

HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING, AND GATHERING VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE

What will a YES or NO vote mean?

Voting “**YES**” for this issue will authorize the Tribal Council to negotiate and adopt an agreement with the State of Oregon for hunting, trapping and fishing, that would be regulated by the Tribe and not the State. Under the agreement, the Tribe, the State, and other Oregon Tribes would jointly develop annual harvest limits designed to conserve and protect species. The method of hunt and other regulations would be set solely by the Tribe and the Tribe would issue any required permits and tags to its members. The vote would also allow the Tribal Council to work with federal and state land management agencies, local governments, and private landowners to develop agreements increasing Tribal member opportunities to gather under Tribal permits and regulations and free from any other permitting requirements. Agreements allowed by this vote would set a precedent for the recognition of these rights and make it clear that regulation is subject to Tribal and not state or federal permitting requirements.

Voting “**NO**” maintains the status quo and would not allow the Tribe to enter into agreements that provide for expansion, enhancement, and protection of hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering opportunities. Without these agreements, Tribal members could be subject to efforts of state, federal, or local entities to continue to enforce their regulations, fees, and permitting requirements.

Why have this vote now?

The Oregon Governor and the current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Director are supportive of entering into an agreement with the Tribe. The State has already entered into a similar agreement with the Coquille Tribe, our closest neighboring Tribe. Our Governor leaves office at the end of the year and we simply do not know who the governor will be and how they view this issue. Time is of the essence to get these agreements in place.

Why is there a vote on this? How did the vote go for other Tribes?

The CTCLUSI Constitution requires a vote of the membership in order to negotiate, settle, or diminish hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering rights. This prohibits the Tribal Council from even beginning negotiations until the membership approves this. Other Tribes do not have this restriction in their Constitutions and their Tribal Councils are free to negotiate agreements that will enhance Tribal member rights without a vote.

Does this allow the Tribal Council to give away Tribal rights?

This measure is drafted narrowly to only allow the Tribal Council to enter into agreements that will enhance or expand the hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering rights of Tribal members. This would prohibit the Tribe from giving away or impairing opportunities. The language of the measure also contains language that limits the Tribal Council from giving away any rights – “... ***provided that Tribal Council shall not be authorized to enter into any agreement that diminishes and waives any hunting, trapping, fishing, or gathering rights of the Tribe.***” An agreement that gives away rights would be unlawful and could be struck down by the Tribal Court.

The measure is also narrowly drafted to: (1) allow the Tribal Council to negotiate a hunting, trapping and fishing agreement similar to the Coquille Tribe and (2) allow the Tribal Council to reach agreements with state and federal land management agencies, local government, and private landowners to enhance gathering opportunities and provide Tribal members with legal protection if they are gathering on those lands.

Lastly, Tribal Council will provide an update in the Tribal Newsletter, on the Tribes website and at future Council Meetings as to the status of any negotiation activity.

Where can I get copy of the Coquille Tribe's agreement with the State?

A copy of the complete Coquille Tribe's agreement with Oregon Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is available on the home page of the Tribe's website.

www.ctclusi.org.