

# Investigating New Landscapes

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October 2011

# Discovery

What is geography?

What is historical geography?

Environmental history

How do geographers gather data?

How do geographers analyze data?

# Geography

- The Study of Earth
- Spatial Patterns
- Spatial Relationships
- Landscapes of Meaning

# Historical Geography

Spatial relationships, regional dynamics and landscapes in specific *historical eras*.

Environmental history with aerial work based on hypothesis or research question

Data

Quantitative – “datable data”

Qualitative – context/accounts/collaborated

Analysis: Data management to find themes

Conclusion: Answer the hypothesis

# Gathering Data

- Quantitative Methods

Data measured in numerical values

Analysis with mathematical logic

Linear flow from data to conclusion

Confirmed with same procedures

- Qualitative Methods

Data gathered through personal observation

Data gathered through personal interaction (ethnography)

Data gathered through informants

Analysis through organization and classification of gathered data

Context/Accounts/Collaboration

# Pacific Northwest Environmental History (Historical Geography)

- Original Populations – Pre-historic (?)
- Exploration by/of Others
- Establishing Footholds
- Reinforcing Claims
- Significant Eras/Time Frames

# Pre-European Eras

- Archeological Data – Post Pleistocene
- Landscape Data
- Oral Histories
- Language Patterns
- Historical (Human Ecology)



# Establishing the Euro-American Era 1600-1850

- Push-pull factors
- National identity
- Wealth vs cash
- Relief valve

# Establishing National Claims in the Pacific Northwest

- Trading Posts
  - Extractive Economy
- Military Routes and Camps
  - Cross-Continental
- Missionary Settlements
  - Protestant Zeal/Catholic Power/Mormon Evacuations
- Territorial Government

# Settling 1850-1870

- Wealth of Land/General Land Office PLS
- Pre-Industrial Age
- Agricultural Economy
- Trade Products, Routes and Partners
- Statehoods and Governance

