

**Title 37 RCW**  
**FEDERAL AREAS—INDIANS**

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**Chapter 37.04 RCW**  
**GENERAL CESSION OF JURISDICTION**

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*Taxation of federal agencies and instrumentalities: State Constitution  
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*Authority of federal government over federal areas: State Constitution  
Art. 25.*

*Taxation of federal agencies and instrumentalities: State Constitution  
Art. 7 § 3 (Amendment 19).*

**RCW 37.04.010 Consent given to acquisition of land by United States.** The consent of this state is hereby given to the acquisition by the United States, or under its authority, by purchase, lease, condemnation, or otherwise, of any land acquired, or to be acquired, in this state by the United States, from any individual, body politic or corporate, as sites for forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings or for any other purpose whatsoever. The evidence of title to such land shall be recorded as in other cases. [1939 c 126 § 1; RRS § 8108-1.]

**RCW 37.04.020 Concurrent jurisdiction ceded—Reverter.** Concurrent jurisdiction with this state in and over any land so acquired by the United States shall be, and the same is hereby, ceded to the United States for all purposes for which the land was acquired; but the jurisdiction so ceded shall continue no longer than the United States shall be the owner of such lands, and if the purposes of any grant to or acquisition by the United States shall cease, or the United States shall for five consecutive years fail to use any such land for the purposes of the grant or acquisition, the jurisdiction hereby ceded over the same shall cease and determine, and the right and title thereto shall revert in this state. The jurisdiction ceded shall not vest until the United States shall acquire title of record to such land. [1939 c 126 § 2; RRS § 8108-2.]

**RCW 37.04.030 Reserved jurisdiction of state.** The state of Washington hereby expressly reserves such jurisdiction and authority over land acquired or to be acquired by the United States as aforesaid as is not inconsistent with the jurisdiction ceded to the United States by virtue of such acquisition. [1939 c 126 § 3; RRS § 8108-3.]

**RCW 37.04.040 Previous cessions of jurisdiction saved.** Sections 8108 and 8109, Remington's Revised Statutes [1891 pp 31, 32 §§ 1, 2], and all other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter are hereby repealed: PROVIDED, That jurisdiction heretofore ceded to the United States over any land within this state

by any previous act of the legislature shall continue according to the terms of the respective sessions: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if jurisdiction so ceded by any previous act of the legislature has not been affirmatively accepted by the United States, or if the United States has failed or ceased to use any such land for the purposes for which acquired, jurisdiction thereover shall be governed by the provisions of this chapter. [1939 c 126 § 4; RRS § 8108-4.]

**RCW 37.04.050 Concurrent jurisdiction—Governor authorized to accept—Procedures.** (1) Upon the filing of a legally adequate notice with the governor by the secretary or administrator of any agency of the United States of America owning or having exclusive jurisdiction over certain property, the governor is authorized and directed to accept such jurisdiction as is necessary to establish concurrent jurisdiction between the United States and the state of Washington over the property as described in such notice and to the extent and periods of time authorized in such notice. The acquisition of such concurrent jurisdiction shall become effective upon filing the documents signifying such acceptance in the office of the secretary of state of the state of Washington.

(2) The authorization contained in subsection (1) of this section shall not be exclusive, shall not affect any existing jurisdiction or concurrent jurisdiction by the state over federal property, and shall be in addition to any other method or methods of assuming jurisdiction or concurrent jurisdiction over federal property. [1979 ex.s. c 49 § 1.]

**Chapter 37.08 RCW**  
**JURISDICTION IN SPECIAL CASES**

**Sections**

- 37.08.200 Rainier National Park.
- 37.08.210 Olympic National Park.
- 37.08.220 National forests, establishment, consolidation, extension  
of.
- 37.08.230 Migratory bird preserves.
- 37.08.240 Lake Washington ship canal.
- 37.08.250 Additional right-of-way.
- 37.08.260 Auburn general depot.
- 37.08.280 Veterans hospitals.

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**RCW 37.08.200 Rainier National Park.** Exclusive jurisdiction shall be, and the same is hereby ceded to the United States over and within all the territory that is now or may hereafter be included in that tract of land in the state of Washington, set aside for the purposes of a national park, and known as the Rainier National Park; saving, however, to the said state, the right to serve civil or criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid park, in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred or crimes committed in said state, but outside of said park; and saving further to the said state the right to tax persons and corporations, their franchises and property on the lands included in said park: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, This jurisdiction shall not vest until the United States through the proper officer, notifies the governor of this state that they assume police or military jurisdiction over said park. [1901 c 92 § 1; RRS § 8110.]

**RCW 37.08.210 Olympic National Park.** Exclusive jurisdiction shall be, and the same is hereby ceded to the United States over and within all the territory that is now or hereafter included in that tract of land in the state of Washington, set aside for the purposes of a national park, and known as the Olympic National Park; saving, however, to the said state, the right to serve civil and criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid park, in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred or crimes committed in said state, but outside of said park; and saving further to the said state the right to tax persons and corporations, their franchises and property on the lands included in said park: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, This jurisdiction shall not vest until the United States, through the proper officer, notifies the governor of this state that they assume police or military jurisdiction over said park: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That full jurisdiction over a strip of land two hundred fifty feet wide, being one hundred twenty-five feet wide on each side of the now existing center line of primary state highway No. 9 together with existing pit sites and stockpile sites within said park shall be retained by the state of Washington. [1945 c 114 § 1; 1941 c 51 § 1; 1939 c 170 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8110-1.]

**RCW 37.08.220 National forests, establishment, consolidation, extension of.** The legislature of the state of Washington hereby consents to the acquisition by the United States by purchase or gift of such lands in the state of Washington as in the opinion of the government of the United States may be needed for the establishment, consolidation and extension of national forests in this state under the provisions of the act of congress approved March 1, 1911, and entitled: "An act to enable any state to cooperate with any other state or states or with the United States for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers," as amended: PROVIDED, The state of Washington shall retain a concurrent jurisdiction with the United States in and over lands so acquired so far that civil processes in all cases, and such criminal processes as may issue under the authority of the state of Washington against any person charged with the commission of any crime without or within said jurisdiction, may be executed thereon in like manner as if this consent had not been granted: PROVIDED FURTHER, That before any acquirement of lands be made under the provisions of this section, such acquisition shall be approved by the department of natural resources: AND FURTHER PROVIDED, That the state of Washington shall retain concurrent jurisdiction to tax persons and corporations and their property and transaction on such lands so acquired. [1988 c 128 § 8; 1935 c 58 § 1; RRS § 9663-23.]

*County may convey forestlands to United States: RCW 36.34.210.*

**RCW 37.08.230 Migratory bird preserves.** Consent of the state of Washington is given to the acquisition by the United States by purchase, gift, devise, or lease of such areas of land or water, or of land and water, in the state of Washington, as the United States may deem necessary for the establishment of migratory-bird reservations in accordance with the act of congress approved February 18, 1929, entitled "An Act to more effectively meet the obligations of the United States under the migratory bird treaty with Great Britain by lessening the dangers threatening migratory game birds from drainage and other causes by the acquisition of areas of land and of water to furnish in perpetuity reservations for the adequate protection of such birds; and authorizing appropriations for the establishment of such areas, their maintenance and improvement and for other purposes," reserving, however, to the state of Washington full and complete jurisdiction and authority over all such areas not incompatible with the administration, maintenance, protection, and control thereof by the United States under the terms of said act of congress. [1933 c 159 § 1; no RRS.]

**RCW 37.08.240 Lake Washington ship canal.** That in aid of the construction, maintenance and operation of a ship canal, by the United States of America, to connect the waters of Lakes Union and Washington, in King county, with Puget Sound, together with all necessary and convenient locks, landways, spillways, buildings, power plant and other proper appurtenances, there be and hereby is granted by this state to said United States the right to place, construct, maintain, and operate, such ship canal, landways, spillways, buildings, power plant and other proper appurtenances, upon, along,

through and over any and all lands belonging to and waters of this state in said King county, within such limits as shall be defined by the plans and specifications for such improvement as the same shall be approved by the United States secretary of war, and the right to raise the waters of Salmon Bay and the right to lower the waters of Lake Washington, in prosecution of such improvement, and this state hereby releases the United States from all liability to damages to this state, its successors or assigns, that shall or might arise from such lowering or raising of waters, or otherwise from such improvement. But nothing in this section contained shall operate as an assumption of nor create any liability on the part of the state, for any damages which may result to any person, company or corporation. [1901 c 6 § 1; RRS § 8120.]

