



WY'EAST TRIBAL RESOURCES RESTORATION ACT

Since time immemorial, indigenous Tribes have been careful stewards of land. Over many generations, Tribes have developed traditional ecological knowledge which informs their management of natural and cultural resources. In Oregon, the Warm Springs Tribe has a historical connection to the Mount Hood National Forest and the numerous Treaty resources that are found within the Forest.

However, as the largest neighbors to the Forest, the Warm Springs Tribe are also often disproportionately impacted by wildfires in the area, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. The Tribe's unique interest and expertise in promoting forest health make them important partners in the U.S. Forest Service's land management responsibilities. The Forest Service currently relies on authorities such as the Tribal Forest Protection Act and Good Neighbor Authority, but there has been limited use of these authorities to date. It is only working in partnership with Tribes to co-manage land and improve their ability to exercise Treaty rights that we advance the stewardship and conservation value of public lands.

Congressman Blumenauer's Wy'east Tribal Resources Restoration Act would be among the first place-based co-management strategies in statute to date across the country and the first for the U.S. Forest Service. This legislation:

- Directs the U.S. Forest Service to develop a co-management plan with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to protect and enhance Tribal Treaty resources within agreed-upon "Treaty Resource Emphasis Zones," and subject to all existing environmental laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Requires implementation of the Cultural Foods Obligations, which were included in the Public Lands Management Act of 2009 but have never been implemented;
- Integrates traditional ecological knowledge as an important part of the best available scientific information used in forest and resource management areas within the Zone;
- Authorizes \$3,500,000 in annual appropriations and the use of existing Forest Service revenue to ensure the Tribe can be a full participant in Zone management.

Tribal co-stewardship represents 21st century public lands management. It helps the federal government fulfill its treaty obligations to Tribal communities—a moral obligation that the federal government has never truly fulfilled.

Endorsements: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs; Oregon Trails Coalition; Sustainable Northwest; Rhododendron Water Association; Teacup Nordic; Timberline Lodge; Mt Hood Skibowl; Mt. Hood Meadows.