# Establishing National Claims

- Land Surveys

<http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/ySrvy1.php>

- Mapping

- Property Rights

- Taxation



# Land Surveys

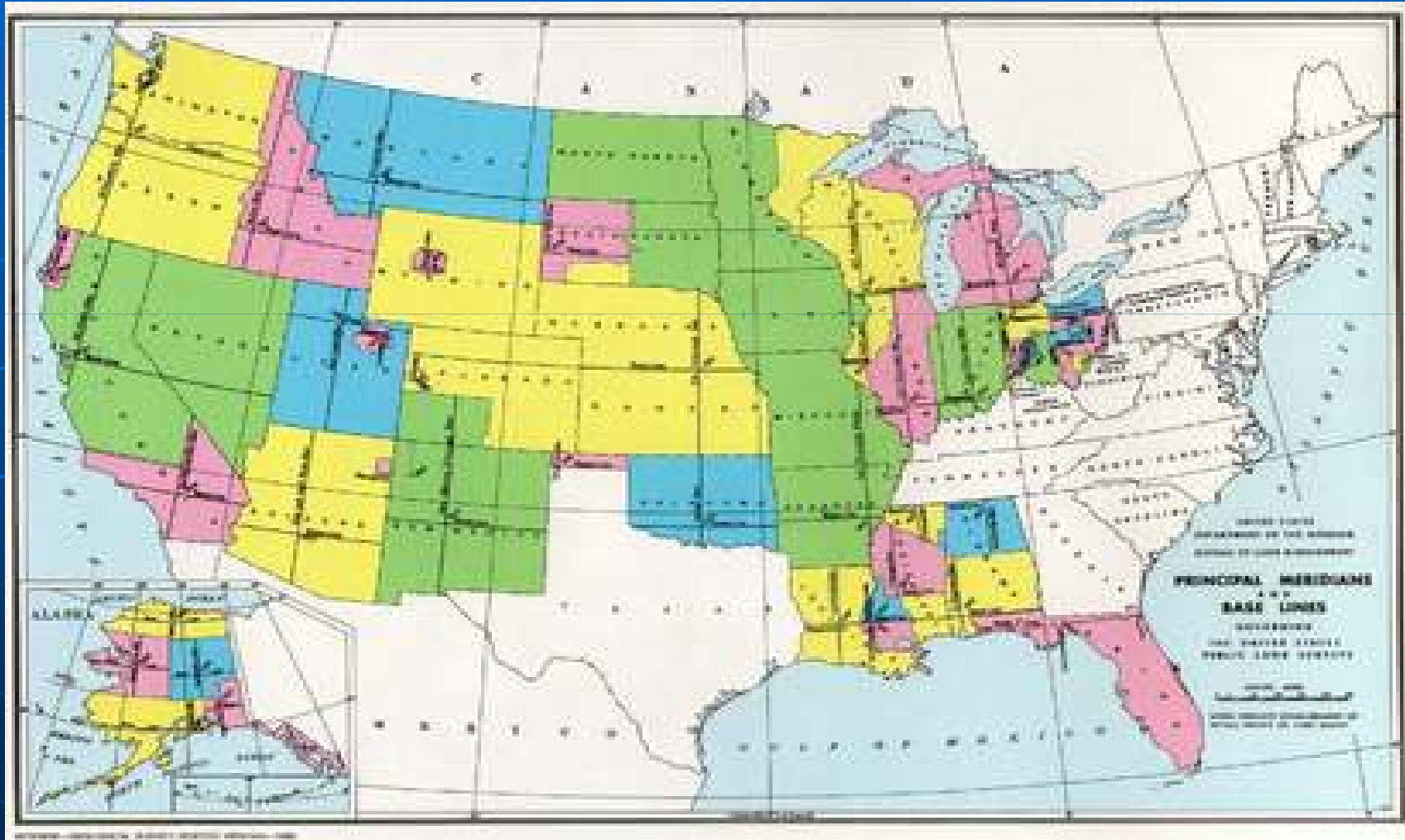
- U. S. Ordinance Act 1778
- Territorial Ordinance
- Order on the Landscape
- Economic Structures



