

# **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS**

## **FOREST PRODUCTS USE POLICY**



**October 12, 2025**

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OCTOBER 12, 2025

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 10/16/2025  
Tribal Chair

RESOLUTION: 25-180 \_\_\_\_\_

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## I. POLICY AND SCOPE

Harvesting forest products from Tribal Forest Lands under “free use” shall be in conformance with stipulations of this Forest Products Use Policy (“Policy”). Under the Authority of the Tribe’s Indian Asset Management Plan (“ITAMP”), the Policy sets forth Tribal authorization and procedures for the harvesting of forest products with and without permits on designated Tribal Forest Lands.

This Policy is set forth to accomplish the following objectives:

- To harvest minor forest products that is consistent with established Tribal goals and objectives, through the application of sound silvicultural and economic principles on a sustained yield basis.
- To support the use of minor forest products needed by Tribal members for personal use through a free use permit process where minor volumes and low values of materials are harvested.
- To account for the volume of minor forest products materials harvested.
- To ensure the availability and harvest of minor forest products for cultural and/or personal use of the Tribal membership.
- To maintain traditional and cultural use of products by Tribal members in a culturally and environmentally sensitive manner.

The directives contained in this Policy apply to all Tribal departments and programs participating in the management, accountability, or protection of Tribal Trust lands or Tribal Fee lands.

Regardless of the means of program execution, the appropriate Tribal official(s) shall ensure that the practices and procedures prescribed herein are followed.

## II. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this Policy, and in any permit provisions or other attachments to the permit:

**"APPROVING OFFICER"** means the Tribal officials, or their designee, who approves instruments for free use of forest products. For free use gathering and harvesting activities carried out under the approved ITAMP and this Policy, the Approving Officers shall be the Tribal Chair, Director of Forest Management and Director of Culture and Natural Resources.

**"APPROVED HARVEST AREA"** means the CTCLUSI Indian Forest Lands and other lands that are accessible for harvesting under the Forest Products Use Policy. These areas are specifically identified with the Permit and may change annually.

**“AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE”** means an individual or entity duly empowered to make decisions under a direct, clear, and specific delegation of authority.

**“CEREMONIAL HARVESTER”** shall be any individual who has been approved by the Tribal Chief, or their designee, to harvest from specific restricted species or areas. Details of the Ceremonial Harvester program may be obtained from the Forestry Department or Department of Culture and Natural Resources.

**"FIREWOOD"** shall mean wood whose highest value and best use is for fuel.

**“FOREST PRODUCTS”** means marketable and Free Use products extracted from Indian forests, such as: timber; timber products, including lumber, lath, crating, ties, bolts, logs, pulpwood, fuelwood, posts, poles, and split products; bark; Christmas trees, stays, branches, firewood, berries, mosses, nuts, roots, bulbs/ corms, tubers, syrups, mushrooms, medicines, and herbs; other material; and gravel which is extracted from, and utilized on, Indian forest land.

**“FOREST RESOURCES”** means all the benefits derived from Indian forest land, including forest products, soil productivity, water, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic or other traditional and contemporary values of Indian forest land.

**"FOREST PRODUCTS REMOVAL”** means the removal and transport of forest products from Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians trust forest lands and fee forest lands.

**"FREE USE PERMIT"** shall mean a document obtained by the Individual granting permission to obtain the products as listed in this document and requiring the Individual to follow all applicable rules and regulations in this Policy.

**“FREE USE PERMIT REPORT”** is a mandatory reporting document included with the permit, or completed online, by the Permittee that documents the quantity, location, and timeframe of collected products. Failure to report may result in penalties such as denied future permit applications.

**“INDIAN FOREST LAND”** means Indian land, including commercial, non-commercial, productive and non-productive timberland and woodland, that is considered chiefly valuable for the production of forest products or to maintain watershed or other land values enhanced by a forest cover, regardless of whether a formal inspection and land classification action has been taken.

