Congressmen Walden and Blumenauer's Mt. Hood Legislation

LOCAL & TRIBAL RELATIONSHIPS

- The Warm Springs Reservation is adjacent to the Mt. Hood National Forest boundary and inhabited by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (comprised of the Wasco, the Walla Walla - later called the Warm Springs- and the Paiute tribes). Under the Treaty of 1855, the tribes relinquished approximately ten million acres of land, but reserved the Reservation for their exclusive use. The tribes also kept their rights to harvest fish, game and other foods off the reservation in their usual and accustomed places.

- The bill supports the ability of Native Americans to continue gathering first foods in the Mt. Hood National Forest by establishing Priority Use Areas outside of current and proposed wilderness areas. Members of Indian tribes with treaty-reserved gathering rights will work with the Forest Service to identify and manage the areas for the gathering of first foods, including roots, berries and plants that are gathered for traditional and cultural purposes.

- The Mt. Hood National Forest is also an urban forest and lies within 50 miles from 2 million people. These people live in the six counties in direct proximity to the forest - Hood River, Wasco, Clackamas, Multnomah, Marion, and Jefferson.

- The bill encourages the Forest Service to cooperate with the State of Oregon, local communities, counties, and Native American tribes in the vicinity of the Mount Hood National Forest to coordinate planning efforts around the management of the national forest and non-federal lands nearby.

- Government Camp and other communities in the Mt. Hood region are in the wildland-urban interface, and new development in those areas will have significant implications for wildfire management and impact. To improve wildfire and natural disaster preparedness, the bill directs the Forest Service to ensure that new development on forest lands constructed in compliance with nationally recognized building codes or wildland-urban interface codes.

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