Tying Forest Service Lands to Tribal Lands and Treaty Ceded Lands

The Forest Service Tribal Connections Interactive Mapping Tool

Presented by:
Mariel Murray & Betsy Kanalley
USDA Forest Service
Agency relationship with Tribes
Three layers of connection
Bringing the layers together
A look at the Tribal Connections Viewer
Questions
All or part of every national forest and grassland is carved out of the ancestral lands of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. Indigenous communities across the country still maintain strong historical and spiritual connections to the land, connections that have not been extinguished despite changes in land ownership.

_Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon, National Forest System_
AGENCY COMMITMENT

• Trust responsibility
• Treaty rights
• Forest Service Chief’s priority
Our
4,000
Mile
Connection
UNDERSTANDING THE WHY

• Improve decision-making for incident and resource management
• Uphold treaty and trust responsibilities
• Define the scope of tribal needs and interests on Forest Service lands
• Identify cooperative opportunities
Layers
Land ceded, or surrendered, by the Tribes to the Federal government as part of a treaty.
ROYCE MAPS
We took those 67 Royce Cessions Maps available on the Library of Congress website to create a national treaty cession lands layer.

The scanned maps were geo-referenced and digitized.

We created a GIS data layer linked to:
- Each Cession Map’s index number
- Treaty related information
- Tribe named in Treaty
- Present-Day Tribe
Ceded Lands Layer
So what does a treaty look like?

Article III Of the Treaty with the Six Nations signed in 1794

The land of the Seneca nation is bounded as follows: Beginning on Lake Ontario, at the north-west corner of the land they sold to Oliver Phelps, the line runs westerly along the lake, as far as O-yong-wong-yeh Creek, at Johnson's Landing-place, about four miles eastward from the fort of Niagara; then southerly up that creek to its main fork, then straight to the main fork of Stedman's creek, which empties into the river Niagara, above fort Schlosser, and then onward, from that fork, continuing the same straight course, to that river; (this line, from the mouth of O-yong-wong-yeh Creek to the river Niagara, above fort Schlosser, being the eastern boundary of a strip of land, extending from the same line to Niagara river, which the Seneca nation ceded to the King of Great-Britain, at a treaty held about thirty years ago, with Sir William Johnson;) then the line runs along the river Niagara to Lake Erie; then along Lake Erie to the north-east corner of a triangular piece of land which the United States conveyed to the state of Pennsylvania, as by the President's patent, dated the third day of March, 1792; then due south to the northern boundary of that state; then due east to the south-west corner of the land sold by the Seneca nation to Oliver Phelps; and then north and northerly, along Phelps's line, to the place of beginning on Lake Ontario. Now, the United States acknowledge all the land within the aforementioned boundaries, to be the property of the Seneca nation; and the United States will never claim the same, nor disturb the Seneca nation, nor any of the Six Nations, or of their Indian friends residing thereon and united with them, in the free use and enjoyment thereof: but it shall remain theirs, until they choose to sell the same to the people of the United States, who have the right to purchase.
Why this layer is important

- Many of the ceded lands overlap nearly all National Forest System lands
- Current tribal members retain cultural/historical rights to these lands
- Tribal consultation should include Tribes represented in ceded lands and nearby tribal lands
There are 566 federally-recognized Tribes and 56.2 million acres of tribal land held in trust by the U.S. government.
CONTEMPORARY TRIBAL LANDS
Tribal Lands Layer

• Census data were used for the Tribal Lands Layer - Census TIGER/line files

• Indian Lands Federally recognized as legal American Indian Areas and American Indian Joint – Use areas
Tribal Lands Layer
The U.S Forest Service manages and protects approximately 193 million acres of public land in 44 states and Puerto Rico
- 154 National Forests
- 20 National Grasslands
Forest Service Lands layer

- Administrative boundaries created from agency lands data
  - Automated Lands Program (ALP) data

- This layer represents federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service
FOREST SERVICE LAYER
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Viewer Functionality

• A few simple options are available to meet user needs:
  - layers shown
  - zoom to area of interest
  - map or image backdrop
• Information about Treaty and Tribe can be viewed in pop-up window
• Contiguous borders are highlighted in red
COMBINED LAYERS
POINTS TO REMEMBER

• Tribal Connections should be used as a reference point for informational purposes only
• This is not a legal map
• The Tribal Connections Viewer was developed to be a reference tool and decision support tool for Forest Service employees
• The Tribal Connections viewer is not yet available for public use.
  – Currently under review by the Agency’s Content Review Board – required for external publication
Next Steps

• Publish the Tribal Connections Viewer data to the Forest Service Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW)
  – Link to Data.gov
• Publish the Ceded Lands layer data
• Begin work on the next version of Tribal Connections Viewer- refresh data layers
  – Publish on Arc GIS Online
  – Develop Story Maps
THE MAP VIEWER

Welcome to the Tribal Connections - US Forest Service Indian Lands Map Viewer

The U.S. Forest Service Indian Lands Map Viewer is designed to show Indian lands in relation to National Forest System boundaries for general comparison purposes only. Historical Indian Cessation maps are also depicted in order to informally give an overview of Indian land cessations.

Indian lands shown in this map viewer are not to be used for legal purposes and are not considered legally authoritative.

Data has been prepared by the USDA Forest Service Geospatial Service and Technology Center. April 2014. The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. This Map Viewer is made available by the Geospatial Management Office, the Enterprise Data Warehouse and the Chief Information Office.

View the Tribal Connections Web Map Quick Start Guide:
U.S. Forest Service Indian Lands Map Viewer Quick Start Guide

For assistance regarding the content of this map viewer, please contact:
Kathryn Boote
kgosbeght.1fd.us
202-205-1778

Click to continue
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Kathryn Sosbe
kgsosbc@fs.fed.us
202-205-1778
Showing only shared borders
Showing all layers
Indian Lands Information

View Royce Maps on the Library of Congress website.

Cession Map Number: 3

Map Names: Tennessee and Bordering States

States: KY, NC, TN

Counties: Buncombe, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Climont, Cumberland, Davidson, De Kalb, Dickson, Henderson, Houston, Jackson, Lyon, Madison, Montgomery, Overton, Pickett, Pulaski
Questions?