

Appendix IX. Historical context



Historical Context: Indians, Forests, and the United States

The Way Forward Begins in the Trail Behind

Of special interest to this investigation, have been the implications of historic events for Indian forestry programs today. For instance, the development of forest regulations for Indian reservations has historically reflected the evolving social attitudes and pressures for land and resources that have driven timber policy in the United States, particularly for public forestlands. As example, throughout the nineteenth century, widespread illegal harvest of timber occurred on Indian and public domain lands with little concern for ownership or fear of accountability. The harvested lands were left to burn or re-establish as they might. Hence the term “cut and run.”

It was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that public concerns about sustainability began to manifest in public policy. It was not until 75 years later that tribes could begin to assert management control over their own timberlands. More recently, in the Northeast and Midwest, IFMAT observed tribes working to restore pine, ash, and birch to forests simplified to aspen 150 years ago. In the Inland West, the contrast between forests, thinned and underburned, on Indian lands and forests left untended and overstocked on the federal estate is stark.

The “*Transformation*” element of the “*FIT*” paradigm is premised upon acknowledgement that sustainability is a direction, not a destination. The above-observed examples of adaptive management found on Indian forests reflect *transformation* empowered by policies of self-determination and self-governance that make possible the unique integration of traditional knowledge with forest science that guides contemporary Indian stewardship. Given the cascade of challenges in a resource-constrained world and the policy complexities unique to Indian country, a review of some historical milestones could be helpful.

A thorough history of Indian peoples and forested ecosystems in the United States is considerably beyond the scope and resources of this inquiry. However, from review of available literature, we have endeavored to provide abbreviated chronicle in the hope that contemporary issues might be given historical context and informed dialogue might better proceed. We identify twelve historical “eras” as delineated by periodic twists and turns in Indian policy and standing. These eras, often just several decades in duration, mark a rapid progression of change, rarely sought, that has challenged the sustainability of Indian cultures *and* American forest ecosystems. We find that Indians and American forests are and always have been inseparable and that the United States has moral and legal obligations to both.

CHRONOLOGY

1 Pre-Contact

Before 1500

- 11,000 BCE Paleo Indians: Southwest and Northwest.
- 5,000 BCE Maize cultivation in Mexico.
- 3,000 BCE Aleut and Inuit peoples in Alaska.
- 3,000 BCE Coastal communities establish throughout California and the Pacific Northwest.
- 1,500 BCE Maize cultivation in southwestern and eastern North America.
- 1,000 BCE "Three sisters" (maize, squash, and beans) cultivation supports centralized societies with coordinated trade and religion. Corn grown throughout most of North America wherever climate will allow.
- 500 BCE Hohokam irrigation system in Arizona.
- 500BCE – 1200 CE Anasazi, Hohokam, and Mogollan cultures flourish in the Southwest; Cahokia and Adena societies in Midwest and Southeast; Hopewell culture in areas of eastern North America and the Plains. Trade networks are established.
- 1200-1300 Severe drought disrupts Native societies in the Midwest, Plains and Southwest.
- 1450 Iroquois League and Great Law of Peace (Gayanashagowa).
- 1500 4-18 million Indian peoples, speaking more than 400 languages, live in what will become the United States.

2 Discovery

1500-1600

- 1492 Columbus arrives in the Caribbean.
- 1493 Pope Alexander VI grants the right to conquer newly found lands to Spain, thus establishing the *Discovery Doctrine* for the new world.
- 1497 Cabot makes landing in Newfoundland.
- 1519 Cortez Conquers the Aztec.
- 1500 Apaches and Navajos arrive in Southwest.
- 1532 Franciscus de Victoria advises King of Spain that aboriginal peoples have rights.
- 1537 Pope Paul III forbids slavery of indigenous peoples.
- 1500-1600 Europeans explore, conquer, and settle in North America: Spanish – Southeast, Southwest, California, and Mexico, British - Mideast and Northeast, French - Northeast and Canada.
- 1500-1600 Spain establishes principles of Indian title and consent requirement that influence international law through the 18th century. Indians are recognized as sovereign powers capable of making treaties.
- 1500-1600 Spanish bring horses to the Southwest.
- 1500-1600 Epidemic depopulation throughout North America some tribes become extinct.

- 1550-1600 Surviving remnants of tribes form confederacies such as the Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Catawba.
- 1580 - 1600 Fur trade is established in the Northeast and Great Lakes with French and Dutch.

3 Colonial Treaties

1600-1776

- 1607 Jamestown (Virginia) is established.
- 1616-19 Epidemic depopulation of coastal Natives in New England.
- 1620 Pilgrims arrive Plymouth Bay (Massachusetts) establish settlement on site of abandoned Indian village.
- 1626 Plymouth Colony passes ordinance to regulate timber cutting.
- 1633-34 Small pox epidemic throughout the Northeast.
- 1636 Pequot are defeated in Southern New England.
- 1646 Powatan and allies are defeated in Virginia.
- 1648-57 Iroquois Five Nations wage Beaver Wars against Hurons and allies in eastern Great Lakes region.
- 1647 Apalachees revolt in Florida.
- 1655 Harvard Indian College provides colonial higher education to Massachusetts Natives until closed 40 years later in 1695.
- 1656 Timucuas rebel against Spanish in Florida.
- 1675-76 King Philip's War in southern New England. Bacon's rebellion in Virginia.
- 1677 First Covenant Chain treaties between Five Nations Iroquois and English colonies.
- 1680 Pushed west by Europeans, Ojibwe (Chippewa) arrive in Great Lakes area.
- 1680s New England sawmills produce lumber exports for Europe
- 1680-92 Pueblo revolt against Spanish in New Mexico.
- 1689-1713 Eastern Native Americans are drawn into European War of Augsburg and War of Spanish Succession.
- 1690s English and French establish trade with Native Peoples of the northern Plains.
- 1696-1700 Smallpox epidemic from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi Valley.
- 1700 French establish trade with Caddos on Red River.
- 1701 Iroquois Grand Settlement with England and France.
- 1711-13 Tuscarora War in North Carolina.
- 1712-50 Mesquaki Wars with New France and Native allies.
- 1715-16 Yamasee War in South Carolina.
- 1722 Tuscaroras become sixth nation in Iroquois Confederacy.
- 1722-27 Anglo-Abenaki wars in northern New England.

