

Reservation Plan (continued)

pass. This I have attempted putting into operation and have good reason to believe will be successful. It will require a force of about sixty men, and to remain until relieved by the promised Company of United States Troops.

The donation land claims and the presence of the military at Fort Yamhill within the boundaries of the Reservation created land and jurisdictional disputes from the outset. While some of the settlers were willing to sell their farms within the boundaries of the Reservation, others were not. The existence of these claims has confused the record relating to the acreage contained within the reservation.

The accompanying tracing of a map in 1858 shows the location of the Kuykendall and Babcock land claims in sections 7 and 8 as well as the location of the Shasta, Santiam, and Cow Creek Indian villages. The location of Fort Yamhill is also shown. There was constant confusion and conflict because of the overlapping claims of the Indian Department, the military and the several settlers who refused to sell their lands. Conflicts over the unpurchased claims continued for many years.

Allotment

Initially the Indian bands settled in separate villages located in different parts of the Reservation. The different Indian groups maintained their separate identities, elected their respective representatives to the general Legislative Council of the Reservation, and the members of each village farmed land in common. In 1872, in anticipation of authorizing legislation, individual Indian families were allotted farms at Grand Ronde. The Indians immediately began fencing and clearing their individual holdings and building homes.

The General Allotment Act, also known as the Dawes Act, became law on February 8, 1887. Under authority of this law, 270 allotments were made to Indians at Grand Ronde. The certified schedule was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior on January 25, 1891 and the allotments were approved on April 29, 1891. In July 1892, 265 patents were transmitted to the Agent at Grand Ronde Agency. Several of the allotments had inadvertently been made on land within an unpurchased donation land claim and one person eligible to be allotted had been overlooked. The remaining patents were issued a few years later after the land assignments had been readjusted.

The patents issued under authority of the Dawes Act contained a provision that after twenty-five years, the lands would go out of trust and into fee status. During the first twenty-five years the lands were held in trust for the Indian patentee by the United States and the lands were not subject to tax. At the close of the trust period, a fee patent would issue and the lands became taxable. Most of the allotments were fee patented and went