

Cultural Affiliation Position Paper:

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Introduction

The following statement is the official position of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo regarding its cultural affiliation to so-called prehistoric and historic areas, sites, locales, monuments and/or traditions. Tribal Council approached this report as a way of expediting any and all consultations pursuant to NAGPRA, AIRFA, NEPA, and the NHPA. Archaeological and ethnographic data, oral tradition, historic documentation and linguistic evidence were collected and analyzed in the development of this statement.

Position

1. The Tigua Tribe of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is a Federally-Recognized Indian Tribe.

The Tribe received federal recognition on 12 April 1968 when President Johnson signed Public Law 90-287. The law stated that "the Indians now living in El Paso County, Texas, who are the descendants of the Tiwa Indians of Ysleta (Isleta) del Sur Pueblo, settling in Texas at Ysleta in 1682, shall from and after the ratification of this act be known and designated as the Tiwa Indians of Ysleta, Texas..." The bill also transferred the Tribe to the jurisdiction of the State of Texas. In 1987, the Ysleta del Sur Restoration Act transferred the Tribe to the jurisdiction of the United States government, as a dependent sovereign nation.

2. The Tigua Tribe of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is a Pueblo Indian Nation.

The Tigua are "Pueblo Indians." As the Spanish pushed northward during the 16th century, they encountered a vast majority of indigenous peoples who were living in sedentary communities characterized by compact, multi-chambered structures situated around central plazas. The Spanish called these villages or settlements *pueblos* and the people living there, "Pueblo Indians." An important distinction emerged for the Spanish and other colonial powers between agricultural, village dwelling Pueblo Indians and other "roving" or "hostile" Indians, such as the Apache, who lived a more nomadic, foraging way of life. Virtually all European colonial powers recognized settled indigenous groups as more "civilized" compared to those "dissident" groups with nomadic inclinations. Therefore, Ysleta del Sur is culturally affiliated with all known Puebloan groups including the 19 New Mexico Pueblos, the Hopi Tribe in Arizona, and all Ancestral Puebloan groups including so-called Anasazi peoples and sites.

3. The Tigua Tribe of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is affiliated with all "Ancestral Pueblo" or so-called "Anasazi" sites.

Broadly speaking, all Pueblos have a basis for claiming cultural affiliation from all

Anasazi sites in the San Juan region. Clan migrations, intermarriage and regroupings of people into communities as they are known today makes this statement possible. As a Tanoan speaking group, Ysleta del Sur maintains the same oral tradition which states that Tanoan speaking groups lived in the Four Corners region prior to the arrival of Keresan speakers. This affiliation is probably more substantial among some Tiwa speakers more than others.