- 1729-30 Natchez uprising in French Louisiana.
- 1730 Eastern Shoshones introduce horses in the northern Plains
- 1738 French and Indian trade is established on upper Missouri River.
- 1746-50 Choctaw civil war.
- 1750-60s Russian traders enslave Aleuts in Aleutian Islands.
- 1754-61 Eastern tribes drawn into Anglo-French War.
- 1763 French withdraw from North America. Royal British Proclamation reserving to the Crown the right to extinguish Indian title and establish a boundary line between Indians and colonists.
- 1769 Franciscans establish mission system in California.

4 Treaties of Alliance

1776-1800

- 1775-1781 Revolutionary War.
- 1775-83 Eastern Tribes drawn into American Revolution.
- 1777 North Carolina prohibits unlawful firing of the woods.
- 1780-82 Small pox epidemic spreads throughout western North America.
- 1778 Treaty of Fort Pitt with Lenape (Delaware) Indians. The first treaty between the United States and an Indian Tribe. Friendship and respect for separate territories.
- 1779 Treaty with the Wyandots is the first treaty to reserve tribal hunting rights within the area ceded to the U.S.
- 1781 Articles of Confederation give Congress exclusive right to regulate Indian Affairs.
- 1781 Quechans evict Spanish from Colorado River.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris grants independence to United States without providing for affected Indian allies of Britain.
- 1785-95 Northwest Indian Wars.
- 1785 Treaty with Wyandot, Delaware, Ottawa and Chippewa. Tribes retain hunting rights on ceded lands.
- 1785-86 Hopewell Treaties with Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw create peace agreement and establish tribal/US boundaries.
- 1786 Peace treaty between New Mexico and western Comanche.
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance creates the Northwest Territories, first organized territory of the United States, northwest of the Ohio River. First formal acknowledgement by the United States of Indian sovereignty. "The utmost good faith" shall be shown to the Indians; their property "shall never be taken from them without their consent"; and "they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by the Congress."
- 1787 "Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God." Thomas Jefferson

- 1789 U.S. Constitution, several clauses, especially Commerce and Treaty Clauses, relate the importance and place of American Indians separate but equal to the states of the new republic. Only the federal government has authority to purchase lands or negotiate treaties with Indians.
- 1789 Congress establishes a Department of War with responsibility over Indian affairs, sets aside money to negotiate Indian treaties, and appoints federal commissioners to negotiate treaties with tribes.
- 1790 Trade and Intercourse Act establishes exclusive federal jurisdiction over Indian title and commerce with Indians. Trade and Intercourse Acts (1790, 1793, 1796, 1799, 1802, and 1834) are passed by Congress establishing the primacy of trade as the means with which to deal with Indian affairs.
- 1790 First US census estimates population at 4 million people. The US census will not begin to include Indians until 1860.
- 1790s New England exports 36 MMBF of pine lumber and 300 ship masts annually.
- 1794 Jay Treaty. Indians along the United States-Canada border can freely cross.
- 1795 Treaty of Greenville demarcates lands to be retained by Lake States tribes.
- 1799 Federal Timber Purchasers Act appropriates \$200,000 to buy timber and timberland for naval reserves.
- 1799 Russian-American Company monopolizes fur trade in Alaska.
- 1800 Code of Handsome Lake (Gaihiwio) and Longhouse religion emerge among Senecas.

5 Treaties of Cession

1800-1830

- 1800's Wood products are the major export from New England to Europe.
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase. U.S. purchases 828,000 sq miles of land for \$15 million from France, doubling the size of the United States and bringing Native inhabitants under U.S. rule and protection. "Manifest Destiny" is philosophy of U.S. expansion.
- 1804-06 Lewis and Clark Expedition to US Northwest.
- 1806 Congress creates Superintendent of Indian Trade in the War Dept.
- 1807 American Fur Company establishes trade in the northern Rockies.
- 1805-1813 Tecumseh Wars. Tecumseh killed at the Battle of the Thames. The opportunity for an Independent Indian State in the Midwest is lost.
- 1812 General Land Office is created in the Treasury Dept. to dispose of western lands.
- 1812-15 The War of 1812 between Britain and United States. With withdrawal of the British, treaty negotiations between tribes and US became increasingly one-sided.
- 1814 Creek War in Alabama.
- 1818 Seminole Wars in Florida.
- 1818 Dine Ana'ii settle near Zunis and Acomas in New Mexico.
- 1819 U.S. acquires Florida (40 million acres) in Adams-Onis Treaty with Spain.

- 1819 Civilization Fund Act. Congress authorized the President to institute education programs for Indians, including instruction in agriculture as well as reading, writing, and arithmetic.
- 1820 Mexico becomes independent; Anglos begin colonization of East Texas.
- 1821 Sequoia formulates Cherokee syllabary system of writing the Cherokee language.
- 1823 Johnson v. McIntosh. Chief Justice John Marshall recognizes Indian title, but the United States, like its predecessor Britain in the 1763 Royal Proclamation, holds the fee in tribal lands through the "*Doctrine of Discovery*." Native Americans merely have a "right of occupancy" that the federal government can extinguish.
- 1823 Monroe Doctrine forbids establishment by European countries of new colonies in the American hemisphere.
- 1824 Office of Indian Affairs established by the Secretary of War to administer funds for the "civilization" of Indians, and to decide upon claims arising between Native Americans and whites.
- 1824 Hudson Bay Company begins trade with Tlingits.
- 1824 Chumash revolt in southern California.
- 1825 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, identifies borders between the resident tribes in what is to become Wisconsin.
- 1827 Ho-Chunk uprising in Wisconsin.
- 1827 Cherokees adopt a written constitution and publish their own newspaper.
- 1828 Andrew Jackson elected President.
- 1828-29 Yokut uprising in California.

