

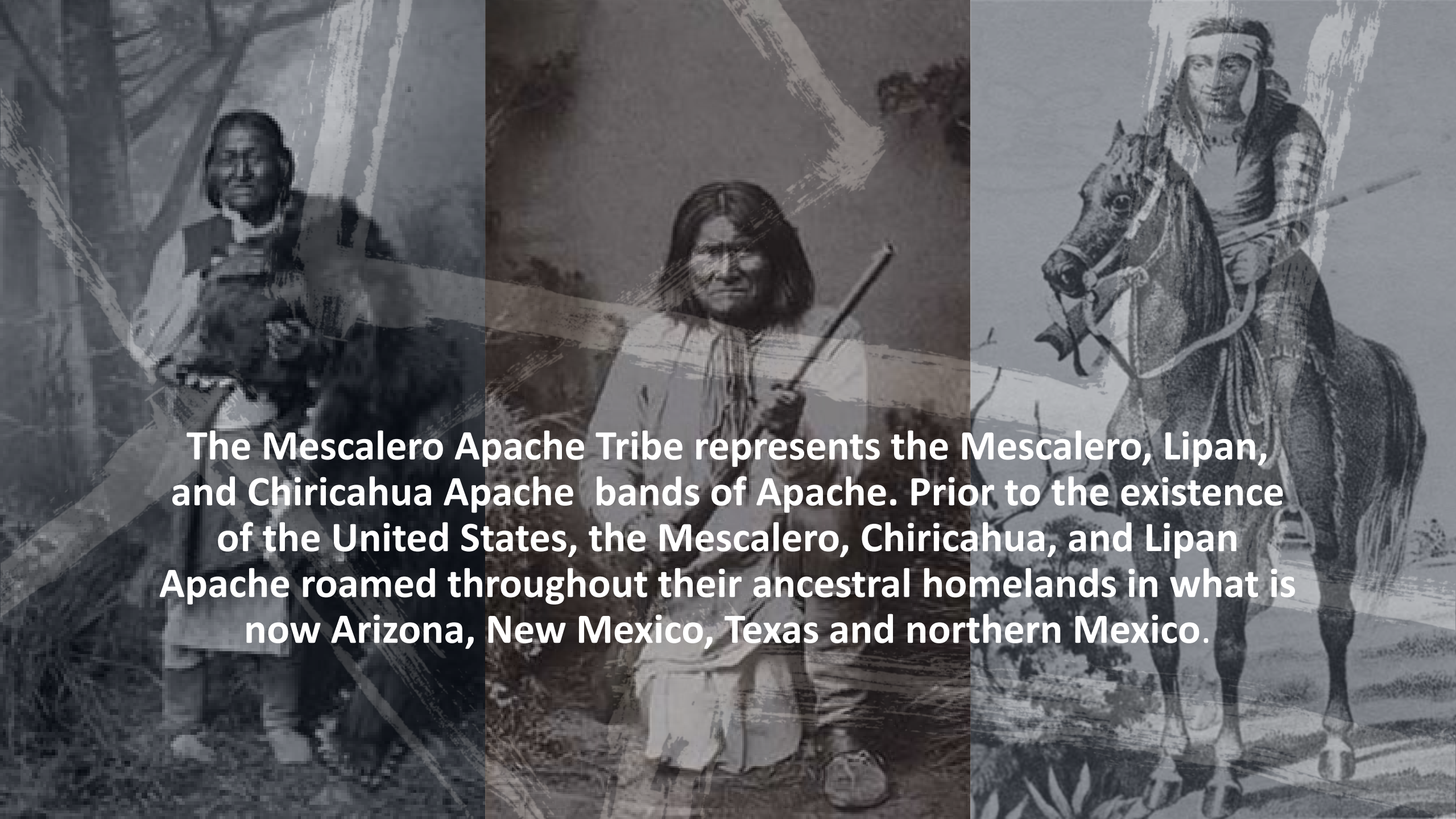
# Mescalero Apache Tribe

## 1873 - 2023

The Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation was established by  
President Ulysses S. Grant on May 29, 1873.



MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE



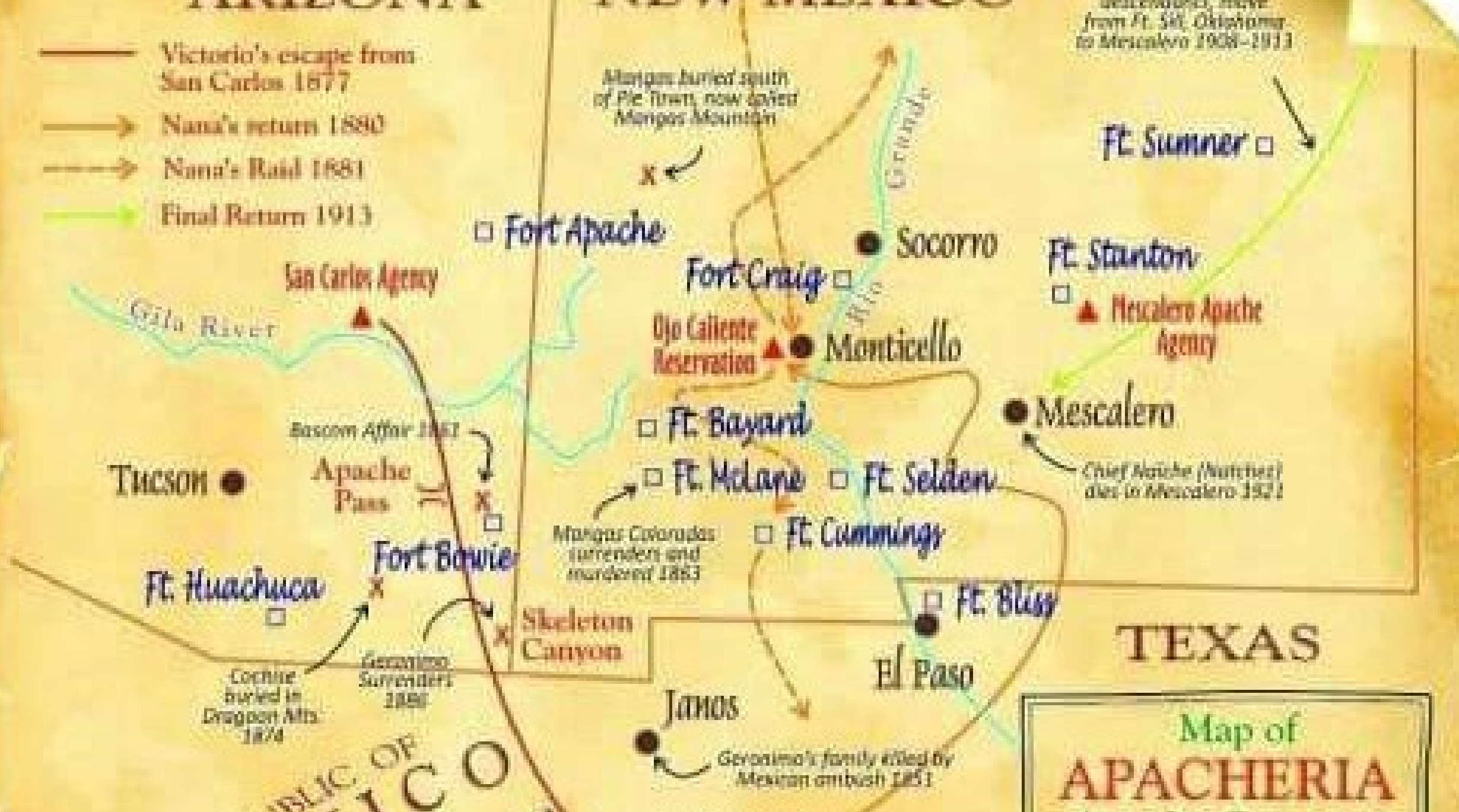
**The Mescalero Apache Tribe represents the Mescalero, Lipan, and Chiricahua Apache bands of Apache. Prior to the existence of the United States, the Mescalero, Chiricahua, and Lipan Apache roamed throughout their ancestral homelands in what is now Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico.**

# ARIZONA

# NEW MEXICO

Including Geronimo's descendants, move from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma to Mescalero 1908-1913

- Victoria's escape from San Carlos 1877
- Nana's return 1880
- Nana's Raid 1881
- Final Return 1913



Map of APACHERIA  
Apache Country



The Mescalero, Chiricahua, and Lipan Apache were known for their fierceness and cunning in battle, skillful statesmanship, and ability to adapt to and endure the often harsh desert and mountainous terrain. In particular, these traits were made famous by Mescalero Apache leaders Santana and San Juan, Chiricahua Apache leaders Mangas Coloradas and Cochise, and Lipan Apache leader Magoosh, among many others.



Proposed Reservation  
for  
**MESCALERO APACHES**  
**NEW MEXICO.**

Department of the Interior.  
Office of Indian Affairs.  
May 22<sup>d</sup> 1873.

The above diagram is intended to show a proposed reservation for the Mescalero band of Apache Indians in New Mexico. Said proposed reservation is indicated on the diagram by the Red line. Commenced with Yellow, and is described as follows, viz: Commencing at the south west corner of the Fort Stanton reduced Military Reservation, and running thence due South to a point on the hills near the North bank of the Rio Puerco; thence along said hills to a point above the settlement; thence across said river to a point on the opposite hills, and thence to the same line upon which we start from Fort Stanton, and thence due South to the 33<sup>d</sup> degree North latitude; thence to the top of the Sacramento Mountains, and along the top of said Mountains to the top of the White Mountains; thence along the top of said Mountains to the headwaters of the Rio Hondo to a point opposite the starting point, and thence to the starting point.

I respectfully recommend that the President be requested to order that the lands comprised within the above described limits be withheld from entry and settlement as public lands, and that the same be set apart as an Indian reservation, as indicated in my report to the Department of this date.

*E. Smith*  
Commissioner.

Department of the Interior.  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 1873.

Respectfully presented to the President with the recommendation that he make the order above proposed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In the late 1800's, after years of waging war against European intruders and the enormous suffering experienced at the Bosque Redondo Reservation by the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo, the Mescalero Apache decided to seek refuge and permanent settlement near Fort Stanton, located on the Bonito River and near their sacred mountain, Sierra Blanca or White Mountain.

After years of negotiation and lobbying, the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation (the "Reservation") was established by President Ulysses S. Grant on May 29, 1873 by Executive Order. The original boundaries of the Mescalero Reservation originally spanned from its current southern boundary to Fort Stanton on its northern end.



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The boundaries of the Reservation were adjusted by Executive Order on February 2, 1874 and October 20, 1875 by President Grant to meet the demands of nearby settlers; however, thankfully, the amount of land set aside for the Reservation was not reduced significantly despite these adjustments.

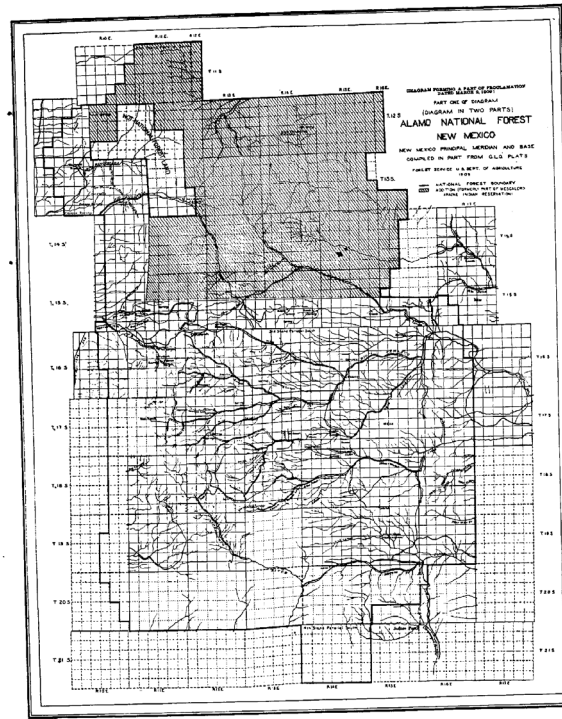
On May 19, 1882, by Executive Order, President Chester A. Arthur established the existing boundaries of the Reservation.

