



## Assignment 7 (Unit 5-4)

### Comparing Two Documents Produced by the Indian Reserve Commission

#### Instructions

In this assignment, you will compare two documents about the High Bar First Nation's reserve allotments produced by the Indian Reserve Commission (IRC). The first document is Peter O'Reilly's "Minutes of Decision—High Bar Indians," a narrative account of the IRC's decision about the reserves being allotted for High Bar. The second document is a sketch of High Bar's reserve allotments prepared by surveyor Edward Mohun, who traveled with the IRC and prepared drawings that would form the basis of official surveys of reserve lands produced after the IRC had rendered its decisions.

First, read through the handwritten document produced by O'Reilly. If you need to enlarge the document, adjust the size by clicking the "View" tab located on your toolbar and click on zoom to achieve the desired magnification. After reading the document, answer the questions on page 3.

Second, look carefully at Mohun's sketch and answer the questions about the document on pages 5 and 6.

After you have completed the questions, review the assignment summary and annotated sketch on pages 7 and 8.

When you have completed the assignment, save your work and return to Unit 5-4 of the course.



## Assignment 7: MOD and Sketch Comparison

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### Minutes of Decision.

#### High Bar Indians.

A Reserve situated on both sides of the Fraser river, at High Bar, adjoining the pre-emption of James Wood commencing "at a post on the left bank of Fraser river, and running thence East 20 chains; thence South 80 chains; thence East 20 chains; thence South 80 chains; thence East 60 chains; thence South 20 chains; thence East 160 chains; thence South 100 chains; thence East 40 chains; thence South 50 chains; thence West across the Fraser river 120 chains; thence North 90 chains; thence West 50 chains; thence North 20 chains; thence West 110 chains; thence North to the left bank of Fraser river, and thence up the bank of the said river to place of commencement.

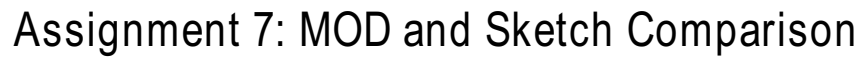
A Graveyard 20 x 15 links situated S 25 W of Mr. J. Wood's house, and about 160 yards distant from it, is reserved.

The exclusive right of fishing on both banks of Fraser river, commencing at a point  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below Barney Creek, and extending up stream to the Northern boundary of the reserve a distance of about 6 miles.

The water of a small spring known as Indian Creek, the water of the creek running past the Indian houses, and the surplus waters of Barney Butcher, and Watsons Bar creeks are reserved for the use of the Indians.

High Bar. B.C.  
July 25<sup>th</sup> 1881.

R. McIlroy  
S.H.C.

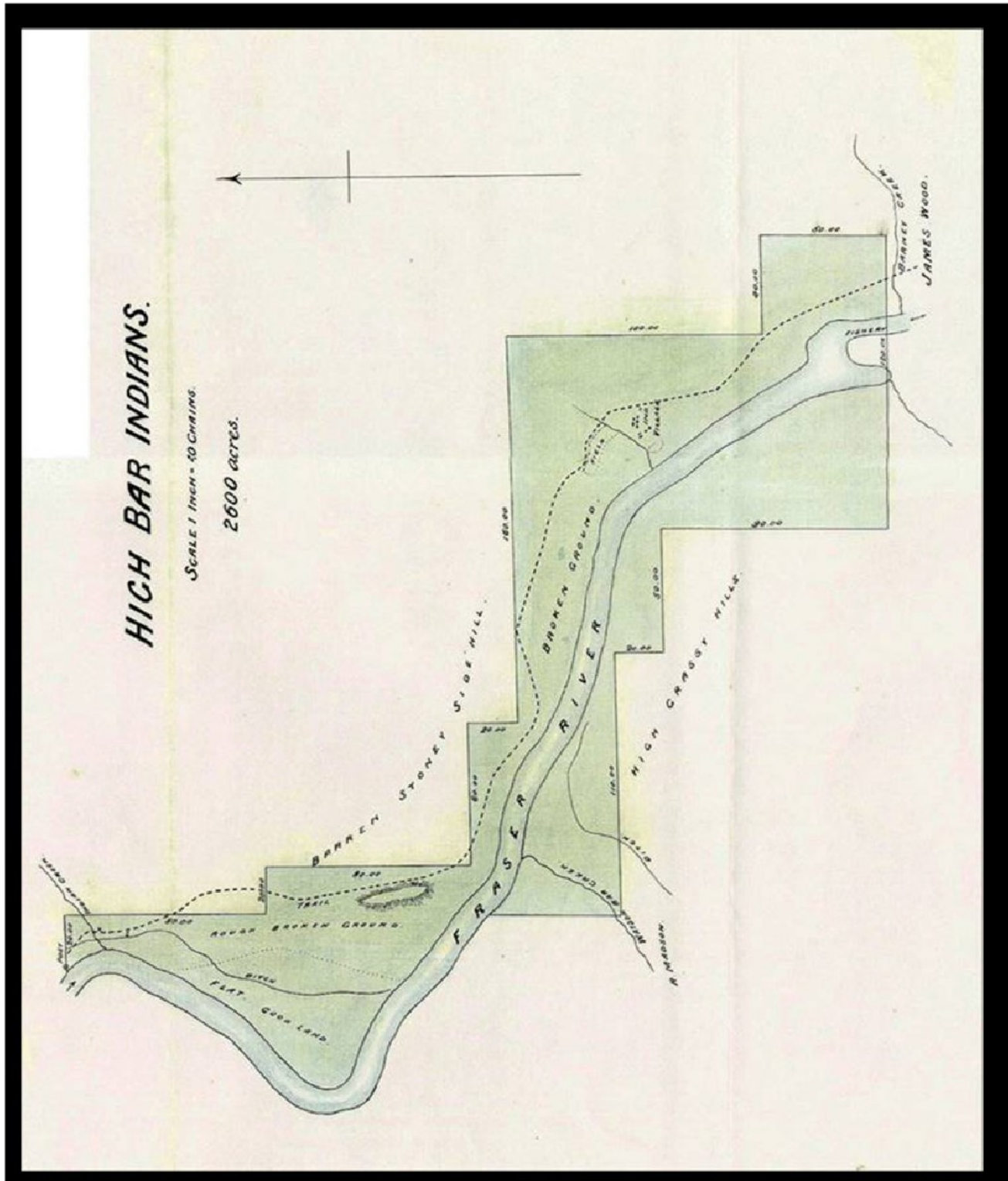


1. O'Reilly's Minute of Decision makes four allotments. Identify each one and give a general description of where it is.

- 3



## Assignment 7: MOD and Sketch Comparison

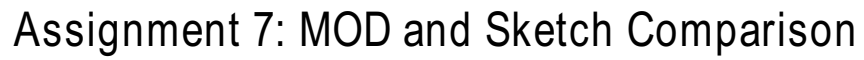




## Assignment 7: MOD and Sketch Comparison

### Questions

1. List all of the information you know about the reserve based on the information on the sketch.
2. Can you locate areas corresponding to O'Reilly's minute of decision descriptions on the sketch? Note any significant differences in the space below.
3. Is there any information that appears in the minute of decision that does not appear in the sketch? Note any differences.



4. Is there any information in the sketch that isn't described in the minute of decision? Note any differences.
5. Develop three questions for further research based on the information found in these two documents.



## Assignment 7: MOD and Sketch Comparison

### Summary

Examining the minute of decision, you can see that Commissioner O'Reilly had reserved a graveyard for the High Bar Indians, located southwest of a house belonging to Mr. J. Woods. This information appears in the second paragraph of the document. However, a reserved graveyard does not appear anywhere in the sketch of the High Bar reserve. Notice that James Woods' land is marked in the lower left corner of the sketch, south of the reserve, but there is no indication of a graveyard.

There are other features on the sketch that either correspond with or differ from the minutes of decision.

Comparing the two documents alerts you to important discrepancies in information. For the purposes of specific claims research, it would be important to search later documents to find out if the graveyard reserve was surveyed and officially recorded for High Bar or if that reserve was lost.

Take a look at the labeled sketch on page 6 of this assignment to see some of the features included in the sketch.



