

From the Beginning

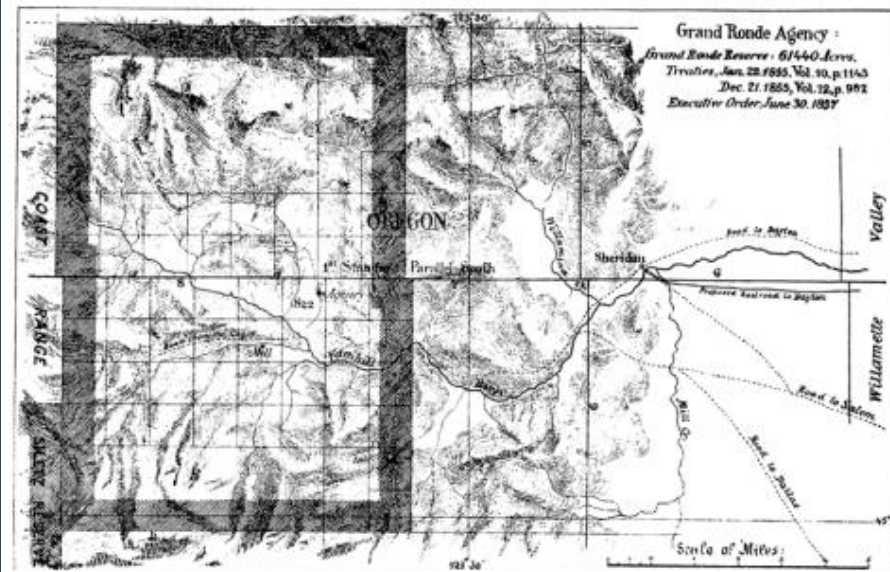
Before being removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation, the ancestors of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde inhabited Oregon's inland valleys and part of the coast since time immemorial.

- According to oral traditions, this was at least 14,500 years in time
- According to archaeological records, this was at least 14,300 years in time

Both before and after moving tribes/bands to the Grand Ronde Reservation, there were several legislative acts passed that had a significant impact on the tribes in Oregon and the land they occupied.

These acts slowly took away land from the tribes and eventually forced them from their homelands to the Reservation. Other acts impacted the tribes' land ownership even after they were moved to the Reservation.

So, where did it all begin?



The First Organic Law of 1843

In 1843, “American and French-Canadian settlers formed the Oregon Provisional Government and established territorial laws and policies regarding Indians” (Lewis, 2009) **

The policy towards “Indians” stated:

*“Of utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians, their land and property shall never be taken away from them without their consent and in their property, rights and liberty they shall never be disturbed unless it be in just and lawful laws, authorized by the representatives of the peoples”****



The Organic Law of 1848

- ❖ The Organic Law of 1848 established the Oregon Territory
- ❖ Now that Oregon had boundary lines, this act laid the groundwork for Indian land titles, the recognition of Indian land, and the beginning of treaties between tribes and the United States government.

A N A C T

TO ESTABLISH THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OF OREGON.

August 14th, 1848.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies west of the summit of the Rocky Mountains, north of the forty-second degree of north latitude, known as the territory of Oregon, shall be organized into, and constitute a temporary government, by the name of the territory of Oregon: Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to affect the authority of the government of the United States, to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the government to make if this act had never passed: And provided also, That the title to the land, not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, now occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes in said territory, together with the improvements thereon, be confirmed and established in the several religious societies to which said missionary stations respectively belong: And provided further, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the government of the United States from dividing said territory into two or more territories, in such manner and at such times as congress shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said territory to any other state or territory of the United States.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That the executive power and authority, in and over said territory of Oregon, shall be vested in a governor, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the president of the United States. The governor shall reside within said territory, shall be commander-in-chief of the militia thereof, shall perform the duties and receive the emoluments of superintendent of Indian affairs; he may grant pardons and respites for offences against the laws of said territory, and reprieves for offences against the laws of the United States, until the deci-

The Organic Act of 1848

The first paragraph of the act states,

“... nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians”

*“...or to affect the authority of the government for the United States, to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, their property, or other rights, by the government to make if this act had never passed.”***

ment, by the name of the territory of Oregon: *Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to affect the authority of the government of the United States, to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the government to make if this act had never passed: And provi-*

What does this mean?

