

TIMELINE OF ANISHINAABE TREATY RIGHTS

IN THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES



CULTURE,
LANGUAGE,
HUNTING,
FISHING, &
GATHERING
FLOURISH

OJIBWE PEOPLE MIGRATE TO THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES AREA

Ojibwe creation story speaks of a time when the original people or Anishinaabeg were lowered to the Earth. The first treaties are between Anishinaabeg and everything in creation. Out of love, the plants, fish, and animals agree to sustain Anishinaabeg to ensure survival.



1825
**TREATY OF
PRAIRIE
DU CHIEN**
Established
boundaries of the
Chippewa nation.

1836
**TREATY WITH
THE CHIPPEWA
SIGNED AT
LAPORTE**
This treaty ceded further
lands in northern Wisconsin
and in the copper and iron
rich western part of
Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
With terms comparable to
those in the 1837 Treaty, the
tribes received payments to
traders and half-bloods as
well as a 25-year annuity
schedule, to be divided
between the Mississippi and
Lake Superior Chippewa.
The Chippewa leaders
specifically retained the right
to hunt and fish on the
Ceded Territory.

VIEW MAP

1850 SANDY LAKE TRAGEDY

Four prominent officials of
President Zachary Taylor's
administration and Minnesota
Territorial Governor Alexander
Ramsey led an illegal effort
to conspire to move Lake
Superior Ojibwe to lands
(Sandy Lake) in the Minnesota
Territory. Over 400 Ojibwe
die from illness, exposure,
and starvation.



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1854 TREATY WITH THE MISSISSIPPI, LAKE SUPERIOR, AND BOISE FORT BANDS

Signed at La Pointe, ceded
the land along the western
side of Lake Superior between
Fond du Lac in Minnesota to
the border of Canada.
Established permanent
Ojibwe reservations at
Keweenaw Bay (Lanes) in
Michigan and Bad River,
Lac du Flambeau, and Lac
Courtte Oreilles in Wisconsin,
and Fond du Lac and Grand
Portage in Minnesota.

VIEW MAP



1887
**DAWES ACT
PASSED**
Set in motion the
Allotment Policy whereby
approximately 160 acres
of reservation land is
given to individual tribal
members and the
transferring millions of
acres of tribal lands are
sold to whites.

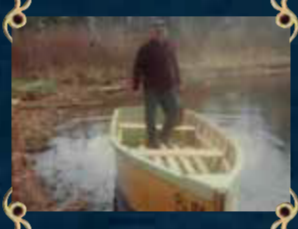
1920S
**MINNESOTA,
WISCONSIN,
MICHIGAN
RESTRICT RIGHTS**
Begin arresting Ojibwe
hunters, fishers, and
gatherers in the Ceded
Territories.



1934
**INDIAN
REORGANIZATION
ACT (IRA)**
The policy of the United
States Federal Government
established, nationally,
a policy of tribal
self-government through
the tribal council, and the
ability of those elected
governments to manage
the affairs of their
respective tribes.

1954 WILLIAM JONDREAU CITED

Keweenaw Bay Indian
Community member William
Jondreau cited after returning
to shore aboard a small fishing
boat with four lake trout taken
from Keweenaw Bay in Lake
Superior on June 1. Jondreau
was convicted in Baraga
County Court.



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1971 BIG ABE LEBLANC TICKETED

Fishing in 1836 Treaty waters, the
Bay Mills Indian Community member
was charged with using an illegal gill
net and convicted in district court.



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1971
**MICHIGAN
V. WILLIAM
JONDREAU**

The Jondreau Decision reaffirmed
the right of the Keweenaw Bay
Indian Community members to fish
in the Keweenaw Bay waters of
Lake Superior without regard to
Michigan fishing regulations.

1981 U.S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO REVIEW MICHIGAN CASE

Upholds rights reserved in
1836 treaty. Michigan
Chippewa and Ottawa tribes
form the Chippewa Ottawa
Treaty Fishery Management
Authority (COTFMA) to begin
self-regulation and management
of the treaty area fisheries and
resources.

1981 UNITED STATES V. MICHIGAN

The Fox Decision affirmed the
rights of the Bay Mills Indian
Community, the Grand Traverse
Band of Ottawa and Chippewa
Indians, the Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians, the Little
Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa
Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians to fish
in ceded areas of the Great Lakes
in the boundaries of Michigan
based on the 1836 treaty.

1983 U.S. COURT OF APPEALS RULES IN FAVOR OF LAC COURTE OREILLES

Reverses appeal and upholds
Ojibwe off reservation hunting,
fishing, and gathering rights as
set forth in the 1837 and 1842
treaties. The U.S. Supreme Court
refuses to hear the case thereby
upholding the Ojibwe treaty
rights. Governor Earl calls
for cooperation among state
agencies and tribal governments
to resolve the matter.