**"LIVE TREE"** means a tree in which the cambium layer is still white to cream colored. The cambium layer is that layer between the bark and the wood. A tree with any number of green needles or leaves, no matter how few, is considered to be a live tree.

**"MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS"** means forest products that have a relatively low economic value and, when harvested and removed in sustainable quantities, will not conflict with the protection of

culturally sensitive sites, streams and other bodies of water, vegetation, animals, and pre-commercial and commercial timber.

**"NON-MEMBER"** means a person who is not enrolled as a member of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

**"NON-WOOD PRODUCTS"** means those products that are not developed from use of the hard fibrous substance (wood) which makes up the greater part of the trunks and limbs of trees. These include but are not limited to pollarding (pruned branches), boughs, foliage (leaves), bark, sap, cones, nuts, berries, seeds, moss, mushrooms, ferns, and transplants.

**"PERMITEE"** means to whom the minor forest products permit is issued. Permittee can include household members and designated harvesters.

**"ROAD MAINTENANCE"** means the grading, rocking, ditch clearing, brushing, and other maintenance activities along roads that are required to maintain passable, environmentally stable roads.

**"SILVICULTURE"** means the science and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of the vegetation of forest stands. It includes the control of production of stand structures such as snags and downed logs, in addition to live vegetation.

**"SKIDDING EQUIPMENT"** means horses, mules, or any track, rubber tire, or skid mounted equipment designed for log skidding purposes, that may or may not be mechanized.

**"SLASH"** means limbs, tops, cull material, damaged young growth, and other debris resulting from logging, road construction, or other operations of the Permittee.

**"TIMBER"** means commercial timber suitable for saw logs, peeler logs, chip logs, pulpwood, and other wood products produced by commercial processing.

**"TRIBAL MEMBER"** means a person who is enrolled as a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

**"TRIBE OR TRIBAL"** means of or belonging to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians ("CTCLUSI").

**"WOOD PRODUCTS"** means materials developed from use of the hard fibrous substance (wood) which makes up the greater part of the trunks and limbs of trees. Wood products include but are not limited to: saw timber, house logs, cull logs/peelers, chip logs, pilings, posts, poles, firewood, bolts and shakes, pulpwood, and hog fuel.

### **III. GENERAL POLICIES FOR FREE USE PRODUCTS**

These policies apply to the harvesting of all free use products. Tribal members may harvest minor forest products for personal use which will not be sold or exchanged for goods or services in accordance with this Policy. This policy does not apply to the harvest of fish or wildlife resources. Harvesting free use products is subject to other applicable policies and regulations, including the issuance of fire closures.

With the exception of those resources identified in Section IV, all forest product harvesting by Tribal members and non-Tribal members will require a free use permit.

### **IV. FREE USE WITHOUT PERMIT**

Pursuant to Tribal Regulations, harvesting of the following forest products from the Approved Harvest Area will be allowed without charge or permit to Tribal Members for personal use:

- Berries (harvest no more than 25% of plants per area);
- Branches (excluding cedar boughs);
- Herbs (including medicinal herbs; harvest no more than 25% of plants per area);
- Roots (harvest no more than 25% of plants per area; excluding spruce roots);
- Mosses (harvest no more than 10% of plant per area);
- Nuts/ Seeds/ Acorns (harvest no more than 25% of plants per area);
- Shoots/ Stems (harvest no more than 50% of plants/ area);
- Tubers/ Bulbs (harvest no more than 25% of plants per area);
- Any other forest product used as a traditional source of food or medicine not listed here or under the permit required species; and
- Any other forest product used for basketry and/or making regalia not listed here or under the permit required species.

Forest products harvested are for personal use and are not to be sold or exchanged for other goods or services. Tribal members must have their Tribally-issued identification card (“ID”) on their person while harvesting free use without permit products. Limits on the amount of forest products that can be harvested as well as other restrictions may be established at any time upon the approval of the Tribal Council.

