



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Chief Winnemucca

- Paiute leader, Chief Winnemucca was born at the sink of Humboldt River.
- His father, Chief Truckee, developed good relationships with many whites passing through the area and became well known as a reliable guide for those passing over the Sierra's.
- During one of his absences, Chief Truckee "called upon his son, Po-i-to, who later became known as Chief Winnemucca, to serve as chief in his absence. He made his son promise to keep the peace with his white brothers while he was gone (1)."
- Winnemucca rose in stature as a leader when U.S. military leaders began negotiating with the various Paiute bands. Chiefs in the post-white were military leaders rather than economic leaders.
- Winnemucca made strides to keep the peace with whites, but did not share the same enthusiasm toward white culture as his father had.
- Winnemucca was awarded a uniform by the United States Army for his assistance. He is pictured wearing the uniform. Other photos show him wearing his traditional attire as well.
- There are several interpretations of the meaning of "Winnemucca." These include; charitable man, man with a hole in his nose (his nose was pierced) and one moccasin.
- Chief Winnemucca's daughter, Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, recounted a scene in her young age when her father soberly addressed their people:



"These white people must be a great nation, as they have houses that move. It is wonderful to see them move along. I fear we will suffer greatly by them coming to our country; they come for no good to us, although my father said they were our brothers, but they do not seem to think we are like them...Maybe I am wrong. My dear children, there is something telling me that I am not wrong, because I am sure they have minds like us, and think as we do; and I know that they were doing wrong when they set fire to our winter supplies. They surely knew it was our food (2)."

Chief Winnemucca

Information obtained from

1. Truckee Donner Historical Society, <http://truckeehistory.tripod.com/history4.htm>.
2. Winnemucca Hopkins, Sarah. Reproduction of Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Claims. Bishop, CA. Sierra Media, Inc. 1969
3. Photo Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society.



Chief Winnemucca