

The Un-ratified treaties of 1851

Tulare County was established in 1852 at a critical moment when wither trust or mistrust could have been firmly established. In 1851 the American government sent three agents to negotiate treaties with the California tribes.

Fourteen Leaders, representing four Yokuts societies - Chunut, Wowol, Koyeti, and Yowlumne - agreed to the terms of the treaty. The proposed Tulare Lake Reservation was situated on the lands of Chunut and Wowol between Tulare and Buena Vista Lakes. The proposed Tule Reservation extended from the Tule River south to Paint Creek and was located on Koyeti and Yowlumne lands. The treaty also promised 200 head of beef cattle per year for the next two years.

Congress Failed to ratify the treaties of 1851 because of local opposition by settlers who objected that the Indians would occupy the best farming land. The Indians were never formally informed of the decision. Thus the pattern of injustice and mistrust was set into motion.