

## Alta Toquima – My Visit to An Ancient High Elevation Native American Village

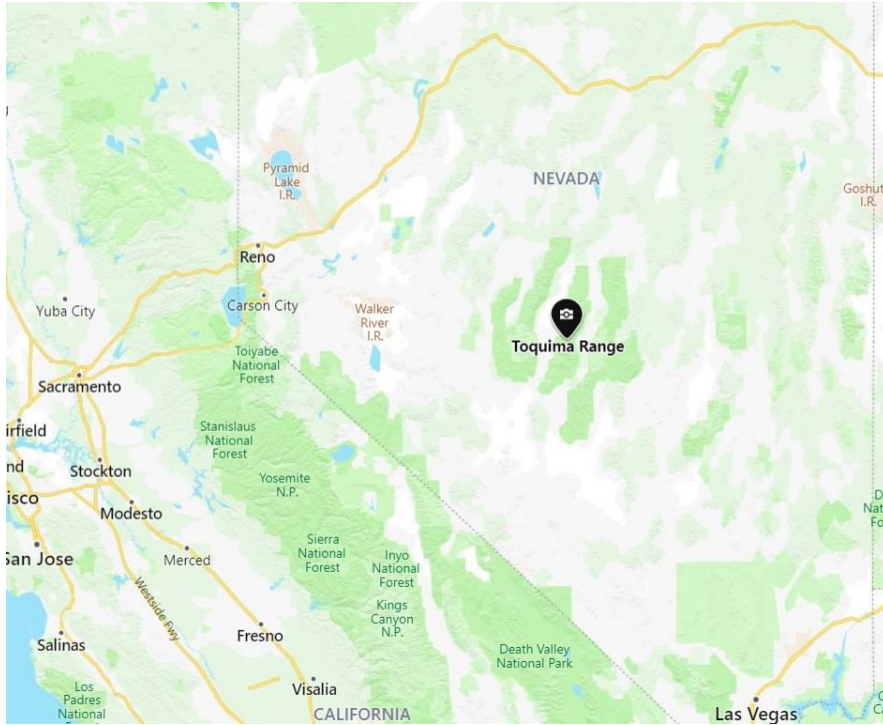
In the past several years I twice have visited a native American archeological site in the Alta Toquima Wilderness Area of central Nevada. This village was unearthed by Dr. David Thomas in 1978. He believes these villages were occupied for several months at a time, or perhaps longer, at the amazing elevation of 11,000 feet! At that time it was believed to be the highest village in North America. He estimated that the village was occupied several times from 2500 BC to 0 AD. The multi-discipline group that studied the area believed that they subsisted on elk, sheep, marmots, fish, eagles, berries and roots. This village gave archeologists a new understanding of how people lived in this very severe terrain and climate



One of the village structures



Another one



Location of Alta Toquima Range village



General Location of the village located at 11,000 feet elevation. It is at the head of a small spring and creek. They village occupants probably took advantage of the limber pine nuts that were found just down the canyon from the village.



Quaking Aspens on the trail to the site



A bird's nest with chicks. I didn't see the mother, which perhaps was an eagle.

## Flowers I Found Along the Way



Indian Paintbrush



Fireweed



Wild Rose



Cactus



Meadow  
of flowers



My campsite  
among limber  
pines



Big Horn  
Sheep – I  
counted  
exactly  
100 of  
them!



This guy watched me as all of his flock made it safely over the ridge. When the last one made it over the ridge he calmly and royally joined his flock.



Big Horn Sheep skull – one that didn't get away



Petroglyphs near village



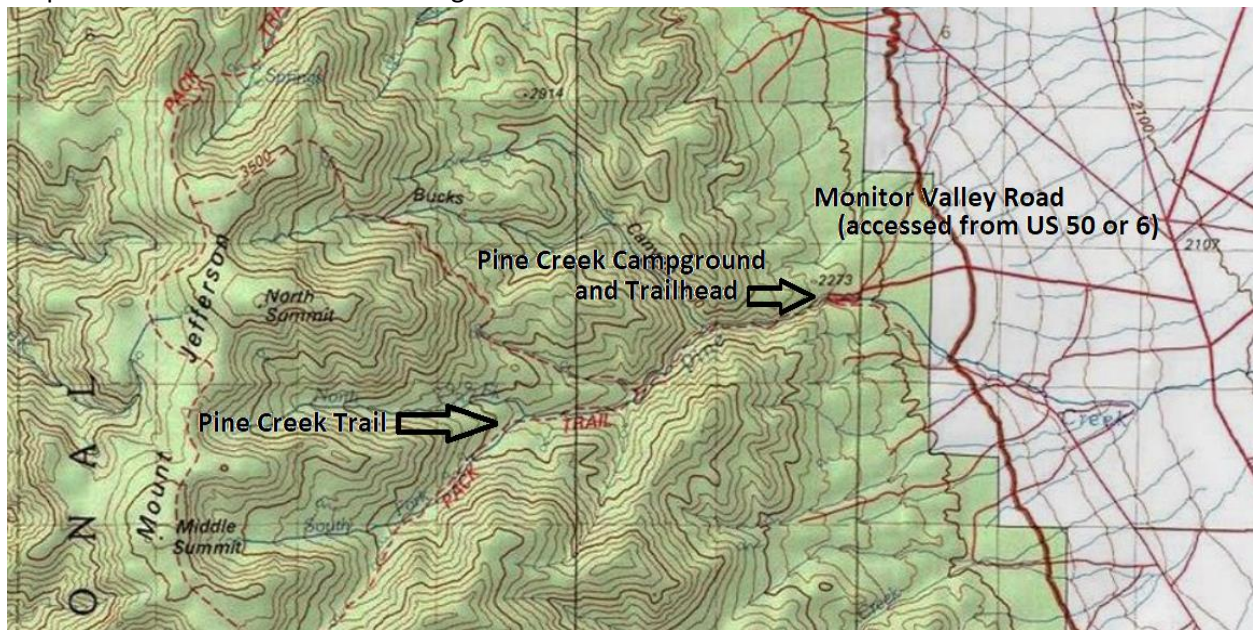


Forest of Utah Juniper and Single-leaf Pinyon Pine on way to village



On road the Pine Creek trailhead that led to the village

Map shows the trail I took to the village.



For more information:

<https://www.amnh.org/research/anthropology/curatorial-research/north-american-archaeology/projects/alta-toquima-nv>