### **V. FREE USE WITH PERMIT**

Pursuant to Tribal Regulations, Free Use Permits for activity in the Approved Harvest Area can be obtained by Tribal Members through the CTCLUSI Website - Tribal Members Login, Forestry, Link titled “Free Use Permit”. Complete and submit the form. Upon approval and receipt of the permit, print and keep the permit with the individual(s) collecting the products.

1. Free Use Permits are valid through the end of the calendar year.

2. Free Use Permits are valid when obtained by any Tribal member 16 years old or older, or obtained for those qualified below.
  - a. If the non-tribal member is a spouse of a tribal member.
  - b. If the non-tribal member is the legal parent and/or guardian of a tribal member who is under the age of 16.
  - c. If the non-tribal member is a CTCLUSI Employee. CTCLUSI Employees are limited to harvesting ONLY firewood and Christmas trees under this permit.
3. Harvesting of forest products is permitted only in the Approved Harvest Area.
4. Sale or exchange of forest products for other goods or services is not permitted.
5. Harvesting Federally or State recognized Threatened or Endangered Plant Species or Special Status Plant Species designated under provisions of Tribal Code, Title 10, Section 10-2-13 is strictly prohibited unless granted permission in writing by an approved special request to the Approving Officer.
6. Holders of the Free Use Permit must have the appropriate visual identification on their person while harvesting forest products with a free use permit. If a Tribal Member, the person must have their Tribally-issued Identification card. If an employee, they must have their employee identification. Non-tribal and non-employee Permit Holders must have identification that matches the name on the Permit.
7. Individuals shall complete the Free Use Permit Report as material is collected throughout the calendar year and submit the report back to the Tribe via hand delivery, email (forestry@ctclusi.org), or entering the data online. Failure to report may result in penalties such as denied future permit applications.
8. Individuals shall drive only on established road surfaces. Permittees are required to keep the road way open at all times. Permittees must not damage the road surfaces, ditches, and shoulders.
9. Individuals will be fully responsible for assuring a safe working environment while carrying out permitted activities.
10. Individuals shall indemnify and hold harmless the Tribe from all suits, actions or claims of any character brought on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property by or from the permitted activities.
11. All activities covered by this Policy are subject to suspension at certain sites as determined by the Authorized Representative of the Tribe to reduce the risk of environmental damage, to protect listed species and/or their habitat, Tribally designated Special Status Species and

to preserve cultural and archaeological resources. Activities may also be suspended because of road closures and/ or fire danger.

## **VI. GUIDELINES AND PROVISIONS FOR SPECIFIC FOREST PRODUCTS**

Forest product harvesters must adhere to the following special guidelines for products described below:

### **A. Christmas Trees**

1. Harvesting from plantations five (5) years in age or less is prohibited.
2. Maximum tree size is fifteen (15) feet in height.
3. Stump heights will not exceed six (6) inches.
4. Removal of the entire tree, not just the top, is required.
5. Christmas trees may not be cut from any trees four (4) inches or greater in diameter at breast height.
6. Christmas trees will not be cut from areas specifically closed to Christmas tree cutting.
7. One Christmas tree per household per year.
8. Allowable species harvested for Christmas Trees exclude Pacific Yew, Western Redcedar, and Port Orford-Cedar.

### **B. Firewood**

1. Firewood shall not be cut from any log deck or active logging unit without prior written approval of the Approving Officer or authorized representative.
2. Firewood shall not be cut from any live, healthy, standing tree.
3. Firewood shall be cut from dead, dying, or downed trees.
4. Pacific Yew is to not be cut for firewood.

5. Only light Skidding equipment, such as winch line, block and tackle, or cable attached to vehicle will be allowed in gathering firewood or posts and poles, unless otherwise authorized by the Approving Officer or authorized representative.
6. Only wood within 50 feet of improved roads or landings may be cut without prior written approval of the Approving Officer or authorized representative.
7. The amount of firewood will be limited to five (5) cords per household per year.

