Port Gamble Historical Timeline

1853 Oregon Donation Act brought first settler, Capt. Josiah P. Keller, who built a mill, to Port Gamble area, relocating the Klallams to Point Julia across the bay, promising jobs and lumber for their homes.

January 26, 1855 Treaty of Point No Point was signed at Hahd-skus near Port Gamble. Surrendering 750,000 acres. Klallams were expected to move to Skokomish reservation, but refused.

1859 the Point No Point Treaty was ratified

1861 Distribution of goods promised during treaty signing

1875 – 1884 Indian Homestead Act made it possible for tribal members to homestead. Much of this land was eventually lost to county tax foreclosures in the 1930’s.

Point Julia in 1878 had a population of 100 with 20 homes.

1910 – 1920 families spent the winter at Washington Harbor working at the cannery

Children sent to Cushman Boarding School on the Puyallup Reservation

1938 Indian Reorganization Act created a reservation for Port Gamble 1,234 acres

1939 moved from Point Julia up on the bluff on the reservation.

1946 the Indian Claims Commission was created to settle payment for compensation for cession of tribal lands. In 1977 the three Klallam tribes received a total of $327,237. for 438,430 acres. Less than $1.00 per acre over 120 years late.

1974 The Boldt Decision reinstated treaty fishing rights
1981 the state adopted a negotiating posture, which lead to the Puget Sound Management Plan in 1985.

1980’s tribe built a gas station, store and mobile home park

1989 tribe became involved in yearly canoe journeys

1990 tribe became self governance