A person in silhouette stands on a hillside, looking out over a vast mountain range under a soft, hazy sky. The scene is captured in low light, likely at dawn or dusk, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a hat. The mountains in the distance are layered, with some peaks shrouded in mist or low clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

TERMINATION & RESTORATION OF THE KLAMATH TRIBES PART I

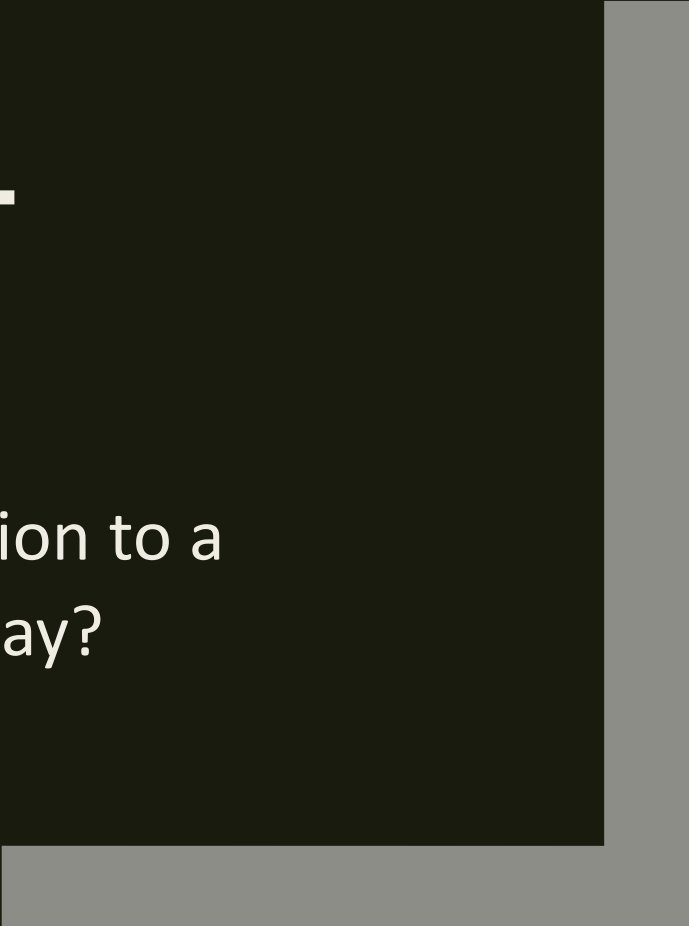
Tribal History/Shared History

Klamath Tribes



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What is it that defines your connection to a group, and can this be taken away?




GUIDING QUESTIONS

Have you ever been forced to make a choice when both options available to you are bad?



How do you know you're making the best choice?



How does it feel to have no good choice?

Grade for this assignment

This assignment will be graded differently, as we need to enter the grades now. What grade do you think you will get on the assignment?

Please write that grade up by your name on the worksheet.

-Predict what your grade will be on this assignment if you're wrong & don't get the grade you anticipate you automatically get a 50%.

or

-Take a 70% on the assignment now and not risk getting a lower grade.



Learning Objectives

Review

Students will review the firsthand stories of tribal members and how Termination impacted them at an individual and community level.

Analyze

Students will be able to analyze the information tribal members had when deciding if they should withdraw or remain part of a private trust.

Understand

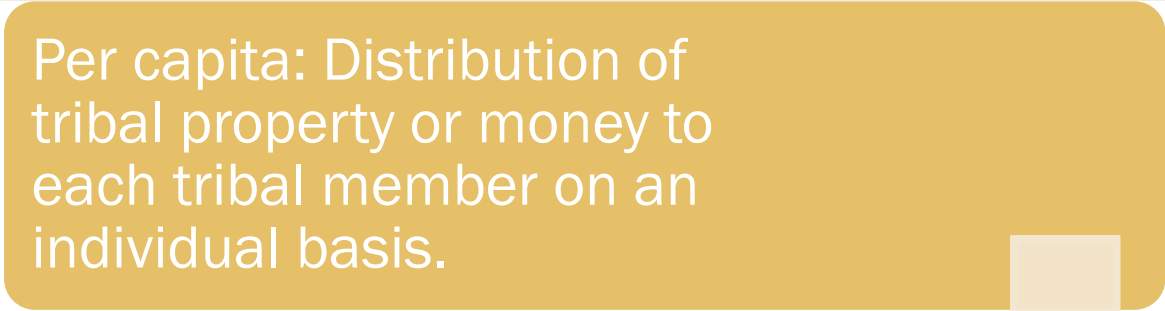
Students will understand the complex process of the termination of the Klamath Tribes.

