RESERVATIONS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

History

Reservations are managed by a federally recognized Native American tribe under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs rather than state governments. In 1855 a party of Natives killed eight settlers in the White River Massacre. In response to this attack, Americans captured 4,000 noncombatant Native Americans and moved them to Fox Island for close observation. Additionally, southwestern tribes who had no tradition of warfare were raided and their villages placed under surveillance. Upper and Lower Chehalis families were forcibly relocated as were coastal tribes such as the Cowlitz; the few Chinook people were moved to Fort Vancouver. All remained captive until at least the end of the war, nearly two years. Many died due to insufficient food, water, and shelter.



Legends & Lessons

By August 1856 the Indian War was over. Governor Stevens visited Fox Island to "renegotiate" the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek, a major factor in the outbreak of war. Imagine the disadvantage felt by the tribes there that day.



Placing Native Americans on islands to be starved to death is a recurring theme in American history. New England used Deer, Peddocks, Long and Brewster Islands. Below view Minneapolis-St.Paul's Pike Island in the heart of the Mississippi River. The year was 1862 and the peoples were those of the Dakota Sioux.



Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

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