6 Removal and Relocation

1830-1850

- 1830-33 Epidemics of European diseases in California and Oregon Territory.
- 1830 Indian Removal Act passed by Congress legalizes the removal of all Indians east of Mississippi River to lands west of the river, thus opening up former Indian lands along the East Coast for white colonization. 19 tribes are removed.
- 1830-1850 Across much of New England, 60 to 80 percent of the land has been cleared for pasture, tillage, orchards and buildings. Small remaining areas of woodland are subjected to frequent cuttings for lumber and fuel.
- 1831 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Choctaw ceded 11 million acres in Mississippi in exchange for 15 million acres in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).
- 1831 Timber Trespass Act establishes triple stumpage as the fine for timber trespass but rarely enforced on tribal lands or the public domain.
- 1831 Cherokee Nation v. Georgia. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Indian tribes are "domestic dependent nations" and as "wards to a guardian" that the US has "trust responsibility."
- 1832 Congress establishes Commissioner of Indian Affairs in War Dept.

- 1832 Worcester v. Georgia. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the states do not have jurisdiction over Indian nations. United States comprises three jurisdictional entities, the federal, the states and Indian tribes.. Indian tribes are “distinct, independent political communities” with powers of self government that exist by reason of their original tribal sovereignty. “... the language used in treaties with the Indians should never be construed to their prejudice.”
- 1831-39 President Jackson ignores Supreme Court decision. Five Civilized Tribes of the Southeast, Choctaw (1831); Seminole (1832); Creek (1834); Chickasaw (1837); and Cherokee (1838-1839 – “Trail of Tears”), relocated to the Indian Territory.
- 1832 Black Hawk War in Illinois and Wisconsin between combined Sauk and Fox tribes and the United States.
- 1833 Potawatomi removal in Illinois and Wisconsin.
- 1833 Trade begins with Southern Cheyenne and Arapahos on the Arkansas River.
- 1834 The Trade and Intercourse Act redefines the Indian Territory and Permanent Indian Frontier. Requires whites obtain a license to travel into Indian lands west of the Mississippi
- 1835 Texas declares itself a republic independent from Mexico. The Texas Rangers are organized to fight the Comanche.
- 1836 Congress organizes Wisconsin Territory. Menominee sign “Lumberman’s Treaty” to allow logging on Wisconsin River.
- 1837 Pine Tree Treaty between U.S. and Chippewa for US to acquire lumbering and sawmill sites in the Lake Superior Chippewa country. Multiple other “timber” treaties followed in the Midwest for the Chippewa, Oneida, Stockbridge-Munsee, Potawatomi, and Winnebago.
- 1835-38 Second Seminole War; Osceola is captured 1837, dies 1838.
- 1837-38 Smallpox epidemic among Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes of the upper Missouri claims 20,000 Natives.
- 1839 New York succeeds Maine as the largest lumber producer in the United States. Total national lumber production reaches 1.6 billion board feet.
- 1840 Sixth census of the US reports 31,650 water-powered sawmills in the US.
- 1841 Cherokee and Choctaw Nations establish public schools in Indian Territory.
- 1846 Miami tribe removal in Indiana.
- 1846 Following Treaty with Britain, Oregon Territory becomes part of the United States bringing the area and Native inhabitants under U.S. protection.
- 1846 Creation of Lands Division in Indian Service, which oversees timber activities. Indian sawmills constructed to provide building materials for Indian reservations.
- 1846-48 United States and Mexican War.
- 1846-1853 Epidemics of smallpox and measles devastate Native populations in the PNW.

- 1847 Taos Revolt: Pueblos attack Americans.
- 1847 1847 Cayuse Indian War. Plateau region of eastern Washington.
- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. 335 million acres of Spanish Southwest and its many Indian tribes become part of the United States (TX, NM, CA).
- 1848 Gold is discovered in California.
- 1849 Bureau of Indian Affairs transfers from the War Department to the newly-formed Department of the Interior.
- 1850 Lumber shipments from Green Bay, WI exceed 100 MMBF/yr. Timber trespass and fraud are rampant on MW tribal lands. Indian agents lack legal foundation, authority, and expertise to regulate the cutting and selling of reservation timber.
- 1850-60 Cholera epidemic among the Indians of the Great Basin and southern plains.

7 Reservations

1850-1887

- 1851 The 1851 Indian Appropriations Act formalized the reservation system, allocating funds to relocate tribes to established reservations.
- 1851 Treaty of Travers de Sioux. Minnesota creates first Sioux reservations.
- 1851 First Treaty of Fort Laramie. U.S. enters into agreements with Cheyenne, Sioux, Arapaho, Crow, Assiniboine, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara.
- 1853 Gadsden Purchase adds 29 million acres to the "public domain" in AZ and NM.
- 1853-54 Northern Indian Territory is taken by Kansas-Nebraska Act to become Kansas and Nebraska Territories and make way for the railroad.
- 1853-55 Rogue River War in Oregon.
- 1854 Treaty of La Pointe authorized 80-acre allotments on Chippewa Reservations.
- 1854-55 Indian Superintendent and WA Governor, Isaac Stevens, "purchases" Indian lands in Washington Territory negotiating seven treaties in two years.
- 1855 Treaties with Wyandot, Chippewa, Winnebago, Choctaw, and Chickasaw.
- 1853-56 United States acquires 174 million acres of Indian lands through 52 treaties.
- 1856 Water-powered sawmill is constructed at Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota.
- 1858 George Weyerhaeuser buys first sawmill in Rock Island, Illinois.
- 1860 Pennsylvania becomes the largest US lumber producing state.
- 1860 Paiute War (also called the Pyramid Lake War) in Nevada.
- 1861 Enabling Act for the Kansas Territory contains first clear congressional recognition of reservations as jurisdictional enclaves within states.
- 1861-65 The Civil War. As punishment for support of the Confederacy, the Five Civilized Tribes relinquish the western half of the Indian Territory to 20 tribes from Kansas and Nebraska.
- 1862 The Department of Agriculture is established.