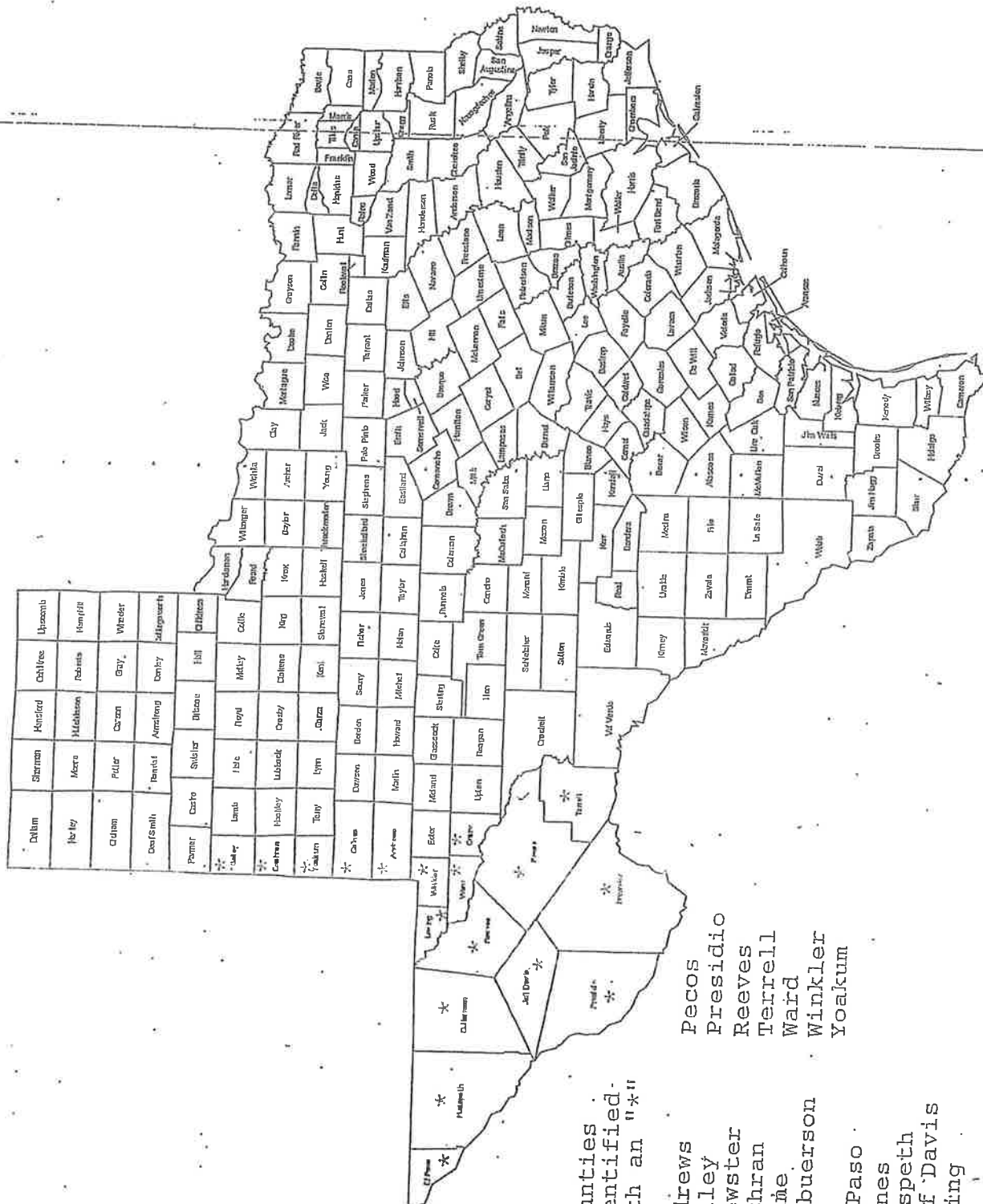
4. The Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur is affiliated with all Jornada Mogollon, Piro, Suma, Manso and Jumano sites.

Broadly speaking, this affiliation is based on the fact that the Pueblo has ancestral ties to the Saline Province of New Mexico, an area of overlap between "Anasazi" and "Jornada Mogollon" cultural areas. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo consists of people who are descendants of the Tiwa of Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico, and the pueblos of the New Mexico Saline Province which includes the Tiwa pueblos of Quarai, Chilili, Tajique and Tompiro-speaking pueblos of Abo, Las Humanas (Gran Quivira) and Tabira. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo also has descendants from and hence affiliation with all archaeologically and historically known Piro communities found south of Isleta, New Mexico. Subsequent to the 1680 relocation to the El Paso area, the Tigua intermarried with Piros, Manso and Suma Indians. The Manso and Suma were part of the Jumano tradition and like the Jumano, were Tanoan speakers. Over time, the Tigua absorbed all these cultural traditions and today represents the only federally-recognized tribe having cultural affiliation with Piro, Suma, Manso and Jumano traditions.

5. The Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur is culturally affiliated with all prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic indigenous cultural traditions found in the Tribe's Spanish Land Grant areas as well as its aboriginal claim area.

The aboriginal claim area, including the Ysleta and Socorro Grants, covers the Texas counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster. Within this vast area are a number of religious shrines; historic sites, spiritual activity areas and biotic cultural resources of continuing critical importance to the Tribe's well-being.

MAP OF TEXAS COUNTIES



Countries
Identified
with an "*"

Andrews
Bailey
Brewster
Cochran
Crane
Culberson
El Paso
Gaines
Hudspeth
Jeff Davis
Loving
Pecos
Presidio
Reeves
Terrell
Ward
Winkler
Yoakum