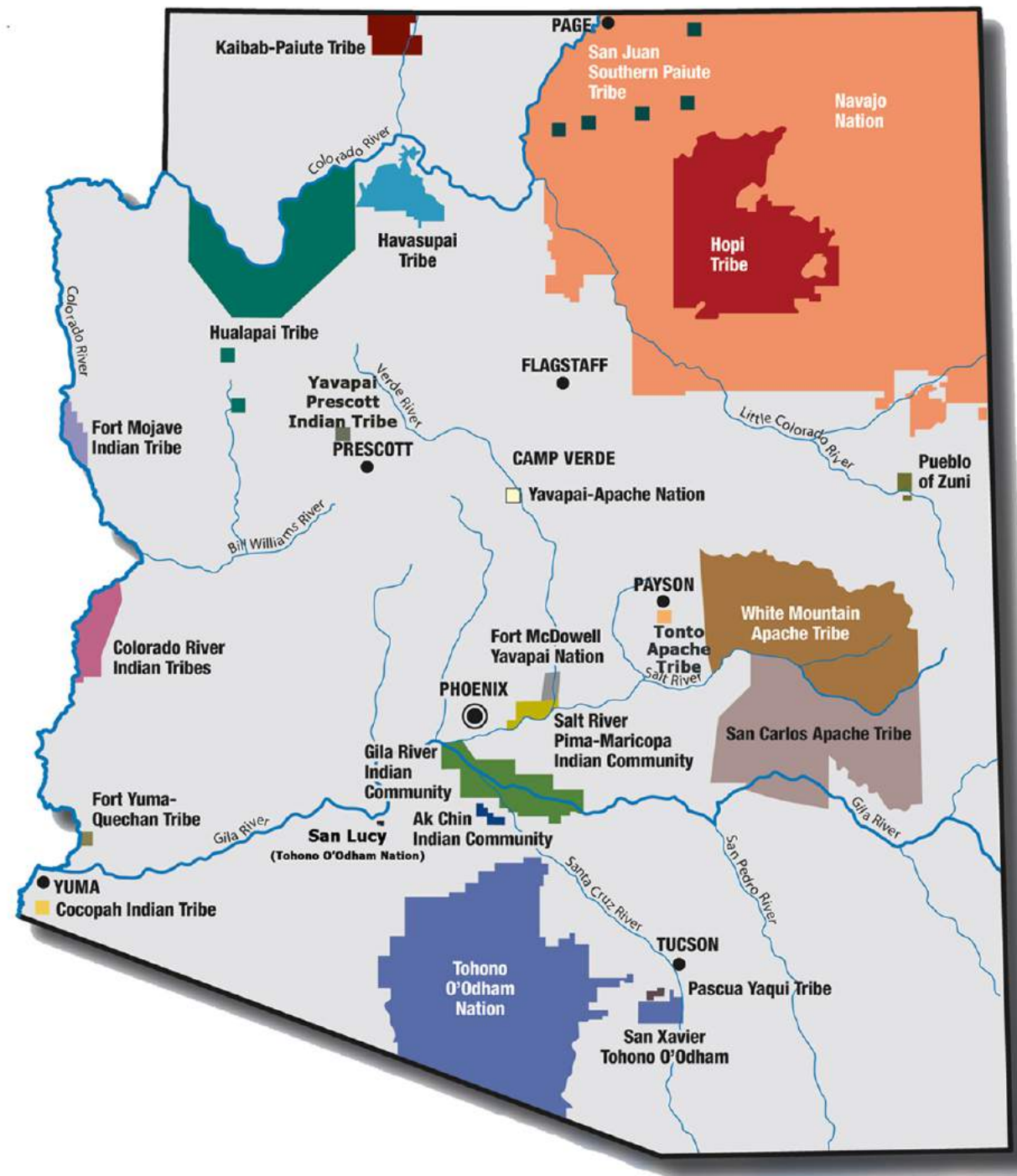
22 Native Nations in Arizona

30% of land in Arizona is tribal land

All land is ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples

Phoenix is third US city with greatest number of Indigenous people

Two reservations in Tucson: Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui



Indigenous Connection to Place

“Our knowledges are bound to place”
(Kovach 2009:37).

“Our ancestors watched and listened. The land was their book. The land has given us our understandings, beliefs, perceptions, laws, customs. It has bent and shaped our notions of human nature, conduct and the Great Laws... The land has given us everything” (Johnston 2003: xiii).