# Tools of the Trade



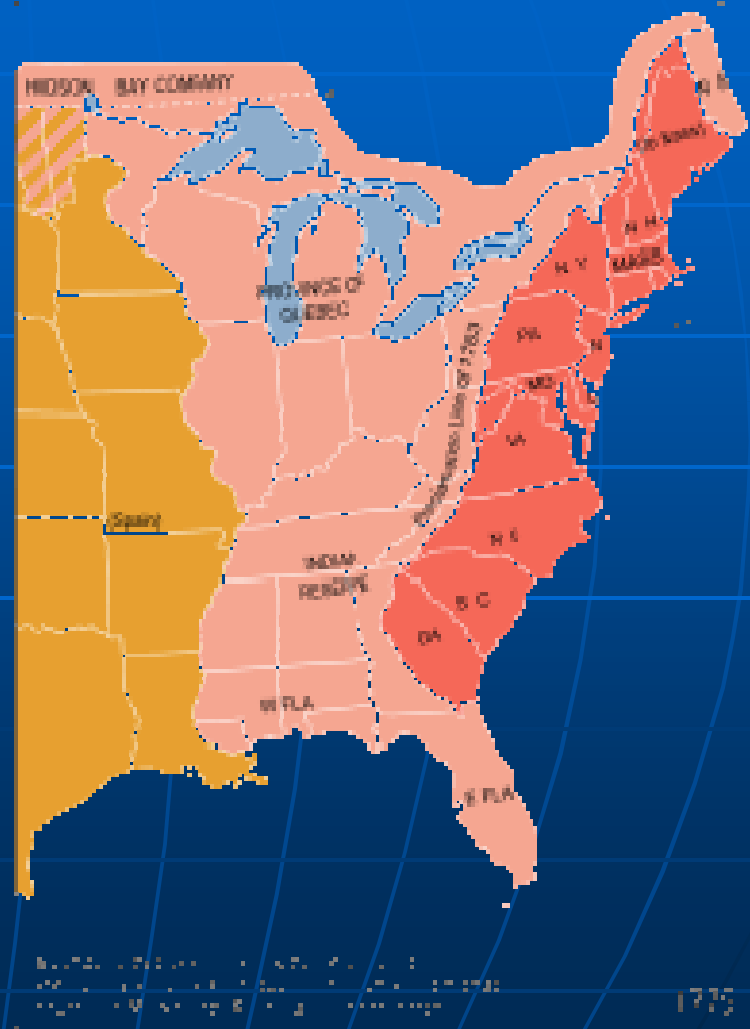
# US Public Land Survey



# None US PL Surveys

- English System

Metes and Bounds





- French Arpent

Historically, in North America, 1 (square) arpent = 32,400 French square feet = about 3419 square meters

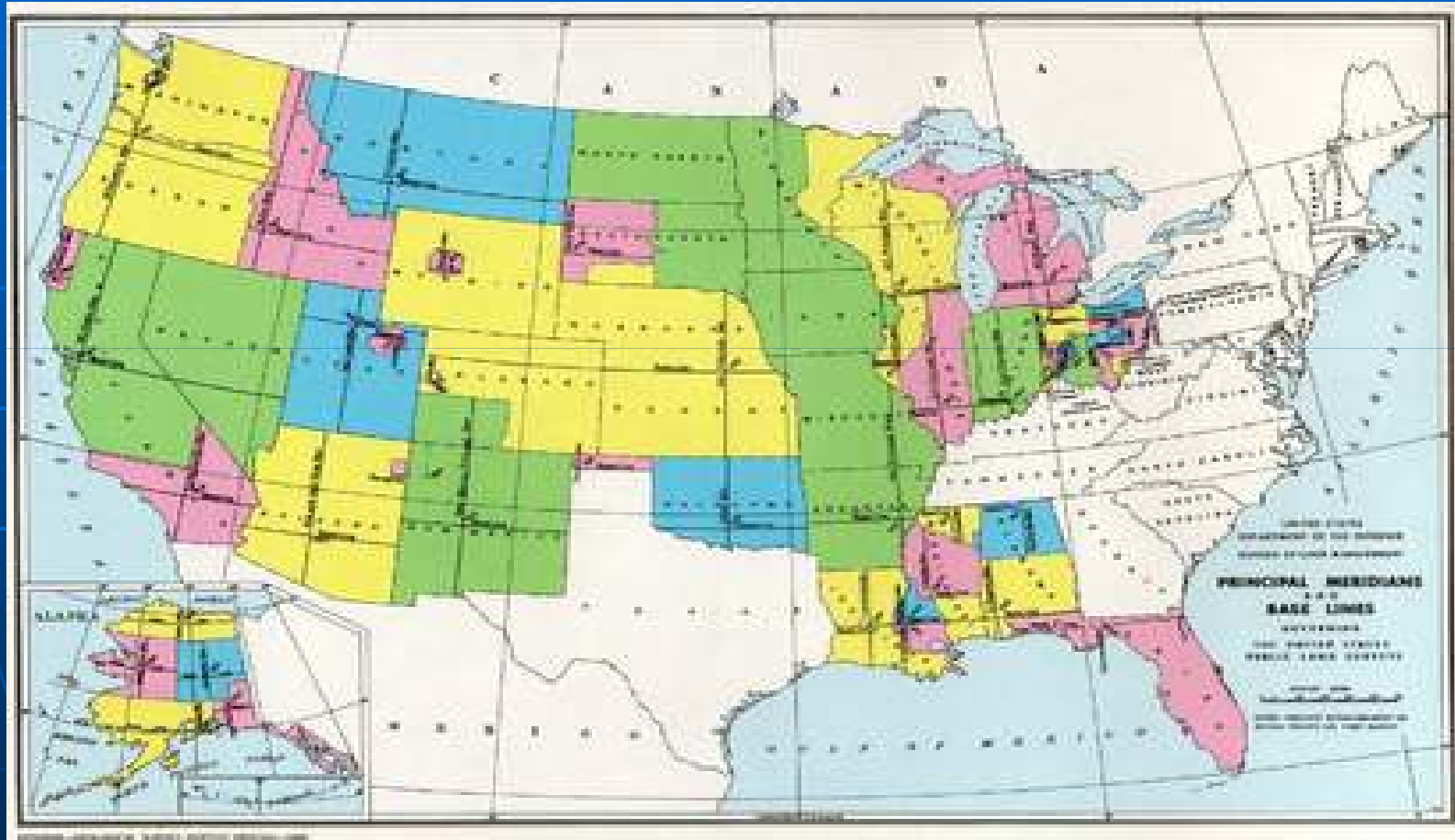
Found in Louisiana and unique locations with French first effective settlement associated with French fur traders including the Willamette Valley