**RCW 37.08.250 Additional right-of-way.** That a right-of-way of not exceeding five hundred feet in width is hereby granted to the United States of America through any lands or shorelands belonging to the state of Washington, or to the University of Washington, and lying in King county between Lakes Union and Washington, or in or adjoining either of them, the southern boundary of such right-of-way on the upland to be coincident with the southern boundary of the lands now occupied by the University of Washington adjacent to the present right-of-way of said canal; the width and definite location of such right-of-way before the same is taken possession of by said United States shall be plainly and completely platted and a plat thereof approved by the secretary of war of the United States filed with the department of natural resources: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section contained shall be construed to repeal or impair any right, interest, privilege or grant expressed or intended in the act of the legislature of the state of Washington approved February 8, 1901, entitled, "An Act relative to and in aid of the construction, maintenance and operation by the United States of America of a ship canal with proper locks and appurtenances to connect the waters of Lakes Union and Washington in King county with Puget Sound and declaring an emergency." [1988 c 128 § 9; 1907 c 216 § 1; RRS § 8121.]

**RCW 37.08.260 Auburn general depot.** Concurrent jurisdiction shall be, and the same is hereby ceded to the United States over and within all the land comprising the Auburn General Depot area, being 570.08 acres, more or less, situate in King county, state of Washington; saving, however, to the state the right to serve civil and criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid area in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred or crimes committed in said state, but outside of said area. The metes and bounds description of the land over which jurisdiction is ceded hereby is as follows:

A parcel of land in sections 24 and 25, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian, King County, as follows: Beginning at a point on the west line of the Northern Pacific Railway right-of-way which point is S 89°16'55" W, 423.65 feet and N 2°12'33" W, 20 feet from the southeast corner of section 25, thence S 89°16'55" W, 1548.93 feet along the north right-of-way line of Ellingson Road to a point, thence N 0°10'45" E, 1298.11 feet to a point, thence S 89°31'28" W, 638.25 feet to the east right-of-way line of Greenhalgh Road, thence N



0°08'47" E, 1351.31 feet along said east right-of-way line to its intersection with the north right-of-way line of Algona Road, thence S 89°46'07" W, 1724.35 feet along said north right-of-way line to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, thence N 0°04'38" W, 1223.74 feet along said right-of-way to a point of spiral curve, thence along a spiral curve whose central angle is 1°36'14" and whose long chord bears N 0°27'20" E, 158.51 feet, thence along a circular curve to the right, whose radius bears S 88°28'24" E, 2822.01 feet, through a central angle of 21°16'24" for a distance of 1047.78 feet to a point of spiral, thence along a spiral curve whose central angle is 1°36'14", and whose long chord bears N 23°51'42" E, 158.51 feet, thence N 24°24'15" E, 3088.12 feet to a point of spiral curve, thence along a spiral whose central angle is 1°35'51", and whose long chord bears N 23°51'55" E, 161.51 feet to point of circular curve, thence along a circular curve, to the left, whose radius bears N 67°11'36" W, 2908.01 feet, through a central angle of 20°58'46" for a distance of 1064.80 feet, thence along a spiral curve to the left, whose central angle is 1°35'51", and whose long chord bears N 0°45'10" E, 161.51 feet, thence N 0°13'47" E, 1148.81 feet to the centerline of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and Northern Pacific crossover track being a point in a curve, thence along centerline of said crossover track on a curve to the left in a southeasterly direction, from a radius which bears N 63°36'26" E, 351.28 feet, through a central angle of 26°50'13" for a distance of 164.54 feet, thence S 53°13'47" E, 1840.78 feet along said centerline, thence along a curve to the right in a southeasterly direction, from a radius which bears S 36°46'13" W, 386.60 feet, through a central angle of 10°26'06" for a distance of 70.41 feet to the intersection of the westerly right-of-way line of county road No. 76, thence \*S 2°12'33" E, 6596.21 feet along the westerly right-of-way line of county road No. 76 to the East-West centerline of said section 25, thence N 89°46'02" E, 60.04 feet to the westerly right-of-way line of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, thence S 2°12'33" E, 2605.01 feet to point of beginning. The jurisdiction ceded hereby does not extend to any existing perimeter railroad or county road right-of-way. [1951 c 40 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** In the third from the last course, the "2" in the description "S 2°12'33" E" was by typographical error omitted from the session laws. The digit is inserted by the reviser after verification from original sources.

