



Round Valley Indian Tribes

Population Projections

2010 - 2025

Prepared
by

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Introduction

The Round Valley Indian Tribes are completing a *Comprehensive Integrated Resource Management Plan* as part of a multi-year comprehensive planning project. The purpose of this planning effort is to develop planning goals and objectives for the management of the Tribes' natural, cultural and human resources. Essential to this planning effort is the development of a projection of tribal enrollment and reservation population over the course of the planning period.

As the Tribes seek to preserve cultural and environmental resources while, at the same time, promoting economic development, housing and community services, it is important to anticipate future demand for employment and housing. For this reason, the IRMP effort has included an analysis of population growth and reservation land use.

This report provides the results of a population projection conducted by The Center for Applied Research in 2009 and 2010 that analyzed historic population data, enrollment records and housing survey data. The Center also conducted a focus group of tribal managers and staff to discuss reservation population and migration trends.

Historic Population Data

Historic data on the population of the Round Valley Indian Tribes is incomplete and often inaccurate. The U.S. Census data typically under represents tribal population levels. For example, the 2000 Census estimates the Native American population identifying solely with the Round Valley Indian Tribes as 293. For Native Americans who identify with another tribe as well as Round Valley, the total was 452.

This compares to the Tribes' 2000 *Labor Market Information on the Indian Labor Force* report that placed tribal enrollment at 3,363 members. This large discrepancy between tribal enrollment and census data is not unusual in Indian Country. Consequently, in the 2000 Census, the estimate of tribal population is derived from a sample.

The Tribes' *Comprehensive Plan of 1974* provides population data for the 1930-1974 period, based on data from the Round Valley Health Project. Available *Labor Market Information on the Indian Labor Force* reports required by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, provide data for the period 1978-2005. These reports, prepared by the tribal administration, reflect tribal enrollment records.

The *Comprehensive Plan of 1974* shows a 1930 population of 739 members. Of these, 442 (60%) resided on the reservation. The tribal enrollment grew to 1,720 members in 1974, however, the number of members residing on the reservation (353) represented only 21% of tribal enrollment. The out-migration of reservation residents was attributed to a lack of educational and job opportunities, poor housing conditions and isolation.

Subsequent to adoption of the *Comprehensive Plan* in 1974, the Tribes became eligible for funding for housing construction and the percent of tribal members residing on the reservation began to grow. Improved tribal community services and the economic recession of the mid-1970s also contributed to an in-migration of tribal members to the reservation.

The *Comprehensive Plan* projected tribal enrollment to grow to a level of 2,600 to 2,800 members by the year 2000, which was somewhat higher than actually occurred. The anticipated number of tribal members living on the reservation was projected to be 303 to 757 members. This has proven to be somewhat less than the actual reservation population in 2000.

In order to project future enrollment, reservation population and housing demand, it was necessary to establish the 2009 enrollment and reservation population. The Tribes' Enrollment Office records indicate total enrollment of 3,053 members in 2009. Of these, 765 members were indicated as living on the reservation.

The *Labor Market Information on the Indian Labor Force* report, on the other hand, showed enrollment at 3,785 members in 2005. The Enrollment Office believes that in the past, deceased tribal members were not subtracted from the total, which would explain the over count. The enrollment database showed a total of 4,459 member names in 2009, including deceased members. Living members constitute 68% of the total. Applying that ratio to the 2000 report, total enrollment on the Labor Force report (3,363) would translate to 2,287 living tribal members, somewhat less than anticipated.

The on-reservation population numbers, however, do not correspond to housing survey data gathered by the Round Valley Indian Housing Authority (RVIHA). The RVIHA conducts surveys of tribal housing to determine the number and size of households on the reservation as well as the occupancy and condition of the housing stock.

According to the RVIHA, there are 329 homes in Round Valley occupied by tribal members. Occupancy is currently estimated at 5 to 7 persons per house. This suggests that the on-reservation population would be at least 1,645 in 2009. This is supported by the RVIHA's estimate of an on-reservation population of 1,500 in 2004. (RVIHA, 2004)

In 2008, a mailing list of 817 voting tribal member addresses generated by the Enrollment Office included 337 addresses in Covelo, representing 41% of member addresses. This further supports the likelihood that the on-reservation population is approximately half of the tribal membership.

