



The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Natural Resources Department
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47010 SW Hebo RD
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

June 20, 2017

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Office of Policy Regulatory Reform, Mail Code 1803A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Tribal Comments on Executive Order 13778: EPA and USACE Intention to Review and Rescind or Revise the Clean Water Rule

Dear U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Grand Ronde or Tribe), thank you for the opportunity to comment on Executive Order (EO) 13778: EPA and USACE Intention to Review and Rescind or Revise the Clean Water Rule. Grand Ronde is made up of over 27 antecedent tribes and bands that are descendants from western Oregon, southwest Washington, and northern California, areas that are rich in natural resources and of which the Tribe has had a strong connection to since time immemorial. As such, Grand Ronde has a vested interest in continuing to act as stewards for both the natural and cultural resources as well as the tribal members within its ceded lands and usual and accustomed areas.

While the Tribe fully recognizes the need to balance pollution with economic growth, the Tribe also has an inherent responsibility to protect the natural and cultural resources that support its tribal members' health and wellness. EO 13778 has the potential to significantly affect not only the health and wellness of the Tribe and its members, but also the treaty rights that were established and agreed upon by the member Tribes and the United States Government.

The Tribe strongly encourages the EPA to remember its federal trust responsibilities to Grand Ronde and its people and to consider the effects of reducing environmental regulations on the Grand Ronde tribal people as it endeavors to reconsider the definition of "waters of the U.S."

The Tribe defines consultation as, an equal dialogue between sovereign nations or their agencies at the highest levels of decision-making. Consultation is an ongoing and meaningful dialogue; this means that consultation takes place until project completion, not just until the consultation window is done. Therefore, the Tribe the Tribal Consultation Period be extended until such time that an official proposal is made and to be consulted on any and all proposals to alter the definition of "waters of the U.S." throughout the rule review process.

Please contact Meagan Flier, Environmental Resources Specialist, at (503) 879-2312 or Meagan.Flier@grandronde.org if there any questions on these comments. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Umpqua Molalla Rogue River Kalapuya Chasta

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Wilson
Natural Resources Manager
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde