

History of an "80" (on School Land Bay)

By Terry Phillips
April 30, 2018

Oregon became a State in 1859.

When each western state received statehood, it received a federal grant of lands, in lieu of money, to support and build schools. Before Oregon, each state received only one square mile from each 36. But we received two, because we had so little good farmland and were considered to be poor.

We received $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of federal lands, mostly stolen from the Indians. They were Section 16 and 36. Our 80 is in Section 16. ^{School Land Bay}

To receive them, the lands had to be both surveyed and vacant - no claims against them.

Well, in 1859 there were no National Forests, no National Parks, no Indian Reservations, and no land surveys. So state ownership came slowly.

As each acre was surveyed, we got title to each Section 16 and 36 - if it was not claimed yet.

The 80 acre parcel we are talking about this morning was surveyed in 1880 - and it was vacant - so title passed from federal to state - for school value. But it had no streams and no farm land, so it was only a young forest. (A large forest fire had burned it in 1868 - so the trees were only 10 years old.) But our 80 is very close to School Land Bay of ^{South} ~~Twice~~ ^{twice} ~~hoke~~.

A man did buy the 80 about 1920, but never paid taxes, so lost it to the County.

In 1935, the CCCs built the County Road through it.

In 1940 the County deeded it to the State Board of Forestry - for payment of a debt.

We harvested 60 acres of it in the 1970s, and left the other 20 for scenery. That timber is now 150 years old (nearly old-growth).

