

The Cultural Conservancy - Salt Song Trail Project

These songs are very powerful. They are the songs that are going to unite our people again. It's going to be a spiritual awakening of the Native American people, especially other Paiute people. It has to happen. It has been prophesized. How do you stop prophecy? You can't stop prophecy. -- Vivienne Caron Jake (Kaibab Paiute), co-founder, The Salt Song Trail Project.

PROGRAMS**Current Projects****The Salt Song Trail Project****Indigenous Forum at Bioneers****Media Productions****Cultural Media Workshops****California Indian Basket Projects****"Guardians of the Water" Canoe Project****Native Circle of Food****Traditional Foodways of Native America - Oral Histories of Native Food Revitalization****The Storyscape Project****Past Projects****Indigenous Language Repatriation Project****Mojave Creation Songs****The Storyscape Project Ethnographic Audio/Video Recording Workshops (SPEAR)****Tibetan Cultural Preservation Project****Artist-In-Residence Program****JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST****The Sacred Salt Songs of the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) People**

Salt Song CD Cover

We have had the honor and privilege of working with the Salt Song Trail Project's co-founders and co-directors Vivienne Jake (Kaibab Paiute) and Matthew Leivas, Sr. (Chemehuevi) whose vision has been to preserve and revitalize the Salt Songs (Asi Huviv Puruakain) of the Southern Paiute (Nuwuvi) people. The Salt Songs are the sacred songs of the Nuwuvi and are used at memorial and other ceremonies, for cultural revitalization and as a spiritual bond for the Southern Paiute people living in the Southwest. The songs describe a physical and spiritual landscape of the Colorado Plateau, painted deserts and river valleys, and the Salt Song Trail traces the journeys of ancestral peoples to historic, spiritual and sacred sites.



Salt Song DVD Cover

The Salt Song Trail project includes original recordings of the Salt Songs for exclusive use by the Nuwuvi, two documentary films and a cultural map of the Nuwuvi's sacred landscapes described by the Salt Songs.

**Article about the Salt Song Trail Project**

In 2001, we traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada for an historic recording of the 142 song cycle with thirteen singers from thirteen Nuwuvi bands and tribes. The lead singer for the recording was 89 year old Willis Mayo (Kaibab Paiute). The recordings were provided exclusively to the singers in what we refer to as "catch and release" ethnography and all intellectual and cultural property rights are retained by the Salt Song Trail Project.

The Salt Song Trail Documentaries

Matthew Leivas (Chemehuevi), Larry Eddy (Chemehuevi), Vivienne Jake (Kaibab Paiute) and Salt Song Singers at the Old Woman Mountains. Photograph by Phil Klasky.

(Mescalero Apache).

Our next collaboration with the Salt Song Trail Project was production of the 20 minute film entitled, "The Salt Song Trail - bringing creation back together," documenting a healing ceremony at the Sherman Institute - a former Indian boarding school where Indian children were forcibly taken from their homes and forbidden to practice their traditional cultures. The singers return to the school years later to sing for the children who never came home. Singers and elders describe the meaning and importance of the songs and efforts at cultural revitalization. The original idea and content of the film was provided by the Salt Song Trail film co-directors, executive producers are Melissa Nelson (Anishinaabe/Metis) and Philip M. Klasky, directed and edited by Esther Figueroa (Junaroa Productions), with sound and music by Colin Farish (Stillwater Sound) and John-Carlos Perea



Matthew Leivas (Chemehuevi) and family with American Indian Film Festival award. Photograph by Phil Klasky



Salt Song singers at the Stewart Indian Boarding School in Carson City, Nevada. Photograph by Phil Klasky

minute documentary entitled "The Salt Song Trail: living documentary." The film continues the documentation of sacred ceremonies at the site of the Stewart Indian Boarding School in Carson City Nevada where we were hosted by Linda Melero (Northern Paiute) and the Stewart Alumni Committee, and at the Old Woman Mountains, a natural and cultural reserve purchased by the Native American Land Conservancy (<http://nalc4all.org/>). At the gathering at the Old Woman Mountains, the Salt Song singers invited Cahuilla Bird Song Singers to perform in recognition of their shared relationship with the cultural landscape.

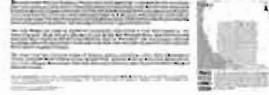
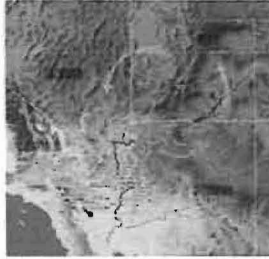
Nuwuvi filmmakers Cara McCoy (Chemehuevi) and Brigitte Sandate (Chemehuevi) edited the films and were provided technical support by filmmaker China Ching (Native Hawaiian). The film was co-produced by Vivienne Jake, Matthew Leivas, Melissa Nelson, Phil Klasky and Nicola Wagnern of The Cultural Conservancy.

Related Searches: [American Samoa Hotels](#) | [The Nature Conservancy](#) | [Support The Nature Conservancy](#) |



Vivienne Jake (Kaibab Paiute), Juanita Kinichina (Mojave Paiute) and Nuwuvi elders consult on Salt Song Trail Map. Photograph by Phil Klasky

**Salt Song Trail Map of Navaho (Southern Paiute)
Sacred Landscapes, Culture Areas and Bands**



Salt Song Trail Map Poster

The Salt Song Trail Map

Our next collaboration with the Salt Song Trail Project was the creation of a map of the sacred landscape of the Nuwuvi people as described by the Salt Songs.

Storyscape Project director Phil Klasky spent three years conducting field research with over fifty Nuwuvi cultural scholars and Salt Song singers. Additional research was conducted by Melissa Nelson and layers of cartographic information was provided by the Center for Applied Studies in Anthropology at the University of Arizona, and graphic design by Phil Klasky and Dana Smith.

The Salt Songs begin their journey at Avi Nava/Ting-ai-ay (Rock House), a sacred cave at the confluence of the Bill Williams and Colorado Rivers. The songs travel north along the Colorado River to the Kaibab and Colorado Plateau, into Southern Utah, and then west to the great mountain Nuva Kaiv (Mt. Charleston) -- the place of origination of the Nuwuvi people - and then further west to rise above the Pacific Ocean before arcing back east through the Mojave desert to their origin at Avi Nava. The ghosted arrows on the map show the direction of the songs as they travel through a physical and spiritual landscape.



Salt Song Trail Cover



Article about the Salt Song Trail map

Purchase DVDs and Salt Song Trail Map

In our work at The Cultural Conservancy, we recognize the connection between cultural preservation and environmental protection. The Salt Song Trail map is an example of cultural cartography developed through participatory action research with native communities. This kind of mapping establishes a historical record and cultural identity that fosters stewardship and protection of the land.

THE CULTURAL CONSERVANCY • phone 415 561-6594 • fax 415 561-6482 • 1016 Lincoln Blvd. Thoreau Center for Sustainability, P.O. Box 29044 San Francisco, CA 94129 USA
Copyright © 2010 The Cultural Conservancy. All Rights Reserved.

Related Searches: [American Samoa Hotels](#) | [The Nature Conservancy](#) | [Support The Nature Conservancy](#) |