



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

1245 Fulton Avenue - Coos Bay, OR 97420

Telephone: (541)888-9577 Toll Free 1-888-280-0726 Fax: (541)888-2853

September 8, 2022

Dear Tribal Member; Hunting, (Trapping) Fishing & Gathering Special Election Information

You are receiving this information because you are an eligible voter by the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. All enrolled members at least 18 years of age are considered eligible to vote in all Elections. The Election Code requires you to also be registered. This office has sent out several attempts to get all eligible members registered so you can participate in the upcoming Special Election.

Tribal Council needs action from the people at this time on a very important matter concerning **Hunting, (Trapping) Fishing and Gathering** rights for its membership in our ancestral territory in Oregon. A Special Election is going to be held soon, as required by the Constitution seeking approval of the membership prior to any negotiating of any agreements for Hunting, (Trapping) Fishing and Gathering. The ballot will contain a single YES or NO question.

Do you authorize the Tribe to negotiate and enter into agreements with outside entities to establish Tribal regulations for Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Gathering for CTCLUSI membership? YES or NO

Once this vote passes, a Board will be created to work with entities like Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to establish a Tribal permitting process for its membership similar to the recent MOA with the Coquille Tribe and other Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon.

We ask anyone interested please attend a zoom only meeting **September 22nd at 5:15p.m.** for a question and answer session about this topic. Visit www.ctclusi.org for more information.

MEETING ZOOM LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054575107?pwd=THF0OEIXUINrSjMxRDE3U05rZnc3dz09>

Your participation is vital, no matter where you live in the US.
If we don't have enough participation this will not be a valid
election. Please VOTE.

PLEASE REGISTER AND VOTE!

Contact Jeannie McNeil jmcneil@ctclusi.org or call 541-888-9577 for the Election
Clerk to be sure you are registered.

HUNTING, FISHING AND GATHERING SPECIAL ELECTION COMING SOON

A Special Election will be needed for Tribal members to vote YES or NO to support Tribal Government's desire to negotiate with ODFW as well as other State and Federal entities in agreements to clarify the authority of the Tribe (and not the State) to regulate hunting, fishing, and gathering.



THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR CTCLUSI HUNTING, (TRAPPING) FISHING & GATHERING

Why This Matters Today?

The Coquille Indian Tribe (a neighboring Tribe in Oregon) recently entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Oregon to recognize Tribal regulation, as opposed to state regulation, of hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering by the Coquille Tribal Membership. The MOA also establishes a system for cooperative management of fish and wildlife resources by the State and the Coquille Tribe.

The CTCLUSI Tribal Council has had some preliminary discussions with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and ODFW has expressed interest in entering into a similar MOA with CTCLUSI. Such a MOA would provide tremendous benefit to the Tribal Membership's ability to exercise their hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. It would also allow CTCLUSI to cooperatively manage fish and wildlife resources within the Tribes' service area.

The following provides some highlights of the benefits that a Memorandum of Agreement between CTCLUSI and ODFW could provide for the Tribal Membership:

- CTCLUSI would issue its own hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering licenses and tags to its Tribal Members. These licenses and tags would be recognized by State law enforcement.
- Tribal Members could obtain licenses and tags through both ODFW and CTCLUSI. Any tags issued by CTCLUSI would be *in addition to* any tags issued by ODFW, meaning that Tribal Members would have *additional* hunting and fishing opportunities compared to those currently offered to the general public by ODFW.
- CTCLUSI would develop its own hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering regulations. These Tribal regulations would be recognized by State law enforcement, meaning that Tribal Members would be protected in the exercise of their hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering rights.

- CTCLUSI would be responsible for enforcing its own hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering regulations. The State would defer to Tribal enforcement actions.
- The State and CTCLUSI would commit to coordinating on the management of fish and wildlife resources, including the establishment of harvest levels as well as management of habitat.
- The State would also agree to accept cooperative tribal management that would advance ODFW's own management activities. This would allow CTCLUSI to play a much larger role in the management of fish and wildlife in Oregon than is currently the case.
- The MOU would NOT diminish or modify any of CTCLUSI's ancestral hunting, trapping, fishing, or gathering rights. Nothing in the MOU would prevent CTCLUSI from pursuing litigation or other actions to protect its ancestral rights at a later date.
- Tribal members out of the area would be eligible to receive tags including those living out of state of Oregon. There would be no fees for out of state permitting.

In order for CTCLUSI to enter into a MOA with ODFW, the Tribal Membership must first authorize the Tribe to negotiate with ODFW on the contents of the MOA. Under the Tribal Constitution, this must be approved by a **Special Election**. The timeline for negotiating a MOA is short, as the Governor leaves office in January of 2023 and it is uncertain whether Oregon's next Governor will be as eager to work with CTCLUSI on this issue.

For various reasons, we are asking each eligible enrolled member, be registered and VOTE in the upcoming Special Election, no matter where you reside.

TRIBAL CONSTITUTION / ELECTION **INFORMATION**

Below are areas of the Constitution that state why this Special Election is necessary. Our Tribal laws require a vote of the membership to grant authority to

the Tribe to negotiate and/or enter in to any agreements related to **Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Gathering** with any other entity as outlined below.

Article II Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Rights

Nothing in this constitution shall be construed as restricting the exercise of hunting, fishing or gathering rights of members, to the fullest extent permitted by law. **No tribal decision affection such hunting, fishing or gathering rights shall be made except by a full vote of Tribal membership.**

Article V –Section 1. General Council

(g) Exercise those powers of fundamental changes in the Tribes jurisdiction, reservation lands, or *rights specified in Article VI, Section 3(a)below.*

The VOTE

Article VI, Section 3. General Council Authority

(a)Before taking any action with regards to the following matters, the tribal council shall obtain the approval of three- fourths (3/4) of the membership in a vote in which at least thirty -five (35) percent of the membership of the general council participates, such vote may be taken by mail.

The language of the Tribal Constitution below identifies what is required for participation and the numbers needed to pass in the upcoming vote of the Special Election.

Current CTCLUSI Membership 18+ Eligible to Vote	Members Registered to VOTE as of TODAY	Minimum Members Needed to Participate to validate this Special Election	Minimum approval needed for to Pass
915	596	320	240

*ONLY those members **REGISTERED** will receive a ballot. Election Registrations are valid for 10 years. Some of our Tribal Members registrations have expired and others have never registered to vote.*

Participation

We will **NEED** to receive the required minimum number of ballots listed on the previous page for the Special Election to be considered valid and counted.

Historically, in Tribal Council Elections participation has not reached these number, however Council Elections do not require this specific participation criteria.

YES or NO - Approve or Fail

In order for the ballot initiative to pass in this type of Special Election it is also required special tabulation. It means three fourths (3/4) of the membership must be in favor and vote yes for this to pass.

**All CTCLUSI Members 18+
are needed to participate in
the upcoming Special
Election**

For more information please contact Jeannie McNeil 541-888-9577,
jmcneil@ctclusi.org