Describe

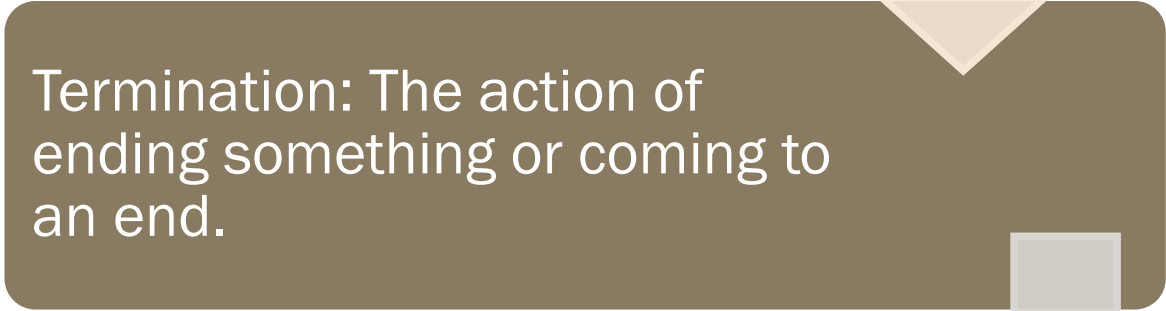
Students will be able to describe the impacts of both the termination and restoration on the Klamath Tribes.

Vocabulary

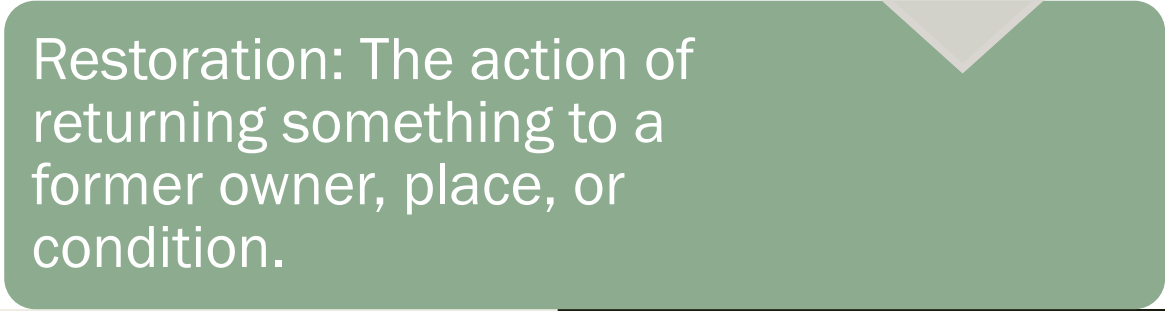
Per capita: Distribution of tribal property or money to each tribal member on an individual basis.