1983 VOIGT INTERTRIBAL TASK FORCE

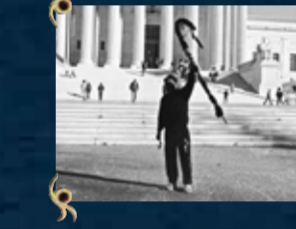
Created to address resource
management issues.

1985 CONSENT DECREE

The regulatory agreement details
management protocols for Great
Lakes fish species including lake
trout, walleye, whitefish, perch,
salmon and bloater chubs, covering
treaty-ceded waters of Lakes
Superior, Michigan, and Huron. The
compact helped lay the foundation
for additional settlements that
would keep the state and Michigan
tribe tribes out of the courtroom,
ushering in an era of natural
resources co-management.

1990 MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE FILES SUIT

In Federal District Court against
the state of Minnesota for
violating their reserved rights
to hunt, fish, and gather on
Ceded Territories based on
the 1837 treaty.



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1997 MILLE LACS CASE IS UPHOLD IN U.S. COURT OF APPEALS AND HEADS TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

On January 29, U.S. District
Court of Minnesota ended the
trial portion of two 1837 Treaty
rights cases pursued by eight
Chippewa bands by issuing a
ruling which provided for the
exercise of a treaty harvest. The
scope and regulation of the
treaty harvest were defined in
court-accepted stipulations.
Because issues regarding scope
and regulation were resolved
through stipulations which
defined them, those issues
were not included in the final
decision and therefore cannot
be appealed.

2007 MICHIGAN CONSENT DECREE

In October 2013, the State of
Michigan asked the federal court to
decide whether inland treaty rights
continue to exist, and if they do,
where they can be exercised. The
five 1836 Treaty tribes along with
the U.S., agreed that inland treaty
rights needed to be resolved. In
late summer 2005, the parties
explored the willingness of
everyone to resolve all the issues
related to 1836 Treaty inland rights
by negotiation, rather than
litigation. Their efforts were
finalized in a Consent Decree in
early September 2007. The Consent
Decree contains acknowledgment
by the State of Michigan of the
permanent recognition of tribes
"Inland Article 13 Rights."

1620

1795

1825

1830

1836

1837

1842

1848

1850

1852

1854

1855

1858

1887

1889

1920

1924

1934

1953

1954

1969

1971

1974

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1989

1990

1996

1997

1999

2007

2020

1620s

**EUROPEANS
ARRIVE**
Etienne Brule,
Jean Nicolet
and other
Europeans
arrive in the
region to
establish
trade relations.

1795

**TREATY OF
GREENVILLE**
First treaty signed with
the United States by the
Chippewa. Establishes
boundaries between the
United States and
several Native Nations.

1830

**INDIAN
REMOVAL ACT**
Official Federal policy
whereby entire Tribes
are coerced and forcibly
removed from their
ancestral homelands
to unfamiliar ceded
territories west of the
Mississippi River.

1837

**MICHIGAN
STATEHOOD**
1837
**TREATY WITH
CHIPPEWA**
Signed at St. Peters,
the first of several
cession treaties which
sold large tracts of land
in north central and
eastern Minnesota
and northwestern
Wisconsin. Chippewa
retained their right to
"hunt, fish, and
gather" in "ceded"
territories.

VIEW MAP

1848

**WISCONSIN
STATEHOOD**

1852

**CHIEF
BUFFALO
TRAVELS
TO D.C.**
Meets president of the
United States and advocates
for permanent Ojibwe
homelands.

1855

**TREATY WITH
THE CHIPPEWA
SIGNED AT
WASHINGTON D.C.**
The treaty ceded land in
the Minnesota territory for
monetary and other
stipulations. Reservations
were also established in
Minnesota.

1855
**TREATY WITH
THE OTTAWA AND
CHIPPEWA**

Established fishing and
encampment rights
established under the Treaty
of 1820 for the Sault Ste.
Marie Chippewa.

1858

**MINNESOTA
STATEHOOD**

1889

**TREATY AT
RED LAKE**
Ceded land surrounding
the reservation and
exempted Red Lake
from the Allotment
policy thereby retaining
its sole status as a
ceded reservation.
Red Lake will become
the only reservation in
the country that is not
"checker-boarded"
with parcels of the
reservation belonging
to white land owners.

1924

**INDIAN
CITIZENSHIP ACT**
Grants citizenship to all
Native Americans in the
United States. There was
no provision in the Act, however,
that required Indian people
to relinquish tribal
membership or identity.

