



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW INDIANS

1245 Fulton Ave. Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone (541) 888-9577 or 1-888-280-0726 Fax (541) 888-2853

Interim Tribal Forest Access Policy 11/29/2023

Purpose: The purpose of this Interim Tribal Forest Access Policy is to provide information to the Tribal Membership and the general public regarding the policy for accessing the 14,742 acres of forest lands conveyed to the Tribe in January 2018 under the Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act (WOTFA).

NOTICE: ALL ACCESS TO TRIBAL LANDS IS AT THE USER'S OWN RISK. THE TRIBE ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR INJURY, LOSS, OR DEATH ARISING OUT OF ACCESS OR USE OF TRIBAL LANDS.

Lake Creek, Smith River, and Tioga Tracts

Access Policy: Tribal members and the general public are permitted to access the Lake Creek, Smith River, and Tioga Tracts. Vehicle travel by Tribal members and the general public is currently permitted within these tracts on all open roads. Spur roads which are blocked or gated, as well as trails, are open for non-motorized access (foot traffic/hiking, bicycling, horse riding). Access off of existing roads and trails is permitted by foot only.

Parts of these three tracts may be accessible via gated roads which pass over adjacent industrial timberlands. Access over these roads is not permitted without first coordinating with forestry staff.

Background: The three large tracts (Lake Creek, Smith River, and Tioga) are all accessible via paved and gravel roads. The Tribe holds reciprocal right-of-way agreements, which permit both the Tribe and adjacent landowners to use these roads for forest management purposes. These right-of-way agreements generally do not allow for public access, or any other access not related to forest management; however, these roads are currently ungated and accessible for use by both Tribal members as well as members of the general public. These lands have been publicly accessible for many decades, which has resulted in a steady level of public use. This public use persists following conveyance of these lands to the Tribe.

Coos Head

Access Policy: Tribal members and the general public are permitted to access the Coos Head Tract. Vehicle travel by Tribal members and the general public is currently permitted within this tract on all open roads. Spur roads which are blocked or gated, as well as trails, are open for non-motorized access (foot traffic/hiking, bicycling). Access off of existing roads and trails is permitted by foot only.

This access policy applies to the portion of Coos Head that was transferred into trust under WOTFA and does not apply to the fee lands at Coos Head which are enclosed behind a locked gate.

Background: Coos Head is accessed via Coos Head Road, Coos Head Loop, Chicken Loop Road, and Bastendorf Beach Road. Coos Head Loop and Chicken Loop Road are gravel surface roads, while the remainder are asphalt surface. All of these roads have easements which allow for public access.

Macy Tract

Access Policy: Requests by Tribal Members to access the Macy Tract should be made to Tribal forestry staff and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. No public access is currently permitted or planned for this tract.

Background: The Macy Tract is accessed via a private gravel road off of Butler Creek Road. This access road is gated and passes over several private ranches. Forestry staff have an informal agreement with the owners and caretaker of one of these ranches, allowing staff to access the Macy Tract for management purposes.

Umpqua Eden

Access Policy: Walk-in access by Tribal Members is permitted, subject to fire closures on adjacent private lands. Requests by Tribal Members to access Umpqua Eden by vehicle should be made to Tribal forestry staff and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Forestry staff will coordinate with cultural resource staff in responding to requests for access. No public access is currently permitted or planned for this tract.

Background: Umpqua Eden is accessed via a private gravel road off of Highway 101. The access road is gated and passes over Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) ownership. The Tribe does not hold any easement providing a legal right-of-way over the adjacent land. Forestry staff have an informal agreement with local RFP staff to allow access for management purposes and RFP has placed a Tribal lock on their gate.

Talbot Tract

Access Policy: Requests by Tribal Members to access the Talbot Tract should be made to Tribal forestry staff and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. No public access is currently permitted or planned for this tract.

Background: The Talbot tract is accessed via a private gravel road off of 7 Devils Road. The access road is gated, and passes over Weyerhaeuser Co. and Pacific West Timber Co. ownership. The Tribe does not hold any easement providing a legal right-of-way over the adjacent land. Forestry staff have a handshake agreement with Weyerhaeuser and Pac West to allow access for management purposes and Weyerhaeuser has provided a gate key to forestry staff.

Fire Policy (Including Campfires)

Campfires, cultural fires, cooking fires, warming fires, charcoal barbeques, and all other open fires are prohibited at all times unless approved in writing by the Tribe. Requests for approved fires should be made to the Director of Forest Management, and will be approved only with a concurrence from the Tribal Council. Portable cooking stoves and campfires using liquified or bottled fuels are allowed, subject to fire season restrictions.



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Camping

Overnight camping is permitted on the Lake, Smith River, and Tioga Tracts. Overnight camping is limited to 14 nights per 30-day period on any given tract. Overnight campers must be respectful of Tribal lands. This includes removing all waste including human waste, not producing excessive noise, and not interfering with others' quiet enjoyment of the Tribal Forest. The Tribe reserves the right to close areas of the Tribal Forest to overnight camping, and to require that campers relocate or leave the Tribal Forest at any time and for any reason.

Hunting

Hunting is allowed on the Lake Creek, Smith River, and Tioga Tracts. Hunting by Tribal Members on these tracts is open for seasons and bag limits subject to the Tribes' Hunting Code and Regulations and or ODFW regulations. Hunting by the general public on these tracts is limited to seasons set by ODFW and is subject to ODFW regulations. Hunting on the Umpqua Eden and Talbot tracts is permitted for Tribal Members only and access to these tracts must be coordinated with the Department of Forest Management. The Macy and Coos Head Tracts are closed to all hunting. None of the Tribal Forest tracts provide fishing opportunities.

Fire Season Closures and Public Use Restrictions

All Tribal Forest tracts are subject to the public use restrictions issued by the Coos Fire Protection Association (CFPA) and ODF Western Lane District during fire season. All Tribal Forest tracts are closed when the Industrial Fires Precaution Level (IFPL) is at Level II or higher, subject to Tribal Council Resolution 21-089 and the Tribal Forest closure order dated September 13, 2021. Exceptions to these restrictions and closure orders may be issued by the Tribe in writing.

Fireworks

Fireworks are prohibited on the Tribal Forest at all times.

Littering and Dumping

Littering, dumping, or leaving any waste on the Tribal Forest is prohibited.

Closures

The Tribe reserves the right to close all or portions of the Tribal Forest at any time for safety, operational, fire safety, resource protection, and all other considerations.