

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Tribal Council
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9615 Grand Ronde Rd
Grand Ronde, OR 97147

November 10, 2009

Hon. Kathryn Harrington
Hon. Charlotte Lehan
Hon. Jeff Cogan
Hon. Tom Brian
Co-Chairs – Metro Reserves Steering Committee
Metro Regional Center
300 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Honorable Co-Chairs of the Metro Reserves Steering Committee:

As you may recall, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon wrote to you and to the Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee on August 27 of this year requesting government-to-government consultation with Washington County and Metro to discuss the effects that urban reserve recommendations would have on the Confederated Tribes. A copy of our letter is attached.

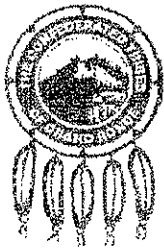
Though we received no response to our request, we understand that the Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee (RCC) submitted its recommendations and that Metro and its member counties are now deliberating on those recommendations and will be considering intergovernmental agreements designating both urban and rural reserves during the next three months.

In this regard, we reiterate our belief that the area north of Highway 26 recommended by the RCC for urban reserves is a remnant cultural landscape of significance to the Confederated Tribes in that the area contains sacred, historical, cultural and burial sites. In addition, we believe that other rural areas of the Tualatin drainage may also qualify as cultural landscape and, where qualified, should also be designated as rural reserves in order to permit further investigation and protection where appropriate. We also want to remind you that under the treaty of January 22, 1855, the tribes and bands of the Confederated Tribes ceded a significant part of their homelands in the Willamette Valley and along the Columbia River to the United States. That land included what is today's Washington County.

The Atfalati people, one of the antecedent bands of the Confederated Tribes, lived in the Tualatin River Basin, now Washington County. Within the area around the intersection of Helvetia Road, Shute Road and Highway 26 is a reported burial ground and the Five Oaks gathering place. Farmers in the area have reported finds of hundreds of artifacts including bowls and many arrowheads. According to the Washington County Historical Society, the Atfalatis had a year-round lifestyle that took them to various spots in the valley to gather and hunt for seasonal food. They gathered roots such as wapato, acorns, berries and camas. They hunted elk and deer and fished for steelhead and Chinook, silver and chum salmon. Further, according to the Historical Society:

"During the winters, the Atfalatis likely lived in hamlet groups of 15-20 villages. There were at least 17 such groupings in the Tualatin drainage, which included the present areas around Wapato Lake, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Beaverton."

Uniquia Molalla Rogne River Kalapuya Cheista



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As a federally recognized Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes are a government with federally- and state-protected interests in the land areas under consideration. We urge you to enter into discussions with us about the means of protecting these areas, and, in the meantime, to utilize the provisions of Oregon Senate Bill 1011 to maintain the rural character for future generations.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Kennedy
Chairwoman

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Cc: Metro Councilors

Washington County Board of Commissioners