

Native American Timeline

For thousands of years, Native Americans inhabited the region now defined as Oregon.

<p>1780: The Kalapuya population is estimated at 3,000.</p> <p>1782-1783: Smallpox epidemics have a severe effect on the Kalapuya, reducing their population by half.</p> <p>1785: The Northwest Territory Ordinance provides that “the utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians in their property, rights, and liberty and they shall never be disturbed.”</p> <p>1787: With the creation of the United States Constitution, federal recognition of treaties and responsibility over Indian affairs is established.</p> <p>1824: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is created within the War Department.</p> <p>1831: A fever kills many Indians of inland Oregon, from the Willamette Valley to the Walla Walla area of Washington.</p> <p>1835: A smallpox epidemic spreads throughout the Northwest.</p> <p>1849: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is transferred from the War Department to the newly created Department of the Interior.</p> <p>1850: The Oregon Donation Land Claim Act is passed. It encourages settlement on land not yet acquired from Native American owners.</p> <p>1850s: As non-Indians move into Oregon, virtually all Native Americans in western Oregon are uprooted (“removed”) from their homelands to the Siletz Reservation or the Grand Ronde Reservation -- some by treaty, others by force. In many cases they walk 200 miles during winter months. A large number die from hunger, sickness, exposure, and violence during the march. This removal is known as Oregon’s “Trail of Tears.”</p> <p>1871: The Indian Appropriations Act passes. It states that Indian groups are no longer considered sovereign nations. They are considered to be wards of the federal government.</p> <p>1880: The number of Kalapuya on the Grand Ronde Reservation is 351.</p>	<p>1890: The number of Kalapuya on the Grand Ronde Reservation is 164.</p> <p>1905: The number of Kalapuya on the Grand Ronde Reservation decreases to 130.</p> <p>1924: All Native Americans are made United States citizens.</p> <p>1934: The Wheeler-Howard Act, also known as the Indian Reorganization Act, passes. It permits tribes to organize and become self-governing; directs the government to consolidate and conserve Indian lands; and encourages education and economic plans for Indians. In addition, it authorizes contracts with states to administer educational, medical, and welfare programs on Indian reservations.</p> <p>1937-1945: The state passes a number of laws restricting Indians, mostly concerning the possession of alcohol.</p> <p>1947: The Indian Claims Commission is established. Previously, Indian tribes were allowed to sue the United States only with the consent of Congress.</p> <p>1953: Public Law 280 is passed, giving state governments criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indian reservations in California, Nebraska, Minnesota, Oregon, and Wisconsin; Alaska is added to the list in 1958. In addition, Public Law 280 allows any state in the union to assume jurisdiction over Indian lands, either by statute or amendment to the state constitution. Previously, the tribes were regulated directly by the federal government. Special clauses prevent this law from being invoked on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota and the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon.</p> <p>1953-1954: The U.S. House of Representatives passes Concurrent Resolution Number 108, initiating Termination. The resolution’s stated objective is “to end [Indians’] status as wards of the United States.” Individual members of terminated tribes become full United States citizens, subject to the benefits and responsibilities of any other citizens. The resolution also calls for the Interior Department to quickly identify specific tribes as candidates for termination in the near future.</p>	<p>1953: The Klamath Termination Act, Public Law 587, is passed. With this act, all federal supervision and federal aid involving the Klamath tribe are terminated. The legislation also forces all members to make a choice: remain a member of the tribe, or withdraw and receive a monetary payment for the value of the land. Those who stay become members of a tribal management plan.</p> <p>1954: In August, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act, or Public Law 588, terminates western Oregon Indian tribes. All federal services end and tribal lands are sold. Sixty-one tribes in western Oregon are terminated -- more than the combined total of all other terminations in the country.</p> <p>1956: The Grand Ronde Reservation and the Siletz Reservation close.</p> <p>1974: The Johnson-O’Malley Act is amended to include assistance for educating Indian children.</p> <p>1975: The Self Determination and Education Assistance Act passes, addressing some of the problems of Termination.</p> <p>1977: The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz is the second tribe in the nation to achieve restoration.</p> <p>1982: The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians achieves restoration.</p> <p>1983: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde achieve restoration.</p> <p>1984: The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw achieve restoration.</p> <p>1986: The Klamath Restoration Act is adopted into law, re-establishing the Klamath as a sovereign state.</p> <p>1989: The Coquille Tribe achieves restoration.</p> <p>2000: Oregon’s Native American population is 45,211 (1.6% of the population). Fifty percent of these are members of Oregon tribes.</p>
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