

Tribal Interests

Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon

Background:

Federally recognized Tribes have a unique relationship with the federal government in that they are recognized to be sovereign nations and retain inherent powers of self-government. They interact with the United States on a Government-to-Government level. Many tribal reservation lands are held in trust by the federal government specifically for tribal use and management and are retained as the Tribes' permanent homelands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is the designated federal agency that administers the government's trust responsibilities and advocates for tribal interests, but all federal agencies hold trust responsibilities to Tribes. Tribes also have interest in lands outside of reservation boundaries, and many of these lands were ceded to the federal government through treaties made in the period between 1778 and 1871. Many tribes exercise their "treaty rights" on lands owned and managed by the federal government.

There are nine federally recognized tribes located within, or have interests within, the planning area. Seven tribes (listed in bold) have been actively participating as Cooperating Agencies in the RMP revision process:

- **The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians**
- **The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon**
- **The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**
- **The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation**
- **The Coquille Indian Tribe**
- **The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians**
- **The Klamath Tribe**
- The Karuk Tribe
- The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

Key Points:

- The BLM has participated in listening sessions, consultation meetings, and cooperating agency meetings and workgroups with designated tribal representatives and their leadership throughout this process. These meetings allowed the Tribes opportunities to better inform the RMP revisions of topics of interest and importance to tribal groups.
- These conversations have led to the identification of nine specific issues that are covered in the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement. These issues include effects to:
 - sacred sites and places of traditional religious and cultural importance
 - tribal plant collection, management, and use
 - visibility of the historic Siletz reservation boundary
 - lamprey, fish, and fish passages
 - migrating mule deer, resident deer, and elk populations
 - historic Native trail routes
 - neighboring Tribally-managed lands



- social and economic effects to Tribal communities
 - water quality
- The Coquille Indian Tribe has a unique interest in the RMP revisions. The Coquille Forest, managed by the Tribe, is “subject to the standards and guidelines of Federal forest plans on adjacent or nearby Federal lands, now and in the future” (Coquille Forest Act, 1996). Therefore, the land management decisions made in the RMP have direct implications for how the Coquille manage their forest.

The Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, , to provide for recreation opportunities, and to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

For more information, please visit the BLM’s Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.