

PAPERS RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE  
CHEHALIS RESERVATION  
AND THE  
SHOALWATER BAY RESERVATION

## THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION

The Cowlitz, Upper Chehalis, Lower Chehalis, and Satsop delegates to the Chehalis River treaty council each came to the council prepared to cede most of their lands, but they all wished to keep certain lands in their own countries.

Stevens made it clear that he would not agree to reservations in the territory of each group.

During the course of the negotiations, the Cowlitz, Chehalis, Satsop, Kwaliioquas, and the Indians from the north side of Gray's Harbor all agreed to share a single reservation on the Chehalis River at the mouth of Black River.

Despite this genuine offer of compromise, Stevens refused to budge.

The impasse created over the number and location of the reservations offered in the Chehalis River Treaty led to the failure of the council.

After years of urging by the Indian and white residents of the area and by employees of the Indian Service, the Chehalis Reservation was approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1864.

The boundaries of the original reservation were changed by Executive Order in 1886. Later, the reservation was made smaller by other means.

The correspondence and documents relating to the establishment of the Chehalis Reservation show several things:

- (1) The Chehalis Indians continued to assert their claim to their territory and vigorously protested the Government survey of lands which they had not ceded by any treaty.
- (2) The Chehalis continued to press for the reservation which they had asked to have included in the Chehalis River Treaty.
- (3) Nine years after the failure of the Chehalis River treaty council, the United States finally agreed to the Chehalis Reservation and set it apart for the use and occupation of the Chehalis Indians.

W A S H I N G T O N .

CHEHALIS RESERVATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

May 17, 1864.

Sir: I have the honor to submit for your direction in the premises, sundry communications and papers from Superintendent Hale in reference to a proposed reservation for the Chehalis Indians in Washington Territory.

The condition of these Indians has been the subject of correspondence between this office and the superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington Territory for several years. It will be seen by Superintendent Hale's letter of July 3, 1862, that the country claimed by these Indians is large, comprising some 1,500 square miles; that they have never been treated with, but that the Government has surveyed the greater part of it without their consent and in the face of their remonstrances, and the choicest portions of their lands have been occupied by the whites without any remuneration to them, and without their consent, or having relinquished their claim or right to it. They have been thus crowded out and excluded from the use of the lands claimed by them, and those which they have heretofore cultivated for their support. This has caused much dissatisfaction, and threatens serious trouble, and they manifest a determination not to be forced from what they claim as their own country. After various

propositions made to them by Superintendent Hale, looking to their removal and joint occupation of other Indian reservations, to all which they strenuously objected, they expressed a willingness to relinquish all the lands hitherto claimed by them, provided they shall not be removed, and provided that a sufficient quantity of land shall be retained by them at the mouth of the Black River as a reservation.

The selection herein made in accordance with their wishes, and approved by Superintendent Hale, reduces the dimensions of their former claim to about six sections of land, with which they are satisfied, and which selection has been submitted to this office for its approval. There seems one drawback only to this selection, and that is one private land claim - that of D. Mounts - which it is proposed to purchase. The price asked is \$3,500, which he considers not unreasonable. (See his communication of March 30, 1863, and accompanying papers.)

There is remaining on hand of the appropriation for "intercourse with various Indian tribes having no treaties with the United States" the sum of \$3,980.12 a sufficient amount of which I have no doubt might appropriately be applied for the purpose indicated. (See U. S. Stat. L., vol. 12, p. 792)

I am of the opinion that the proposition is a fair one for the Government, and as it is satisfactory to the Indians interested, I see no objection to its approval by the department, especially so when it

is considered that it will peaceably avert impending trouble.

As recommended in the letters herewith submitted, it will also be necessary, doubtless, to make some provision for them after they shall have been assured of the quiet and permanent possession of the proposed reservation for a future home. But this may subsequently receive the attention of the department. These Indians are represented to be in a very hopeful condition. They wish to abandon a roving life; to establish themselves in houses, and cultivate their lands; to educate their children, and live peaceably with all.

These papers are submitted for your information in considering the subject, and, if it shall commend itself to your judgment, for the approval of the proposed selection as a reservation for these Indians and the purchase of the private-land claim of D. Mounts thereon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Wm. P. Dole, Commissioner.

