

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

IDAHO INDIAN TREATY LANDS

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Nez Perce: defined by treaty of 29 April 1859 (signed at Walla Walla, 12 June 1855), as commencing at the source of the Wo-na-ne-she or southern tributary of the Palouse river; thence down that [Wo-na-ne-she] to the main Palouse; thence in a southerly direction to the Snake River at the mouth of the Tucanon River; thence up the Tuconon to its source in the Blue Mountains; thence southerly along the ridge of the Blue Mountains; thence to a point on the Grand Ronde River, midway between the Grand Ronde and the mouth of the Woll-low-how River; thence along the divide between the waters of the Woll-low-how River and Powder River; thence to the crossing of Snake River, at the mouth of Powder River; thence to the crossing of Snake River, at the mouth of Powder River; thence to the Salmon River, fifty miles above the place known [as] the "crossing of the Salmon River"; thence due north to the summit of the Bitter Root Mountains; thence along the crest of the Bitter Root Mountains to the place of beginning.

Flathead, Kootenai, and Upper Pend d'Oreille: defined by treaty ratified 8 March 1859 and proclaimed 18 April 1859 (signed at Hell Gate, 16 July 1855) as "commencing on the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains at the forty-ninth (49th) parallel of latitude, thence westwardly on that parallel to the divide between the Flat-bow or Kootenay River and Clarke's Fork; thence southerly and southeasterly along said divides to the one hundred and fifteenth degree of longitude (115°), thence in a southwesterly direction to the divide between the sources of the St. Regis Borgia and the Coeur d'Alene Rivers, thence southeasterly and southerly along the main ridge of the Bitter Root Mountains to the divide between the head waters of the Koos-koos-kee River and of the southwestern fork of the Bitter Root River, thence easterly along the divide separating the waters of the several tributaries of the Bitter Root River from the waters flowing into the Salmon and Snake Rivers to the main ridge of the Rocky mountains, and thence northerly along said main ridge to the place of beginning." These lands mostly are in Montana; the Idaho portion belonged to the Kootenai.

Eastern Shoshoni: defined by treaty ratified 7 March 1864 and proclaimed 7 June 1869 (signed at Fort Bridger, 2 July 1863), as bounded "on the north, by the mountains on the north side of the valley of Shoshonee or Snake River; on the east, by the Wind River mountains, Peenahpah river, the north fork of Platte or Koo-chin-agah, and the north Park or Buffalo House; and on the south, by Yampah river and the Uintah mountains." The western boundary is left undefined, there being no Shoshonees from that district of country present; but the bands now present claim that their own country is bounded on the west of Salt Lake.

Northwestern Shoshoni, including Pocatello's band: defined by treaty ratified 7 March 1864 and proclaimed 17 January 1865 (signed at Box Elder, 30 July 1863) as "bounded on the west by Raft river and on the east by the Porteneuf Mountains."

Western Shoshoni: defined by treaty of peace and friendship ratified 26 June 1866 and proclaimed 21 October 1869 (signed at Ruby Valley, 1 October 1863) as bounded "on the north by Wong-goga-da Mountains and Shoshonce [Snake] River Valley; on the west by Su-non-to-yah mountains or Smith creek Mountains . . . on the east by Po-ho-no-be Valley or Steptoe Valley and Great Salt Lake Valley." Most of this land is in Nevada.

Fort Hall Shoshoni and Bannock: defined by treaty of peace and friendship ratified with reservations but never put in effect (signed at Soda Springs, 14 October 1863), as extending "from the lower part of Humboldt river, and the Salmon Falls on Shoshonce [Snake] river, eastwardly to the Wind river mountains." [This supplies the missing western boundary for the Eastern Shoshoni.]

Boise Shoshoni: defined in part in an unratified treaty signed at Fort Boise, 10 October 1864, as "all lands to thirty miles on each side, from the centre of the Boise river and to all the country drained by the tributaries of the Boise from its mouth to its Source."

Bruneau Shoshoni: defined in an unratified treaty signed at Bruneau, 12 April 1866, "commencing at the mouth of Goose Creek and extending on the south bank of the Sho sho nee River to the mouth of the Owyhee, thence along the summit of the Owyhee Mountains and the Goose Creek range to where Goose Creek crosses the summit of said range."

Kalispell or Lower Pend d'Oreille: undefined in executive orders of 9 April 1872 and 2 July 1872 which established the Colville reservation for these and other bands, mostly in Washington. Their Idaho lands included territory north of the Coeur d'Alene cession of 3 March 1891 and west of the Kootenai cession of 18

April 1859.

Coeur d'Alene: defined in an unratified agreement of July 28, 1873, and ceded in a treaty ratified 3 March 1891 (signed at Desmet 9 September 1887) "beginning at the head of the upper Palouse or Mohnasha river in the Territory of Idaho; thence westerly across the ridge to Steptoes Butte; thence northerly to Antoine Plants, on the Spokane river; thence across ridge to the foot of Pen de'Oreille Lake, thence up said lake to the summit of the Bitter Root Mountains; thence along the summit of the Bitter Root Mountains to the place of beginning." A Coeur d'Alene petition of 26 March 1885 specified these boundaries as "beginning at a point on the Pelouze River west of a high butte now known as and called Steptoe Butte; thence extending northwestwardly to the Spokane River at a point on its north bank formerly resided at by Antoine Plant, a half-breed Indian; thence extending to the lower end of the Pend d'Oreille Lake; thence eastwardly to the summit of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains, separating the waters of the Flathead or Missoula River from those of the Coeur d'Alene and Saint Joseph's River; thence southerly along the summit of said mountains to the most southern thereof, whence flow the waters of the Pelouze River; thence westwardly along the southern rim of the water-shed of the waters of the Pelouze River to the point of beginning."

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