**RCW 37.08.280 Veterans hospitals.** Upon the filing of an appropriate notice thereof with the governor by the administrator of veterans affairs, an agency of the United States of America, pursuant to the provisions of section 302 of Public Law 93-82 (87 Stat. 195; 38 U.S.C. Sec. 5007), the governor is hereby authorized and directed to accept such legislative jurisdiction as is necessary to establish concurrent jurisdiction between the United States and the state of Washington to all land comprising the veterans hospital located at Vancouver in Clark county, Washington; the veterans administration hospital located at Walla Walla in Walla Walla county, Washington, and the veterans administration hospital located at American Lake in Pierce county, Washington. The acquisition of such concurrent jurisdiction shall become effective upon filing the documents

signifying such acceptance in the office of the secretary of state.  
[1975 1st ex.s. c 142 § 1.]

**Chapter 37.12 RCW**  
**INDIANS AND INDIAN LANDS—JURISDICTION**

**Sections**

- 37.12.010 Assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by state.
- 37.12.021 Assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by state—  
Resolution of request—Proclamation by governor, 1963  
act.
- 37.12.030 Effective date for assumption of jurisdiction—Criminal  
causes.
- 37.12.040 Effective date for assumption of jurisdiction—Civil  
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- 37.12.050 State's jurisdiction limited by federal law.
- 37.12.060 Chapter limited in application.
- 37.12.070 Tribal ordinances, customs, not inconsistent with law  
applicable in civil causes.
- 37.12.100 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession  
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- 37.12.110 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession  
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- 37.12.120 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
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- 37.12.130 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian  
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- 37.12.140 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian  
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- 37.12.150 Retrocession of federal jurisdiction over lands excluded  
from Olympic National Park.
- 37.12.160 Retrocession of civil and/or criminal jurisdiction—  
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- 37.12.170 Limits on retrocession under RCW 37.12.160.
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*Alienation of land by Indians: Chapter 64.20 RCW.*

*Annexation of federal areas by first-class city: RCW 35.13.185.*

*Compact with the United States: State Constitution Art. 26 § 2.*

*Daylight saving time—Prohibition not applicable to federal areas: RCW  
1.20.050.*

*Qualifications of voters: State Constitution Art. 6 § 1 (Amendment  
63).*

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applicable in civil causes.
- 37.12.100 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession  
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- 37.12.110 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession  
of criminal jurisdiction—Definitions.
- 37.12.120 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot,  
Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession  
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- 37.12.130 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian  
reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—  
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- 37.12.140 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian  
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- 37.12.170 Limits on retrocession under RCW 37.12.160.
- 37.12.180 Issues related to retrocession under RCW 37.12.160.

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*Compact with the United States: State Constitution Art. 26 § 2.*

*Daylight saving time—Prohibition not applicable to federal areas: RCW  
1.20.050.*

*Qualifications of voters: State Constitution Art. 6 § 1 (Amendment  
63).*

**RCW 37.12.010 Assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by  
state.** The state of Washington hereby obligates and binds itself to  
assume criminal and civil jurisdiction over Indians and Indian  
territory, reservations, country, and lands within this state in

accordance with the consent of the United States given by the act of August 15, 1953 (Public Law 280, 83rd Congress, 1st Session), but such assumption of jurisdiction shall not apply to Indians when on their tribal lands or allotted lands within an established Indian reservation and held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, unless the provisions of RCW 37.12.021 have been invoked, except for the following:

- (1) Compulsory school attendance;
- (2) Public assistance;
- (3) Domestic relations;
- (4) Mental illness;
- (5) Juvenile delinquency;
- (6) Adoption proceedings;
- (7) Dependent children; and
- (8) Operation of motor vehicles upon the public streets, alleys, roads and highways: PROVIDED FURTHER, That Indian tribes that petitioned for, were granted and became subject to state jurisdiction pursuant to this chapter on or before March 13, 1963 shall remain subject to state civil and criminal jurisdiction as if \*chapter 36, Laws of 1963 had not been enacted. [1963 c 36 § 1; 1957 c 240 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 36, Laws of 1963, which became effective on March 13, 1963, amended RCW 37.12.010, 37.12.030, 37.12.040, and 37.12.060, repealed RCW 37.12.020, and enacted a new section codified herein as RCW 37.12.021.