Hon. J. P. Usher,

Secretary of the Interior.

(Inclosures.)

Boundaries of the Chehalis Indian Reservation, as compiled from the field notes of the public surveys in the office of the surveyor general of Washington Territory: Beginning at the post corner to sections 1 and 2, 35 and 36, on the township line between townships Nos. 15 and 16 north, of range 4 west of the Willamette meridian, being

the northeast corner of the reservation; thence west along the township line 240 chains to the post corner to sections 4, 5, 32, and 33; thence north on line between sections 32 and 33, 26.64 chains, to the southeast corner of James H. Roundtree's donation claim; thence west along the south boundary of said claim 71.50 chains to its southwest corner; thence north on west boundary of the claim 13.10 chains; thence west 8.50 chains to the quarter-section post on line of sections 31 and 32; thence north along said section line 40 chains to the post corner to sections 29, 30, 31, and 32; thence west on line between sections 30 and 31, 25 and 36, 101.24 chains to the Chehalis River; thence up the Chehalis River with its meanderings, keeping to the south of Sand Island, to the post on the right bank of the river, being the corner to fractional sections 1 and 2; thence north on the line between sections 1 and 2, 73.94 chains to the place of beginning.

The copy of the field notes in full, as taken from the record of public surveys now on file in this office, and from which the above is compiled, is duly certified as being correct by the surveyor general of the Territory.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Olympia, Wash., December 10, 1863.

The within and foregoing boundaries, as described in the notes and accompanying diagram of the proposed Chehalis Indian Reservation, are approved by me as correct, and being in accordance with

instructions given by me, the same being subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

C. H. Hale,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory.

*Appendix*  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C., July 8, 1864.

Sir: I return herewith the papers submitted with your report of the 17th May last in relation to a proposed reservation for the Chehalis Indians in Washington Territory.

I approve the suggestion made in relation to the subject, and you are hereby authorized and instructed to purchase the improvements of D. Mounts, which are on the lands selected for the reservation, if it can now be done for the price named for them, viz, \$3,500, including the crops grown or growing this season upon the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. Usher, Secretary.

William P. Dole, Esq.,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Note. - D. Mounts was paid for his improvements by Superintendent Waterman, January 6, 1865.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, October 1, 1886.

It is hereby ordered that the following tract of country in Wash-



ington Territory, reserved for the use and occupation of the Chehalis Indians, by order of the Secretary of the Interior, dated July 8, 1864, be, and the same is hereby, restored to the public domain.

Beginning at the post corner to sections 1 and 2, 35 and 36, on the township line between townships Nos. 15 and 16 north, of range 4 west of the Willamette meridian, being the northeast corner of the reservation; thence west along the township line 240 chains to the post corner to sections 4, 5, 32, and 33; thence north on line between sections 32 and 33, 26.64 chains to the southeast corner of James H. Roundtree's donation claim; thence west along the south boundary of said claim 71.50 chains to its southwest corner; thence north on west boundary of the claim 13.10 chains; thence west 8.50 chains to the quarter-section post on line of sections 31 and 32; thence north along said section line 40.00 chains to the post corner to sections 29, 30, 31, and 32; thence west on line between sections 30 and 31, 25 and 36, 101.24 chains to the Chehalis River; thence up the Chehalis River with its meandering, keeping to the south of Sand Island, to the post on the right bank of the river, being the corner to fractional sections 1 and 2; thence north on the line between sections 1 and 2, 73.94 chains to the place of beginning.

It is further ordered that the south half of section 3 and the northwest quarter of section 10, township No. 15 north, of range 4 west of the Willamette meridian, Washington Territory, be, and the same

is hereby, withdrawn from sale or other disposition, and set apart for the use and occupation of the Chehalis Indians.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

WASHINGTON.

CHEHALIS.

It is hereby ordered that the west half of the southwest quarter of section three, township fifteen north, range four west of the Willamette meridian, in the State of Washington, reserved for the use and occupation of the Chehalis Indians by order of the President dated October, 1886, be, and the same is hereby, restored to the public domain.