- 1862 Homestead Act opens up Indian land in Kansas and Nebraska to white homesteaders, who are deeded 160-acre plots. By 1934, 1.6 million settler homesteads are granted on 270 million acres (10% of all US lands).
- 1862-63 Santee Dakota uprising in Minnesota and North Dakota.
- 1863 Mescalero Apaches forced onto Bosque Redondo reservation.
- 1864-65 Cheyenne-Arapaho War in Colorado and Kansas.
- 1864 Navaho removal in Arizona.
- 1865 Reservation schools establish through US govt grants to Christian organizations.
- 1866 The Railroad Enabling Act appropriates Indian lands for railroads.
- 1866-68 War for the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming and Montana, Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapahos under Chief Red Cloud. A second Fort Laramie Treaty resolves the conflict in 1868 and further reduces the size of Indian reservations.
- 1867 President Grant's "Great Peace Commission" recommends that the treaty process be abandoned. The Commission and Nez Perce Indians negotiate the last of 389 treaties between the federal government and tribes.
- 1867 United States purchases Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million adding 365 million acres to the "public domain."
- 1867-70 Osage, Shawnee, Pawnee, Delaware, Oto-Missouri resettled in Indian Country.
- 1868 President Grant's "Peace Policy" lasts until 1874 amidst widespread violation of treaty rights.
- 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty creates the Sioux Reservation including the Black Hills.
- 1868 Indians denied right to vote by passage of the 14th Amendment. Congress decides that Indians will not be counted as citizens until they pay taxes.
- 1868-69 Southern Plains War (Sheridan Campaign), involving the Cheyenne, Sioux, Arapahos, Kiowa, and Comanche.
- 1869-70 Smallpox epidemic among Canadian Plains Indians including Blackfeet, Piegans, and Bloods.
- 1869 Transcontinental railroad is completed.
- 1869 Brigadier General Ely Parker (Donehogawa), a Seneca, becomes the first Native Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
- 1870 Michigan becomes the largest US lumber producing state.
- 1871 Peshtigo Fire in WI causes the worst fire mortality in US history, killing 1,500 people and burning over 1.2 million acres of forest.
- 1871 Gold is discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
- 1871 Indian Appropriations Act of 1871. Congress decides that United States will make no more treaties with Indian tribes.
- 1872 Western Apaches are assigned to reservations in Arizona.

- 1873 Timber Culture Act. Homesteaders receive additional lands if trees are planted.
- 1872-73 Modoc War in California.
- 1873 US v Cook Supreme Court rules that U.S. owns logs from Indian trust lands. Tribes and individual Indians have no rights to cut timber on reservation or allotment lands unless they are clearing the land for agricultural purposes.
- 1874-75 Red River War - Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne.
- 1876-77 Great Sioux War - Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapahos. Battle of Little Big Horn.
- 1876 Franklin B. Hough is appointed first federal forestry officer.
- 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce in the Northwest.
- 1878 Off-reservation boarding schools permit education away from tribal influences.
- 1878 Free Timber Act gives right to settlers in western states to cut timber for domestic and mining uses.
- 1878 Timber and Stone Act. U.S. sells western timberland for \$2.50/acre.
- 1878 Paiute, Bannock, Sheepherder War in Oregon and Idaho.
- 1878-79 Flight of the Northern Cheyenne on the Plains.
- 1879 Ute War in Colorado.
- 1879-85 "Friends of the Indian" organizations founded (Indian Protection Committee, Indian Rights Association, Women's National Indian Association, and National Indian Defense Association).
- 1879 Bureau of American Ethnology, a branch of the Smithsonian, is founded for anthropological studies.
- 1879 Richard Pratt founds the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, with the philosophy of assimilating Indians into white culture.
- 1881 Helen Hunt Jackson publishes "Century of Dishonor" citing inequities perpetrated against the Indians. Congressional investigation leads to the Dawes Act.
- 1881 Division of Forestry is established in Dept of Agriculture. Hough appointed Chief.
- 1881 Sitting Bull surrenders at Fort Buford, North Dakota.
- 1884 Congress acknowledges Eskimo rights to Alaskan territorial lands.
- 1884 United States Indian Industrial Training School opens in Lawrence, Kansas. In 1887, the name is changed to Haskell Institute. In 1993, a baccalaureate program is added and the name is changed to Haskell Indian Nations University.
- 1885-86 Geronimo leads Apache resistance.
- 1885 Congress passes the Major Crimes Act extending federal and state jurisdiction over major crimes to Indians on reservations.
- 1886 Bernard E. Fernow is the first professional forester as Chief of Div. of Forestry.
- 1886 United States v. Kagama. Supreme Court upholds constitutionality of the Major

Crimes Act of 1885 and confirms Congress' plenary power over Indian affairs.

