

# Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgments

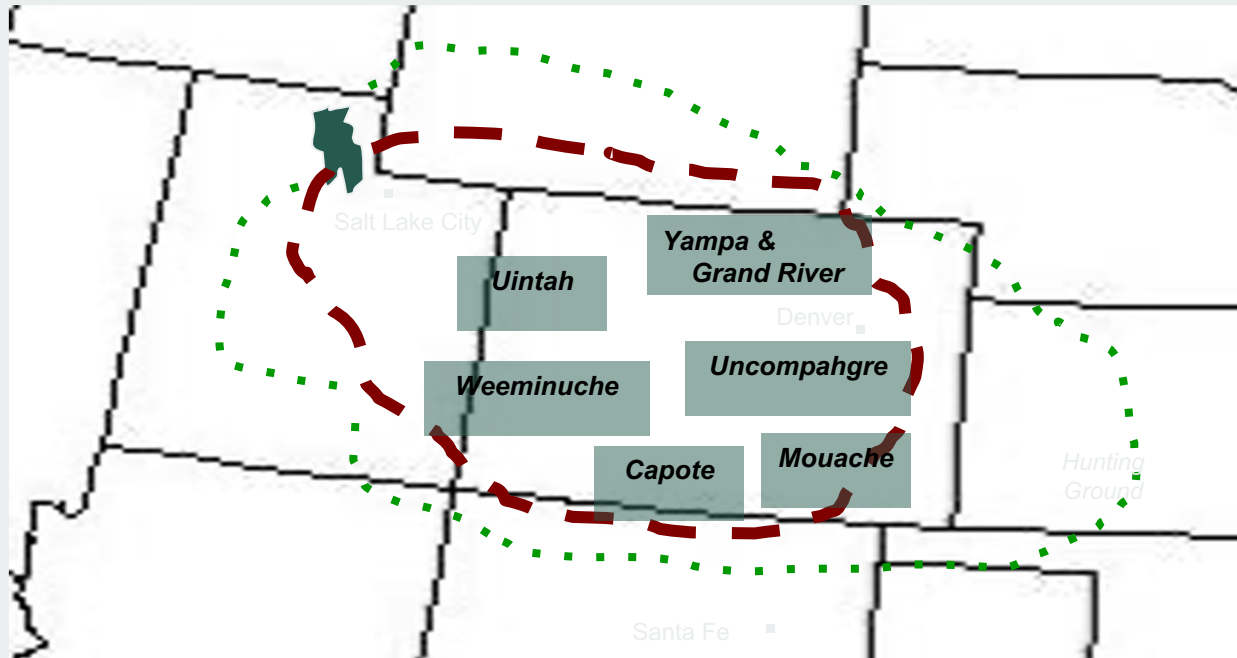
April 15, 2024

Ernest House, Jr.  
Senior Policy Director  
Director, Center of Tribal and Indigenous Engagement  
Keystone Policy Center

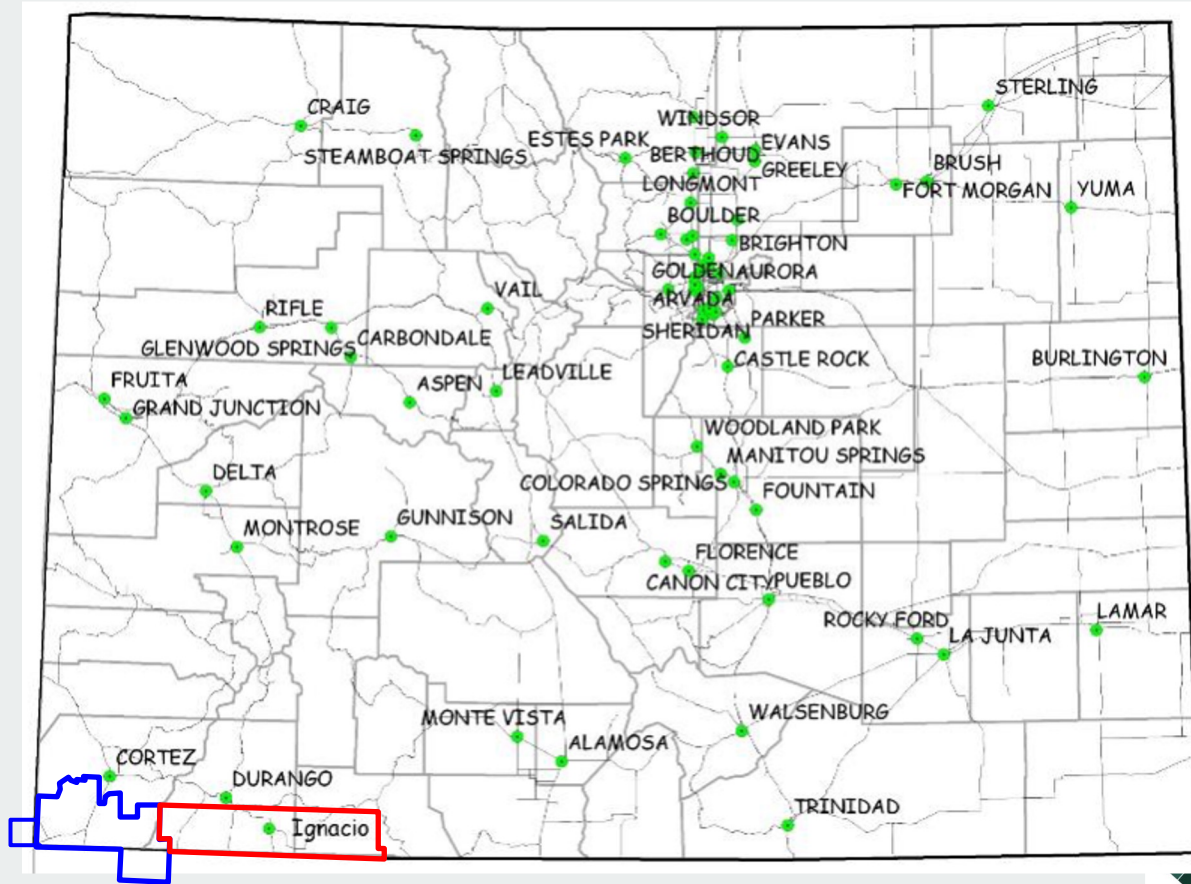
# Colorado's American Indian/Alaska Native Population

