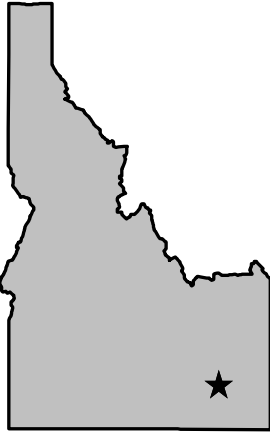


CHAPTER 8 — Fort Hall Reservation, Bannock and Shoshone Tribes



Fort Hall, Idaho
(Area: 544,000 acres)

Recipe: Cold Piñon Puree

1 lb. piñon nuts (also known as
“pine nuts”)
4 sliced shallots
1/4 tsp. pepper
1-quart milk
4 mint leaves
Minced chives
1-1/2 cups chicken broth
1/2 tsp. coriander

Combine all ingredients, except
chives, in a sauce pan.
Simmer for 3 minutes
Puree in a blender
Pour into a serving bowl and
garnish with chives.
May also be heated and served
as a soup.

The Bannocks began their struggles with whites long before many other tribes and quickly gained a reputation for their forceful attacks on settlers and travelers. In 1814, led by a chief known as “The Horse,” they attacked a fur-trading post on the Boise River. The Horse continued his campaign against white fur traders until 1832.

In 1863 another chief, Le Grand Coquin (“The Great Rogue”) signed the tribe’s first treaty with the whites.



History

Members of the Bannock tribe were originally Paiute people who lived in southeastern Oregon. The name Bannock comes from the Shoshoni word *Bampnach*, which means to throw backwards. *Bampnach* refers to the manner in which the Bannocks wore a lock of hair thrown back from their foreheads. Around 1690, they acquired horses and moved east to western Wyoming and southcentral Idaho, near the Snake River, to gain better access to the region’s thriving buffalo-hunting grounds. There the Bannock met and intermingled with the Northern Shoshone and, like them, were often referred to as Snake Indians. In time, the two groups were practically indistinguishable.

Lewis and Clark learned of the Bannock from the Lemhi Shoshone when the Corps wanted to cross the Continental Divide. Because the Shoshone told them that the Bannock were hostile, Lewis and Clark traveled to Lemhi pass. Sacagawea, who led Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean, was a Lemhi Shoshone woman.

The Bannock adapted to the wandering, horse-riding culture of Plains Indians, changing their clothing and many customs to fit their lives as buffalo hunters. The Bannock and Northern Shoshone also began to raid for horses and assumed other aspects of Plains culture, such as living in tipis and warrior societies. Yet, the Bannock continued to interact with their Northern Paiute relatives.

Today, their reservation is on potato-growing land on the upper reaches of the Snake River in southeastern Idaho. The name of the reservation, Fort Hall, was the name of a trading post built on the tribe's wintering grounds near the Snake in the early 1800s. The Oregon Trail and either other emigrant trails passed through Fort Hall.



Culture

The horse may have changed the land use patterns of the Bannock, allowing them more freedom and range.

In the winter months, the primary food was dried buffalo, elk, and deer meat taken during the fall hunts and roots and berries found within the region of the winter camp.

For the Bannock, the winter camp usually was made on the Snake River above Idaho Falls at the mouth of Henry's Fork. Mule deer and cottontail rabbits, which wintered in this area, were an additional source of food.

Historically, the Shoshones wintered apart from the Bannocks. They tended to spend the winter on the Portneuf River between Pocatello and McCammon, Idaho.

The Shoshone and Bannock people have historically made clothing from the buffalo, deer, and elk hides. They decorated their clothing with the teeth, bones, and hooves of these animals. The Bannock designed intricate patterns that reflect the colors of nature. Shoshones designed floral patterns with the colors of nature.



Government

The tribes are organized under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act and operate under a constitution that was approved April 30, 1936.

The Fort Hall Business Council includes seven members elected by the general membership to 2-year terms. The council maintains authority over all normal business procedures, including land and resource development and all matters of self-government. The headquarters of the 544,000-acre reservation is at Fort Hall, Idaho.