The Puyallup Indian Tribal Land Claims Settlement Agreement



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Agreement between the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, local Governments in Pierce County, the State of Washington, the United States of America, and certain private property owners. August 27, 1988



Introduction

The Puyallup Indian Tribal Land Claims Settlement Agreement was signed by 12 parties and became effective on March 24, 1990. The parties are:

- United States
- State of Washington
- Pierce County
- City of Fife
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Tideland Owners

- Puyallup Indian Tribe
- Port of Tacoma
- City of Tacoma
- City of Puyallup
- Burlington Northern RR
- Riverbed Owners



The Agreement

- Settlement Lands
- II. Payments to Members of Puyallup Tribe
- III. Permanent Trust Fund for Tribal Members
- IV. Fisheries
- V. Job Training & Placement; Social and Health Services
- VI. Economic Development
- VII. Blair Navigation Project
- VIII. Future Governmental Authority, Responsibility, Cooperation
- IX. Resolution of Puyallup Tribal Land Claims
- X. Implementation and Modification
- XI. Federal Court Jurisdiction
- XII. Legal Disclaimer



The Technical Documents

- 1. Lands conveyed to the Tribe
- Payments to members of the Tribe
- 3. Permanent Trust Fund for Tribal members
- 4. Fisheries
- Job Training & Placement Program; Social & Health Service Improvements
- 6. Blair Navigation Project
- 7. Future Governmental Authority, Responsibilities, and Cooperation



History

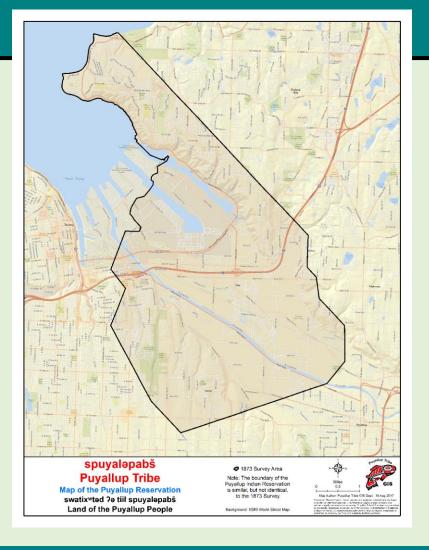




(History)

The Treaty of Medicine Creek in 1854 and two subsequent Executive Orders created the Puyallup Indian Reservation. From the 1890's through the 1930's, the local business community, aided by a Congressional Act, a federal commission, and the railroads, stole ... excuse me, unburdened the Tribe and its members of most of the land within the Reservation.





The 1873 Survey
Area, a close
approximation of the
Puyallup Indian
Reservation.



(History)

In the 1960's and 70's the Tribe's resources finally enabled it to undertake efforts to recover some of that land. Land claims cases and other litigation soon upset several apple carts from the perspective of the non-Indian community. When the Tribe in 1984 prevailed against the Port of Tacoma in one of the cases, the title companies stopped writing title policies for any lands on the Reservation.



(History)

The result was not a workable situation for businesses or homeowners. The community therefore proposed negotiations to resolve the Tribe's land claims and other related issues. Negotiations took place off and on over the next four years resulting in the Settlement Agreement.

It took another year and a half for all parties to ratify the Agreement and assemble the resources to implement the Settlement.



What's in the Settlement?

We'll divide the contents into three categories:

- What did the Tribe receive?
- What did the non-Indian community receive?
- Procedures and processes created and made available and applicable to both sides.

(The word "receive" in this context is shorthand for both benefits received and obligations taken on.)

Let's look at those three categories.



The Tribe Received:

Land

- Economic development
- Fisheries habitat
- Governmental facilities

Payment to Tribal members

One-time \$20,000 payment

Permanent Trust Fund

Earnings only used for supplemental social services



... and the Tribe received:

Increased protection of fisheries resource & habitat

- Technical standards
- Requirements, limitations on development projects

Employment and Social Services

- Job opportunities
- Social service facilities (buildings)

Economic Development Resources

- Land
- Financial resources



The non-Indian parties received:

Resolution of Tribe's land claims

- Tribe relinquished most of its claims to ownership of lands except those specifically identified in the Agreement
- Tribe agreed not to attempt to displace certain easements held by non-Indian parties

Jurisdiction agreement

Tribe agreed not to assert jurisdiction as to (a) non-trust lands; (b) activity on those lands; (c) non-Indians on those lands.



Non-Indian parties also received:

Port interests

- Tribe's approval, with conditions, of several Port development projects
- Blair Waterway funding Congressional appropriation (\$25.5 million) to widen and deepen waterway



Land Use Decisions

Substantive standards [TD#7, § B(2)]. Examples:

- Need of Tribe and members for land
- Protection of residential areas from uses that would adversely affect those areas
- Preservation of open spaces
- Protection of the environment
- Opportunity for economic growth and diversity
- Need for infrastructure
- Impact on tax rolls



Land Use Consultation Process

[§ VIII(C) of the Settlement Agreement and §(C)(3) of Technical Document #7]

Parties required to consult, attempt to resolve differences, but retain their decision-making authority

- Information [§ C(3)(a)]
- Input [§ C(3)(b)]
- Good faith effort to accommodate [§ C(3)(c)]
- Explanation of adverse decision [§ C(3)(d)]



Resolving conflicts between fisheries resource protection and economic development

(§ IV (D) of the Settlement Agreement and § (D) of Technical Document #4. Still in place as to the Port of Tacoma, expired as to other parties.)

- Parties
- Process mediation, arbitration
- Technical standards

Measures local governments will take to provide greater protection to fishery resource and habitat: § IV(B)(3) of Agreement and § B(3) of TD #4



Clarification of law enforcement responsibilities (Section VIII(F) of the Settlement Agreement and section (D) of Technical Document #7)

- Primary response
- Arrests, investigations
- Cross-deputization
- Consultation