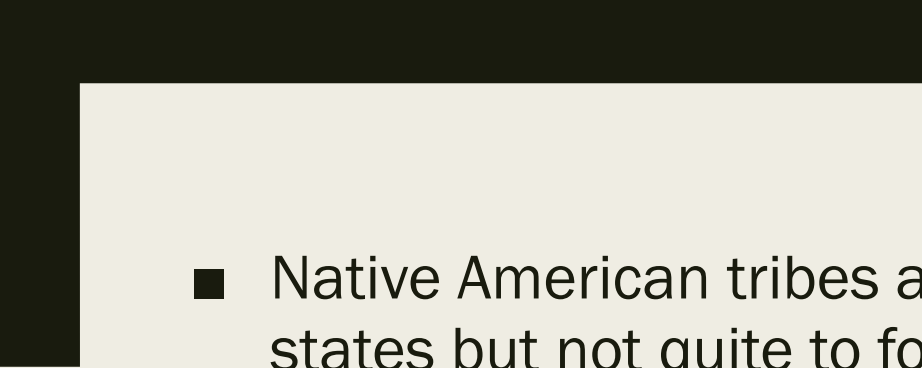
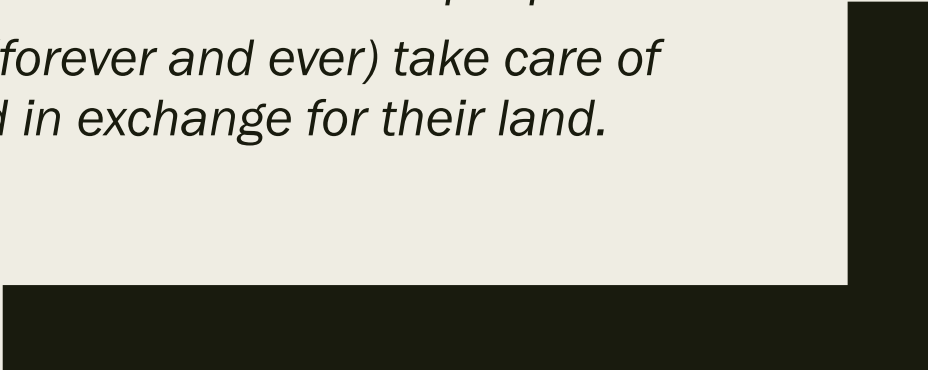


Termination: The action of ending something or coming to an end.



Restoration: The action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.



- 
- Native American tribes are sovereign nations equal in their power to states but not quite to foreign nations. They are legally defined as “domestic, dependent nations”.
 - *Per treaty agreements, Indian Tribes gave up lands in return for services provided by the Federal Government. Such as protection, health care, education, food and other assistance for the general welfare of the people.*
 - *The Federal Government has agreed to always (forever and ever) take care of and provide for Indian tribes. This was promised in exchange for their land.*
- 

Background





What is Termination of a tribe?

- Breaking of the treaty (contract) signed between the Tribe and the federal government.
- Treaties are considered “the law of the land” or a binding obligation.
- Termination ends that contract and all the promises it made, because it ends the tribe.

Goals of Termination

End

- End Indian tribes' status as sovereign (power to govern themselves) nations.

Stop

- Stop federal supervision and trust responsibilities for Indian Tribes.

Assimilate

- Assimilate Native Americans (make them like everyone else).

Klamath Tribes Legislative Timeline

Tribes sign Treaty of 1864

- Land holdings reduced from 22 million acres to a 1.9-million-acre reservation
- Klamath, Modoc & Yahooskin Band of Paiute Indians

1864

Termination Act

- Terminated federal obligation to Native American tribes

August 13, 1954

Self Determination

- protect, preserve and enhance the spiritual, cultural and physical values and resources of the tribes

1986-present

1872-1873

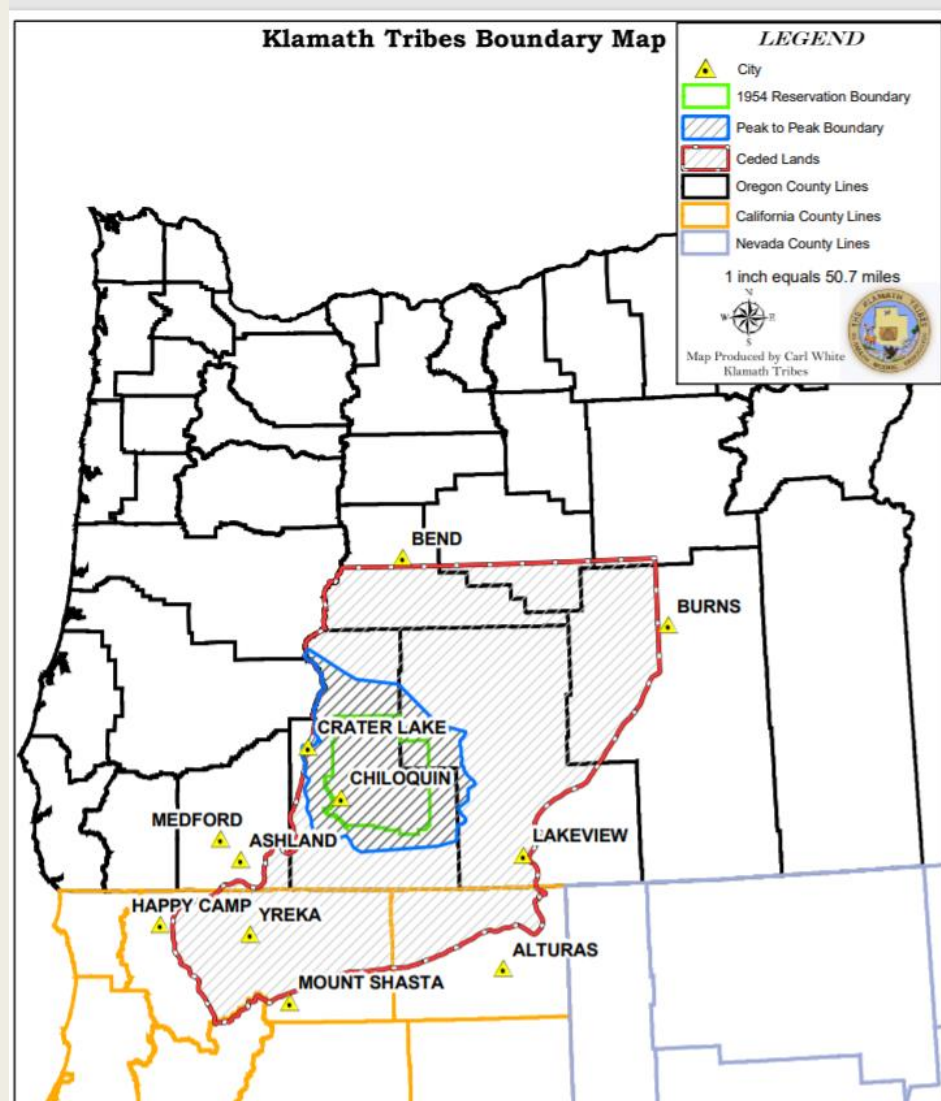
Modoc War

- July 6, 1872 – June 4, 1873
- Modoc leaders hung others removed to Indian Territory (Oklahoma)

August 27, 1986

Restoration

- H.R. 3554 Klamath Indian Tribes Restoration Act.
- Restored federal recognition of Klamath Tribes



Klamath Reservation

- Environment: lakes, rivers, valleys, high lands, mountains, large stands of timber
- The red line is traditional roaming lands of the Klamath Tribes, over 22 million acres.
- The blue line is the reservation boundary of 1.2 million acres.
 - *Crater Lake is a traditional and sacred place to the Klamath, however, was excluded from the reservation against the tribes wishes.*
- The green line is the reservation boundary at the time of termination in 1954.

Klamath Tribes Land Loss



Land loss video 25 seconds <https://youtu.be/h1AcN9da8i8>

Why Terminate Tribes?

The federal government would no longer be financially responsible for the tribe if the tribe as a political entity no longer existed.

If the tribe ceased to legally exist, the natural resources that were once just theirs would now be available for others to use.

Can you tell me who is in charge by looking at these images?



Klamath Tribal Government

At the top of the Klamath Tribal Government System is the General Council

-General Council is all enrolled members of the Klamath Tribes over the age of 18.

The tribal members/General Council elect a Tribal Council to help carry out the will of the people.

-This is a 10-person elected council that includes a Tribal Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasure, and 6 members at large.

This form of government is based off of a blending of traditional practices as well as sampling from US government practices as part of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

Pre-Termination the Klamath People were doing very well.

As a tribe the Klamath had economic security due to their extensive natural resources.

They had an active government that represented the will of the people.

The Klamath Tribes was one of the wealthiest tribes in the nation.

The Klamath people received monthly per capita checks based of the tribe's multiple business interests.

The Tribe had an agency with government buildings, schools, & a hospital (see image).

The people were happy.