- Spanish Land Grants  
*ranchos*

Measured in square leagues

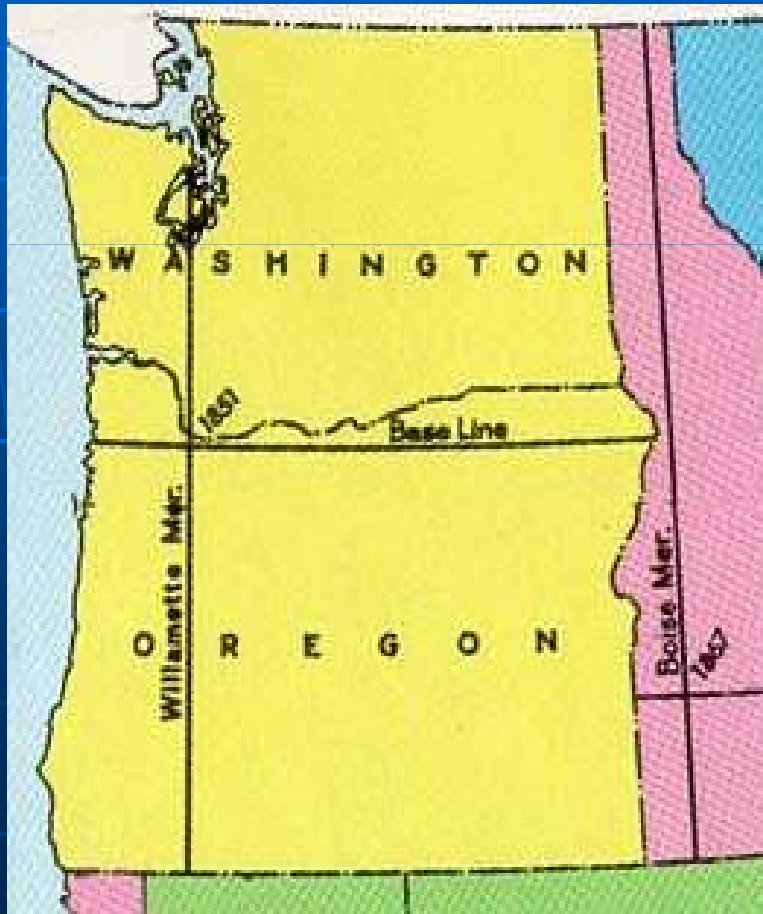
Found in Texas, New Mexico and  
California

