



The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Natural Resources Department
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Oregon State Legislature
Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon

MEASURE: SB 1511
EXHIBIT: 37
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Michael Wilson

Re: Support of SB 1511 and HB 4126

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Oregon State Legislature:

I recently had the pleasure of sitting on the original SB 513 Ecosystem Services Markets Working Group. SB 1511 and HB 4126 implement many of the recommendations of the group. The Working Group was a dedicated assemblage of professionals that I am proud to have been a part. I believe the Working Group was able to develop some very good recommendations.

On behalf of the Natural Resources Division of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Grand Ronde), I am writing to express support for SB 1511 and HB 4126. This act would facilitate and provide incentives for responsible stewardship of the natural resources that are so important to Grand Ronde.

Grand Ronde's connection to and sustainable use of the land and natural resources in western Oregon has existed from time immemorial. The antecedent tribes and bands that make up Grand Ronde were the original inhabitants of Lower Columbia River, Willamette Basin, Upper Umpqua and Rogue Basins. In the 1850's these tribes and bands signed treaties with the United States and were later forcibly removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation, but their connection to their homelands has remained. In addition, Grand Ronde has been the steward of the Reservation, which is often held up as an example of successful sustainable natural resources management.

Over the years, Grand Ronde has seen many changes in both the natural and political environment in Oregon. As environmental regulations become more restrictive and difficult to implement, numbers of Salmon and Lamprey continue to decline, and native habitats such as oak savanna and wet prairie become even scarcer. It is clear that the "regulate and enforce" approach to conservation has not always produces the intended effect of protecting and restoring natural resources.

SB 1511 and HB 4126 would allow for the ecosystem marketing approach to supplement and enhance environmental regulations and enforcement. Through this act, and with the oversight of expert natural resources managers, ecosystem credits could be marketed to businesses, thus creating financial incentives for responsible stewardship. Instead of fighting for large restrictive land use and environmental regulations, the business community may find themselves fighting for large "mitigation bank" conservation areas and more habitat restoration projects to create ecosystem credits for trade.

Simply continuing past environmental regulation will not be enough for Oregon's natural resources. SB 1511 and HB 4126 is a program worth pursuing and I support it.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Natural Resources Division Manager

Umpqua Molalla Rogue River Kalapuya Chasta