

Indian Island Cultural and Environmental Restoration Project (IICERP)  
Wiyot Sacred Site Fund

Wiyot people have lived in the Humboldt Bay Region for thousands of years. Indian Island in Humboldt Bay was home to two ancient villages-Tuluwat and EtpidoL. Tuluwat hosted the annual World Renewal Ceremony, the participants dancing and praying for seven to ten days to bring the world into balance. At night the men would leave the island and return the next day with supplies, leaving the elders, women, and children to rest and sleep.

In the early morning of February 25, 1860 a group of local men armed with hatchets, clubs and knives, paddled their boats over to the island. Sleeping men, women, and children were brutally murdered. Few survived. Other Wiyot villages were also attacked that night. At least one hundred Wiyot were slain that cold February morning. Surviving Wiyot sought refuge or fled into the hinterland. Some were kept in an open corral at Fort Humboldt, resulting in over half dying. Others were rounded up and relocated to distant reservations first at Klamath, then to Smith River, Hoopa Valley, and Round Valley.

The Island, including Tuluwat, suffered subsequent abuse by European settlement. The land was diked and drained, first for agricultural and dairy production, then for such industrial purposes as ship repair. Sheds, foundries, chicken coops replaced the native buildings at Tuluwat, the underlying shell midden dug, disturbed, and contaminated with chemical pollutants.

After 1860 there was an estimated population of 200 Wiyot people left. By 1910 less than 100 full blooded Wiyot people were living in Wiyot territory. The rapid decline in population was due to disease, massacre, slavery, and resource depletion. Wiyot culture, lifeways, and language were also nearly destroyed. However, the Wiyot refused to disappear, returning to their ancestral lands and learning to walk in both the world of ancient ways and of imposed European values. Today, the Wiyot Tribe has a growing citizenship of over 600 members, and is working to recover native culture, language and sacred sites.

Tuluwat was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The Tribe also envisions Tuluwat as a place to share their stories and history with the larger community.

With your help the Wiyot Tribe will once again dance again at Tuluwat, hosting the World Renewal Ceremony to heal discord and bring well being to all people. We invite you to support the *Indian Island Cultural and Environmental Restoration Project*. Contributions of any amount are welcomed Memorial contributions can be made to the Wiyot Sacred Sites Fund in memory of loved ones or friends.

Please send to:  
Wiyot Sacred Sites Fund  
1000 Wiyot Drive  
Loleta, CA 95551

You may also support this important tribal project by purchasing sacred site logo items from our on line store