8 Allotments and Assimilation

1887-1934

- 1887 General Allotment (Dawes Severalty) Act, launches era of "assimilation" through break-up of Indian reservations into individual allotments of 40, 80, 160, and 320 acres, to be held in "trust" by the federal government. "Surplus" lands remaining after tribal members receive allotments (no provision for later generations) are sold to settlers or otherwise transferred to the government. By 1920, 217,572 allotments, covering 35,897,069 acres, had been made on 118 reservations. Between 1887 and 1934 Indian lands were reduced from 138 to 48 million acres.
- 1888 Congress passes law to prevent timber trespass on Indian reservations but law does not apply to allotments.
- 1889 Congress passes the "Dead and Down" Act, the first general policy for management of Indian forest resources. On a case by case basis, Congress legislatively authorizes harvesting of timber on reservations. From 1889-1896, 59 MMBF of timber is harvested from Chippewa Reservations in Minnesota.
- 1889 Two million acres of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) are "bought" from Indians and given to white settlers for the "Land Run."
- 1889 Nine million acres in western Dakotas are "bought" from the Sioux creating several smaller reservations.
- 1889 Nelson Act establishes agricultural allotments on the White Earth Reservation in northwestern Minnesota for Ojibwe bands. Timber lands were to remain communally owned.
- 1890 Menominee receive permission from the federal government to harvest green timber at an annual rate of 20MMBF/year. First annual allowable cut for an Indian reservation or federal forestland.
- 1890 Sitting Bull murdered at Standing Rock. Wounded Knee massacre at Pine Ridge.
- 1890 Michigan sawmill production peaks at 5.5 billion board feet.
- 1891 General Revision Act authorizes withdrawal of land from the public domain to establish "forest reserves."
- 1892 Intercourse Act prohibits the intrusion of non-Indians on Indian lands.
- 1894 Hinkley, MN. Forest fire burns 160,000 acres, destroys 6 towns, and kills 600 people.
- 1896 Talton v. Mayes, Supreme Court upholds tribal sovereignty in local affairs, but "all such rights are subject to the supreme legislative authority of the United States."
- 1897 Forest Service Organic Administration Act provides that national forests shall be established only to improve and protect the forest therein, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for use and necessities of the citizens of the United States. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture may make rules and establish such service as will assure the objectives of the Forest Reserves, namely, to regulate their occupancy and use and preserve the forest thereon from destruction.

- 1898 Curtis Act dissolves tribal courts and governments and forces allotments. It required Indians of abolished nations to submit to allotment, and it extended the policy of allotment to the Five Civilized Tribes – the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole.
- 1898 The Nation's first 4-year professional forestry curriculum is established at Cornell University. The Biltmore Forest School opens the same year. Yale follows in 1900 and adds a graduate curriculum. Within ten years a dozen forestry schools open at state universities around the nation.
- 1900 The population of Native Americans drops to its low point at 235,000.
- 1900 The Society of American Foresters is founded as a professional organization of technically trained foresters.
- 1901 Congress authorizes the sale of timber from allotted lands on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation. Similar acts are passed in rapid succession for other Indian lands. The next year an act of Congress specifies that 5 percent of the timber on the Chippewa Indian Reservation be left standing for forest renewal purposes, and that cutting be restricted to pine.
- 1902 Yacolt Fire in WA and OR destroys 1 million acres and leaves 38 dead.
- 1902 Cherokee Nation v. Hitchcock, the Supreme Court held the United States has the power to overrule Cherokee laws.
- 1902 Morris Act stipulates price and sale arrangements for pine logs from ceded Chippewa lands. Timber and lands are sold separately.
- 1902 Congress declares Chippewa "surplus" lands as Minnesota Forest Reserve, later renames Chippewa National Forest.
- 1903 Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock, the Supreme Court establishes Congress' power to unilaterally break treaties. Tribal lands, taken as "surplus" under the Dawes Act, can be sold without regard to treaty guarantees.
- 1904 Steenerson Act authorizes allotment of timberlands on the White Earth reservation.
- 1904 Clapp Act authorizes sale of timber from Chippewa Indian Allotments.
- 1905 United States v. Winans, The treaty is not a grant of rights to the Indians, but a grant of rights from them with reservation of rights not granted such as fishing.
- 1905 The Forest Service is created in the Dept of Agriculture. Gifford Pinchot, appointed the first Chief, serves until 1910.
- 1905 Washington becomes the largest lumber producing state in the US.
- 1906 Indian Appropriation Act. Secretary of Interior may determine "competency" of Chippewa allotments owners such that title transfer may be expedited, taxes levied, and land and timber sold.
- 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act. Congress creates procedures whereby individual Alaska Natives could acquire land. The act specifically provides that land acquired would be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the individual Native owner. The

- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) repealed this act.
- 1906 Antiquities Act. Presidential protections for Indian ruins and other special places. Authorizes the President to designate national monuments to protect historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest.
- 1906 Burke Act grants the Commissioner of Indian Affairs the power to abruptly end the trust status of allotted Indian lands (as created by Dawes Act) making the lands subject to state taxes and potential forfeiture for non-payment. Many allotments are taken out of trust without the knowledge of the allottee.
- 1908 Winters v. United States, Supreme Court finds that water rights were reserved for tribes as an implication of the treaties that created the reservations. The “Winters Doctrine” establishes the canons of construction in which any ambiguity in treaties is to be resolved in the tribes favor.
- 1908 Menominee Sawmill is constructed at Neopit, Wisconsin.
- 1908 Depts of Interior and Agriculture enter into short-lived agreement for the Forest Service to Management Indian forests.
- 1908 The Forest Fires Emergency Act authorizes the Forest Service to spend whatever necessary (subject to supplemental appropriations) to combat forest fires.
- 1909 Teddy Roosevelt issues executive orders transferring 2.5 million acres of timbered Indian reservation lands to national forests.
- 1909 Indian Appropriations Act provides first appropriation for Indian forestry of \$100,000.
- 1910 The use of executive order to create Indian reservations is terminated by statute.
- 1910 General Indian Timber Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Forestry and authorizes the sale of timber. J.P. Kenny becomes the first Chief in 1914 and serves until 1933.
- 1910 Allotment Act of 1910 provides for allotting lands to Indians found to be occupying, living on, or having improvements on lands that had become National Forest lands. Allows sale of timber on allotments.
- 1910 Great Fire of 1910 (WA, ID, and MT) burns 3 million acres and kills 87 people and sets the stage for federal policies advocating total fire suppression.
- 1910 US lumber production peaks at 44.5 BBF
- 1911 Office of Indian Affairs, Regulations and Instructions for Officers in Charge of Forests on Indian Reservations begins America's war on fire. “It shall be the duty of the Indian police to prevent and suppress forest and grass fires as far as possible, and failure on their part to perform such duties, or to report promptly any fire which they cannot control, will constitute sufficient cause for dismissal.”
- 1911 The Weeks Act Authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire forested, cutover, and denuded lands within watersheds of navigable streams necessary to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams or for timber production. Under the act, such lands are to be permanently reserved, held, and administered as national forests. The Weeks Act enlists states into a cooperative federal-state effort

to extinguish all federal forest fires. In 1922, Congress extends these protections to all public lands and Indian reservations.