In 1890, the U.S. government reported that 513 Mescalero Apache lived on the Reservation.

On March 2, 1909, President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt issued a Presidential Proclamation that reduced the size of the Mescalero Reservation by more than half to add to the newly established Alamo National Forest, now known as Lincoln National Forest.

The Lipan Apache were forced from their homelands in Texas and northern Mexico and held as prisoners of war until 1905 when they joined the Mescalero Apache on the Mescalero Reservation.

In 1910, the U.S. government reported that only 444 Mescalero and Lipan Apache lived on the Mescalero Reservation after a major smallpox epidemic killed many.





Preparing to leave Fort Sill, Okla.  
for Mescalero, New Mexico



On April 4, 1913, the Chiricahua Apache were released as prisoners of war from the Fort Sill Military Reservation near Lawton, Oklahoma; the vast majority of the Chiricahua Apache chose to make their homes on the Mescalero Reservation where they were welcomed wholeheartedly by the Mescalero Apache; and

In 1920, the U.S. government reported that 583 Mescalero, Lipan, and Chiricahua Apache lived on the Mescalero Reservation and that number grew to 708 by 1930.





**On March 25, 1936, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, including all three-subgroups of Apache, the Mescalero, Chiricahua, and Lipan Apache, formally organized as a single tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, by adopting a tribal constitution that established a business committee, which was comprised of ten (10) members representing different areas on the Mescalero Reservation, to govern all tribal affairs.**

