

Timeline of Oregon's Black Exclusion Laws

(adapted from: sos.oregon.gov)

June 18, 1844

The first Black Exclusion law is passed. It states that Black people who tried to settle in Oregon would be publicly whipped – thirty-nine lashes, repeated every six months – until they left Oregon.

December 19, 1844

The Exclusion Law is changed. Black people who tried to settle in Oregon would not be whipped; instead, they would be forced to do public labor.

September 21, 1849

An Exclusion Law is enacted that prohibits anyone who is black or mixed race to live in Oregon. However, people who were already living in Oregon could stay, they were not subject to this law.

September 18, 1850

Congress passes the Donation Land Act which gives free land to white settlers.

September 2, 1851

The 1849 Exclusion Law is enforced against Jacob Vanderpool. Vanderpool is the only known African American person who actually had to leave Oregon under the rule of the Exclusion Laws. For those who remained in Oregon, the laws sent a clear message that they were not welcome.

1854:

The 1849 Black exclusion law was repealed in 1854 as part of a large repeal of many territorial laws that weren't specifically protected. However, the Oregon Constitution's exclusion lasted until the 14th amendment was ratified nationwide in 1868.

March 6, 1857

The United States Supreme Court there's a case titled *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. The judge rules that a Black person, whether enslaved or free, could not be an American citizen. And that the federal government essentially had no control over whether territories had enslaved people or not.

November 9, 1857

Oregon voters approve the Oregon constitution which bans slavery. However it also bans any new Black residents in Oregon. It also makes it illegal for Black people to own real estate, make contracts, vote, or use the legal system.

February 14, 1859

Oregon becomes the 33rd state (no longer the Oregon Territory). Oregon is admitted as an "anti-slavery state." Oregon is the only state admitted with Exclusion Laws.

November 6, 1860

Abraham Lincoln is elected President.

May 20, 1862

President Lincoln signs the Homestead Act.