CHILOQUIN PRE TERMINATION

THE KLAMATH TRIBES OWNED ONE OF THE LARGEST AREAS OF TIMBER IN THE US. THEY OWNED AND OPERATED THREE MILLS ON THE RESERVATION. THE PRODUCTION WAS SO HIGH THAT THE RAILROAD STOPPED IN CHILOQUIN TO TAKE ON LOGS.

H.C.R. 108

Public Law 587

718

PUBLIC LAW 587—AUG. 13, 1954

[68 STAT.]

Public Law 587

CHAPTER 732

August 13, 1954
[S. 2745]

AN ACT

To provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the property of the Klamath Tribe of Indians located in the State of Oregon and the individual members thereof, and for other purposes.

**Klamath Indians.
Termination of
Federal supervision.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the purpose of this Act is to provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the trust and restricted property of the Klamath Tribe of Indians consisting of the Klamath and Modoc Tribes and the Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians, and of the individual members thereof, for the disposition of federally owned property acquired or withdrawn for the administration of the affairs of said Indians, and for a termination of Federal services furnished such Indians because of their status as Indians.

Definitions.

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act:

(a) "Tribe" means the Klamath Tribe of Indians consisting of the Klamath and Modoc Tribes and Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians.

(b) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) "Lands" means real property, interests therein, or improvements thereon, and include water rights.

(d) "Tribal property" means any real or personal property, including water rights, or any interest in real or personal property, that belongs to the tribe and either is held by the United States in trust

- In August 1954, Congress passed Public Law 587, terminating the relationship between the Klamath Tribes and the United States.
- This required selling all land and belongings.
- Federal services would no longer be offered such as health clinics and schools.
- Most of the Klamath Indians never voted to accept Termination.
- Tribal members were given the option to withdraw and receive a cash payment from the sale of the Tribes assets or remain as a private business/cooperation.



KLAMATH
TRIBAL
COUNCIL
1955

Why did Tribal Council finally vote to accept Termination?

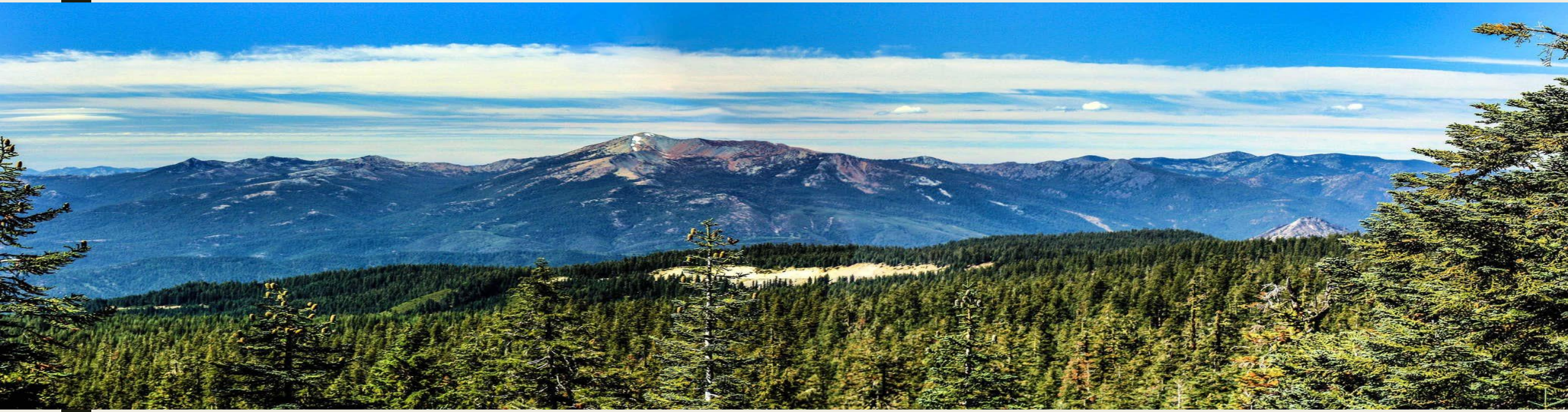
- They began to see Termination as inevitable and were receiving enormous pressure from the federal government.
- The federal government put a hold on all reimbursements and per capita payments to the Klamath people.
 - *The Klamath people needed and depended on this money.*
 - *It was a power move by the federal government to force the Tribal Council to vote for Termination.*
- To this day it is highly debated among tribal members whether the Tribal Council had the authority to vote for Termination without the consent of the majority of General Council, even if the tribe was being extorted.
- General Council had made their feelings clear by rejecting Termination in two separate votes.

