



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**Melissa Cribbins, Commissioner**

**Robert "Bob" Main, Commissioner**

**John Sweet, Commissioner**

September 7, 2021

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COQUILLE RIVER

Governor Brown:

The Coquille River runs through the County Seat of Coos County, and is within walking distance of our Courthouse. Over the centuries, it has served as a highway, a water source, a playground, a provider of nourishment, and a crucial economic asset. Unfortunately, a tragedy has unfolded on the river in the past decade. The fall-run Chinook salmon, long revered by Native people and cherished by us all, have nearly disappeared. Returns of adult salmon have dropped from tens of thousands to mere hundreds in just a few years. Without prompt and decisive action, these mighty fish soon may be gone forever. Our communities will lose a treasured resource, and our economy and people will suffer.

The efforts of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have failed to arrest the salmon's decline. Scarce resources and outdated policies hobble the department's effectiveness. Therefore, we urge you to support the Coquille Indian Tribe's recent proposal to partner with the department in managing this imperiled fishery.

We believe that the following issues are critical and must be addressed in order to ensure the long-term survival of the fall-run Chinook salmon in the Coquille River: smolt predation, hatchery production, water quality, habitat, and adult predation. It is our understanding that the Coquille Tribe has approached the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with a plan to save the fall-run Chinook salmon runs in the Coquille River. The Tribe has resources to contribute and experience to share. Perhaps most importantly, it is powerfully motivated to save a salmon run that has sustained its people for thousands of years.

We ask you to endorse the partnership proposed by the Coquille Indian Tribe, establishing cooperative management of the Coquille River. Cooperative management offers our best possible hope for success in saving the fall-run Chinook salmon and improving the health of the watershed.

Sincerely,

Robert "Bob" Main  
Coos County Commissioner

Melissa T. Cribbins  
Coos County Commissioner

John Sweet  
Coos County Commissioner