

<b>Policy 5-18</b>	<b>Land Acknowledgement Policy</b>	<b>Created: 6/1/2022 Revised: 9/8/2025 Approved: 10/16/2025</b>
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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. JCLS has chosen to acknowledge tribes with ancestral ties to Jackson County, not just the Federally recognized tribes of Oregon. 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. Short:** This version must be read at all District Board Meetings, large staff meetings, and author talks. For programs that don't fall under these categories and have projected or hand out materials, the Land Acknowledgement can alternatively be displayed instead of being read aloud. 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 Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa people, whose descendants are now identified as members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, as well as of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and Modoc Nation who were forced to relocate to Oklahoma.

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](https://jcls.org/land)



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## LONG FORM

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

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 went into hiding.

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.

