



THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

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To the Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, we would like to voice our support for the increased use of safe and effective prescribed burning in Central Oregon's forests. The use of fire as a tool for sustainable food production and maintenance of healthy forests for wildlife and clean water has been demonstrated for centuries by native people. The people of Warm Springs had a thorough understanding of the ecological connection between fire and healthy, productive forests. On Warm Springs' lands fire was used in a controlled manner in root fields and following fall berry harvest to maintain open forests and sustain yields of huckleberries while also providing important habitat for wildlife species.

We understand there is a need today to increase the use of controlled fire for the health and resilience of our current forested landscape. We know that in order to increase the use of prescribed fire we need meaningful reforms to Oregon's smoke management rules. We support the recommendations outlined in the attached letter from the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project. They represent a viable and holistic strategy that would enable greater use of prescribed fire to counter the trend towards larger and increasingly severe wildfires, and the serious social, economic, and ecological impacts those wildfires cause in our forests and communities.

And while we recognize that increased prescribed fire may lead to an increase in short-term smoke impacts in our communities, we also recognize the need to fight wildfires before they happen. It's important to remember that there is no smoke-free option to living in Central Oregon. Ultimately, we support a more holistic solution to prescribed fire and smoke management than what is currently provided by state policy. We believe that the short-term impacts of prescribed fire will be far less than the impacts of wildfire and will lead to the long-term health and viability of our forests.

Respectfully,

Robert Brunoe

Natural Resources General Manager, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs