Secretary of the Interior Approves Coquille Tribe, BLM Forestry Project

North Bend, Ore. - The Secretary of the Interior has endorsed the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management working together to develop a demonstration timber sale pilot on federal forest lands along the Coos Bay Wagon Road in coordination with professors Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin.

The pilot project will demonstrate `Drs. Johnson, professor of forestry resources at Oregon State University and Franklin’s, professor of ecosystem science at the University of Washington, ecosystem principles that include variable retention regeneration harvest in the Oregon coast range. The resulting timber sale will comply with all BLM requirements.

“Through these pilot projects, we have a great opportunity to apply current thinking by two of the Northwest’s preeminent forestry experts to the management of productive forests in Southwest Oregon,” said Coos Bay BLM District Manager Mark Johnson. “The Coos Bay Wagon Road pilot has the added advantage of combining the BLM and Coquille Tribe’s forest management expertise in applying these ecosystem restoration principles,” continued Johnson.

Under terms of the demonstration project, the Coquille Tribe and BLM will work together to plan and implement the project, combining the skills of Drs. Johnson and Franklin and the BLM and Coquille Tribe’s natural resource professionals. The Coquille Tribe has also secured the assistance of Dr. John Gordon, Pinchot Professor Emeritus at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, to serve as their forest science advisor.

“Our primary goal for this collaborative venture is to demonstrate how to provide a sustainable timber harvest while meeting the unique habitat and watershed protection demands of coastal forests,” said Coquille Tribal Chairman Edward Metcalf. “We further want to demonstrate how county governments and our communities can benefit from long-term Tribal management of these critical resources.”

“It is encouraging to have the Coquille Tribe working with the county to address our continuing budget challenges in a new and creative way,” said Coos County Commissioner Bob Main. “The full proposal could provide the means to reverse chronic funding shortages in our budgets for mental health services, children and youth programs and highway projects,” continued Main.
A meeting and field trips will be held in early summer 2011 for members of the public to learn about the demonstration pilot project and provide feedback to the Coquille Tribe and BLM. Additional information about the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project is available online at:

http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/forestry_pilot/