



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

COOS BAY DIST OFFICE

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RECEIVED

13 January 2003

BLM

Attn: Bob Gunther

1300 Airport Lane

North Bend, Oregon 97459

Re: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians comments on the Coos County Natural Gas Pipeline Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Gunther,

The ancestral territory of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians southern boundary begins halfway between the confluences of Whiskey Run and Cut Creeks with the Pacific Ocean (at the border between Sections 30 and 31, Township 27 South, Range 14 West) and extends east to the crest of the Coast Range. As such, the ancestral territory includes significant portions of the route of the proposed natural gas pipeline.

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians do not object to the proposed project. However, please be aware that the proposed work area is in proximity to known Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians cultural resource sites and so may contain as yet unlocated cultural resources. In particular, areas along the shores or in the intertidal or subtidal areas of the Coos Estuary tributaries, including highly modified, former tidally influenced areas such as Blossom Gulch, may contain cultural resources. Additionally, the floodplain and proximate upland areas along the North Fork of the Coquille River and tributaries near Fairview may also contain cultural resources. We request that special attention be paid to these areas.

We also request that we be provided with at least 72 hours notice of work scheduled at any of the above-described locations or types of locations, and we request the opportunity to have a staff member or designated representative of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians present during work at these locations: in so doing, we affirm the Response (to an earlier Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians letter) in Appendix G2 that states "The BLM and County are committed to having a Tribal representative present or on call during construction operations." We further request that we be contacted immediately if any known or suspected cultural resources are encountered during any work. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower

Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians would also like to express general concurrence with the other recommendations contained in Appendix B, in particular recommendations d) and e).

Please be aware that federal (43 CFR 10) and state (ORS 97.745; ORS 358.920) law prohibit intentional excavation of known or suspected cultural resources without an archaeological permit and require that we be notified immediately if resources are discovered, uncovered, or disturbed. 43 CFR 10 applies on tribal and federal lands, federal projects, federal agencies, as well as to federal actions and federally funded (directly or indirectly) projects. ORS 97.745 prohibits the willful removal, mutilation, defacing, injury, or destruction of any cairn, burial, human remains, funerary objects, or objects of cultural patrimony of any native Indian. ORS 358.920 prohibits excavation injury, destruction, or alteration of an archaeological site or object or removal of an archaeological object from public or private lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Howard Crombie
Environmental Program Coordinator

Cc: Christine Valentine, DLCD