Timber & Termination

The Klamath's logged their timber on a sustained-yield basis.

- The tribe's 1,107,846 acres generated 26% of Klamath County's timber.
- Annual tribal revenue from timber was \$2.5 million this paid for tribal operations and per-capita.
- The Klamath Basin drew 40% of its economic wealth from timber.

In the end, 77% of tribal members ended up voting to withdraw and accept a cash payment. The sale of Klamath timber was the only way to fund the payout. Officials sold 3.3 billion feet of timber and flooded the market. Dropping the value of the timber for tribal members, the Klamath Basin and Nation.



What happens when so much timber is sold all at once?

- The market becomes “flooded” (there was more timber than demand at the time) and the price of the timber is lower than it would normally be.
- It was this impact on the timber market and economy in general that led to opposition of Termination from non-Indian community leaders.
- However, even with opposition from the Tribe and local community, Termination legislation still passed.

DECISIONS & OUTCOMES

01

Remaining a tribe was not an option. You could choose to withdrawal and get a cash payment or remain as part of a private trust.

02

If you failed to vote you would remain a member of the trust.

03

Parents felt a heavy weight in having to decide the future of their children.

04

Termination caused huge conflict and division amongst the tribe both at the time and in the years to come.

05

The wounds of termination still run deep within the tribe to this day.

Did the government think the individual Indians would be successful?

A report was requested by the Secretary of the Interior to see if the Klamath Tribes were ready for Termination.

Researches at Stanford University found that the Tribe **was not** ready for Termination and that the results would be disastrous and not in the best interests of the tribe.

The Government ignored the report and its recommendations and continued with Termination.

HOW TERMINATION WORKED

01

Each tribal member voted to withdraw or remain part of a private trust. At the time of the vote, one was not sure what the withdrawing payment would be.

02

The vote was held on April 1, 1958. If you choose to withdraw you waited for the resources of the tribe to be assessed and liquidated (sold).

03

Payments in the amount of \$43,000 were paid to the 1,440 withdrawn members on April 1, 1961.

04

The Klamath Tribe as a political entity no longer existed.

What is a trust and trustee?



Trust- an arrangement where a person or business (a trustee) holds property as its nominal owner for the good of one or more beneficiaries.