**RCW 37.12.021 Assumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction by state—Resolution of request—Proclamation by governor, 1963 act.** Whenever the governor of this state shall receive from the majority of any tribe or the tribal council or other governing body, duly recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, of any Indian tribe, community, band, or group in this state a resolution expressing its desire that its people and lands be subject to the criminal or civil jurisdiction of the state of Washington to the full extent authorized by federal law, he or she shall issue within sixty days a proclamation to the effect that such jurisdiction shall apply to all Indians and all Indian territory, reservations, country, and lands of the Indian body involved to the same extent that this state exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction or both elsewhere within the state: PROVIDED, That jurisdiction assumed pursuant to this section shall nevertheless be subject to the limitations set forth in RCW 37.12.060. [2011 c 336 § 765; 1963 c 36 § 5.]

**RCW 37.12.030 Effective date for assumption of jurisdiction—Criminal causes.** Upon March 13, 1963 the state of Washington shall assume jurisdiction over offenses as set forth in RCW 37.12.010 committed by or against Indians in the lands prescribed in RCW 37.12.010 to the same extent that this state has jurisdiction over offenses committed elsewhere within this state, and such criminal laws of this state shall have the same force and effect within such lands as they have elsewhere within this state. [1963 c 36 § 2; 1957 c 240 § 3.]

**RCW 37.12.040 Effective date for assumption of jurisdiction—Civil causes.** Upon March 13, 1963 the state of Washington shall assume jurisdiction over civil causes of action as set forth in RCW 37.12.010 between Indians or to which Indians are parties which arise in the lands prescribed in RCW 37.12.010 to the same extent that this state has jurisdiction over other civil causes of action and, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, those civil laws of this state that are of general application to private persons or private property shall have the same force and effect within such lands as they have elsewhere within this state. [1963 c 36 § 3; 1957 c 240 § 4.]

**RCW 37.12.050 State's jurisdiction limited by federal law.** The jurisdiction assumed pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to the limitations and provisions of the federal act of August 15, 1953 (Public Law 280, 83rd Congress, 1st Session). [1957 c 240 § 5.]

**RCW 37.12.060 Chapter limited in application.** Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the alienation, encumbrance, or taxation of any real or personal property, including water rights and tidelands, belonging to any Indian or any Indian tribe, band, or community that is held in trust by the United States or is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States; or shall authorize regulation of the use of such property in a manner inconsistent with any federal treaty, agreement, or statute or with any regulation made pursuant thereto; or shall confer jurisdiction upon the state to adjudicate, in probate proceedings or otherwise, the ownership or right to possession of such property or any interest therein; or shall deprive any Indian or any Indian tribe, band, or community of any right, privilege, or immunity afforded under federal treaty, agreement, statute, or executive order with respect to Indian land grants, hunting, trapping, or fishing or the control, licensing, or regulation thereof. [1963 c 36 § 4; 1957 c 240 § 6.]

**RCW 37.12.070 Tribal ordinances, customs, not inconsistent with law applicable in civil causes.** Any tribal ordinance or custom heretofore or hereafter adopted by an Indian tribe, band, or community in the exercise of any authority which it may possess shall, if not inconsistent with any applicable civil law of the state, be given full force and effect in the determination of civil causes of action pursuant to this section. [1957 c 240 § 7.]

**RCW 37.12.100 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to authorize a procedure for the retrocession, to the Quileute Tribe, Chehalis Tribe, Swinomish Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and the Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington and the United States, of criminal jurisdiction over Indians for acts occurring on tribal lands or allotted lands within the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, or Colville Indian reservation and held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States.

RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 in no way expand the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, or Colville tribe's criminal or civil jurisdiction, if any, over non-Indians or fee title property. RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 shall have no effect whatsoever on water rights, hunting and fishing rights, the established pattern of civil jurisdiction existing on the lands of the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, or Colville Indian reservation, the established pattern of regulatory jurisdiction existing on the lands of the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, or Colville Indian reservation, taxation, or any other matter not specifically included within the terms of RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140. [1995 c 202 § 1; 1995 c 177 § 1; 1994 c 12 § 1; 1988 c 108 § 1; 1986 c 267 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 177 § 1 and by 1995 c 202 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1986 c 267:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 267 § 8.]

**RCW 37.12.110 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140:

(1) "Colville reservation" or "Colville Indian reservation," "Quileute reservation" or "Quileute Indian reservation," "Chehalis reservation" or "Chehalis Indian reservation," "Swinomish reservation" or "Swinomish Indian reservation," "Skokomish reservation" or "Skokomish Indian reservation," "Muckleshoot reservation" or "Muckleshoot Indian reservation," or "Tulalip reservation" or "Tulalip Indian reservation" means all tribal lands or allotted lands lying within the reservation of the named tribe and held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, but does not include those lands which lie north of the present Colville Indian reservation which were included in original reservation boundaries created in 1872 and which are referred to as the "diminished reservation."

(2) "Indian tribe," "tribe," "Colville tribes," or "Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, or Tulalip tribe" means the confederated tribes of the Colville reservation or the tribe of the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, or Tulalip reservation.

(3) "Tribal court" means the trial and appellate courts of the Colville tribes or the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, or Tulalip tribe. [1995 c 202 § 2; 1995 c 177 § 2; 1994 c 12 § 2; 1988 c 108 § 2; 1986 c 267 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 177 § 2 and by 1995 c 202 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1986 c 267:** See note following RCW 37.12.100.

**RCW 37.12.120 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—Proclamation by governor.** Whenever the governor receives from the confederated tribes of the Colville reservation or the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, or Tulalip tribe a resolution expressing their desire for the retrocession by the state of all or any measure of the criminal jurisdiction acquired by the state pursuant to RCW 37.12.021 over lands of that tribe's reservation, the governor may, within ninety days, issue a proclamation retroceding to the United States the criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the state over such reservation. However, the state of Washington shall retain jurisdiction as provided in RCW 37.12.010. The proclamation of retrocession shall not become effective until it is accepted by an officer of the United States government in accordance with 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1323 (82 Stat. 78, 79) and in accordance with procedures established by the United States for acceptance of such retrocession of jurisdiction. The Colville tribes and the Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, Skokomish, Muckleshoot, and Tulalip tribes shall not exercise criminal or civil jurisdiction over non-Indians. [1995 c 202 § 3; 1995 c 177 § 3; 1994 c 12 § 3; 1988 c 108 § 3; 1986 c 267 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 177 § 3 and by 1995 c 202 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1986 c 267:** See note following RCW 37.12.100.

**RCW 37.12.130 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—Savings.** An action or proceeding which has been filed with any court or agency of the state or local government preceding the effective date of retrocession of jurisdiction under RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 shall not abate by reason of the retrocession or determination of jurisdiction. [1986 c 267 § 6.]

**Severability—1986 c 267:** See note following RCW 37.12.100.

**RCW 37.12.140 Quileute, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Indian reservations—Retrocession of criminal jurisdiction—Short title.** RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 may be known and cited as the Indian reservation criminal jurisdiction retrocession act. [1988 c 108 § 4; 1986 c 267 § 1.]

**Severability—1986 c 267:** See note following RCW 37.12.100.

**RCW 37.12.150 Retrocession of federal jurisdiction over lands excluded from Olympic National Park.** The state of Washington hereby accepts retrocession from the United States of the jurisdiction which



the United States acquired over those lands excluded from the boundaries of the Olympic National Park by 16 U.S.C. Sec. 251e. The lands restored to the Quileute Indian Reservation by Public Law 94-578 shall be subject to the same Washington state and tribal jurisdiction as all other lands within the Quileute Reservation. [1988 c 108 § 5.]