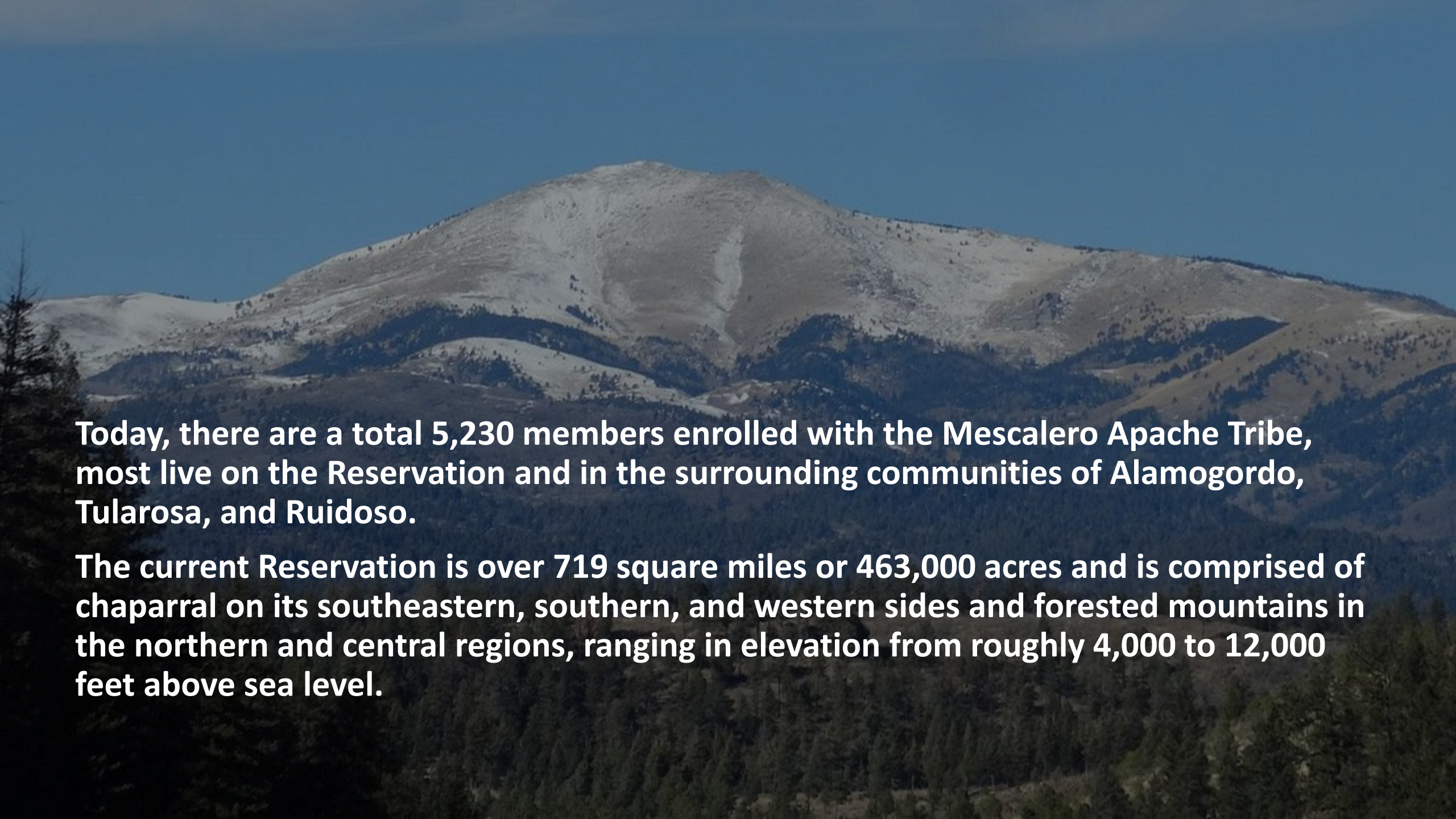
**On January 12, 1965, the tribal constitution was revised to adopt the current Mescalero Apache tribal governmental organization lead by two executives, the President and Vice-President, a legislative council comprised of eight (8) members, and a separate judiciary branch.**





Since the establishment of the Mescalero Reservation, Mescalero Apache Tribal leaders have been at the forefront of the fight for tribal sovereignty at the state and national level; for example, late former tribal leaders, Asa Daklugie and Jaspar Kanseah, fought for reparations for the lands unlawfully taken by the U.S. government before the Indian Claims Commission and the late President Wendell Chino led the Mescalero Apache Tribe to prominence with his advocacy in the area of gaming and economic development generally.





**Today, there are a total 5,230 members enrolled with the Mescalero Apache Tribe, most live on the Reservation and in the surrounding communities of Alamogordo, Tularosa, and Ruidoso.**

**The current Reservation is over 719 square miles or 463,000 acres and is comprised of chaparral on its southeastern, southern, and western sides and forested mountains in the northern and central regions, ranging in elevation from roughly 4,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level.**



Mescalero Apache Tribe is well-known for its sustainable forestry management practices, large cattle ranch operation, public campgrounds, and big game hunting program.

The Mescalero Apache Tribe is proud to share the natural beauty of its with guests and patrons from New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and many other places at the Inn of the Mountain Gods and Ski Apache

Due to the location of the Reservation, near Sierra Blanca or White Mountain and within a several hour drive of the other sacred mountains, Guadalupe Peak, Oscuro Peak, and Three Sisters, the Mescalero Apache Tribe continues to preserve its culture, language, and connection to its homelands.



**150th Sesquicentennial  
Anniversary Celebration  
May 28 – 20, 2023**

**COMMEMORATION PARADE Mescalero**

**The Mescalero Apache Tribe is proud to call the  
Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation its home.**

**Questions**

