



City of North Bend

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April 12, 2022

To all interested parties,

The North Bend City Council and the City of North Bend enthusiastically endorse the Coquille Indian Tribe's ongoing efforts to enhance stewardship of fish, wildlife and other natural resources. We urge you to join us in supporting the tribe's work on multiple fronts:

Salmon recovery – The plentiful salmon of the Coquille River sub basin have provided sustenance to the area's indigenous people for thousands of years, but the fall Chinook salmon run has nearly disappeared in the past decade. The tribe, with support from numerous community partners, and in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, has launched an emergency effort to prevent the extinction of these treasured fish. To support this essential work, we request support for specific, congressionally directed spending as part of the 2023 appropriation.

Co-management – One outgrowth of the salmon recovery effort has been the tribe's negotiation of a resource management partnership with ODFW in the Coquille River sub basin. This partnership will take advantage of the tribe's resources as well as local and historical insight to improve fish and wildlife populations and habitat. We urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to approve this agreement.

Forest lands – Forest lands previously associated with the Coos Bay Wagon Road project once provided timber to strengthen local economies and revenue to sustain local government. But federal policies have stifled all economic productivity on these lands for more than a decade. We urge Congress to approve the Coos County Board of Commissioners' proposal to transfer 51,000 acres of this land to Coquille Tribal ownership, where it can be managed responsibly and productively.

The Coquille Indian Tribe is nationally recognized for its sustainable, holistic management of natural resources. Its Coquille Tribal Forest is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The tribe was the first in America to achieve federal approval of its Indian Trust Asset Management Plan. Additionally, as a federally recognized sovereign nation, the Coquille Indian Tribe has access to grants and other resources that often are unavailable to other entities in our area.

We can think of no one better equipped or more strongly motivated to promote the restoration and protection of our region's natural treasures. Please join us in supporting the tribe's endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jessica Engelke, Mayor
City of North Bend