Cuk Şon (Tucson) with Waw Giwulk (Baboquivari) in the background



“A lot of the Indian tribes, the Apache people, have a special blessing or a special saying that goes with being attracted to any land area where they may call home. There’s a spirit that is there. There’s a strength and from that they are given the power to deal with hardships, hard times, whether it be war, whether it be sickness, whether it be droughts, whether it be too much rain, flooding, anything. There’s a strength that comes from the homelands of a lot of Indian people.”

–Silas Cochise, great grandson of Cochise



Climbers & Indigenous People: A History of Contention

Bear Lodge Butte (Devils Tower National Monument)

Significant to 20+ tribes, including Kiowa, Cheyenne, Lakota, Arapaho, Crow, and Shoshone.

Cave Rock National Historic Site, Nevada

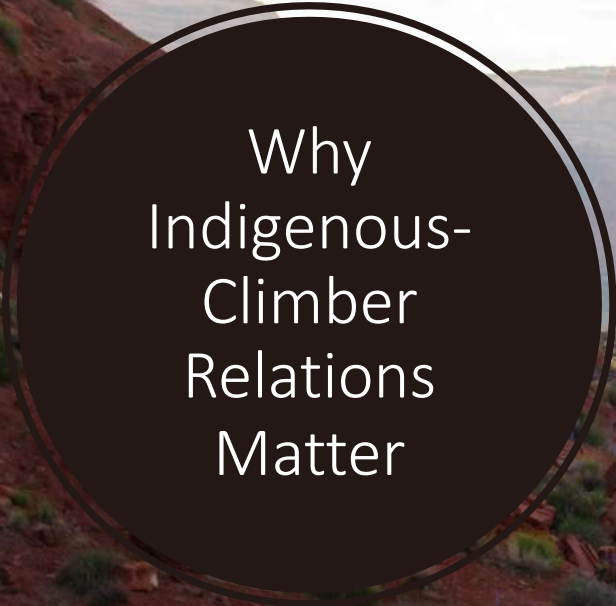
Washoe

Navajo Nation climbing ban (i.e. Shiprock)


Bishop Paiute & removal of bolts

More


Al Momaday's (Kiowa) illustration of Bear Butte



Why
Indigenous-
Climber
Relations
Matter



Lands of the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute+, Bears Ears National Monument



How do we
create good
relations
between
climbers and
the Native
community?

Relationship
Responsibility
Reciprocity
Redistribution

(Harris and Wasilewski 2004)

