



A History of the Health of the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Peoples

*A story of how decades of trauma
has led to massive disparities in
the health of Indigenous
people...and the path to
overcoming them.*





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Plate 469



The Klamath River, Oregon

Photographed by the author

GATHERING WAKAY—KLAMATH









The Klamath Tribes Treaty of 1864

This Photo shows 6 original Treaty Signers, 2 Descendants of Original Treaty Signers, the Superintendent and his clerk. (Photo taken in 1886)



Back Row, left to right: Tom Chocktoot (also known as Stak-it-ut, original signer, Paiute Indian Chief); Jack Palmer (descendant of original signer "palmer"); Captain Oliver Cromwell Applegate (former superintendent of Klamath Indian Agency); Reverend Jesse Lee Kirk Sr. (descendant of original signer "kellogue"); and Eugene Henry (we believe a Klamath Agency clerk).

Front Row, left to right: Original Treaty Signers Seated: Moghengaskit, (also known as Moses Brown, Klamath Headman, from the Klamath Marsh); Long John (Modoc Indian); Chief Lalo (also known as Jena-jens, Klamath Indian); Agency George (Klamath Indian); Henry Blow (Klamath Indian).

NOTE: There were 27 original signers of the Treaty of 1864, however, a photo was not taken at that time.

ORIGINAL TREATY SIGNERS INCLUDED: La-lake, Chil-o-que-nas, Kellogue, Mo-ghen-gas-kit (also known as Moses Brown, Klamath Headman, from the Klamath Marsh), Blow (also known as Henry Blow, Klamath Indian), Lalo (a Klamath signer), Palmer, Jack, Que-ass, Poo-sak-sult, Che-mult, No-ak-sum, Moch-kat-allick, Toon-tuc-tee, Boss-Ki-you (also known as Allen David, Klamath signer also known as Bo-co-pa in the Klamath language), Ski-at-tic, Sho-lal-loos, Tai-tet-pas, Muk-has, Herman-Kus-mam, Jackson, Schon-chin (also known as Old Schonchin, brother to Schonchin John, Modoc Indian), Stak-it-ut (also known as Tom Chocktoot, Paiute Indian Chief), Keintpoos (also known as Captain Jack, Modoc Indian), Chuck-e-i-ox (also known as Njakeaks, Modoc Indian), Kile-to-ak (also known as George Modoc Johnson, Yahooskin Snake Indian), and Sky-te-ock-et (also known as Pete Chocktoot, Paiute Indian).

**This treaty was signed in the presence of: R.P. Earnhart, Secretary; Wm. Kelly, Captain First Cavalry, Oregon Volunteers; William C. McKay, M.D., and Robert Biddle. In 1870 the Klamath Tribes Treaty of 1864 was ratified and proclaimed by the U.S. Senate and President Grant of the United States of America.*

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the right, power and authority to govern. The Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Paiute Tribes have **inherent sovereignty** - sovereignty bestowed upon us by our Creator when we were placed here, and affirmed by the willingness of our people to be governed by our own laws. Our sovereignty predates the sovereignty of the United States, having existed for thousands of years.

TREATIES

A Treaty is a formal, written agreement between sovereigns. The United States Constitution recognizes treaties as a "Supreme Law of the Land." (Article 6, Clause 2). The **Treaty of 1864** was and is a recognition of our inherent sovereignty by the United States, and the right of our people to retain a homeland. Although U.S. law is imperfect, our Treaty has continued to serve us for Seven Generations, as demonstrated by these cases:

Kimball I (1974):

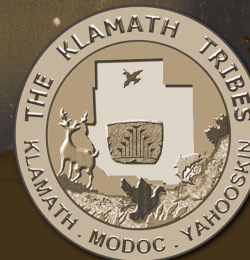
The Klamath Tribes "may exercise their treaty hunting, trapping, and fishing rights free of state fish and game regulations...."

Kimball II (1979):

"...the treaty hunting, fishing, and trapping rights survived the Klamath Termination Act for all members..."

US v Adair (1985):

"...the Tribe and its members have water rights sufficient to maintain their treaty rights to hunt and fish on the former reservation...."



