

# Land Acknowledgement

The City of Fort Bragg acknowledges that the land on which we stand today is the original territory of the local Pomos of Sherwood Valley Rancheria. We acknowledge the critical importance of traditional Pomo methods of preservation of our land, waters, and sky. We recognize the sovereignty of the Pomo People, who are the original stewards of this land. We value, and seek to support, the many ways in which the Pomo People are working to preserve and revitalize Pomo culture, such as oral histories, dances, songs, regalia, basketry, and the Northern Pomo language.

We resolve to:

- Consult with the governing body of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo on initiatives, issues, or items of concern.
- Raise visibility and public awareness of the history and contemporary presence of the native population of our area.
- Coordinate with local schools, tribal members, as well as state and regional partners, to provide more and deeper education related to the history and contemporary culture of local indigenous people.

For more information about the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, go to:

[sherwoodvalleybandofpomo.com](http://sherwoodvalleybandofpomo.com)

# Visibility and education in public spaces

## Mendocino Indian Reservation

You're standing on land that was, in 1856, the Mendocino Indian Reservation. You might imagine that these 25,000 coastal acres were a refuge for our people, a place where survivors of European diseases, land theft, and white persecution could finally live in peace. Unfortunately, this was not the case. "Freedom and justice for all" did not apply to the Indians.

Like other reservations established along the coast, the Mendocino Indian Reservation operated more like a concentration camp. The Fort Bragg army post was set up to keep our people confined and to force them into slave labor at the mills and on local ranches.

In 1858, the Bureau of Indian Affairs illegally gave the Noyo River Lumber Company permission to build a sawmill on reservation land, at the mouth of Noyo River. Reservation authorities stole rations to

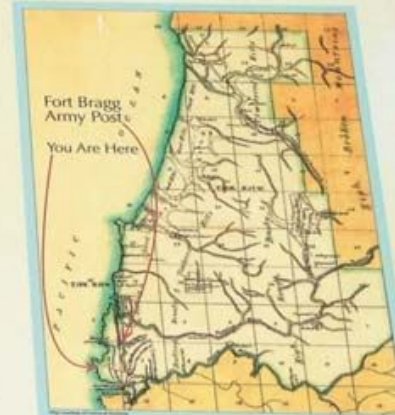
feed lumber mill workers, and many native people starved.

Our children were abducted, sold, and forced into child labor and our women were brutalized. The reservation was officially closed in 1868, amid these and other scandals, but whites had already settled much of the reservation land, using native improvements to justify property ownership.

Finally, our people were brutally force-marched 60 miles inland to the Round Valley Reservation.



Settlers killing Native Americans in the Mendocino Indian Reservation.



Mendocino Indian Reservation Map, 1856-1868

The Reservation consisted of 25,000 acres and extended north from the southern bank of the Noyo River to Alisal Creek near Chalksourne Gulch, and east from the Pacific Ocean to east of Bald Hill. Boundaries are marked in green.

"The Fort Bragg reservation, the way the government put it, was from Ten Mile River clear down to Noyo. That was what the government established. There were Indians here before that was established. That's just what the white man created. They created that barrier and then put

people in it and said it was a reservation, but before they did all of that, these Indians were all along here, living peacefully."


— Harriet Campbell Stanley, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo/Noyo Community, as quoted in Russell and Levene 1991: 370

Design by Sherwood  
Valley Pomo artist  
and educator, **Buffie  
Schmidt**





**You Walk in Our Footsteps**



**We Live Where You Now Stand**  
Our people walked here for thousands of years. They lived in small, round, dome-shaped houses. They used spears and bows to hunt for food. They also used tools made from stone and bone. They played games and enjoyed life on the waterways of the coast.

**A 12,000-Year-Old Road**  
Each spring, we walk the remains of a road that was built by our ancestors. It is made of stones and dirt. It is the same road that our ancestors used to travel between the coast and the interior. It is the same road that our ancestors used to travel between the coast and the interior. It is the same road that our ancestors used to travel between the coast and the interior.





KASHOY YA NA  
WE ARE ALIVE

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POP BOW YA NA  
WE ARE STILL HERE