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Historical Indian Land Dataset Validation

**Summary**

The following approach was used to validate the historical tribal land dataset compiled by Dr. Justin Farrell. This dataset includes 380 Indian tribes and the associated land on which these tribes have historically lived. The associated land is organized by current United States county and includes associated FIPS county code.

Although the tribes themselves don’t formally organize by counties, this structure allows for future comparisons of tribal lands to other geographic and climatic variables. It is important to recognize that the tribes don’t organized themselves with strict boundary lines similar to county lines. In fact, all designation of space (boundaries, place names, maps, etc.) has been used inherently as a tool of colonial power. Restricting tribal nations to a bounded area has had a tremendous impact on indigenous people’s traditions and languages for centuries. Organization by U.S. county is a severe shortcoming of conceptualizing Indian territories.

However, these boundaries should not be considered the exact territory of Indian nations. It is very likely that most of these tribes moved and lived beyond the boundaries depicted in this dataset. Organizing by counties is simply a way to visually depict the regions that tribes were located before 1900. It is important to note that these regions are only predictions based on qualitative research and should not be thought of as “rigid” or “traditional” territory.

This data was collected by Marian Vernon from: (1) judicial information from land disputes filed from 1946-1978 in the Indian Claims Commission1, (2) land cession treaties made between American Indian tribes and the U.S. Government from 1722-1883 compiled by Charles C. Royce2, and (3) present-day federally recognized tribes listed in the land cessions dataset3. The locations from (1) are labeled as judicial, from (2) as cess\_treaty, and from (3) as cess-pres.

**Overall Goal**

My goal in validation was to confirm the presence of tribes with listed counties and determine if counties or tribes are missing from the dataset. Upon completion of validation, the dataset reports tribes with their historical land. It would be very difficult to include every tribe and sub-tribe in a dataset, so this list should not be treated as exhaustive, but rather as comprehensive as possible using the resources available. In many cases, it would require gathering local knowledge from tribal members to elucidate the entire historical range. It should be treated as an ongoing work-in-progress, and new tribes and counties should be included as more information is found.

**Historical Land**

Another factor that was considered is how to define the term “historical”. Many of these tribes were relocated to reservations during the mid to late 19th century. In many instances, the reservation was located far from the original homelands of that tribe. For example, one third of the Cayuga people (one of the six tribes of the Iroquois Nation) were moved to Indian Territory in Kansas in 1846 (<http://cayuganation-nsn.gov/history-timeline.html>). Consequently, even though the area of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio is the historical region of the Cayuga, the dataset includes Cherokee county in Kansas. Although not the ancestral homelands of the tribe, these areas have now been occupied by members of these tribes for nearly 150 years. I used this rational throughout the dataset. All counties that were included for relocated tribes were retained in the dataset.

Table 1: Individual tribes of confederated or grouped nations that are included in the dataset.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | Confederation or  Group | | Tribes Included | Source |
| Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation | Salish, Kootenai, Kalispel (Pend O'Reille) | http://www.csktribes.org/history-and-culture |
| Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon | Clatsop, Chinook, Klickitat, Molalla, Kalapuya, Tillamook, Alsea, Siuslaw/Lower Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Upper Umpqua, Rogue River Bands, Chetco, Tolowa, Takelma, Galice/Applegate, Shasta | <http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/chinook-indian-tribe-siletz-heritage/our-history/part-i>  <http://www.grandronde.org/hcsummit/>  <https://www.chehalistribe.org/> |
| The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation | Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla | http://ctuir.org/history-culture |
| Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation | Wasco, Tenino (Warm Springs Bands), Northern Paiute | https://warmsprings-nsn.gov/ |
| Yakama Nation | Klickitat, Palus, Walla Walla, Yakama | http://www.yakamanation-nsn.gov/history3.php |
| Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee) | Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Tuscarora | https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/the-six-nations-confederacy-during-the-american-revolution.htm |
| Apache | Chiricahua, Jicarilla, Mescalero | https://mescaleroapachetribe.com/our-culture/ |
| Great Sioux Nation (Oceti Sakowin) | Mdewakanton (Santee), Wahpeton (Santee), Sisseton (Santee), Wahpekuta (Santee), Tetonwan/Teton (Lakota), Yankton (Nakota) | <http://aktalakota.stjo.org/site/News2?page=newsArticle&id=9017>  <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/before-you-go/about-south-dakota/sd-tribes-plains-indians/tribes> |
| The Klamath Tribes | Klamath, Modoc, Yahooskin | http://klamathtribes.org |

**Confederated Tribes**

Another difficulty was how to organize the tribes that have been grouped into a confederation or nation. Some of these groupings are made up of associated or related tribes, and some are made up tribes that simply lived in similar areas. Within the dataset, there are several cases when the same historical counties are listed for different tribes that now live on the same reservation—meaning multiple tribes are federally recognized under a single nation. For example, for many of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the same counties are listed for the individual tribes (i.e. Clatsop and Chinook). I found that it was too difficult to verify the exact locations of the historical region for each specific tribe, so these counties were kept as is. These were often counties associated with the cess\_pres entries. Some of these counties are associated with present day reservation locations. These counties were included because either the reservation land includes historical land or the reservation land was established early enough that it should be considered historical land.

