



ALLIANCE OF CALIFORNIA TRIBES

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Member Tribes](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Member Tribes](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Home](#)

Member Tribes

Big Sandy Rancheria

Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians

P.O. Box 337
32041 Auberry Rd., Suite 101
Auberry, California 95602
Phone: (559) 855-4003
Fax: (559) 855-4129

Chairperson: Wilbur Beecher
Vice-Chairperson: Pearl Hutchins

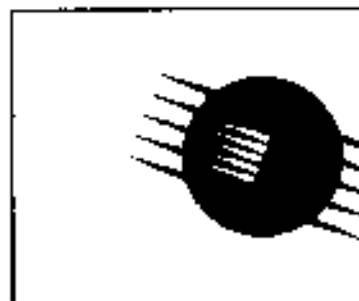
County: Fresno
Tribal Status: Federally Recognized
Membership - Tribe Wide: 375
Membership - Service Area: 70
Membership Criteria: Lineal Descedancy
Landbase: 120 Acres
IRA Status: Non-IRA
Governing Body: Tribal Council
Elections: Every other year
Date of Last Election: September 2000
Culture/Language: Western Mono, Ite-Aztecian

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS:

Big Sandy Rancheria lies on the western edge of the Sierra National Forest. The closest Auberry, while Fresno, the nearest urban area, is only 40 miles to the southwest. Shave the Sierra National Forest, is only 15 miles from Big Sandy. A small reservation, Big Sandy located on a flood plain, which hinders the community's ability to expand.

Big Sandy, along with two other rancherias, was established by the federal government Western Mono people in 1909. Big Sandy's federal status was initially rescinded during pursuant to the decision in Big Sandy Band v. Watt in the 1980s, both community and owned lands were accepted into federal trust.



CULTURE AND HISTORY.

The Western Mono Indians who live on the Big Sandy Rancheria are descendants of people who traditionally spoke a Shoshonean language, a large language group within the family of languages spoken in the Great Basin, in parts of California, by the Comanches and by Mexico. Economic pressures and government policies contributed to the Western Mono traditional homes in the Central Sierra Nevada of California and moving into more dense areas during the 1900's.

The Western Mono people were considered legally "landless" until pressure from the California Indian Association, a Protestant activist group, pressured the federal government to grant three small rancherias for them in 1909. On Big Sandy Rancheria, the American Home Society established churches and schools at an early date. A number of individuals were able to acquire land through the allotment process.

The small size of the rancheria has always represented its biggest challenge in terms of development. Prior to World War I, rancheria members worked as loggers, ropers, shepherds, and general ranch hands. Women usually worked in the service industry as domestics or as child care. Families of loggers returned to their mountain homes during the summer logging season; they continued their traditional gathering practices. Urban pull factors, such as better job opportunities and educational opportunities, dramatically decreased the community's population after World War II.

After having its federal-trust status terminated during the 1950s, Big Sandy was reinstated as a tribal entity during the 1980s. The Big Sandy Rancheria, along with the Wabonuch Rancheria, are recipients of a National Park Service grant designed to help preserve the groups' heritage.

MONO-WESTERN (MONACHE) - The traditional territory of the Western Mono people is in south-central Sierra Nevada foothills. Their language belongs to the Uto-Aztecan language family, related to Paiute and to languages extending eastward into the Great Basin and the Southwest as far as central Mexico and beyond. Their main food resource was acorns, while they did also hunt and gather to a lesser extent on other vegetable foods and game. Today they live on the Big Sandy, Central Fork, and North Fork rancherias, as well as in the town of Dunlap.

GOVERNMENT

The rancheria is governed by a five-member Tribal Council, including a chairperson, a secretary, treasurer, and a member-at-large. All members serve for 2 years.

Credits:

Selected tribal climate, location, land status, government, history, and cultural information included in the Profile as authorized for use in this web site by Tribal Data Resources, Inc. with Tiller Research, Inc. as follows:

Use of data from has been authorized under licensing agreement with Veronica L. Tiller Research, Inc., dated May 27, 1997. "Tiller's Guide to Indian Country - Economic Profile of American Indian Reservations" - Copyright 1996 Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 96-081326 ISBN 1-885931-01-8

For more information on Tiller's Guide to Indian Country, contact: Bow Arrow Publishers, Tiller Research, Inc., Albuquerque, NM 1-888-336-8207

[BACK](#)

[Home](#) | [About ACT](#) | [Member Tribes](#) | [Legislation](#) | [News](#) | [California Indians](#) | [Tribal Links](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Me](#)
Copyright ©2001 Alliance of California Tribes. All rights reserved.