

# THE HOPI RESERVATION QUICK FACTS

Located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, the Hopi people trace their history in Arizona to more than 2,000 years, but their history as a people goes back many more thousands of years. According to their legends, the Hopi migrated north to Arizona from the south, up from what is now South America, Central America and Mexico.

The Hopi Reservation occupies part of Navajo and Coconino counties and encompasses approximately 1,542,306 acres. Having inhabited this high and dry area since the 12th century, the Hopi have developed a unique agriculture practice, "dry farming".

The Hopi Tribe has a Tribal Council that includes both elected and appointed representatives depending on the village that sends them to council. Some Hopi Villages choose to not send representatives to Tribal Council. Throughout the Hopi reservation, every village is an autonomous government. However the Hopi Tribal Council makes law for the tribe and sets policy to oversee tribal business. Elections for Tribal Chairman and Vice Chairman are held every four year through a reservation-wide vote of enrolled tribal members

There is no private ownership of land: these were clan and village lands before the Federal Government arrived and turned them into trust lands. The traditional clan and village ownership of land survives. Property passes from mother to daughter. Men move to their wife's village and farm her fields.

Twelve Villages make up the Hopi Reservation. These villages are found at both the base and the top of three mesas that project to the south from Black Mesa. Hopi and Tewa are the traditional spoken languages of the Hopi Reservation.

A part of the Colorado Plateau, the main reservation is topographically diverse, ranging from 5000 feet at its southwest corner to over 7000 in the northwestern part. Ecological communities include wash riparian communities,

high desert grasslands, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine forests. Traditionally, plants and game were harvested from all these communities, and many tribal members continue to harvest wild plants and game today. Rangeland and farming areas are managed for agricultural activities such as livestock ranching and dryland farming. The Tribe also monitors water quality at dozens of springs and wetlands and has conducted restoration activities at several of these sites.

There are many research topics of current interest for which the Tribe has established programs and data, including the following:

- Health and traditional foods, with an ongoing interest in community wellness and participatory research
- Rangelands and wildlife, including treatment of woody species encroachment.
- Water, including protection of water quality, wetlands, and groundwater aquifers.

## References

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