This was not the case for all the confederated tribes. For example, many of the counties listed for the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation were unique to the individual tribe. In Table 1, I included the tribes that are grouped into confederations or nations within the dataset. It’s important to note that this list is not comprehensive of all conglomerated tribes.

Many of the listed tribes are made up of many sub-tribes and sub-bands that were not included in this dataset. This is a difficulty of scale and lineage. Many of these tribes could be further focused into many more bands and sub-bands. This would require much more in-depth research and would oftentimes require direct information from current tribal members. Additionally, there are most likely many non-federally recognized tribes that are not included in this list. However, from the research I’ve done, I’m confident that most of larger tribe are included. Like mentioned above, this dataset should be expanded when new information is found.

**Historical Names**

I cross-checked the name listed in the dataset with the actual historical name the tribes use to refer to themselves. In most cases, the name already present in the dataset is the correct historical name. I changed several of them when it was obvious that the tribe uses a different name for themselves. For example, the Delaware tribe was changed to Lenape. There are a several tribes that I didn’t change, although the name listed is not the historical name. Most notably, the Sioux Nation refer to themselves as Oceti Sakowin, the Iroquois Confederacy refer to themselves as Haudenosaunee, and the Blackfeet refer to themselves as Piegan. For these tribes, I decided to keep the names as is, because of how common these names are and for ease in further analysis. However, these tribes could easily be assigned their historical name. I will leave this distinction up to Dr. Farrell.

**Validation Methods**

I validated the dataset by cross-checking the listed counties with other qualitative resources. Although time-intensive, I checked most counties for every tribe. My process generally followed these steps:

1. Focus on a single tribe
2. Use an internet search (Wikipedia, state history websites, OK State Digital Collection4, etc.) to corroborate that counties are generally in the correct region
3. Attempt to find a current tribal website, which often includes historical information
4. Cross-check locations with other tribal maps (Native-Land.ca5 or USFS Tribal Connection6)
5. Cross-check the listed tribe name with historical name, so every tribe is defined by their historical name
6. If changes were made, I recorded the modification and included them in Appendix A of this report

The dataset includes several columns that were not in the original master combined dataset. The column labeled as ‘Update’, includes all the counties that were not previously in the dataset, but ones that I found through qualitative resources. The column labeled as ‘Validate’, was used to keep track of the validated counties. An ‘x’ means that I was able to validate the county with an outside resource. The ‘Source/Treaty/Other’ column, includes either a web resource, information on the treaty signed by the tribe, or other useful information. The ‘from native-land.ca’ column includes all counties and tribes that were added using the native-land.ca site. These are mostly tribes in the eastern United States that were not previously included. The last column ‘Unique tribes’ is a complete list of unique tribes included in the dataset—of which there are a total of 380 entries. Lastly, the dataset is organized alphabetically by the tribe name.

**Native-land.ca**

The native-land.ca site proved to be a very helpful resource in validating locations and adding previously unincluded tribes. This resource was used mostly for tribes from the eastern United States, as the dataset already included many of the tribes found in the site map, except for eastern U.S. counties. This site was created and is managed by Victor Temprano. I reached out to him to see if I could receive raw shapefiles and receive approval to use the data. Although, I did not get the raw data, Mr. Temprano approved the use of the website, as long as it’s cited in the report. His exact email message from April 25, 2018 is as follows:

*Hi Ben! Nice to meet you and Dr. Farrell,*

*I have no problem with you using the work as long as it's cited. I would also really prefer if you can ensure that the source is used responsibly -- that is, it's emphatically not an academic-level or archival-level resource and represents something more like a guess at times. The shapes really vary in whatever "accuracy" might mean -- in some cases they are from individual nations, some cases they are from email fixes, some cases from old colonial maps. I only say all this because people have a tendency to take this as fact.*

*I am working hard on creating individual "source pages", for each Nation and Language and Treaty, where the changes will be tracked over time and any rasters or oral or written submissions for changes will be recorded (a kind of Wikipedia, I suppose). However real accuracy on that is a year off, at least -- there are over 2500 shapes to go back over carefully and archive. And no funding makes it a bit harder... In the meantime, Google will probably give you a reasonable result in most cases.*

*Anyway, I'm happy to chat with either or both of you if you need any more clarity or want to collaborate on any interesting projects -- I'm always game. Thanks for letting me share my concerns, but again, the site is totally open source and I'm happy to have you use it in your reports and research. There is also an API if you want to use it for interesting analyses.*

*Thanks for reaching out!*

*- Victor Temprano*

The method I used in validating the areas using the native-land.ca site is as follows:

1. Focus on a single tribe
2. Using Google Maps with county lines, I very carefully compared the area from the native-land.ca site to the geographic map
3. I then recorded each county that was included in the tribe area
4. I used a county list with associated FIPS codes from the U.S. Census Bureau to validate each county and include the FIPS code

This method was certainly an estimate but was done with careful attention. A further sensitivity analysis will need to be completed to confirm the accuracy of counties included.

**Conclusion**

The current status of the Historical Indian Land Dataset is 380 tribes and associated counties validated with outside qualitative resources. Although not by any means a complete and exact dataset, the information included is corroborated with outside resources. The data is prepared to be further analyzed and compared with other geographic variables.

**References Cited:**

1 Indian Claims Commission. 1978. Indian land areas judicially established 1978. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Accessed online, 14 April 2015. <http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/DOCUMENTS/ClaimsMAP.htm>

2 Royce, C. C. 2010. Indian Land Cessions in the United States, 1784-1894. Retrieved 2018, from https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss-ilc.html

3 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Accessed 14 April 2015 (c). Indian Land Cessions 1784-1894. <http://www.nps.gov/nagpra/ONLINEDB/Land_Cessions/INDEX.HTM>

4 Kappler, C. J. 1904. Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties, Vol. II in part. Washington: Government Printing Office. Available through the Oklahoma State Digital Library. Accessed online 16 April 2015. http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/Vol2/Toc.htm

5 Temprano, V. G. (2018). NativeLand.ca. Retrieved 2018, from <https://native-land.ca/>

6 Koeppel, C. (2018). US Forest Service Indian Lands Map. Retrieved April 23, 2018, from <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/>

**Appendix A: Modifications**

Arapaho: Removed county repeats (i.e. when Judicial data was repeated)

Arikara: Removed "Akira" and renamed Arikara

California Tribes: Removed "California Tribes” because there is no historical name

Caddo: Removed California Counties from Caddo because Caddo are located in the South

* <http://caddonation-nsn.gov/2670-2/>

Cherokee: Removed WA, Grays Harbor county from Cherokee

* http://www.cherokee.org/About-The-Nation/History/Facts/Our-History

Chukchansi: Removed CA, Humboldt, CA, Lake, CA, Marin, CA, Mendocino, CA, Sonoma, CA, Trinity, and NM, Grant counties from Chukchansi

* <https://chukchansigold.com/about-us/picayune-rancheria/>

Coast Tribes of Oregon: Removed all counties. This includes Rogue River and other tribes that already present in the data

Colville: Removed all cess\_pres counties for Colville. The remaining judicial counties are located in eastern Washington, the historical region for the Colville

* <https://www.cct-hsy.com/facts/> (The Confederated Tribes of The Colville Reservation)

Concow: Removed CA, Mendocino for Concow. Added Butte, CA county. The Concow are a sub-tribe of the Maidu

* <http://maidu.org>

Hopi: Removed AZ, La Paz, AZ, Mohave, CA, Riverside and CA, San Bernardino. Added AZ, Apache county

* (<https://hpaied.org/sites/default/files/publications/Hopi%20Tribe%20Land%20Team.pdf>)

Hupa: Removed Hupa (S. Fork, Redwood, and Grouse Creek bands) because the Hupa tribe is already listed

Indians of Fort Belknap Agency: Removed all counties. This is not an historical tribe named in a treaty. These include the Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, and Sioux bands which are present in the data

Kalispel: All Pend O’Reille renamed Kalispel and counties are added to standardize the three Flathead tribes (Salish, Kootenai, and Pend O’Reille)

* https://www.kalispeltribe.com/our-tribe/past-present-future

Kansas: Removed all counties because Kansas are known as Kaw and they already listed

Lenape: Renamed Delaware as Lenape

* http://www.lenapelifeways.org/lenape1.htm

Me-Wuk: Removed the AZ, NV, OR, and UT counties for the Me-Wuk. They are a tribe from Northern California

* <https://mewuk.com/cultural/history/>

Methow: Remove the ID and MT counties for the Methow tribe (the listed counties are the counties of the Confederated Tribe of the Colville). The Methow people originate from the Methow valley in WA

* <http://methowvalleynews.com/2017/09/08/lost-homeland-tells-little-known-history-of-methow-tribe/>

Mohican: Removed KS, Franklin from Mohican

* http://www.mohican.com

Mono: Merged the Mono and Monache and labeled as ‘Mono’. Removed all non-CA counties for Mono

* <https://native-land.ca/>: central Sierra Nevada, the Eastern Sierra (generally south of Bridgeport), the Mono Basin, and adjacent areas of the Great Basin.
* For Mono tribe, there are Western and Eastern (Owens Valley Paiute), basically divided by the Sierra crest.

Muckleshoot: Removed WA, Chelan, WA, Okanogan, WA, San Juan, WA, Skagit, WA, Whatcom. Added WA, Pierce county

* <http://www.duwamishtribe.org/> and <http://www.muckleshoot.nsn.us/about-us/overview.aspx>: descendants of the Duwamish and Upper Puyallup people--lived in Central Puget Sound

Nez Perce: removed all MT counties -- Nez Perce traditional land is ID, OR, and WA

* https://native-land.ca/

Nome Lackee: Renamed Nome Cult, Nome Lackee and Nomelaki as “Nome Lackee”

* https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\_books/5views/5views1h55.htm

Owen’s River: Removed because it is a subtribe of Mono

Paiute: Removed repeat counties

Piegan: Removed because Piegan is the same tribe as Blackfeet

Quechan: Removed CA, Fresno, CA, Kings, CA, Madera, CA, Mariposa, CA, Merced, and CA, Tulare counties for Quechan tribe—clearly the tribe was located further south than these counties near the Colorado River

* <https://www.quechantribe.com/about-us.html>

Quinault: Removed Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties for the Quinault tribe

* <http://www.quinaultindiannation.com/>

Round Valley: CA, Mendocino removed because this is a present-day tribe name. Round Valley natives consist of the Yuki, Concow Maidu and several others--not necessarily a historical tribe

Sauk and Meskwaki: Renamed Sac and Fox to ‘Sauk and Meskwaki’

* <https://www.meskwaki.org/> (Could consider splitting the two, but I don’t think it’s necessary)

Samish: Added San Juan County to Samish

* <https://www.samishtribe.nsn.us/who-we-are/culture>

Shoshone: Removed AZ, Coconino, AZ, Mohave, AZ, Mono, and CA, San Bernardino for the Shoshone—these counties are associated with Paiute reservations, not historical Shoshone counties

Stockbridge: removed all Stockbridge counties because they are Mohican and already accounted for in Mohican counties

Takelma: Removed Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington, Yamhill. Added Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath counties (all Oregon counties).

* The originally labeled counties are all in northern Oregon, but it is clear that the Takelma are from the Rogue River area
* “For thousands of years the Takelma people lived in what is now called the Illinois and Rogue River valleys”
* <https://www.nps.gov/orca/learn/historyculture/takelma-tribe.htm>
* <https://native-land.ca/>

Tenino: Renamed Confederated Tribes of middle Oregon as Tenino

Tohono O’Odham: Removed “Papago” from the name of Tohono O’Odham tribe

* “The Tohono O’odham tribal government and most of the people have rejected the customary English name Papago, used by Europeans after being adopted by Spanish conquistadores from hearing other Piman bands call them this”. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tohono\_O%27odham
* https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog571/node/297

Tolowa: Removed Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington, Yamhill. Added OR, Curry, OR, Josephine, and CA, Del Norte

* Their Taa-laa-waa-dvn roughly covers what are today Curry, Josephine and Del Norte Counties.
* <http://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/who-we-are/>

Tukudeka: Sheepeater renamed to Tukudeka—they are a band of Eastern Shoshone, but later joined the northern Shoshone.

* https://www.legendsofamerica.com/na-sheepeaters/

Washoe: Removed AZ, OR, and NV counties for the Washoe. The Washoe are from CA and NV.

* <https://www.washoetribe.us/contents/>

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes: Removed all counties because they are the same as the counties for Wichita

Wyandotte: Wyandot and Wyandotte standardized to Wyandotte. All Ohio judicial counties renamed to Wyandotte and sorted in with all counties

* https://www.wyandotte-nation.org

Yavapai: Removed all NM and TX counties for the Yavapai tribe

* <http://www.yavapai-apache.org/history/>

Yu-ki-as: Yuki renamed to Yu-ki-as

* <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/S?ammem/hlaw:@filreq(@band(@field(SUBJ+@1(Sai-nell,+Yu-ki-as,+Mas-su-ta-ka-ya,+and+Po-mo.))+@field(FLD003+@band(llss+c56)))+@field(COLLID+llss))>

Removed all present-day tribes