The United States government must respect the Native Americans' lands, rights, and property within the Oregon Territory. A treaty may not take away the rights of the Native Americans or their lands and property.

UNLESS.....

The United States Government makes a treaty or asserts authority over these rights and lands.



Results of the Organic Act

By 1849, more than 10,000 settlers moved to Indian Country on the Oregon Trail and began competing against one another for land which drove the Native Americans out of their homelands.

Due to the overpopulation on the East coast and the failing economy, Congress passed a new act...



The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850

- ❖ This act granted every single White male settler or American half-breed Indian who was a citizen of the United States, 320 acres of land and every married White male settler or American half-breed Indian who was a citizen of the United States, 640 acres of land*
- ❖ Incoming settlers who arrived within one year of this act were given 160 acres of land or if the man was married, 320 acres of land.
- ❖ Hundreds of thousands of acres were taken from the Native American tribes and given to the settlers. The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 benefited settlers greatly, while displacing the Native Americans.

Establishing the Reservation 1855-1857

The Grand Ronde Reservation began by treaty arrangements in 1853 and 1855, and was established by Executive Order on June 30, 1857. The Reservation was created in order to fulfill treaty obligations stated in the Willamette Valley Treaty (also known as Treaty with the Kalapuya etc.) in 1855.

The original Reservation contained more than 60,000 acres.

Native peoples from tribes and bands all over Oregon Territory were marched from their homelands to the Grand Ronde Reservation, where they were told they must make a new home and a new life.**



The Dawes Act of 1887

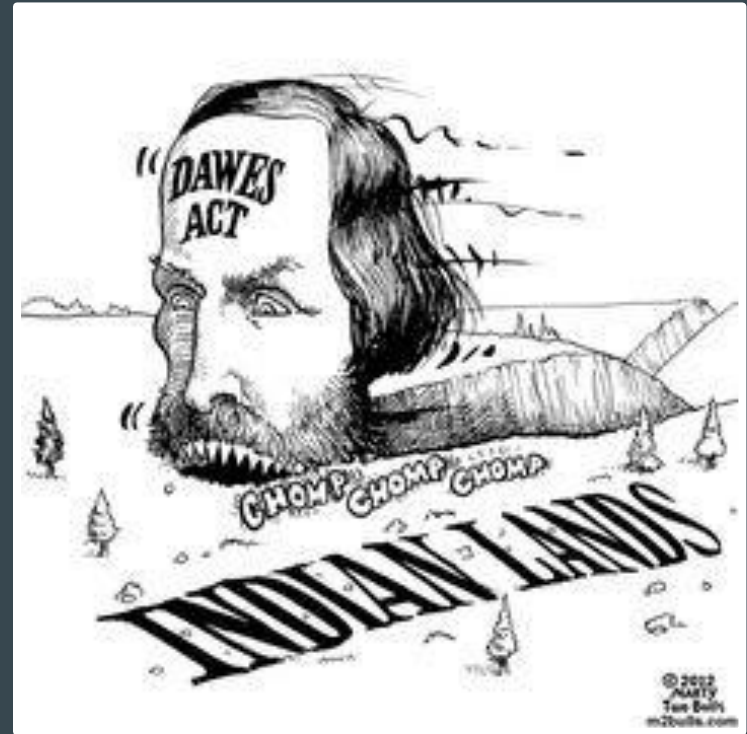
The Dawes Act of 1887 (also known as the General Allotment Act) split up the Reservation land and gave portions of it to the Native Americans living there.

“To each head of family, one-quarter of a section;

To each single person over eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section;

To each orphan child under eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section; and

To each other single person under eighteen years now living, or who may be born prior to the date of the order of the President directing an allotment of the lands embraced in any reservation, one-sixteenth of a section”



The Dawes Act of 1887

Within the Grand Ronde Reservation, 33,468 acres were allotted to 274 Native Americans.

This left 25,791 acres left over as “surplus” to be sold to settlers.

The money received from the surplus land sales was to go towards the funding of education and civilization of Indians*

*“Kill the Indian, and Save the Man”**

-Capt. Richard H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans

