## The Changing Nature of Woodard Bay

WOODARD BAY'S SHELTERED INLETS AND RICH NATURAL RESOURCES HAVE DRAWN PEOPLE TO ITS SHORES AND FORESTS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

### The First People, a Rich Life

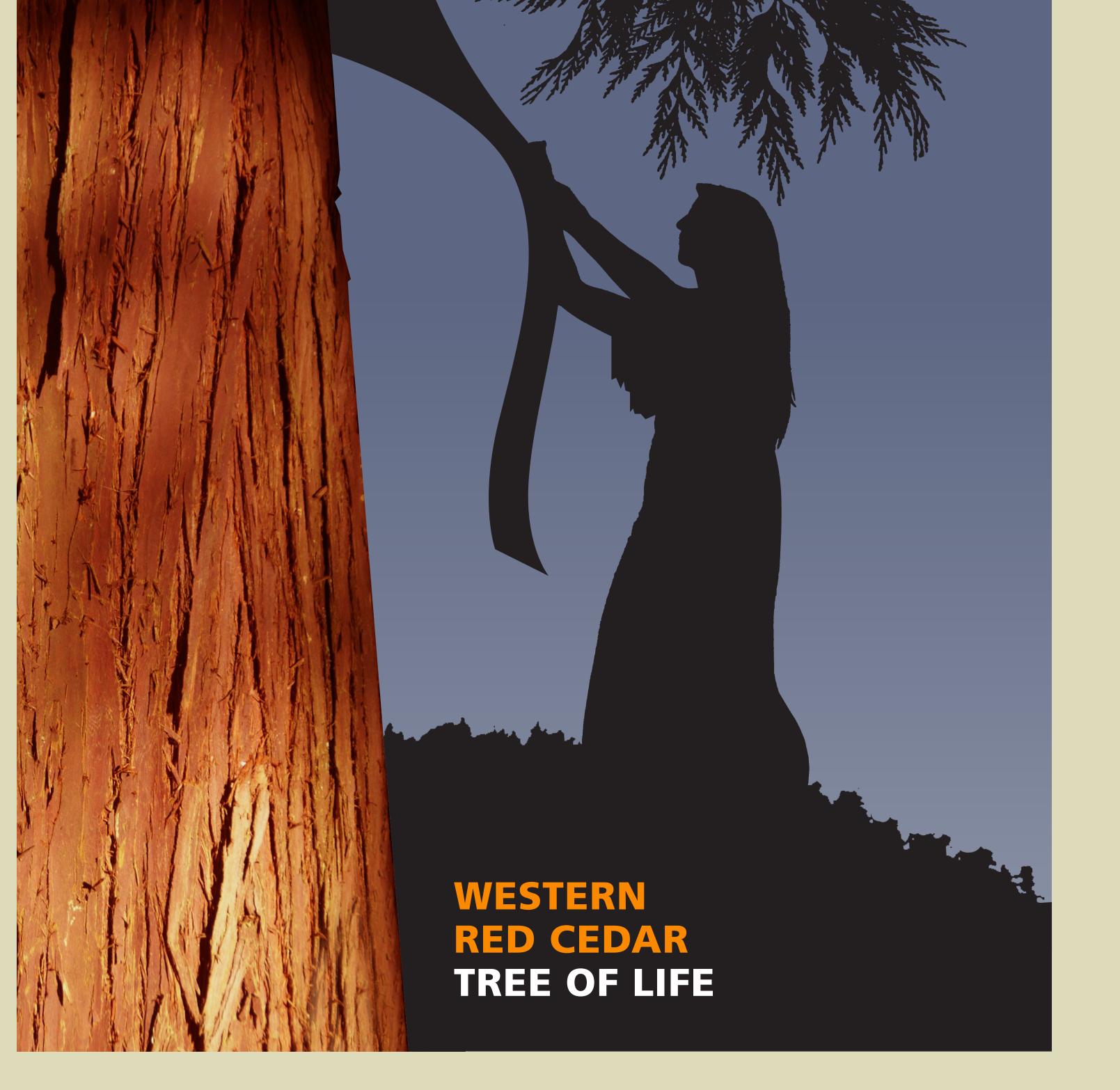
Native Americans have been living on the shores of Puget Sound for thousands of years. "Noo-She-Chatl" was the Indian name given to what is now called Henderson Inlet and its people. The Noo-She-Chatl lived in large, permanent winter homes called "longhouses," which were located a few miles from here. From there, they would travel by canoe to resource-rich areas like Woodard Bay to hunt, fish and gather plants.

heated rocks. Shellfish were also baked in pits dug out on the shoreline placed onto long sticks of oceanspray and slowly smoked over a fire.





The people collected shellfish in open-weave baskets, which allowed water to drain out.





Split bark bundles

of plants and trees for food and for making dishes, tools, fishnets and other items. They harvested cedar bark for baskets and clothing. The bark was removed from live trees in long strips (above) and then dried in bundles.

The bark was stored for some time, then split lengthwise into the required width, and woven or twisted into shape. Harvesting bark was done with care, because if the tree was completely stripped, it would die.

#### 1700s-1900s

# Change Comes

In the late 1700s, U.S. and European explorers and traders began arriving in the Pacific Northwest. The region became a magnet for settlers. Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 in order to survey and divide the land into homesteads.

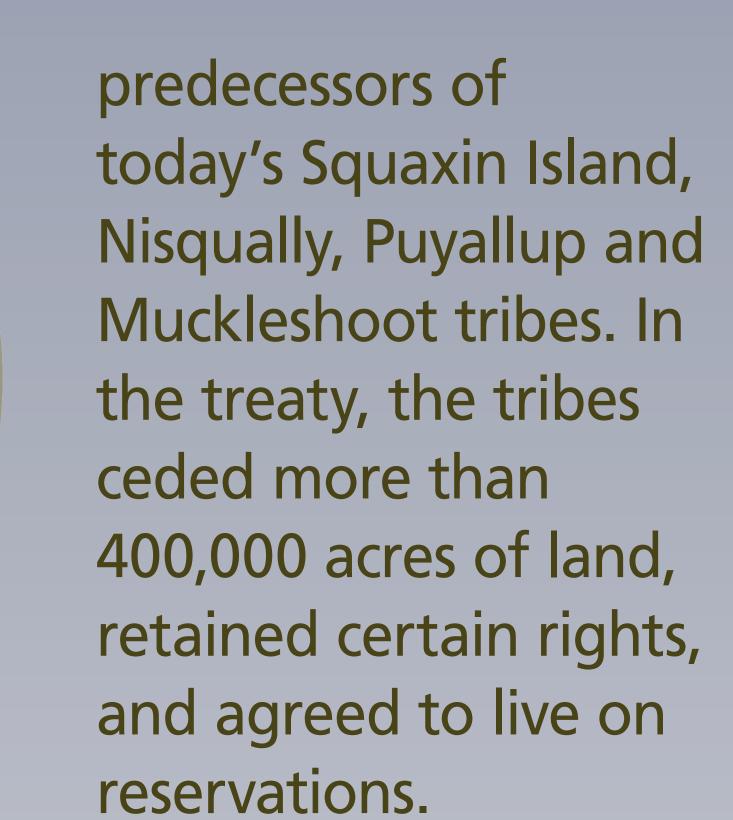




### THE LAND CHANGES HANDS

More settlers arrived to claim the traditional homelands of the Indian people. To make way for legal ownership by settlers, the federal government directed Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens to negotiate treaties with the tribes.

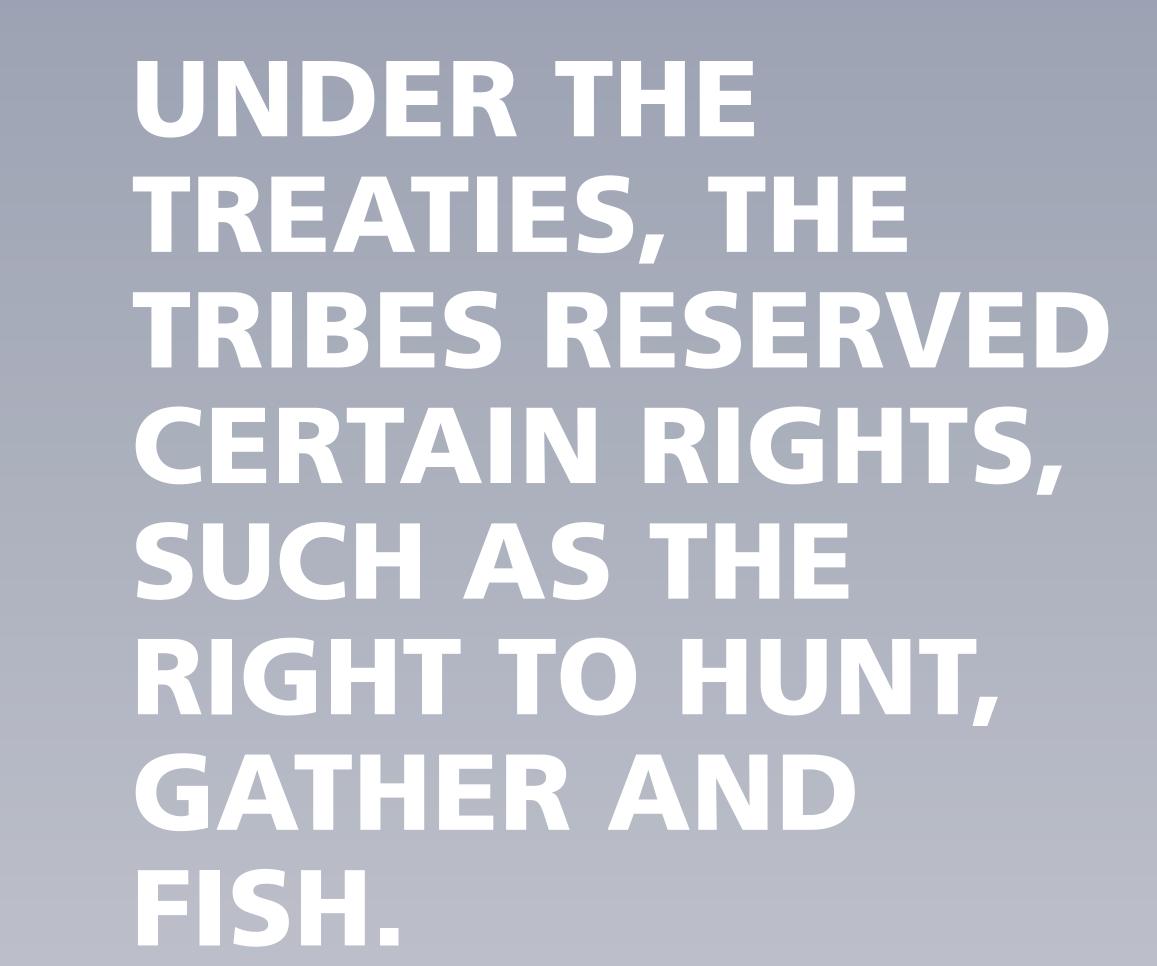
Woodard Bay is located on land identified in the Treaty of Medicine Creek, which was signed on December 26, 1854, by the



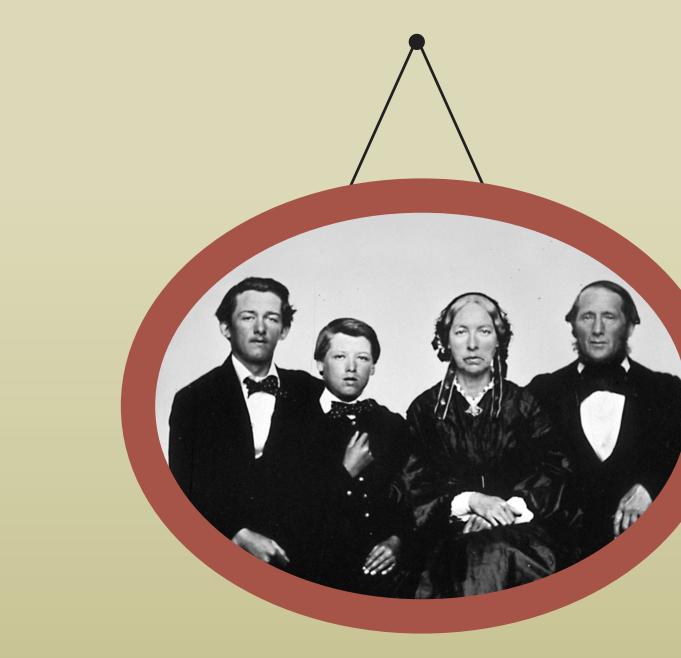
Unkept promises by the federal government and inadequate reservations led to war in 1855.

During the war, the Woodard family moved to a fortified blockhouse in Olympia, where they remained after the war ended in 1856.

Over the years, the land surrounding Woodard Bay changed hands many times.



In 1902, the Capital City Oyster Company bought the land here. They hired Robert Whitham to oversee an oyster farming operation. Whitham bought the property in 1920 and sold it to Weyerhaeuser Timber Company a few years



Alonzo, Adelbert, Salome & Harvey Woodard

### WOODARD FAMILY ARRIVES

The first settlers at Woodard Bay were the Woodard family. They left the state of New York in 1852 and crossed the Great Plains in a wagon train, finally arriving here in late 1853. They cleared and planted 10 acres of land and built a house.





