



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E. Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
Phone 360-619-7700
Fax 360-619-7846

May 6, 2016

The Honorable Reyn Leno, Tribal Council Chair
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Re: Cape Meares Road Relocation Project

Dear Chairman Leno,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with Tillamook County is seeking comments and/or participation from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde regarding the Cape Meares Road Relocation project located in Tillamook County, Oregon along Cape Meares Loop Road between Oceanside and Tillamook Bay (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We would gladly meet with you to discuss the project. You may also contact us in writing or by email - contact information is included at the end of this letter. For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde believe cultural resources that the Tribes attach religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. To initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation, David Harrelson has been copied on this letter.

The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to restore service on Cape Meares Loop Road and reopen this section of the Three Capes Scenic Route which provides visitor access to Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint and Lighthouse. The project proposes to construct a bypass around a historic landslide area that closed a 1.5 mile section of Cape Meares Loop Road located between the communities of Oceanside and Cape Meares on January 11, 2013.

Cape Meares has documented ongoing landslide activity dating back to the late 1890s. The hillside is prone to rapid and significant movement, with the slide moving approximately nine feet between 2007 and 2013. An emergency bypass of the active slide area on Cape Meares Loop Road was built in 2007, but additional slide activity in early 2008 prompted the County to

complete a damage assessment. The assessment documented that the roadway had moved approximately 90 feet since the 1960s when the road was originally constructed.

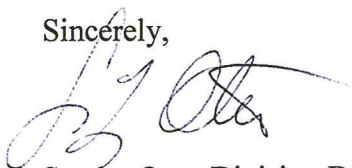
With Cape Meares Loop Road closed to through traffic, visitors and local residents may only access the wildlife refuge and lighthouse from the south. According to visitor counts in 2011 and 2013, there was approximately a 12 percent decrease in visitors to the wildlife refuge and lighthouse following the closure of Cape Meares Loop Road. Additional benefits of the project include providing a tsunami escape route for the communities of Oceanside and Cape Meares and an emergency detour route for Oceanside and Netarts when Highway 131 is closed due to slope failures. Additionally, when slides and roadway closures occur on Bay Ocean Road, the community of Cape Meares is cut off from emergency services, schools and jobs. Construction of the bypass will alleviate the concerns caused by the current roadway closure.

Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by June 10, 2016 or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this Environmental Assessment, please contact me or Jennifer Chariarse at 360-619-7621 or jennifer.chariarse@dot.gov. A project website has been set up by Tillamook County. Additional project related information can be accessed on the website at the following link:
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/Projects.htm>.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Sandra Otto, Division Director

Enclosures:

Project Vicinity Map
Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

Cc:

David Harrelson, THPO, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Mike Wilson, Natural Resources Director, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Kevin Gray, WFL Project Manager
Mike Schurke, WFL Archaeologist
Jennifer Chariarse, WFL Environmental Specialist
Liane Welch, Tillamook County, Public Works Director



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May 6, 2016

The Honorable Delores Pigsley, Tribal Chairperson
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
201 SE Swan Avenue
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

Re: Cape Meares Road Relocation Project

Dear Chairperson Pigsley,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with Tillamook County is seeking comments and/or participation from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians regarding the Cape Meares Road Relocation project located in Tillamook County, Oregon along Cape Meares Loop Road between Oceanside and Tillamook Bay (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We would gladly meet with you to discuss the project. You may also contact us in writing or by email - contact information is included at the end of this letter. For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians believe cultural resources that the Tribes attach religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. To initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation, Robert Kentta has been copied on this letter.

The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to restore service on Cape Meares Loop Road and reopen this section of the Three Capes Scenic Route which provides visitor access to Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge and Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint and Lighthouse. The project proposes to construct a bypass around a historic landslide area that closed a 1.5 mile section of Cape Meares Loop Road located between the communities of Oceanside and Cape Meares on January 11, 2013.

Cape Meares has documented ongoing landslide activity dating back to the late 1890s. The hillside is prone to rapid and significant movement, with the slide moving approximately nine feet between 2007 and 2013. An emergency bypass of the active slide area on Cape Meares Loop

Road was built in 2007, but additional slide activity in early 2008 prompted the County to complete a damage assessment. The assessment documented that the roadway had moved approximately 90 feet since the 1960s when the road was originally constructed.

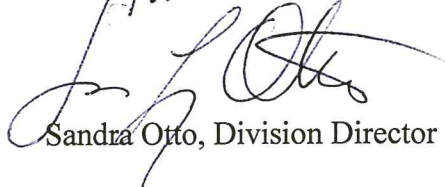
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Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by June 10, 2016 or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this Environmental Assessment, please contact me or Jennifer Chariarse at 360-619-7621 or jennifer.chariarse@dot.gov. A project website has been set up by Tillamook County. Additional project related information can be accessed on the website at the following link:
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/Projects.htm>.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Sandra Otto, Division Director

Enclosures:
Project Vicinity Map
Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

Cc:
Robert Kentta, Director Cultural Resources, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Mike Kennedy, Manager Natural Resources, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Kevin Gray, WFL Project Manager
Mike Schurke, WFL Archaeologist
Jennifer Chariarse, WFL Environmental Specialist
Liane Welch, Tillamook County, Public Works Director