- 1914-18 World War I. 12,000 Native Americans join the armed forces.
- 1920 The Pacific Northwest produces 30% of US lumber.
- 1921 The Snyder Act makes the Interior Department responsible for Indian education, medical, and social services.
- 1924 Clark-McNary Act amends the Weeks Act to authorize purchase of lands for timber production as well as stream flow protection. Directs the Sec of Agriculture to work with fed agencies, states, and private companies on fire control and reforestation.
- 1924 Indian Citizenship Act formally conveys citizenship and voting rights to Indians, regardless of their land tenure or place of residence. Up until this time, the U.S. Constitution did not apply to individual Indians. States are slow to acknowledge: Utah, last to enfranchise Indians, did not grant voting rights until 1956.
- 1924 Pueblo Lands Board Act allows non-Indians to validate title to previously acquired Pueblo lands.
- 1926 "10-Acre Policy" mandates suppressing all fires before they reach 10 acres in size.
- 1928 The Problem of Indian Administration (The Meriam Report). The first comprehensive study of Indians reports chronic poverty as a result of the failed federal Indian policies of allotments and assimilation. The allotment act is found especially ill suited for forestry. Encourages tribal self-determination.
- 1930's The Great Depression brings hardship to many American families, resulting in the election of President Roosevelt in 1932 and the beginning of the New Deal.
- 1932 John Collier is appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
- 1933 The Copeland Report, an extensive examination of U.S. forests prepared by the Forest Service, recommends significant expansion of public ownership and more intensive management on all forestlands.

9 Reorganization

1934-1950

- 1933-42 Civilian Conservation Corps Indian Division (CCC-ID) creates conservation jobs for 77,000 Indian men on 78 reservations in 23 states. Also known as the Indian New Deal. Projects include reservation improvements such as construction of water systems, bridges, and roads and also include the first improvement significant investments by the U.S. government in improvements for Indian forests through tree planting, thinning, and forest health treatments. CCC-ID enrollees fight fires beginning a continuing history of Indian fire response teams.
- 1934 Indian Reorganization Act (Wheeler-Howard Act or IRA). Gives Indian Tribes option to organize as political and economic units, repealed the Allotment Act, establishes federal commitment to acquire lands for return to Indian Tribes, requires sustained yield management of Indian forestlands, institutes Indian preference hiring, establishes a revolving fund for econ dev., and extends the trust period for allotments indefinitely.

- 1934 Johnson-O'Malley Act. Congress provides funds to integrate Indian education into state school systems.
- 1935 The "10 a.m. Policy" is implemented, requiring all wild fires to be extinguished before 10 a.m. the morning following their first report.
- 1936 Interior Department General Forest Regulations calls for development of forest plans to support sustained yield management, raises number of seed trees to 25% of the stand, ends clear-cutting of aspen but funding is inadequate for planning.
- 1937 Shoshone Tribe v U.S. U.S. cannot take Indian land without just compensation.
- 1938 Oregon becomes the largest lumber producing state in the US.
- 1939-45 World War II – 44,000 Native Americans join the armed forces.
- 1942 Seminole Nation v U.S. U.S. has charged itself with moral obligations to tribes of highest responsibility and trust.
- 1944 The Sustained Yield Forest Management Act (SYFMA) Provides authority to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish cooperative sustained yield units with private and other Federal agencies in order to provide for a continuous and ample supply of forest products and to secure the benefits of the forest in maintenance of water supply, regulation of stream flow, prevention of soil erosion, amelioration of climate, and preservation of wildlife. Under Section 7, trust or restricted Indian land, whether tribal or allotted, could be included in such a unit with the consent of the Indians concerned.
- 1944 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is founded.
- 1944 Smokey the Bear becomes U.S. public relations symbol in the war against wildfire.
- 1946 Indian Claims Commission Act is established to hear legal claims of Indian tribes against the U.S. The three-person board could only give money for land; it could not take back lands that were illegally settled by white settlers and now owned by their descendants. By the time of the Commission's final report in 1974, it had awarded \$818,172,606.64 in judgments and had completed 546 dockets.
- 1946 The Bureau of Land Management is created in the Department of Interior.
- 1948 Mescalero Apache Red Hats organize as one of the first Indian fire fighting crews. Hopi, Navajo, Pueblo, Zuni also establish fire fighting crews.
- 1949 Hoover Commission recommends that assimilation be reinstated as the dominant objective of Indian policy.

10 Termination

1950-1970

- 1950 Menominee Tribe of Indians v U.S. Supreme Court awards Menominee damages for mismanagement of tribal timberlands by BIA.
- 1951 2,000 fire warriors organize as the Southwest Indian Forest Firefighters (SWIFF),
- 1953-1970 Direct Employment Program - "relocation centers" in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Minneapolis, and Chicago drew more than 90,000 American Indians away from their reservations.