- American Indians/Alaska Natives make up less than 2% of the total Colorado population
- Over 80,000 AI/AN statewide with over 80% living within the Denver metro area (7 county district)
- Over 150 tribes are represented among that 80% AI/AN living the urban area
- Sioux nations are most represented and Navajo Nation members are fastest growing

# Seven Ute Indian Bands and Original Ute Territory



# 1895 through Present-Day Ute Reservations of Colorado



# Tribes with a Legacy of Occupation in Colorado

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Comanche Indian Tribe  
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
Crow Nation  
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of Wind River Indian Reservation  
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
Hopi Tribe  
Jicarilla Apache Tribe  
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma  
Mescalero Apache Tribe  
Navajo Nation  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
Ohkay Owingeh (Pueblo of San Juan)  
Osage Nation of Oklahoma  
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah  
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma  
Pueblo of Acoma  
Pueblo of Cochiti  
Pueblo of Isleta  
Pueblo of Jemez  
Pueblo of Laguna  
Pueblo of Nambe  
Pueblo of Picuris  
Pueblo of Pojoaque  
Pueblo of San Felipe  
Pueblo of San Ildefonso  
Pueblo of Sandia  
Pueblo of Santa Ana  
Pueblo of Santa Clara  
Pueblo of Santo Domingo  
Pueblo of Taos  
Pueblo of Tesuque  
Pueblo of Zia  
Pueblo of Zuni  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation  
Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray Reservation)  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

OP-ED

# Land Acknowledgments Are Not Enough

Three anthropologists decry the use of land acknowledgments when they fail to advocate for genuine Indigenous sovereignty and the return of stolen lands.

By Elisa Sobo, Michael C. Lambert, and Valerie L. Lambert  
20 OCT 2021

- Facebook
- Twitter
- CC BY-NC-ND
- Print
- Link
- Menu

This article was originally published at The Conversation and has been republished under Creative Commons.



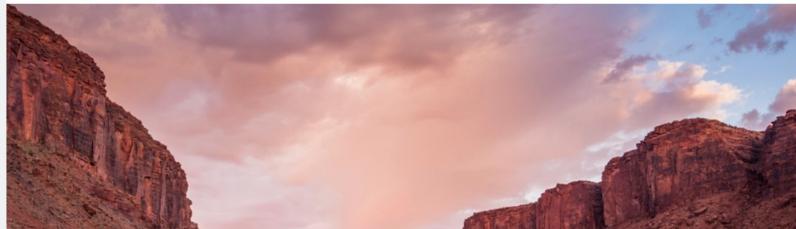
ELISA SOBO is the chair of anthropology at San Diego State University.



Many events these days begin with land acknowledgments: earnest statements acknowledging that activities are taking place on land that has been stolen from Indigenous peoples.

## We Need to Reframe Why We Do Land Acknowledgments

A few years ago, I was a vocal proponent of the outdoor industry incorporating Indigenous land acknowledgments as standard business practice. As it's become more common, my perspective has evolved.



# Tribal Collaboration, Co-Management, and Land Back!

## City and County of Denver Donates Bison to Tribal Nations

Published on March 21, 2022

Today, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) recognized the donation of 33 American Bison to the Northern Arapaho Tribe (<https://northernarapaho.com/>), Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes (<https://cheyenneandrapaho.nsn.gov/>) and Tall Bull Memorial Council (<https://www.facebook.com/TallBullMemorialGrounds/>) to reintroduce wild bison and support conservation efforts on tribal lands.



Seventeen American Bison were presented to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma, and 15 bison will be transferred to the Northern Arapaho Tribe located in Wyoming. One bison will be given to the Tall Bull Memorial Council.

DPR previously auctioned off bison. This auction kept the bison within the managed bison population. Partners to select American bison and enhance conservation herds.

"For over a century now, Denver remains committed to their conservation efforts with our tribal partners, American conservation herds."

## Chipeta Rising Celebration

Join the Chipeta Mountain Project and Chipeta's family and tribal leaders for a variety of engaging cultural events to celebrate the name change of Chipeta Mountain.

MENU

HighCountryNews

## What Indigenous leaders think about co-managing Bears Ears with the feds

*Native advocates share their hopes and relief after decades of fighting for their ancestral lands.*

CHIPETA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

CHIPETA RISING CELEBRATION

NAME CHANGE

GET INVOLVED

MEDIA

CONTACT



signed an intergovernmental agreement for Bears Ears National Monument during a historic congressional hearing during the House Natural Resources Committee



KEYSTONE  
POLICY CENTER

# “Collaboration Happens at the Speed of Trust”

## The Need for Local/Tribal Consultation...

- To enable the creation of strategies that effectively address the unique challenges and opportunities.
- To leverage opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborations between NGO's, Municipalities, State Agencies, Tribes, and Colorado's AI/AN communities.
- To meet consultation requirements established under MOU, MOA, IGA, and/or additional federal or state guidelines.





*Thank you for your  
time!*

**TOGOY-AQK**