

Mt. Hood National Forest

Working with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs . . .

. . . in your national forest!



Mt. Hood National Forest maintains “government to government” relations with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. In 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest and the Confederated Tribes set a framework for a working relationship for managing huckleberry resources.

That MOU ensured timely and consistent notification, consultation, coordination, and participation in each other’s planning and management activities affecting huckleberry habitat in the local area. That agreement was also vital in framing further working relationships related to roots, access, timber planning, recreation, and law enforcement issues.

In 2000 and again in 2004, Harmony Workshops at Warm Springs Reservation brought land managers from several National Forests and Bureau of Land Management together with the Confederated Tribes for a solid grounding in the history and culture of the Confederated Tribes. The workshops helped federal managers understand how to work more effectively with the Confederated Tribes on natural and cultural resource management.

The Harmony Workshops looked at an array of cultural and legal issues. They included tribal history, tribal culture, the 1855 Treaty, trust doctrine and trust responsibility, sovereignty, 1994 Presidential Executive Order, reservation lands (allotments, assignments, leases, fee lands), ceded lands, usual and accustomed lands, ancestral areas, integrated resource management planning, intergovernmental relationships, co-management authorities, and tribal government structure.

Opportunities

In January 2006, a signing of a Forest Restoration and Fuels Management Memorandum of Understanding between the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Forest Service, and BLM occurred which brings together federal land management agency efforts to treat thousands of acres of hazardous fuels, restore the health of Forests, and minimize catastrophic wildfire with the opportunity to reduce costs and to supply a proposed sustainable biomass power facility to be located at the Warm Springs mill site.

This ten-year agreement provides a framework committing the federal land management agencies within the geographic scope of the agreement to offer residual woody biomass from about 8,000 acres a year of vegetation management activities (about 80,000 “bone dry tons”) to fuel the proposed biomass facility.



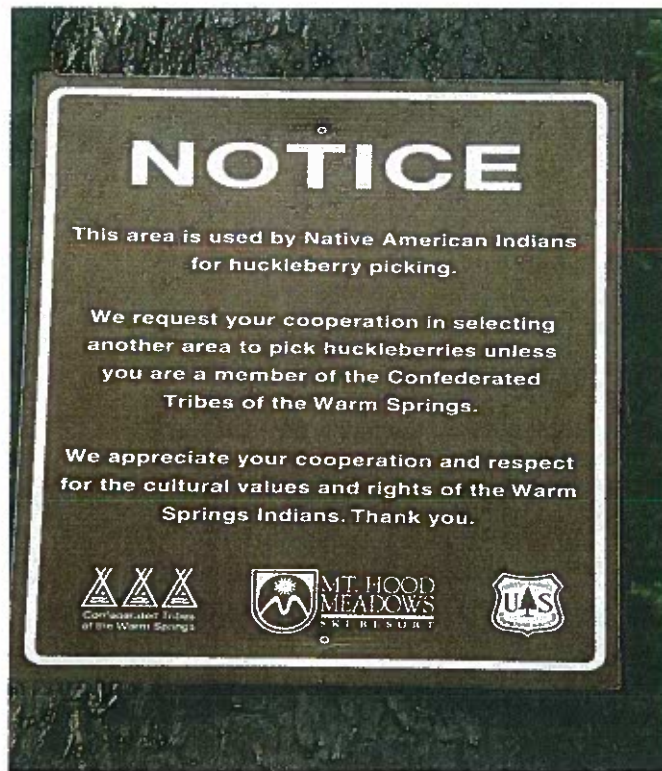
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CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS PROGRAM WINS NSAA SILVER EAGLE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FOR STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS*

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort received the Silver Eagle Award for Stakeholder Relations from the National Ski Areas Association for its work with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Beginning in the summer of 2004, Meadows created voluntary exclusive use areas for Huckleberry harvesting within the ski area permit area then began work with congress to recognize the tribes need for further resource protection. One year later, MHM hosted a lunch at the ski area for CTWS leaders, Congressman Greg Walden, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, and their respective staffs to discuss including ‘exclusive use’ authorities in a legislative package that will help shape public land management strategies for the greater Mount Hood region.

The objective of the ‘exclusive use’ program is to protect the tribe’s traditional, cultural, and historic uses of the land while enhancing the quality and quantity of the cherished huckleberry bush. “Huckleberries are a ‘first food’ and have tremendous spiritual and cultural importance to the CTWS. Berry bushes are being crowded out by brush and tree growth and by the commercial harvesting, which is conducted by non-tribal members. Our intentions have been to bring the congressional delegation, tribal leaders, the USDA Forest Service, and ski area management together to help enhance the long term viability of the CTWS huckleberry resource,” commented Dave Riley, vice president and general manager of Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort.

Source: “Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Program Wins NSAA Silver Eagle Environmental Award for Stakeholder Relations”, <http://snowboardmag.com/stories/mt-hood-meadows-receives-awards-0> (accessed October 8, 2011)