- 1953-68 Termination. House Concurrent Resolution no. 108, United States ends federal recognition of 109 tribes and rancherias reducing tribal land holdings by 2.5 million acres. Menominee and Klamath, which won lawsuits against the U.S., are targeted for termination. Public Law 280, United States, gives California, Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska civil and criminal jurisdiction over most Indian lands within their borders. Begins decades long efforts to achieve restoration.
- 1954 Apache Red Hats receive Interior Department's top honor for meritorious service.
- 1955 Tee-Hit-Ton Indians v. United States Tribal right of occupancy can be terminated.
- 1955 1,200 Indian firefighters from seven reservations in Montana and Idaho organize as the Montana Indian Firefighters (MIF).
- 1959 Williams v. Lee, the Supreme Court rules that a tribal court has jurisdiction over a contract entered into by a non-Indian with reservation Indians.
- 1960 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act. Forest Service to sustainably manage for multiple resources: timber, range, water, recreation, and wildlife. It authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and administer the renewable resources for multiple use and sustained yield of the several services and products obtained therefrom. It authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with interested State and local governmental agencies and others in the development and management of the national forests.
- 1961 Winema Nat'l Forest is created from terminated Klamath tribal lands in Oregon.
- 1962 President Kennedy signs the last termination order for the Ponca Tribe.
- 1963 Following publication of the "Leopold Report," which recognized fire's beneficial role, the NPS allows forest fires to burn if they promote wildlife and vegetation.
- 1964 Indian Timber Sales Act. Timber on reservations and other land held in trust may be sold in accordance with principles of sustained yield management.
- 1964 Wilderness Act creates wilderness system of lands "untrammelled by man." Today there are 107.5 million acres of land designated as federal wilderness. Curbs fire suppression in wilderness areas.
- 1965 Boise Interagency Fire Center is established later to become National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
- 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) states, "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."
- 1968 American Indian Movement (AIM) is founded in Minneapolis.
- 1968 Indian Civil Rights Act extends most of the protections of the Bill of Rights to individual tribal members.
- 1968 Navajo Community College (later renamed Diné College) is established as the first tribal college to be created on an American Indian reservation. Today there are 37 Indian Colleges and Universities throughout the United States.

- 1968 President Johnson speaks of the "Forgotten American" in special message to Congress and calls for "...new emphasis on Indian self-help and with respect for Indian culture."
- 1969 US v Oregon acknowledges the rights of several tribes to fish in the Columbia River with minimal regulation by state or federal government.
- 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes procedural requirements for environmental assessments by government agencies and requires agencies to invite Indian tribes to participate in the scoping process on projects and activities that affect them. Tribes with treaty rights on National Forest System lands may also meet with line officers in advance of the formal planning processes about their reserved rights. NEPA assessments are also required of BIA and tribes. Creates Council on Environmental Quality.

11 Self-Determination

1970-1990

- 1970 Nixon delivers special message to Congress, "The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions."
- 1970 Choctaw Nation v Oklahoma. "Treaties with the Indians must be interpreted as they would have understood them... and any doubtful expressions in them should be resolved in the Indians' favor."
- 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) extinguishes Native claim to title to lands in Alaska, as well as hunting and fishing rights. Transfers 44 million acres to Alaska Native Corporations and bridges the last hurdle to the construction of the Alaska Pipeline.
- 1973 Menominee Restoration Act (P.L. 93-197), United States; repealed the 1954 act terminating the tribal status of the Menominee. In effect, this nullified the 1953 federal policy promoting termination of Indian status.
- 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires protection of threatened or endangered plant and animal species and their habitats and extends to Indian reservations.
- 1973 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) forms to provide support for tribal colleges and Indian education.
- 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) requires periodic forest plans and resource assessments by the Forest Service. It also specifies procedures to insure that such plans are in accordance with NEPA requirements.
- 1974 US v WA (Boldt Decision) Supreme Court upholds WA tribes right to " take fish, at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations."
- 1974 The Indian Financing Act of 1974 establishes an Indian Business Development program in the Department of the Interior.
- 1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (PL93-638) authorizes Secretaries of Interior, Health, Education, and Welfare to enter service delivery contracts with federally recognized Indian tribes. The act formally recognizes the U.S. obligation to provide education and services to Indian communities.

- 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) organic act. Remaining public lands to be retained in federal ownership. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate National Forest System land use plans with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian tribes by considering the policies of approved tribal land resource management programs.
- 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA) is the primary statute governing Forest Service. Directs consultation and coordination of National Forest System planning with Indian tribes.
- 1976 Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) is formed as a nonprofit nation-wide consortium of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native American communities.
- 1977 American Indian Policy Review Commission (AIPRC) Report to Congress is the first comprehensive analysis of Indian policy since 1928. AIPRC recommends strengthening tribal governments, affirming the trust relationship between tribes and the federal government, acknowledging the importance of tribal lands and forests, and reorganizing the BIA. "The overwhelming conviction of Indian people is that tribal land base is essential. The need to develop a comprehensive forestry management program for Indian country is obvious. "
- 1977 American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) is established to increase American Indian and Alaska Native representation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- 1977 Assist Secretary for Indian Affairs position is established in Dept. of Interior.
- 1977 USFS drops the "10 am" and "10 acre" fire policies.
- 1978 Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe, Supreme Court rules tribes do not have jurisdiction over non-Indians residing on Indian reservations. Indian treaties "cannot be interpreted in isolation but must be read in light of the common notions of the day and the assumptions of those who drafted them."
- 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, United States, protects Indian tribes' interest in retaining custody of their children.
- 1978 Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act provides construction, technical assistance, and endowment building funds.
- 1978 American Indian Freedom of Religion Act (P.L. 95-341)
- 1978 Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act authorizes Sec. of Agriculture to provide tech assistance to Indian forestry.
- 1979 Washington v Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Association Indians are entitled to 50% of the harvestable fish passing through their recognized tribal fishing grounds. Treaty words must be construed "in the sense in which they would naturally be understood by Indians."
- 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act grants subsistence rights to Alaska Natives.