**RCW 37.12.160 Retrocession of civil and/or criminal jurisdiction**

—**Process.** (1) The process by which the state may retrocede to the United States all or part of the civil and/or criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the state over a federally recognized Indian tribe, and the Indian country of such tribe, must be accomplished in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(2) To initiate civil and/or criminal retrocession the duly authorized governing body of a tribe must submit a retrocession resolution to the governor accompanied by information about the tribe's plan regarding the tribe's exercise of jurisdiction following the proposed retrocession. The resolution must express the desire of the tribe for the retrocession by the state of all or any measures or provisions of the civil and/or criminal jurisdiction acquired by the state under this chapter over the Indian country and the members of such Indian tribe. Before a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the governor, the tribe and affected municipalities are encouraged to collaborate in the adoption of interlocal agreements, or other collaborative arrangements, with the goal of ensuring that the best interests of the tribe and the surrounding communities are served by the retrocession process.

(3) Upon receiving a resolution under this section, the governor must within ninety days convene a government-to-government meeting with either the governing body of the tribe or duly authorized tribal representatives for the purpose of considering the tribe's retrocession resolution. The governor's office must consult with elected officials from the counties, cities, and towns proximately located to the area of the proposed retrocession.

(4) Within one year of the receipt of an Indian tribe's retrocession resolution the governor must issue a proclamation, if approving the request either in whole or in part. This one-year deadline may be extended by the mutual consent of the tribe and the governor, as needed. In addition, either the tribe or the governor may extend the deadline once for a period of up to six months. Within ten days of issuance of a proclamation approving the retrocession resolution, the governor must formally submit the proclamation to the federal government in accordance with the procedural requirements for federal approval of the proposed retrocession. In the event the governor denies all or part of the resolution, the reasons for such denial must be provided to the tribe in writing.

(5) Within one hundred twenty days of the governor's receipt of a tribe's resolution requesting civil and/or criminal retrocession, but prior to the governor's issuance of the proclamation approving or denying the tribe's resolution, the appropriate standing committees of the state house and senate may conduct public hearings on the tribe's request for state retrocession. The majority leader of the senate must designate the senate standing committee and the speaker of the house of representatives must designate the house standing committee. Following such public hearings, the designated legislative committees may submit advisory recommendations and/or comments to the governor

regarding the proposed retrocession, but in no event are such legislative recommendations binding on the governor or otherwise of legal effect.

(6) The proclamation for retrocession does not become effective until it is approved by a duly designated officer of the United States government and in accordance with the procedures established by the United States for the approval of a proposed state retrocession.

(7) The provisions of RCW 37.12.010 are not applicable to a civil and/or criminal retrocession that is accomplished in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(8) For any proclamation issued by the governor under this section that addresses the operation of motor vehicles upon the public streets, alleys, roads, and highways, the governor must consider the following:

(a) Whether the affected tribe has in place interlocal agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, including applicable state transportation agencies, that address uniformity of motor vehicle operations over Indian country;

(b) Whether there is a tribal traffic policing agency that will ensure the safe operation of motor vehicles in Indian country;

(c) Whether the affected tribe has traffic codes and courts in place; and

(d) Whether there are appropriate traffic control devices in place sufficient to maintain the safety of the public roadways.

(9) The following definitions apply for the purposes of this section:

(a) "Civil retrocession" means the state's act of returning to the federal government the civil jurisdiction acquired over Indians and Indian country under federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953, 67 Stat. 588 (codified as amended at 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1162, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1321-1326, and 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1360);

(b) "Criminal retrocession" means the state's act of returning to the federal government the criminal jurisdiction acquired over Indians and Indian country under federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953, 67 Stat. 588 (codified as amended at 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1162, 25 U.S.C. Secs. 1321-1326, and 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1360);

(c) "Indian tribe" means any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, community, band, or group;

(d) "Indian country" means:

(i) All land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and including rights-of-way running through the reservation;

(ii) All dependent Indian communities with the borders of the United States whether in the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state; and

(iii) All Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.

[2012 c 48 § 1.]

