

SOVEREIGNTY

Adapted from Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Resource Department,
Research Library Nov. 2021 Handout



Define

Sovereignty can be defined as supreme power or authority, especially over a state or other political body. There are three types of sovereign governments in the United States; the federal government, state governments, and tribal governments. When the United States federal government recognizes a Native American tribe as sovereign, the tribe has the right to:

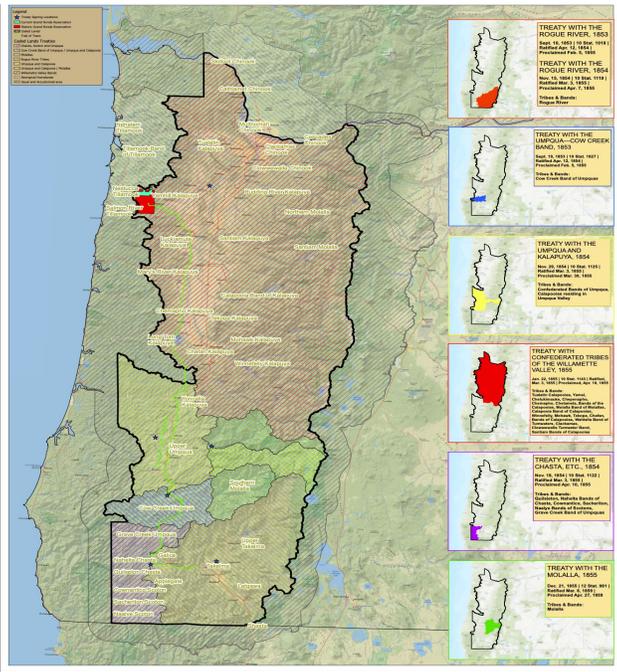
- Form their own government
- Determine membership or citizenship
- Make and enforce laws
- Regulate trade within borders
- Govern the conduct of members and non-members on tribal lands
- Form alliances with other nations

Treaties

Through hundreds of treaties, executive orders, laws, Supreme Court rulings, and more, the United States has continued to demonstrate that tribal nations have the right to self-govern, or to be sovereign. In the space below, write what you know about treaties and what they mean to tribes.

Sovereignty, Termination, and Restoration

Many treaties were signed in the mid-1800s with the tribes that now make up The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Those treaty areas can be seen in the map below.



In exchange for land, government officials promised sovereignty. This promise was broken many times. On August 13, 1954, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was terminated - meaning a loss of federal recognition and all of the rights that came with sovereignty.

Leaders in the Grand Ronde community worked to restore CTGR. On November 22, 1983, the Grand Ronde Restoration Act (Public Law 98-165) was signed. This restored the Tribe's federal recognition and their sovereignty. Almost immediately, CTGR began building their new nation.

Explore

Using the links below, explore what sovereignty looks like for CTGR and other Tribal Nations:

- **What is Tribal Sovereignty?**

<https://youtu.be/BOYcgvEU0V0>

REVIEW: Sovereignty means that tribes operate as _____ nations within a _____.

- **Oregon Blue Book**

<https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book/Page/s/national-tribes-intro.aspx>

REVIEW: Who was the second tribe in the natin to achieve restoration?

- **Nine Tribes**

<https://online.kidsdiscover.com/unit/oregon/topic/nine-tribes>

REVIEW: How many federally recognized tribes are in Oregon? List them below separated by commas.

