

# The Kalapuya: History

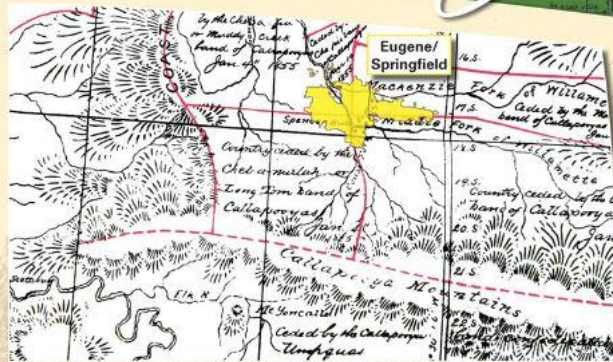
Title bar image: Gibbs-Staring Map of Willamette Valley (c. 1851). Provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



Kalapuya Man (c.1841). Drawn by Alfred T. Agate. Image provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## Original Inhabitants

The Kalapuya tribes inhabited the Willamette Valley from the Cascade Range to the Coast Range. The Kalapuya of the Eugene-Springfield area included the Winfelly, Pee-you (Mohawk area), Chelamela (Long Tom area) and Kalapuya (also known as Calapooia or Calapooya) tribes and bands. The main village in the Eugene area was called Chifan.



Belden Map of the Willamette Valley (c. 1855). Provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

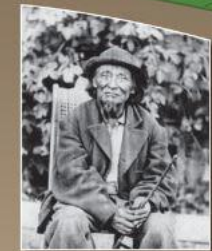


Photo provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## Chief Halo Tish: The man who fought a bear

An article from a late 19th century Cottage Grove publication recounts the local legend of Chief Halo Tish, of the Yoncalla Kalapuya, and his heroic acts:

"Calapooya and Klamath Indians battled in 1810 at Rocky Point near the present site of Dorena Dam..."

...The Klamaths, strong warriors, stole the sister of Chief Halo Tish of the Calapooyas and several other young women. As the fleeing abductors headed for the mountains, Chief Tish and his men took a shortcut.

They hurled rocks from the top of Rocky Point onto the Klamaths below, struggling through a gorge between the cliff base and river. The Klamaths abandoned their captives and high-tailed it in all directions."

In the Kalapuya language, 'Halo Tish' meant "no teeth." The old chief was given this name because he lost his teeth battling a bear.

Narrative writing and guidance provided by David G. Lewis, PhD.



Chinook Salmon. Photo provided by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

## Diet and Trade

Camas bulbs, wapato bulbs, tarweed seed and acorns were among the major staple foods in the Kalapuya diet. Tribal members hunted a variety of regional animals and birds, and fished the rivers for trout, salmon, sturgeon and lamprey. The Kalapuya would take their camas and other products down the Willamette River to trade with the Clackamas tribes for dried salmon and lamprey.



Spruce Root Basket. Photo provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## Harvest and Craft

The Kalapuya harvested basketry-weaving materials including hazel sticks, spruce root, maidenhair fern, juncus and cedar bark. Tribes followed seasonal trends, hunting and harvesting accordingly throughout the valley and surrounding areas.



Grand Ronde Reservation Map. Image provided by The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

## Reservation Era

In 1851, and again in 1855, the Kalapuya of the valley signed treaties with the United States government. The tribes were removed to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation in 1856. Depicted above is the 1855 Belden Map of the Willamette Valley (top) and the Grand Ronde Reservation Map (bottom). The Reservation is highlighted in red. The current Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area is highlighted in yellow.

