The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe gained federal recognition in 1990, but the Tribe has lived for several hundred years in territory between the San Juan and Colorado Rivers, east of the Grand Canyon. The tribal council is based in Tuba City, however members are scattered in noncontiguous communities within the Navajo Nation.

The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe is one of the smallest tribes in Arizona, and has been subsumed as part of the Navajo Nation. In 1907, Paiute lands north of Arizona in Utah were proclaimed as the Paiute Strip Reservation, under the jurisdiction of the Western Navajo Agency. In 1922, the Paiute Strip Reservation was completely integrated into Navajo lands and the Tribe lost their land base. The San Juan Southern Paiutes, numbering 300 members in 2013, have a language and culture distinct from the Navajo. The Tribe is currently in litigation to re-establish a land base.

The tribe is known for its hand-woven traditional baskets.
Source: ASU American Indian Policy Institute

*Information as of October 31, 2013,