

FAST FACTS

Laws & Treaties

Laws were created and changed throughout history and had a detrimental effect on tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the passing of the 1954 Western Oregon Termination Act. Cultural customs, traditions, and languages were lost.



Treaties are legal agreements between sovereign nations. Both nations agree or promise to follow what is written in the agreement.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has 7 treaties:

- Treaty with the Umpqua-Cow Creek Band 1853
- Treaty with the Rogue River 1853
- Treaty with the Rogue River 1854
- Treaty with the Chasta 1854
- Treaty with the Umpqua and Kalapuya 1854
- Treaty with the Kalapuya 1855
- Treaty with the Molala 1855

In order for the U.S. Federal Government to work with the tribes, it was agreed that a special relationship was needed in order to establish treaties. This resulted in the recognition of tribes as sovereign nations, a recognition that still exists today. Being a sovereign nation, or having sovereignty, means having independent power or the right to self-govern and make your own decisions. All federally recognized tribes are sovereign nations.

Tribes are often referred to as “*nations within a nation*”. The tribes are their own nations but exist within the nation of the United States. Approximately 800 treaties were signed between Native Americans and non-Native American nationals by 1871. Over 500 of these treaties have been signed with the United States.