**RCW 37.12.170 Limits on retrocession under RCW 37.12.160.** A civil or criminal retrocession accomplished pursuant to the procedure set forth in RCW 37.12.160 does not:

(1) Affect the state's civil jurisdiction over the civil commitment of sexually violent predators pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW

and the state must retain such jurisdiction notwithstanding the completion of the retrocession process authorized under RCW 37.12.160; and

(2) Abate any action or proceeding which has been filed with any court or agency of the state or local government preceding the effective date of the completion of a retrocession authorized under RCW 37.12.160. [2012 c 48 § 2.]

**RCW 37.12.180 Issues related to retrocession under RCW**

**37.12.160.** (1) The provisions of RCW 37.12.160 do not affect the validity of any retrocession procedure commenced under RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 prior to June 7, 2012.

(2) Any Indian tribe that has commenced but not completed the retrocession procedure authorized in RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 may request retrocession under RCW 37.12.160 in lieu of completing that procedure.

(3) Any Indian tribe that has completed the retrocession procedure authorized in RCW 37.12.100 through 37.12.140 may use the process authorized under RCW 37.12.160 to request retrocession of any civil or criminal jurisdiction retained by the state under RCW 37.12.120 or 37.12.010.

(4) The provisions of RCW 37.12.120 are not applicable to a civil and/or criminal retrocession that is accomplished in accordance with the requirements of RCW 37.12.160. [2012 c 48 § 3.]

**Chapter 37.16 RCW**  
**ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR PERMANENT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

**Sections**

37.16.180 Jurisdiction ceded.

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 4, Laws of 1917, herein codified as chapter 37.16 RCW, is discussed in *State ex rel. Bd. of Cty. Comm'rs v. Clausen*, 95 Wash. 214, 163 P. 744 (1917), where it is considered in conjunction with 1917 c 3, a special act authorizing (and directing) Pierce county to condemn property and issue bonds in payment of awards therefor in order to secure the location of Camp Lewis (now part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord) in that county. In prior compilations, Remington omitted 1917 c 4, and Pierce omitted all but section 22, ceding the state's jurisdiction to the United States. 1917 c 4 appears to have been a general act and for that reason was codified herein. Most of the sections in this chapter were subsequently repealed by 1971 c 76 § 6.

*Appropriation authorized in aid of federal or state improvement: RCW 8.08.090.*

*Condemnation for military purposes: RCW 8.04.170, 8.04.180.*

*Eminent domain by counties: Chapter 8.08 RCW.*

*Joint armory sites: RCW 36.64.050.*

*Lease or conveyance to the state or to United States for military, housing and other purposes: RCW 36.34.250.*

*Leases to United States for national defense: RCW 79.13.090.*

*Long term leases to United States by counties: RCW 36.34.310.*

*Tidelands and shorelands grants to United States: RCW 79.125.760 through 79.125.790.*

*Transfer of property to state or United States for military purposes or housing projects: RCW 36.34.260.*

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*Tidelands and shorelands grants to United States: RCW 79.125.760 through 79.125.790.*

*Transfer of property to state or United States for military purposes or housing projects: RCW 36.34.260.*

**RCW 37.16.180 Jurisdiction ceded.** Pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and especially to paragraph seventeen of section eight of article one of such Constitution, the consent of the legislature of the state of Washington is hereby given to the United States to acquire by donation from any county acting under the provisions of this chapter, title to all the lands herein intended to be referred to, to be evidenced by the deed or deeds of such county, signed by the chair of its board of county commissioners and attested by the clerk of such board under the seal of such board, and the consent of the state of Washington is hereby given to the exercise by the congress of the United States of exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such tracts or parcels of land so conveyed to it: PROVIDED, Upon such conveyance being concluded, a sufficient description by metes and bounds and an accurate plat or map of each such tract or parcel of land be filed in the auditor's office of the

county in which such lands are situated, together with copies of the orders, deeds, patents, or other evidences in writing of the title of the United States: AND PROVIDED, That all civil process issued from the courts of this state, and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of this state against any person charged with crime in cases arising outside of such reservation, may be served and executed thereon in the same mode and manner and by the same officers as if the consent herein given had not been made. [2011 c 336 § 766; 1917 c 4 § 22; no RRS. Formerly RCW 37.08.180.]

*General cession of jurisdiction: Chapter 37.04 RCW.*

*Jurisdiction in special cases: Chapter 37.08 RCW.*