1953

**PUBLIC LAW 280
PASSED**
Transferred criminal
jurisdiction on tribal lands
to some states, including
Wisconsin and Minnesota.
The states use the law to
step up their violations of
hunting, fishing, and
gathering treaty rights.

1969 RED CLIFF AND BAD RIVER MEMBERS ARRESTED

Six enrolled members of the Red
Cliff Band, including Richard
Gurnoe, are arrested by
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources officers after pulling a
gill net from Lake Superior that
contained a white sucker. Around
three weeks later, two Bad River
Band members are cited by a
state conservation warden while
fishing with gill nets on
Gichigami. A Bayfield County
judge ruled that the 1854 Treaty
did not protect their right to fish
outside of state regulations.



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1974 TRIBBLE BROTHERS ARRESTED

Fred and Mike Tribble, members of the
Lac Courtte Oreilles Band (LCOB), were
arrested, March 8, on Chief Lake by
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources wardens for possession
of a spear, for taking fish from
off-reservation waters and for
occupying a fish shanty without name
and address attached. The Tribble
brothers were fishing off-reservation
and were later found guilty of the
charges in Sawyer County Circuit Court.



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1974
**GURNOE V.
WISCONSIN**

In the Gurnoe Decision, the Wisconsin
Supreme Court decided in favor of the
Bad River and Red Cliff Tribes. Based
on the 1854 Treaty, the court found
that fishing in the off-reservation
waters of Lake Superior was a
protected treaty right and that any
regulations that the state seeks to
enforce against the Chippewa are
reasonable and necessary to prevent
a substantial depletion of the fish
supply. The State of Wisconsin and
the tribes have successfully
negotiated agreements for the
treaty commercial fishing activity
since the time of the decision.

1982 GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION WAS FORMED

1984 GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (GLIFWC) ESTABLISHED

Comprised of eleven sovereign
tribal governments located
throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin,
and Michigan, the Commission's
purpose is to protect and enhance
treaty-guaranteed rights to hunt,
fish, and gather on inland Ceded
Territories ceded under the
Chippewa treaties of 1836, 1837,
1842, and 1854; to protect and
enhance treaty guaranteed fishing
on the Great Lakes; and to provide
cooperative management of
these resources.

1989 ANISHINAABE SOLIDARITY RELAY

Begins in response to racism and
hatred directed towards Ojibwe people
throughout the region at boat landings
and other communal spaces. Later
becomes the Healing Circle Run and
continues today.



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1996 FOND DU LAC TREATY RIGHTS AFFIRMED

The U.S. District Court affirmed the Fond
du Lac Band's 1837 and 1854 Treaty
rights. The nature and scope of the
1837 Treaty rights held by the Fond du
Lac Band were the same as the Mille
Lacs 1837 Treaty right.

1999 MINNESOTA V. MILLE LACS BAND

The U.S. Supreme Court, March 24,
affirmed treaty hunting, fishing, and
gathering rights in the Minnesota
1837 Ceded Territory. This decision
served to end all debate, begun over
twenty years ago when the LCOB case
was filed in 1974, that the Bands'
treaty rights exist. The Court ruled in
favor of the Bands on all three
issues, finding that the 1850
Removal Order did not terminate the
rights; that Minnesota's statehood
in 1858 did not terminate the treaty
rights; and that the 1855 Treaty with
Mille Lacs did not terminate the
Bands' treaty rights.

2020 BUFFALO REEF CLEANUP AND RESTORATION

The treaty of 1842, or commonly known as
the "Copper Treaty" ceded millions of
acres of land to the United States in
exchange for rights to hunt, fish, and
gather within the Ceded Territory. Within
this territory is Buffalo Reef, a natural
cobble feature in Lake Superior, located
just off the eastern edge of the Keweenaw
Peninsula in the U.P. of Michigan. Buffalo
Reef has historically maintained invaluable
spawning habitat for fish species such as
lake trout and lake whitefish, but is now
threatened by the migrating stamp sands,
produced by harmful mining activities
beginning in the late 1800's. Tribal, State,
Federal, and academic partnerships
combine efforts to mitigate damages and
ultimately restore Buffalo Reef as the
ecological resource that has sustained
both tribal and non-tribal communities
for generations.



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TREATY LANDS

- CURRENT RESERVATION LANDS
- 1836 TREATY WITH OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA
- 1837 TREATY WITH CHIPPEWA
- 1842 TREATY WITH THE CHIPPEWA SIGNED AT LAPORTE
- 1854 TREATY WITH THE MISSISSIPPI, LAKE SUPERIOR, AND BOISE FORT BANDS



OGICHIDAA STORYTELLERS

The video series shares the struggle of the Anishinaabe (also known as Ojibwe or Chippewa) to retain treaty reserved harvesting rights throughout the ceded territories of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

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