The RVIT Population Focus Group

The Center conducted a focus group on tribal population characteristics in February 2009. Attendees included representatives from the RVIHA staff and board, youth programs, Realty, and the Round Valley School District.

Factors affecting in and out-migration of tribal members on the reservation were discussed. The out-migration after World War II referenced in the *Comprehensive Plan* was also a result of the Bureau of Indian Affairs relocation policies. However, the housing program in the 1970's caused many tribal members to return to the reservation seeking low cost housing.

Factors influencing out-migration include better education and recreation opportunities for children, easier access to healthcare facilities and greater employment opportunities. On the other hand, living expenses are significantly higher for families in more urban areas, where tribal members typically find employment. (Center for Applied Research)

Consequently, families tend to be larger on the reservation. Elders, especially those over 60 years of age, tend to return to the reservation seeking affordable housing. According to the RVIHA *Comprehensive Needs Assessment* (2010), 23% of tribal housing includes elder members.

Population and Housing Demand Model

The *Round Valley Indian Tribes Population and Housing Demand Model* (RVIT Model) was developed by the Center for Applied Research to project future enrollment, reservation population and demand for housing by tribal members in Round Valley.

The RVIT Model uses published and unpublished data to develop calculations of cohort survival and migration within Mendocino County, California. The primary data source for rates of birth by age of mother and for deaths by age of decedent is the California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics Query System*. In addition, data was available on births by age of mother and age- and sex-specific deaths among American Indians in Mendocino County for the years 2000-2006. The average birth and death rates were applied to population estimates for American Indian residents in Mendocino County in 2006 to produce cohort-survival projections of population for the County for each year after 2006. Further projections of population based on migration of population into and out of the County are produced based on estimated age and sex cohorts of migration populations of three types: economic (generally employment-driven) migration; retirement and return migration; and other migration. Each year's resident age and sex cohort population is adjusted by the projected net migration population by age and sex, and the total population of each age and sex cohort is survived into the next year; these calculations are repeated for each year of the projection period.

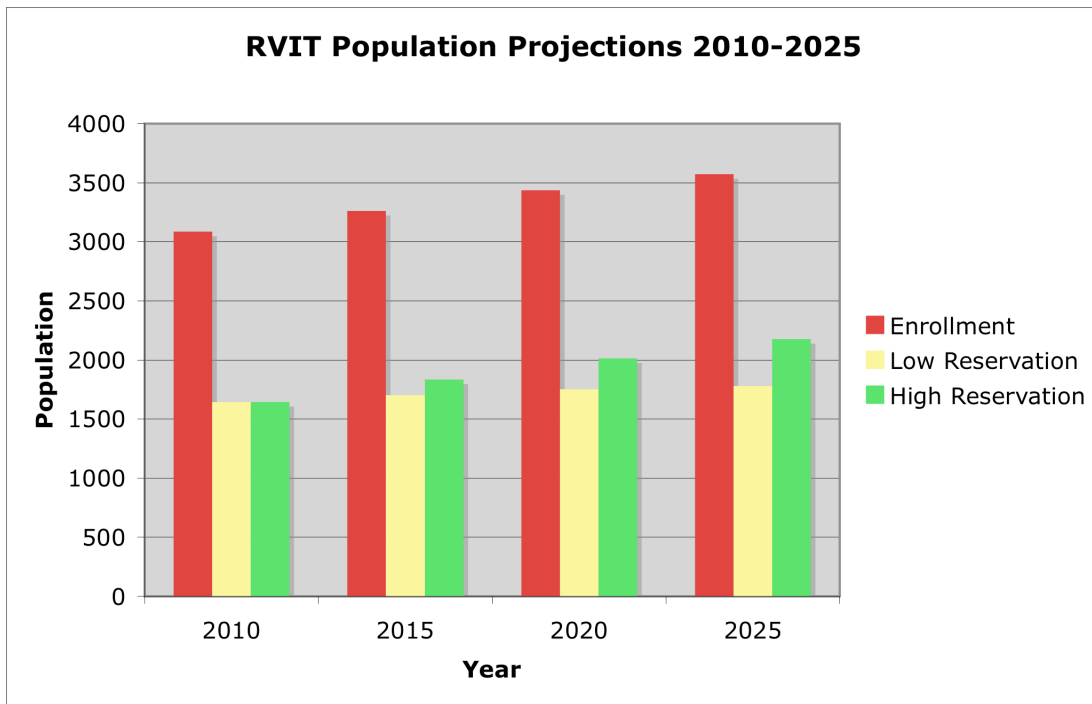
The countywide population projected by the RVIT Model is disaggregated into smaller geographic areas, based on data provided by the Enrollment Office for total membership by age cohorts and by the RVIHA for age cohorts of tribal members in Round Valley, producing age- and sex-specific population projections for tribal enrollment and for tribal members residing in Round Valley over the projection period.

