

Homeland Return

Help Re-establish a Landbase for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe





In 1964 the Federal Government illegally terminated the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and sold its reservation at auction. Our Tribe needs **Land Back**.

Who We Are

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California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) is a Tribally Guided 501(c)(3). Its Mission: to Preserve, Protect, and Perpetuate Nisenan Culture



About the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe

Historically distinct from other northern California Tribes, the Nisenan have their own cultural lifeways, leaders and holy people, distinct geographic territory, and ancient and unique language

Tribal groups were led by a *huk* (Headman) or *mayan* (Headwoman)

Nisenan lived in towns made up of extended family groups of different sizes

Like many other Tribes throughout the United States, the Nisenan have been misidentified and mislabeled. Some examples of misnaming the Nisenan are "Maidu", "digger" and "southern Maidu".

If you'd like to learn more about us go to this link.

chirpca.org/learn-more

April 4, 2024, is the deadline!

Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe has a time-limited opportunity to purchase 232 acres located on a historic Nisenan Village site called *Yulića* near Nevada City.

Our fundraising goal of \$2.4 million includes the purchase price, government required improvements, and an operating endowment. Phase 1 fundraising: **\$1.5 million by April 4, 2024.**

Total fundraising goal is \$2.4M.





The Tribe's Loss of its Land

The Nisenan experienced a near total loss of land when gold was discovered. In 1851, 18 treaties were signed with California Tribes to protect Native land and provide resources to support their "civilization".

Leaders of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe signed the Camp Union Treaty that would have set aside 12 square miles between the Yuba and Bear Rivers for their people forever.

Tragically, these Treaties, though signed in good faith by the Tribes, were never ratified and instead, in a secret session of the United States Senate, were hidden away and only rediscovered in 1904. The signing Tribes, relying on the government's promises, were left landless and homeless.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson signed an Executive Order that took 76 acres of land into trust for the Tribe creating a reservation on Cement Hill, 1.5 miles from downtown Nevada City. The Tribe, though living in extreme poverty, was also granted federal recognition and the right to self-govern.

The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe was ostensibly "terminated" under a 1958 statute, and the U.S. sold the reservation at auction in 1964. Once again, the Tribe was left without land.

In 2024, CHIRP deposited \$75,000 into an escrow account to acquire a land base for the Tribe.



About California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)

Established in 2014 as a Tribally guided 501(c)(3) non-profit

Provides Culturally relevant programs and services to Tribal members and the wider community

Works to restore the Tribe's Federal Recognition

Produces community events that promote education and culture sharing

Researches and documents the Tribe's erased history before, during, and after the gold rush

Operates the 'Uba Seo: Nisenan Arts and Culture space in Nevada City

Current annual operating budget is \$1.7million



Rare Opportunity - **Help Us Return to Our Homeland**

The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe has an extraordinary dream - to reclaim one of our historic village sites called *Yulića*.

On this land, we could begin to reclaim our kinship, our ceremony, provide much needed Elder housing, and renew our relationship with the land.

We have taken the first step and deposited \$75,000 in escrow to secure this land. We have until April 4, 2024 to raise the rest of the money to close escrow.

We urgently need you - our allies, our community - to help us take the next BIG step and purchase, *Yulića*, our homeland.

Transitioning the land back to the Tribe embodies Woolman's values and is a spiritual endeavor to promote right relationship between its recent stewards and the land's original inhabitants. Returning to this land is a dream we barely dare dream. It is a big ask and there is little time. But, we have hope because of the ever growing understanding and allyship surrounding Native Land Back issues.

What this land brings to the Tribe



- ◆ Elder and tribal member housing
- ◆ Indigenous food, medicinal plants and gardens
- ◆ Community hub for dining and gathering
- ◆ Youth media center
- ◆ Wellness Center
- ◆ Cultural arts and crafts
- ◆ Ceremonial spaces
- ◆ Cultural/interpretive Center
- ◆ Performance pavilion
- ◆ Economic opportunities
- ◆ Commercial kitchen
- ◆ Collaborative work and classroom spaces
- ◆ Community education
- ◆ Reconnecting to local environment
- ◆ Cultural revitalization
- ◆ Preserve and protect ancient cultural resources on the land

What You Can Do

If you already support us, thank you, thank you.
Please consider another one-time (perhaps larger) gift for
Homeland Return.

If you have wanted to support us but haven't had the chance ...

Please Join Us With a Donation Now!

Jump in and be part of this very exciting, legacy effort!

All funds raised for purchasing the Woolman land will be
applied exclusively for the identification and purchase of a
property that fits the needs identified by the Tribe, should the
Woolman land purchase fall through for any reason.



We Need all Donations - Large and Small



◆ <https://gofundme.com/f/homeland-fund-initiative>

Please help spread the word!



If you prefer to donate by
check, make payable to: CHIRP
with the note:
HOMELAND RETURN

CHIRP
P.O. Box 2624
Nevada City, Ca 95959