It is hereby directed that the Secretary of the Interior allot to Ada McKay, a Skokomish half-blood Indian, the land above described in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the act of Congress approved February 8, 1887 (24 Stat. L., 388); as amended by the act of February 28, 1891 (26 Stat. L., 794).

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

November 23, 1908.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 11, 1909.

It is hereby ordered that lot 3, containing 44.30, of section 10, township 15 north, range 4 west of the Willamette meridian in the State of Washington, reserved for the use and occupation of the

Chehalis Indians, by order of the President, dated October 1, 1886,  
be, and the same is hereby, restored to the public domain.

It is hereby directed that the Secretary of the Interior allot to  
Perry Yukton, an enrolled Member of the Chehalis Tribe, the land  
above described, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of  
the act of Congress approved February 8, 1887 (24 Stat. L., 388), as  
amended by the act of February 28, 1891 (26 Stat. L., 794).

Wm. H. Taft.

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## THE SHOALWATER BAY RESERVATION

The Chinook and other Indians who relied on the incredibly rich resources of Shoalwater Bay for their livelihood came to the Chehalis River treaty council prepared to cede most of their lands, but they wanted to reserve land at Shoalwater Bay.

James Swan, who lived at Shoalwater Bay from 1852 to 1855 and who was present at the Chehalis River treaty council, had this to say about the value of the area to the Indians.

*"It appears to me as if Shoal-water Bay is an Indian's paradise. There is no time of year, excepting in winter, and only a short time then, but what a plenty of food can be obtained by any one who is not too lazy to go out for it."*

According to Swan, the Indians who lived on the Bay as well as their neighbors to the north and south, relied on the waters of the Bay and the tidelands for shell-fish, fish, sea mammals, and a large variety of sea birds. In addition, various sorts of marine plants and shore plants were collected for food as well as for textile and other uses. The peninsula was thick with berries -- strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, black currants, and huckleberries.

Shoalwater Bay was an incredibly rich resource area for the coastal Indians and there was no other place to compare with it any-

The United States reversed Stevens' decision about the reservations a few years later, but the Government still denies the Indians treaty status and treaty rights.

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS REPORTING ON  
THE PROPOSED SHOALWATER BAY RESERVATION

May 2nd, 1866

Sir:

I have visited Shoalwater Bay and examined the spot that the Indians wish reserved for them. It is peculiarly adapted for a home for them, being situated in close proximity to good fishing, hunting, and grazing grounds, and I would recommend that it be immediately reserved from sale.

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Respectfully, Your obt. Servt.

Giles Ford

W. H. Waterman, Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, W.T.

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The letter from Ford was sent by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, W.H. Waterman to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington along with his official request to have the Shoalwater Bay Reservation established.

The letter from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Olympia to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington is reproduced on the following page.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Olympia, W.T., June 1st 1866

Sir

I herewith inclose a letter from Giles Ford Esqr together with a map showing the situation of the land referred to by him as the tract desired by the Indians on Shoalwater Bay. These Indians said to consist of some 30 or 40 families have always lived upon the Beach and subsisted upon fish, clams, oysters, and sea animals. They are unwilling to abandon their former habits of life and turn their attention to agriculture. They desire a place upon the shore where they can fix their homes, without being exposed to be supplanted and driven off by white men. This tract which they have selected is a sand beach yielding some grass for the pasturage of their horses but of little value for cultivation. And it is my judgment that reserving it for the use of the Indians would work no injury to white men, but would have a tendency to promote peace between them and the Indians and would secure the contentment and wellbeing of the latter. I therefore beg leave respectfully to recommend that the tract of land selected by Mr. Ford and designated upon the inclosed map may be reserved for the use of the Indians.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

W. H. Waterman

Supt. Ind. Affairs, W. T.

The Shoalwater Bay Reservation was established by Executive Order in 1866.

SHOALWATER RESERVATION

EXECUTIVE MANSION, September 22, 1866.

Let the tract of land as indicated on the within diagram be reserved from sale and set apart for Indian purposes, as recommended in his letter of the 18th instant, said tract embracing portions of sections 2 and 3 in township 14 north, range 11 west, Washington Territory.

ANDREW JOHNSON