



November 17, 2016

The Klamath Tribes

Senator Jeff Merkley
PO Box 14172
Portland, OR 97293

Dear Senator Merkley:

This letter is to provide the Klamath Tribes' formal support for the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion. As you are aware, I provided verbal support at recent hearings in Ashland and Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The current and proposed expanded area of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lies entirely within the recognized aboriginal territory of the Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Paiute). Our people have significant historic and current ties to and of uses this area. It is the position of the Klamath Tribes that the proposed expansion would better provide for and protect our current traditional, religious, cultural uses, values and interests. In addition, expanding the Monument as proposed is critical to provide for more appropriate watershed scale management necessary to maintaining and enhancing the unique, diverse ecological values of the area as was originally intended through the initial National Monument designation.

As you know, the Klamath Tribes is very interested in and committed to restoring anadromous fish to the Upper Klamath River Basin, and to protecting and restoring resident species. Maintaining and improving the health and water quality of tributary streams to the Klamath River, such as Jenny Creek, is vital to future anadromous fish restoration efforts and to provide for future viability of the unique species that currently inhabit the streams. Species of particular concern are the Jenny Creek redband trout and Jenny Creek suckers.

It is our understanding that management emphasis of the expanded area will be of the same intent and purpose of the current Monument area, and that there will be appropriate revision of the current management plan to address the expansion and other management issues. To ensure that interests of the Klamath and affected Indian Tribes are appropriately considered and addressed in the plan revision process, and during future management policy and project planning and development, it will be important that affected tribes are consulted and policies and procedures providing for appropriate tribal consultation and decision making are developed and incorporated into the plan.

We thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comment and support for expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and commend you for your proposal to take this bold and needed action to protect and provide for the diverse ecological values and uses of this unique and important area.

Respectfully,

Don Gentry, Chairman
The Klamath Tribes

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