# PL Survey Meridians and Baselines



# Survey of PNW

## Willamette Meridian Stone Heritage Site

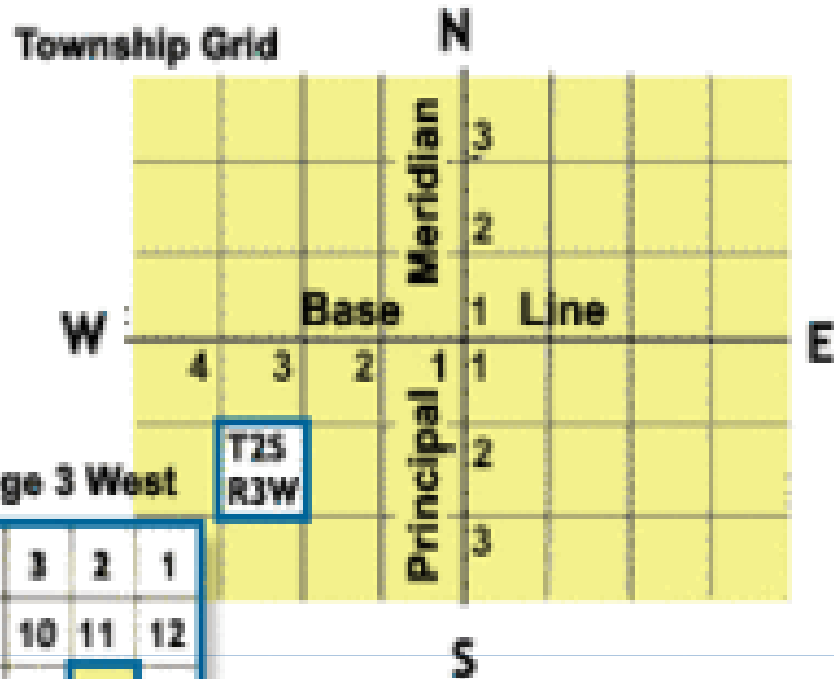


The location of the Willamette Meridian and Willamette Baseline can be identified by various streets that follow their courses, often named to call attention to this fact.

In Thurston County, WA

In Washington County, OR

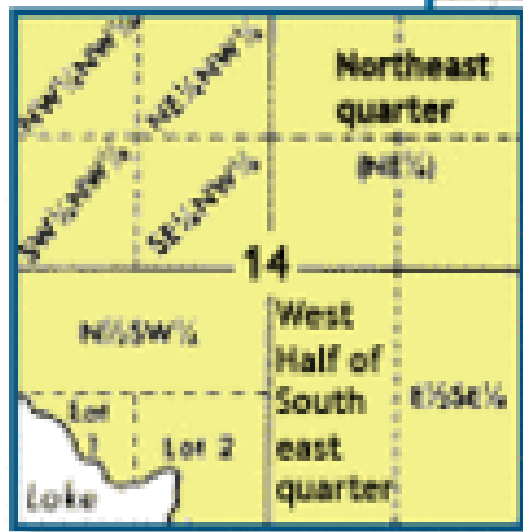
# Public Land Survey System (PLSS)



Township 2 South Range 3 West

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
20	21	22	23	24	
29	28	27	26	25	
32	33	34	35	36	

Section 14



Section 14 shows both normal division of the section into aliquot parts and the fractional division into government lots.

# Oregon Territory Survey 1851-1855

- Quantitative Data  
Ordinance Survey
- Qualitative Data  
Field Notes

# Field Notes

Surveyors Notes

Your Notes!



# Qualitative Data Gathering

## Field Notes

Location

Conditions

Observations

Interpretation

Themes and Organization

Conclusions

# Field Notebooks

In the Field:

Daily Observations

Context of Observations

“What do I record?”

## Field Notes: Narrative

Each day of observations is completed with a written narrative summary of the day's works.

## Field Notes: Use of Data

Summarize

Quote

Validation

Collaboration

Careful logical statements

Be wary of potential audiences

# Environmental Work

Absolute Information and Description

Data Collection

Absolute Locations – GPS

Relative Significance and Values

Relative Location - GIS

# Seminar Questions

- Is *Chaining Oregon* the perfect title for this book? What is your response to the title? Did you gain a sense of landscape from the book? Did you 'read' or 'sense' the landscape?
- In another book about the US Ordinance entitled *Order on the Landscape* lays out the historical and social impacts of the T & R coordinate system. Give an example from Atwood's book that supports this sense of order impressed in the PNW landscape.
- What leadership qualities do you recognize in administrative team vs the surveyors?