Little Cottonwood Canyon, Ute Lands, Utah

Cultural Insensitivity and Appropriation

Trail of Tears, Wigwam Dome, Colorado

Other routes names

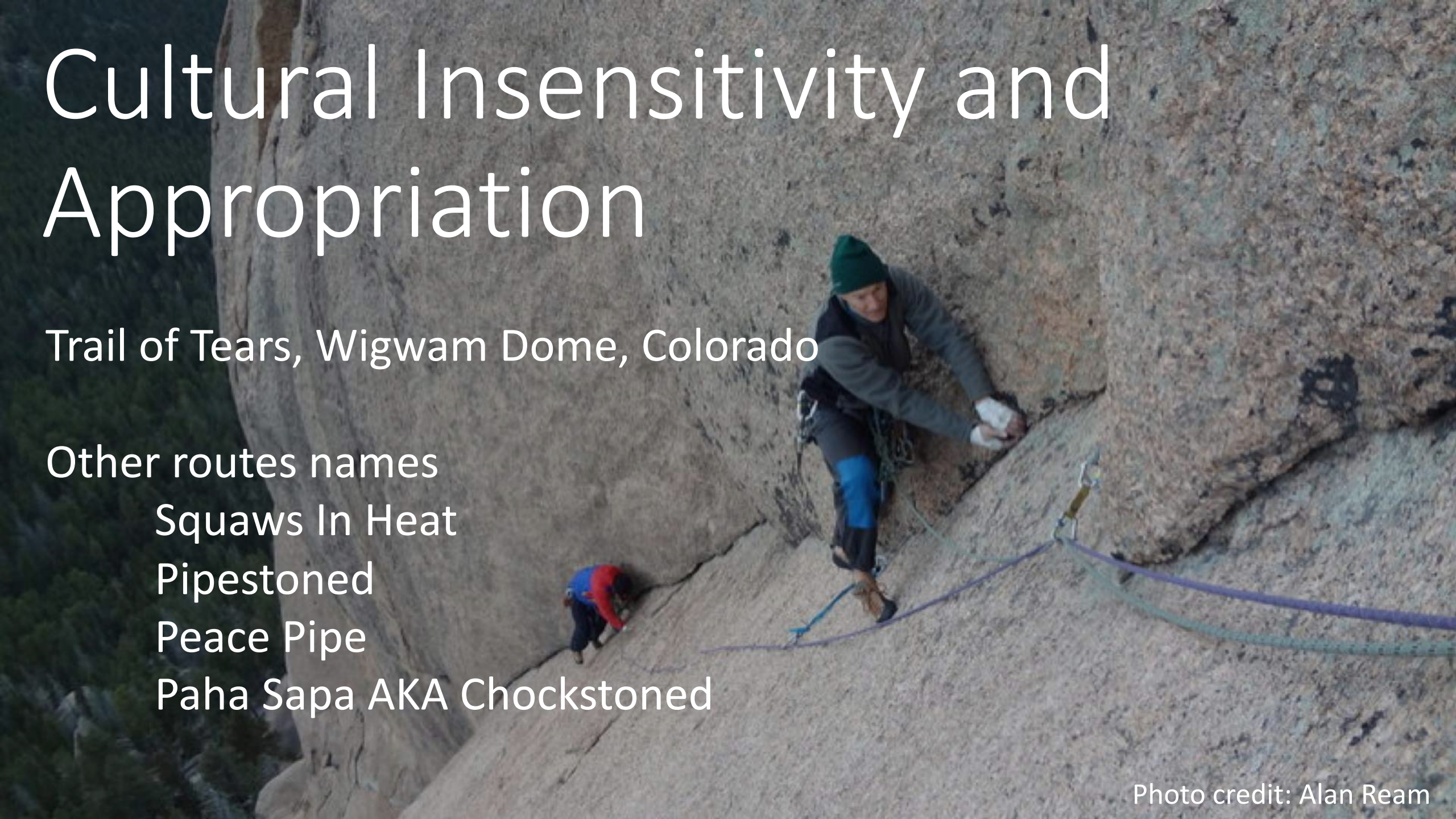
Squaws In Heat

Pipestoned

Peace Pipe

Paha Sapa AKA Chockstoned

Photo credit: Alan Ream



Static Climbing and
the “Navajo Line”

Gear called totems

Chalk as “war
paint”



Babad Do'ag, Tohono O'odham lands, Arizona

“Through films and stories, non-Indians have shaped the public's perception of Indians and Indians' perception of themselves in a way that has harmed Indians. **One of the primary harms is to negate the reality of Native peoples' separate political and cultural status and transform them into some quaint aspect of the dominant society's 'culture.'** Thus, cultural appropriation can have a direct impact upon tribal sovereignty” (Tsosie 2002).



A hiker wearing a black helmet and a red backpack is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, rocky mountain landscape. The terrain is rugged with large, reddish-brown boulders and sparse green vegetation. In the distance, there are prominent, jagged rock formations under a clear sky. The scene is captured in bright, natural light, suggesting a clear day.

It depends.

Can I climb on tribal land?



How to recreate respectfully

Research restrictions on climbing

Look into local tribal protocols

Know whose land your on (and share it!)

native-lands.ca

Use the Indigenous name/s

Think twice before using Indigenous-themed names, jokes, & comments

Practice good stewardship

Support Indigenous activism

Hire Natives & buy Native

Make space for Indigenous people

Accounts to learn more

Indigenous Womxn Climb

Indigenous Women Hike

Native Women's Wilderness

Brown Girls Climb

Climbing in Color

NativesOutdoors

Indigenous Geotags

Reclaim Your Power

Indigenous Goddess Gang

Protect Bears Ears (Utah Diné Bikéyah)

Winona LaDuke

Payahuunadü (Bishop), Lands of the Nüümü (Owens Paiute)

Questions and Comments

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A woman wearing a red helmet and climbing gear is climbing a rock face. She is wearing a maroon tank top and grey pants. Her gear includes a harness, carabiners, and a rope. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and rocks.

Miigwech | Thanks!

Babad Do'ag, Tohono O'odham lands, Arizona.
Picture credit: Caitlin Rathbun