

The Cochise-Howard Peace Treaty of 1872

October 12, 1872

“After Cochise and one of his captains, probably El Cautivo, spoke for some three hours, the conversation finally turned to the terms of the treaty. The boundaries were:

“Beginning at Dragoon Springs, near Dragoon Pass, and running thence northeasterly, touching the north base of the Chiricahua Mountains to the point on the summit of Peloncillo Mountains or Steins Peak range, thence southeasterly along said range through Steins Peak to the New Mexico boundary; thence due south to Mexican boundary, thence westerly along said boundary fifty-five miles; thence northerly following substantially the western base of the Dragoon Mountains to the place of the beginning.”⁸⁵

“For his part, Cochise pledged to keep his Indians on the reservation and protect the Tucson road. After the conference concluded at 4 .M., Howard’s party prepared to leave for Tucson, but not before Cochise (whom Howard called ‘the most manly of all the chiefs’) and the general had one brief final meeting, with Cochise saying good-bye in English.”

Source: EDWIN R. SWEENEY, *COCHISE: CHIRICAHUA APACHE CHIEF* 365, University of Oklahoma Press (1976).

Note: The Cochise-Howard Peace Treaty of 1872 was verbal. General Crook commented upon the “informality of Howard’s peace with Cochise and the lack of a signed peace treaty.” “No writing was drawn, no paper was signed.” SWEENEY 385. Footnote number 85 below is the verbatim text from page 365. The boundary description is essentially the same description that was used in the Executive Order, signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, dated December 14, 1872, establishing the Chiricahua Indian Reservation. The Executive Order refers to “Stevens Peak” instead of “Steins Peak”. The Executive Order shows “55 miles” instead of “fifty-five miles”.