



FACTS

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

TRIBAL FAIRNESS

Returning lands in western Oregon

LAND LINES

Surveyors map new tribal areas

LAND TRANSFERS 1-2-3

Agreements signed by all sides

The Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

Giving Land Back to Northwest Tribes

The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act will return lands in three counties

Fact:
32,261 acres will be transferred to Oregon tribes.

On Jan. 8, 2018, the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act was signed into law (Public Law 115-103). This new and innovative law provides that approximately 14,742 acres of land managed by the BLM in western Oregon will be held in trust on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and 17,519 acres held in trust on behalf of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Currently, neither of these tribes has any significant forest lands held in trust. The legislated increase in tribal lands is intended to spur job development and economic growth for both tribes.

The parcels are located in western Oregon's Coos, Douglas, and Lane counties,

and include tracts such as the Coos Head, Talbot Allotment, and Umpqua Eden parcels, which are of particular cultural significance to the tribes, as well as areas such as the Lower Smith River and Tioga tracts, managed for timber production.

Since the passage of the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act, the BLM has put together a team with two project co-managers, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to work on implementation requirements detailed in the law. In addition, the BLM has created an official data set and a website to share information with the tribes and other interested parties. For more information, search: "Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act + BLM."

Finding the Land

Surveying every inch for tribal fairness

Fact:
The BLM is the official land survey expert for the United States government.

The original surveys of the Public Land Survey System created townships of 36 sections which can be subdivided by aliquot part. When the original surveyors set monuments on the corners of the sections the cadastral survey was then sufficient to pass title inside each section.

Cadastral surveyors have reviewed official land survey records of the General Land Office (BLM's predecessor), BLM records and publicly available county records in each piece of land impacted by the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act. Surveyors also reviewed the land records for evidence of the actual boundary locations on the ground.

The BLM is tasked with completing cadastral survey—the process of creating, marking, defining, or re-establishing boundaries and subdivisions of public lands—for the more than 32,000 acres cited in the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act.

Even though BLM knows where each acre is located, that doesn't mean the job is done. There are three parcels, and one road, that do not have adequate legal descriptions and must be surveyed.

An assessment of the boundary evidence will provide an in-depth analysis for each parcel in the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act.

Fact:
There are 2–3 million land markers in America.



Explaining Land Rights

How land transfers happen
and who gets notified

Fact:

Lands will be transferred one day after agreement is signed.

The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act benefits three federally recognized tribes: The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; and the Coquille Tribe. The act directs the BLM to transfer more than 32,000 acres to the first two tribes. The third title of the act amends the Coquille Restoration Act, allowing the tribe greater discretion in managing its resources.

In July of 2018 the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will enter into an agreement with the tribes for continued administrative access on behalf of the secretary of the interior. Working in cooperation with the BIA, the BLM's Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act implementation team drafted specific

agreements for each of the land transfers. The lands will transfer from BLM management to the BIA the day after each is signed.

The BLM also notified valid existing rights holders of the pending conveyance and is working to provide all relevant information to the tribes and the BIA. The valid existing rights include such things as roads, power lines, communications sites, water pipelines and fiber optic rights-of-way. The team is also in the early stages of planning reciprocal right-of-way administration trainings for the tribes and the BIA. There are also plans to discuss interim fire suppression and the remediation of the Umpqua mine.



Facts at Your Fingertips
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