

Policy 5-18	Land Acknowledgement Policy	Created: 6/1/2022 Approved: 8/18/2022
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the land acknowledgement policy is to outline when the Land Acknowledgement statement is read, as well as to provide context for why such a statement is needed. The purpose of the statement itself is not only to honor the indigenous peoples on whose land we reside today, but also to acknowledge the historical events which led to their displacement, to recognize the present-day contributions of our community members who are descended from indigenous groups, and to serve as an organizational commitment to recognizing the special needs of this underserved community.

II. INTRODUCTION

Land acknowledgements are used to acknowledge that the land on which we live today is the ancestral homeland of people who were here prior to Euro-American colonization from time immemorial and whose descendants are members of our community today. It is also a way for those listening to see themselves within the broader context of history. The purpose of a land acknowledgement statement is to educate, to offer a moment to reflect, and to provide a call to action for our organization and our patrons.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

There are two versions of the JCLS Land Acknowledgement statement. This section outlines how each version is to be utilized within JCLS.

- A. Spoken: This version will be read at the beginning of every Library program intended for an adult or teen audience, large staff meetings, and public District meetings such as Board Meetings. This version may also be used for plaques in buildings and for staff email signatures, which is voluntary. It is recommended that it is printed bilingually and be installed in meeting rooms throughout the district.
- B. Long: This version provides more information and is intended primarily for use on the website with links to the pages of the tribes being acknowledged and other resources for JCLS patrons to learn more.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jackson County Library Services acknowledges that its libraries are located within the traditional lands of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Modoc Nation; as well as the Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa people, whose descendants are now identified as members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

We take this moment to recognize the Indigenous peoples whose traditional lands are where residents of Jackson County live today. JCLS is committed to fostering understanding, deep respect, and honor for Indigenous people and we encourage you to learn more about the land you reside on.

For more information, go to jcls.org/land



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LONG FORM

Jackson County Library Services acknowledges that its libraries are located within the traditional lands of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Modoc Nation; as well as the Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa people, whose descendants are now identified as members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

These Tribes were displaced during rapid Euro-American colonization, the Gold Rush, and armed conflict between 1851 and 1856. In the 1850s, discovery of gold and settlement brought thousands of Euro-Americans to their lands, leading to warfare, epidemics, starvation, and villages being burned. In 1853 the first of several treaties were signed, confederating these Tribes and others together – who would then be referred to as the Rogue River Tribe. These treaties ceded most of their homelands to the United States, and in return they were guaranteed a permanent homeland reserved for them. At the end of the Rogue River Wars in 1856, these Tribes and many other Tribes from western Oregon were removed from the land. Most were sent to the Siletz and Grand Ronde Reservations. The Modoc were sent to Oklahoma after the Modoc War in 1873. The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians defied removal and remained in the region.

The result of forced relocation and genocide is that Jackson County is no longer a population center for these specific tribal groups. As of the 2020 Census 4.6% of the population of Jackson County has some indigenous heritage—while this is more than twice the national average, it is a precipitous reduction from the pre-colonial 100%. We acknowledge that indigenous groups are too often relegated to the historical past when, in truth, indigenous people are essential members of the Jackson County community.

We take this moment to recognize the Indigenous peoples whose traditional homelands and hunting grounds are where residents of Jackson County live today. JCLS is committed to fostering understanding, deep respect, and honor for Indigenous people and we encourage you to learn more about the land you reside on.