### **C. Boughs**

1. All bough cutting will be performed with hand tools only. Mechanized equipment such as chainsaws or similar devices is prohibited.
2. Limbs will not be harvested from trees marked for protection in precommercial thinning stands.
3. Boughs are not to be cut from trees that are less than nine (9) feet in height.
4. Boughs will be cut from the lower half of the tree only.
5. Climbing trees for bough harvesting is prohibited.
6. Boughs must be cut flush with the branch collar.
7. Cut boughs will be no longer than forty-eight (48) inches.
8. Branches and debris will be scattered into timbered areas away from roads, shoulders of roads and ditches. Debris will be removed from road surfaces and ditches.
9. Boughs will not be collected within fifty (50) feet of streams or wetlands.
10. Boughs harvested under this Policy are limited to two- hundred (200) boughs per individual per permit year.

### **D. Bark**

**Cascara** (*Rhamnus pushiana*), **Big Leaf Maple** (*Acer Macrophyllum*),

**Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*), **Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*), **Bitter Cherry** (*Prunus emarginata*), and **Western Hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*) ONLY:

1. If trees are cut down, the harvester must leave a six (6) inch-high stump or less.
2. Only harvest up to 1/8 of the circumference of living trees.
3. Harvest no more than ten (10) percent of the species in the area.
4. Remove all collection debris from the road surface and ditches, if applicable.

### **E. Mushrooms**

*\*No Forest Products may be sold or exchanged for goods or services in accordance with this Policy.*

1. Maximum harvested mushroom quantity shall be five (5) gallons per species per season.
2. Mushrooms can be harvested by picking/plucking or cutting with hand tools such as knives.
3. Mushroom stumps or depressions shall be covered with duff.
4. Disturbing the soil, woody debris, or surrounding vegetation while harvesting mushrooms is prohibited.
5. Disturbing or damaging the mushrooms' mycelial mat when harvesting is prohibited.

### **F. Posts & Poles**

1. Harvest trees no larger than eight (8) inches in diameter at breast height.
2. Harvest up to twenty (20) trees (excluding Western Redcedar, Port Orford-Cedar, Pacific Yew, Oregon Ash).
3. Trees shall not be cut in restoration or reforestation areas less than 10 years old.
4. Do not harvest trees within ten (10) feet of a road.
5. Remove all collection debris from the road surface and ditches, if applicable.

### **G. Bear Grass**

1. Harvest no more than twenty-five (25) percent of blades per plant per area.

2. Harvest blades by hand from the center crown of the plant.
3. Harvest up to one (1) bushel (8 gallons) per permit year.

## H. Ceremonial Harvester Restricted Species

The following products **can only be harvested** by individuals who have completed the Tribe's Ceremonial Harvester Program.

1. All Forest Products from **Western Redcedar** (*Thuja plicata*) and **Port Orford-Cedar** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) species; with the exception of **boughs**, which may be collected in accordance with Chapter 6, Section VI.
2. **Sweetgrass** (*Hierochloa occidentalis*).
3. All Forest Products from **Pacific Yew** (*Taxus brevifolia*) Species.

Special Guidelines and Provisions for other forest products will be developed as needed and incorporated into future iterations of this Policy Statement.

## VII ENFORCEMENT

All alleged violations of this policy will be referred to the Tribal Police and/or the Tribal Attorney for enforcement referral under applicable Tribal law. Penalties for non-compliance with this policy statement or any permits issued pursuant to it may include any combination of the following:

1. The Approving Officer or authorized representative may terminate the permit for such non-compliance.
2. Privileges granted herein may be revoked if the Individual(s) fail to make timely restitution for damages assessed by administrative action of the Approving Officer or authorized representative or legal action of a recognized court of law.
3. Future permit applications may be denied.
4. Violations involving theft or damage to forest resources on Tribal land may be handled as a timber trespass under Tribal Code Title 10, Section 10-2-16 and ITAMP Tribal Forestry Regulations, Subpart B, Section 210.