These projections are then aggregated into households based on RVIHA estimates of household size and composition. The RVIT Model’s household projections are converted into projections of housing demand by calculating the average number of households per housing unit, based on data provided by the RVIHA.

Population Projections

Tribal enrollment for the Round Valley Indian Tribes is expected to grow from 3,053 members in 2009 to 3,572 members in 2025. The annual growth rate is expected to be slightly over 1%, declining to less than .8 % in 2025. The rate reflects the aging of the current tribal population and the global tendency for birthrates to decline over time.

The population for Round Valley is projected under two scenarios. The low scenario assumes a natural growth rate with no significant in-migration of tribal members. The high scenario assumes some in-migration as a result of successful economic initiatives and housing availability from implementing the goals and objectives of the IRMP.



RVIT Population Projections 2010-2025				
Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total Enrollment	3,085	3,261	3,438	3,572
Reservation Natural Growth	1,645	1,703	1,752	1,781
Reservation Moderate Growth	1,645	1,836	2,014	2,176

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Housing Demand Projections

The Round Valley Indian Housing Authority is charged with creating affordable housing for low and moderate-income tribal members. The RVIHA utilizes a variety of funding sources to accomplish this task, including NAHASDA Title VI funding and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program among other rural development and loan guarantee programs.

There are currently 329 tribal homes in Round Valley. The RVIHA *Comprehensive Needs Assessment* (2010) states that there are 145 families living in substandard or overcrowded housing conditions. In addition, there are currently 65 families waitlisted for housing. Of these, 59 families currently reside on the reservation.

Under the natural growth scenario, approximately 150 new dwelling units will be needed by the year 2025. Under the moderate growth scenario with some in-migration of tribal members, an additional 237 dwelling units will be needed by 2025.

Projected Tribal Housing Demand in Round Valley 2010-2025				
Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Natural Growth				
Total Households	450	488	522	546
Total Dwelling Unit Demand	394	428	457	478
Moderate-High Growth				
Total Households	450	520	587	647
Total Dwelling Unit Demand	394	456	514	566

The RVIHA has a number of housing projects underway and planned for the near future. These include nine four-bedroom single-family homes and twelve two-bedroom townhouse units as part of the Tribal Winds Development. In addition, the RVIHA is beginning construction of a five-bedroom Foster Care Home that will be able to accommodate up to 16 children.

The RVIHA has purchased additional property for housing construction including the ten-acre parcel known as the Skyline Mobile Home Park. This site can eventually provide up to 55 spaces for modular or mobile homes.

Completion of current and planned housing units will provide an additional 76 homes for tribal members. This will more than accommodate the current waiting list of tribal members in need of housing. Over the next ten years, an additional demand for 52 housing units is anticipated under the natural growth scenario. The moderate-high growth scenario anticipates twice that demand, although it should be noted that this scenario assumes successful economic development and the additional demand would include tribal members able to afford market rate housing.

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