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POSSESSION

WITHIN

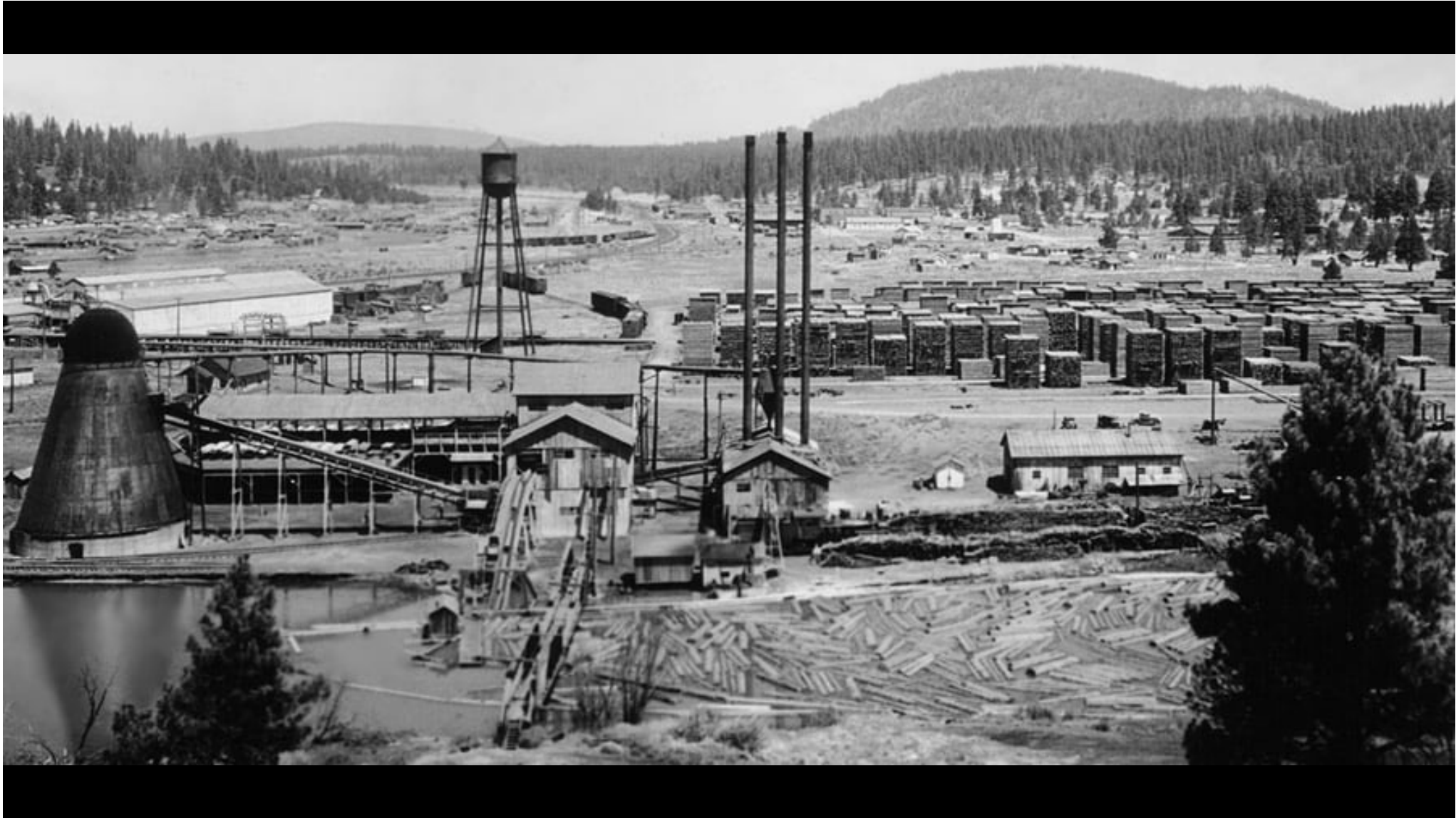
THIRTY DAYS

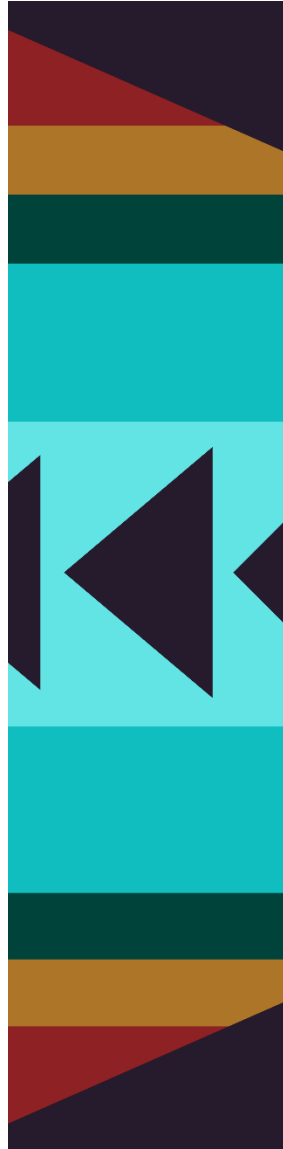
FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL







Tribal Termination



ter·mi·na·tion | \ ,tər-mə-'nā-shən
noun

: an end in time or existence

What does Termination mean?

- Loss of Sovereignty
- Federal government no longer has a responsibility to tribes
 - Broken treaties
 - Loss of federal aid, services, and protection
- Indian Relocation Act
 - BIA had vocational training in large cities
 - How would Indigenous people thrive in large cities from rural reservations?
- Are you still Indigenous if your tribe is no longer recognized?

Why were the Klamath Tribes terminated?

- Paid entire cost of BIA
- About 80% were not actually employed, they lived off of the land.
- Money was still controlled by Trustees



Why were the Klamath Tribes terminated?

Held some of the most valuable land in the US

- Ponderosa Pine
- Sold to pay off members
- Flooded the market
- Collapsed the lumber industry









1583 - ENTRANCE TO INDIAN TRAINING SCHOOL, CHEMAWA, NEAR SALEM, OREGON.

Results of Assimilation Policy and The Termination Act

- **High levels of unemployment and poverty**
- **Low levels of education**
- **No Indian Health Services**
- **Huge Incidence of Depression**



Between 1966 and 1980,
28 percent of Klamaths died
before age 25;
52 percent died before they
were 40.

RESTORATION

- In 1986 The Klamath Tribes were restored their recognition with the federal government.
- Unlike many other tribes, we were restored without out land.
- Our people were still spread out throughout the country.
- The Klamath Tribes still lack a reliable source of revenue.

Where are we now?

"When compared to other ethnic and race groups, Indigenous people have a lower life expectancy, lower quality of life, and higher rate of chronic conditions."

Disease Prevalence

- Alcohol related - 520%
- Tuberculosis - 450%
- Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis – 368%
- Motor Vehicle Crashes - 207%
- Diabetes mellitus - 177%
- Unintentional injuries - 141%
- Poisoning - 118%
- Homicide - 86%
- Suicide - 60%
- Pneumonia and influenza - 37%
- Firearm injury - 16%



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Access to Healthcare

- Rural areas
- Underfunded Clinics/Hospitals
- Staffing at IHS hospitals is 25% under what is recommended.
- In 2019, **IHS spent \$4,078 per person**, compared with **Medicaid spending \$8,109**, **VA is \$11,800** and **Medicare \$13,185**.

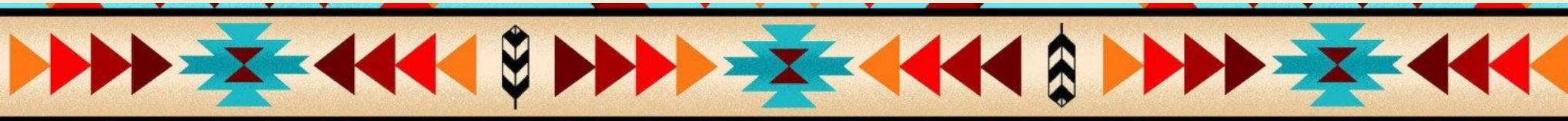
Discrimination within Healthcare

Educational material is not culturally appropriate.

More than 23% of Native Americans report experiencing discrimination in a healthcare setting.

15% of Indigenous people report not seeking medical care because of fear of discrimination.

General distrust due to past experiences





Economics

Federal Indian Policy caused large economic gaps between Indigenous people and other races

- Median Household income is much lower
- Remote location of reservations
- Lack of access to common resources
- Food Deserts





Perseverance

- Land Protectors
- Healthcare Facilities for Non-Natives
- Covid Response
- Era of Healing

sep'keec'a