- 1980 *U.S. v Sioux Nation of Indians* Supreme Court rules that taking of property that was set aside for the use of the tribe required just compensation, including interest. The Sioux have declined to accept the money because acceptance would legally terminate Sioux demands for return of the Black Hills.
- 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act establishes an \$81 million land acquisition fund on behalf of Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and Aroostook Band of Micmacs. Between 1978-2006, 14 Indian land claims are settled providing involved tribes nearly \$500 million.
- 1983 *New Mexico v Mescalero Apache Tribe*, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the tribe's exclusive right to regulate non-Indian hunting and fishing on a reservation.
- 1983 *Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa Indians v. WI*. Chippewa rights are upheld to subsistence activities in territories ceded by treaties stipulating these rights.
- 1983 *Mitchell v U.S.* (Mitchell II) Supreme Court hold that statutes and regulations pertaining to timber management by the BIA create a judicially enforceable trust responsibility extending to allotment owners.
- 1984 Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies recommends abolition of BIA and replacement with Indian Trust Services Administration.
- 1987 S. Con. Res. 76. acknowledges the contribution of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of the U. S. Constitution and reaffirms the continuing government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States as established in the Constitution.
- 1988 Yellowstone Park Fires burn 800,000 acres and call into question US fire policy.

12 Transformation

1990 -

- 1990 National Indian Forest Resources Management Act. "Organic Act" of Indian Forestry (Organic act of Indian forestry) addresses forest management, funding, staffing, timber trespass, forestry education, and other aspects of forestry trust responsibility. Provides periodic Indian Forest Management Assessments.
- 1990 Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (Public Law 101-601)
- 1990 Northern Spotted Owl listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- 1993 Mexican Spotted Owl listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- 1994 Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act establishes Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) in Department of Interior. Requires accounting for funds held in trust by the U.S. for Indians and Indian Tribes.
- 1994 President Clinton Northwest Forest Plan limits timber harvest in Pacific Northwest federal forests in favor of "old growth" protections. Losses to timber processing infrastructure result in market value reductions for tribal timber.
- 1994 Indian Self-Determination Contract Reform Act and the Self-Governance Permanent Authorization Act are passed to improve and perpetuate the government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the U.S. and to strengthen tribal control over federal funds and program management.

- 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Report recognizes wildland fire as a critical natural process, while acknowledging the need to reduce hazardous fuels, and promoting agency and intergovernmental cooperation.
- 1997 SO 3206: Tribal Rights, Trust Responsibilities and the Endangered Species Act. DOI guidance about the federal-tribal relationship and the ESA. As harvest activities reduce habitats on private forests, tribes inherit legal costs of ESA.
- 1999 *Minnesota et. al. v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians et. al.* United States Supreme Court narrowly upholds off-reservation treaty rights for Minnesota Chippewa Indians.
- 2000 US Native American population reaches 2.5 million.
- 2000 Executive Order on Tribal Consultation. President Clinton directs executive departments and agencies to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials.
- 2000 Assistant Secretary of Interior – Indian Affairs, Glover, apologizes to Native Americans for BIA history of abuse. 175 anniversary of the oldest federal agency.
- 2000 Cerro Grande Fire. Park Service-initiated controlled burn at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico gets away and burns 40,000 acres destroys 240 Los Alamos homes and nearly incinerates the Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- 2001 At the request of the President, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to develop a National Fire Plan.
- 2002 Rodeo-Chediski (Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, AZ) forest fire burns 460,000 acres (including 200,000 acres of White Mountain Apache forestlands) and 400 homes. Hayman Fire (Pike National Forest, CO) burns 140,000 acres and 600 structures. Biscuit Fire (Siskiyou National Forest, OR) burns 500,000 acres. The 2002 fire season is the worst in modern US history with costs exceeding \$2 billion in federal suppression funds.
- 2002 Hayman forest fire burns 138,000 acres and destroyed 133 homes. It is the biggest fire in Colorado history.
- 2002 Wildland Fire Leadership Council forms to address increasing intensity, incidence and costs of forest fires in the United States.
- 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act launches national program to thin overstocked forests and clear away vegetation and trees to reduce wildfire hazard.
- 2004 President Bush Memorandum directs federal agencies to engage in government-to-government relationships with tribes.
- 2004 Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) authorizes Depts of Interior and Agriculture to award stewardship contracts to Indian tribes for forest health treatments and fuels reductions on federal forests adjacent to Indian reservations.
- 2007 Salish Kootenai College graduates the first class from the only baccalaureate degree program in forestry at an Indian College.
- 2009 Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (FLAME) creates a fund for national fire fighting costs that exceed annual agency appropriations and requires

creation of a cohesive wildland fire management strategy.

- 2009 Cobell v Salazar Class-Action Law suit over Individual Indian Money Accounts (IIM), begun in 1996 by Elouise Cobell, is the largest lawsuit ever filed against the federal government. \$3.4 billion settlement includes \$1.55 billion for tribal purchase of fractionated allotted lands.
- 2009 Executive Order on Tribal Consultation. President Obama directs executive departments and agencies to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials.
- 2009 The Secretary of the Interior establishes the Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform to review the Department's provision of services to trust beneficiaries.
- 2010 Indian Forestry Centennial
- 2010 US Census estimates total population of 309 million people of which 5.2 million people (1.7% of US citizens) report American Indian or Alaska Native ancestry. 78% of Native Americans live outside a reservation.
- 2011 National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, required by FLAME Act, establishes collaborative approach for assessing fire risk and tradeoff analysis.
- 2011 Wallow Fire replaces Rodeo-Chediski as the largest fire in Arizona history. Wallow burns 540,000 acres and costs \$109 million.
- 2012 Whitewater-Baldy Fire burns 300,000 acres, mostly in Gila Wilderness. It is the biggest forest fire in New Mexico history. 2012 US fires burn 9 million acres.
- 2013 Third Indian Forest Management Assessment Team Report (IFMAT III)

Trail Trees

For thousands of years extensive trade networks linked diverse tribes all over North America. When trails passed through forests the people would bend young trees to create permanent trail markers, designating safe paths through rough country and pointing travelers toward water, food or other important landmarks. One by one over time these old trees are disappearing but as evidence of the extent of pre-contact trail networks, Mountain Stewards, a nonprofit organization based in Georgia, have counted 1,970 remaining marker trees in 40 states.



Trail Tree. Chattahoochee, GA. (Mountain Stewards)