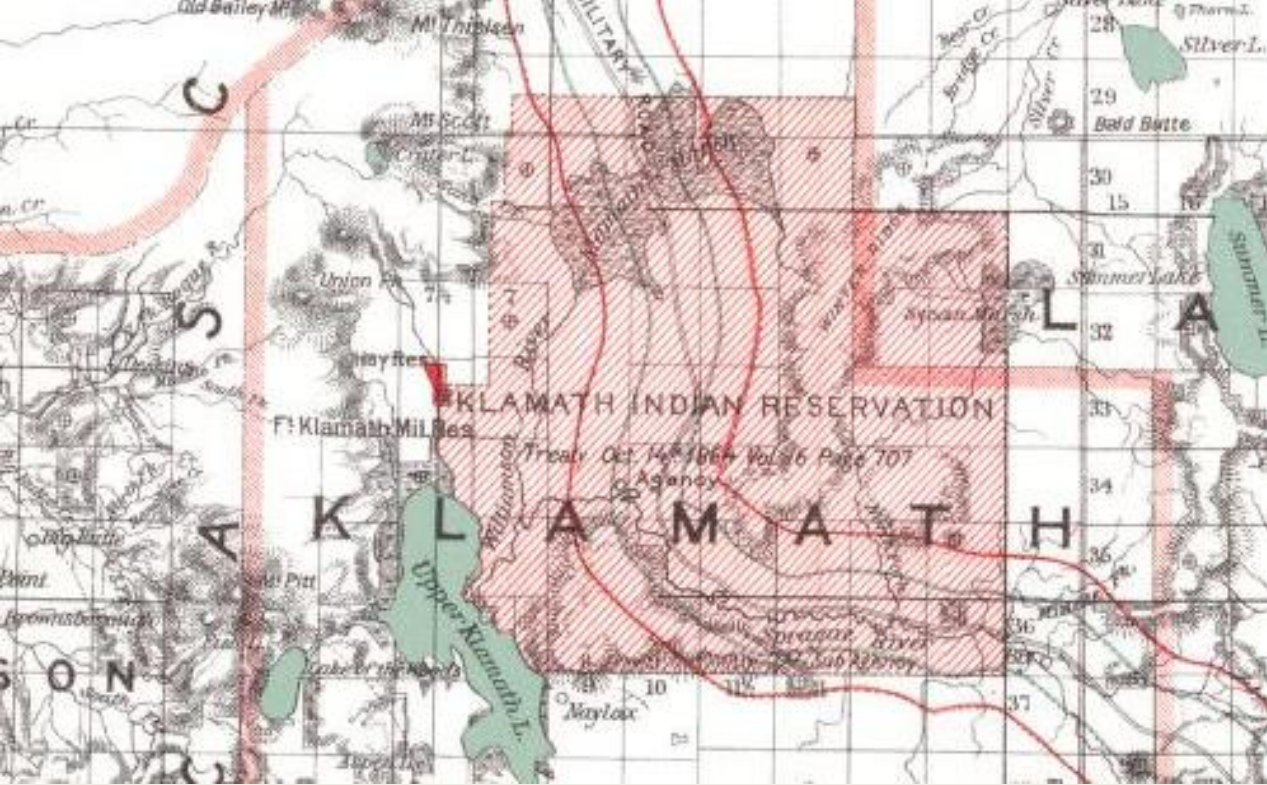


Trustee- an individual person or board given control or powers of administration of property in trust with a legal obligation to administer it solely for the purposes specified.

Your Land, My Land, the Klamath Tribes

(40 Minutes) <https://youtu.be/TvP9hyQIbBM>





Loss of Land

- Upon Termination, the Klamath lost their reservation of 1.9 million acres.
- It has yet to be returned.

Remaining Members

- The remaining 473 members became part of a private trust overseen by the conservator U.S. National Bank of Oregon.
- The members now had to pay taxes on their 145,000 acres of landholdings as the land was no longer held in federal trust.
- The Forest group as the remaining members were known requested sustained yield cutting of the timber, and a fair market price for the timber that was harvested- this did not happen.



Almost
immediately
there was
issues with
the
management
of the trust

The members did not like having to ask for their money and having requests denied by the conservator.

They were also being charged high administration fees by the conservator.

- The administration fee started at \$92,000 a year.
- This was later increased to \$135,000 a year.
- These high “administration fees” were paid while the individual trust members in comparison were paid \$1,000 to \$3,000 a year depending on the returns.

Modoc Tribal member, Taylor Tupper recalls when as a little girl, her father, Rayson Tupper and mother, went to the US Bank (Trust Officer) to get \$300 (of their own money) for Christmas Shopping. The US Bank Trust Officer 'denied' their request and then charged them a fee for the transaction.

In response to issues such as this the remaining members wanted a new trustee. This did not happen instead the trust was ended.

Remaining members were spending more money to have the trust managed than they personally were making off the investment.

These fees in addition to how the Indians were being denied their own money led to the need for a new trustee. However instead of this happening as was intended the trust was abolished and the remaining members paid out.

The remaining members voted 54% in favor and 46% against to abolish the trust with the United States National Bank of Oregon.

Forest Group



Front Row: Seated Left to Right: 1st Man w Glasses Blue Suit (Don Campagna); 2nd Man with Stripe Tie (Elnathan Davis); Unknown; 4th Man front row Grey Suit (Joe Ball); Lady in Green Suit (Marilyn Hall)

Back Row: Left to Right: 1st Man Brown leather jacket (Orin "Buzz" Kirk); unknown; 3rd Man Blue Plaid (Sandy Miller); Man in Maroon Tie (Idarolla (sp?) Lawyer for Remaining Members); Unknown; Man in Glasses Center (Dibbon Cook); unknown; Man with buzz cut and glasses (Boyd Jackson Jr.); Man with Striped tie and glasses (Ray Lung, US Bank Trust Officer)

The New York Times

The New York Times reported on June 27, 1970

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., June 27—
“It's a tragedy, and that's the
only way to describe it,” says
Raymond H. Lung, the man who
is reluctantly preparing to break
up the last land holdings of the
Klamath Indians and sell the
parcels piece meal to the
highest bidder.

“We're robbing our own
children—what kind of people
are we?” Asked an anguished
Indian leader who would like to
halt Mr. Lung's action but so far
has been unable to develop an
alternative to the sale. The
breakup will reduce a heritage of
145,000 acres of pine forest,
mountain pasture and
ranchland to cold short-lived
cash.

Last of the Klamath Indians Collect \$49-Million for Tribal Lands



Donald Schonchin, young Indian, as he walked into the bank to get his money.

By WALLACE TURNER
 Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 5 (UPI)—Klamath Indians, wearing a thick woolen hat, a striped jacket and dark lined gloves, waded up the first through the back door of the bank on Monday and to get the \$49,000,000 they were to receive for their land.

Other Indians viewed the bank throughout the morning before up their checks to their bank accounts. They were among the bank, they were making the gates of opportunity and photographers who wanted to catch their moment when the Federal Government distributed \$49,000,000 to the Klamath Indian Reservation.

"Scary," said Cecil Bettles, a young Indian, as he walked into the bank to get his money.

Final Big Payment

The money was the third big payment to members of the Klamath tribe over the Federal Government's 50-year period of cooperation with the tribe in 1955. The money has been the last of a series of payments that the tribe has received in North America. The last big payment was to the Klamath Reservation last year in the form of a national bank. Bettles was notified last month and was scheduled to receive his money, as Klamath Indian, today.

The money was the third big payment to members of the Klamath tribe over the Federal Government's 50-year period of cooperation with the tribe in 1955. The money has been the last of a series of payments that the tribe has received in North America. The last big payment was to the Klamath Reservation last year in the form of a national bank. Bettles was notified last month and was scheduled to receive his money, as Klamath Indian, today.

But when Mr. Schonchin, who has just turned 18, he was being to represent the work of the government and he would think the government's intention when he was 18 years old to get his money.

"I think I'm the only one who has just turned 18," he said. Mr. Schonchin said that in 1955, when he was 18, he was being to represent the work of the government and he would think the government's intention when he was 18 years old to get his money.

"There are an 8,000 of who had come to get the money," he said.



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and some other government officials in the bank. Mr. Schonchin said that in 1955, when he was 18, he was being to represent the work of the government and he would think the government's intention when he was 18 years old to get his money.

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"There are an 8,000 of who had come to get the money," he said.

Final Payout December 5, 1974

Many remaining members were nervous going to collect the last payout. They were described by the New York Times as "running the gantlet of reporters and photographers who wanted to know what would happen after the Federal Government distributed \$49-million".

Klamath Tribal members at the time described it as:

- "Scary," said Cecil Bettles, a young Indian, as he walked into the bank to get his money.
- "I know what we had to give up to get the money." -Donald Schonchin

Klamath Termination Act, 1954

Before Termination	After Termination (1966-1980)
Fewer than 5 tribal members on public assistance.	28% of the Klamath people died by the age of 25, and 52% died by the age of 40.
Tribal member income was 93% of that earned by non-Indians.	40% of all deaths were alcohol-related.
Tribes provided jobs, per-capita payments from timber sales, medical services, land for homes, and revolving loans.	Infant mortality was 2.5 times the Oregon statewide average, and 70 percent of adults did not complete high school.
Klamath Tribes were one of the wealthiest tribes in the nation.	Tribal poverty levels were three times that of their non-Indian neighbors.



IT BECAME CLEAR TERMINATION WAS NOT
SUCCESSFUL FOR THE KLAMATH PEOPLE,
OR COMMUNITY, AND CHANGES NEEDED TO
BE MADE.



Looking ahead to next lesson:

Road to Restoration

Restoration

Restoring the past, protecting the future.

