

Coquille Indian Tribe Comprehensive Plan Community Questionnaire Memorandum

June 30, 2017

The Coquille Indian Tribe (CIT) is preparing a comprehensive plan for its Empire properties. The goal of this effort is to identify land use designations for the properties. As part of the comprehensive planning process, the Tribe distributed a community questionnaire to all Tribal members. As of June 22nd, 36 members completed the questionnaire, answering questions about the community vision, goals and growth on the Empire properties. The following is a summary of questionnaire results. A compilation of interview results is included in Appendix A.

Summary

- Approximately 88% of respondents believe the Tribal government is doing a good or excellent job of carrying out the Tribe's vision.
- About 83% of respondents believe the Tribal government is doing a good or excellent job of carrying out the Tribe's core values. Respondents feel the government does a very good job of taking care of the Tribe's old people. The government is least successful in practicing responsible stewardship of Tribal resources, though most respondents still rate the government as good or excellent in this regard.
- Approximately 75% of respondents believe the Tribal government is doing a good or excellent job of carrying out the Tribe's constitutional imperatives. Respondents feel the government does a very good job of preserving Coquille Indian Culture and Tribal identity. The government is less successful at enhancing common resources.
- About 63% of respondents believe the Tribal government is doing a good or excellent job of carrying out the Tribe's government services. Respondents feel the government does a very good job of taking care of natural resources and fostering economic development. The Tribe is less successful providing transportation facilities, housing choices and public utilities, although many respondents indicated that did not know much about these services.
- The Tribe's natural resource assets include the land, forests, water, and fish and wildlife. Members believe more land is needed and the ability to harvest timber lands is important. The Tribe also needs to preserve and manage those resources. The Tribe should seek opportunities to purchase more land and create plans to manage the land. Cultural assets include the people, especially Elders, and their knowledge and traditions. The plank house is another important cultural asset. It is important to teach the Tribe's history and language through Elder interactions with youth at formal and informal gatherings.
- The Tribe's land assets include the Kilkich reservation and its forests and bodies of water. The North Bend properties (casino, RV Park) also are important assets. More lands are needed to increase revenue generating activities, while protecting the natural resources. The Tribe needs to manage the resources it has and save revenues to purchase additional resource lands. Kilkich residents value having the Police Station on site as well as the community facilities. The homes are an asset and more housing is needed.



- Economic development assets include the Mill Casino, RV Park and timber lands, as well as the Tribal members themselves. The Tribe should seek to diversify its enterprises. Members would like to know more about the opportunities CEDCO is pursuing. They want to know that the Tribe is investing wisely. Generating revenue from natural resources should always be balanced with protecting those resources.
- Tribal members indicate that the Tribal land and the plank house are important assets, as are the trails and the playground at Kilkich. Tribal members would like more fields and areas for sports and dancing as well as areas for camping and fishing. Recreation opportunities should be communicated to Tribe members.
- The housing at Kilkich is an important asset, but more and diversified housing units are needed. Tribe members would like to see more homeownership opportunities on and off the reservation. Housing should be developed for households who do not qualify for HUD housing because they make too much or have a criminal background. Rental units also are needed.
- The Coos County Area Transit (CCAT) stop at Kilkich is an important asset as are the Tribe's shuttle buses. More options for Elders are needed. The area also lacks sidewalks and bike lanes. The Tribe may want to pursue grants to purchase and operate more shuttle buses. The Tribe's most important community facilities are the Health, Education and Community Centers and the programs that are run out of those facilities. These facilities and programs should be maintained and enhanced.

Appendix A. Questionnaires Compilation

VISION AND CORE VALUES

1. Please rate the Tribal government's performance carrying out its Vision:

We are a proud, powerful and resilient people, a sovereign nation, whose binding thread is our Coquille identity. In the footsteps of our ancestors we celebrate.

Answer Options	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Don't Know
Responses	2	2	18	10	2

2. Please rate the Tribal government's performance carrying out its Core Values:

Answer Options	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Don't know
Promoting the health and well-being of Tribal members and our community.	1	2	19	11	1
Providing equitable opportunities, experiences and services to all Tribal members.	4	5	15	10	0
Taking care of our old people.	2	2	7	18	5
Educating our children.	1	2	15	14	2
Practicing the culture and traditions of potlatch.	0	4	15	11	4
Considering the impacts to our people, land, water, air and all living things.	2	4	15	10	3
Practicing responsible stewardship of Tribal resources.	3	6	11	11	3

3. Please rate the Tribal government’s performance carrying out its Constitutional Imperatives:

Answer Options	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Don't Know
Preserve Coquille Indian Culture and Tribal identity.	1	4	13	13	2
Promote the social and economic welfare of the Coquille Indians.	6	4	11	11	1
Enhance our common resources.	4	6	10	8	5
Maintain peace and order within the Tribe.	0	7	12	7	7
Safeguard the individual rights of Tribal members.	2	2	14	7	8


4. Please rate the Tribal government’s performance the following services:

Answer Options	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Don't Know
Preserving and enhancing the Tribe's natural and cultural resources.	1	8	13	9	2
Comprehensive planning for Tribal lands.	2	6	12	7	7
Fostering economic development opportunities.	4	7	13	7	3
Providing open space and recreational opportunities.	1	7	15	3	8
Offering a variety of housing choices.	7	5	9	3	9
Providing access to a multi-modal (walk, bike, auto, transit) transportation system.	4	8	8	3	11
Ensuring the efficient delivery of public utilities and services (sewer, water, energy, telecommunications).	1	5	8	3	17


NATURAL RESOURCES

5a. What are the Tribe’s most important natural and cultural resource assets?

- History and knowledge.
- Tribal library and timber lands.
- Timber lands.
- Our land.
- Forest lands and watersheds.
- Timber and people.
- Land.

- Elders. 
- The Mill Casino, because it finances everything.
- Its people. We need to speak one of the languages and be fluent in that language so we can speak between tribal members.
- Natural-land, timber, water, fish and wildlife, cultural-our people, artifacts and education resources.
- Timber land logging.
- Land and water.
- Lands and everything on them.
- Natural: Fresh water running in the creeks. Cultural: Plankhouse and accompanying structures and Elder population on Kilkich.
- Knowledge and skills of tribal members.
- Land, water, fish, forests and traditions.
- The Elders and historians of the Tribe.
- Its People.
- Our people and communication.

5b. What are the Tribe's most important natural and cultural resource needs?

- Teaching the history and knowledge.
- More land.
- Adequate resources to properly take care of.
- Ability to harvest timber and grow economically.
- Solar power.
- The heritage and properties. 
- It would be nice to speak Miluh. Focus on learning "one" language that was spoken back in the day. It would be nice for the people to be fluent.
- Natural and Cultural- good management and good plan and follow through.
- Forest land.
- Purchase more land.
- Increased Elder interaction with the general tribal population.
- Preserving natural resources and enhancing cultural resources.
- Keeping the young adults and parents active and interested in our culture.
- Communication.

5c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's natural and cultural resource needs?


- Bringing teachers in to work with the membership of all ages.

- Purchase more land to allow us to be more able to take care of the Tribe's natural and cultural resources.
- Diversify revenues aside from Mill Casino and timber.
- Studies to learn cheapest power sources with less impact to the environment.
- Offer online language classes and hold classes locally.
- Developing good plans and completing projects.
- More timber sales.
- Set aside funds to purchase more land in OR and WA.
- Protect the forest lands over cashing in on them.
- Perhaps more events or opportunities to learn from the Elders in a classroom or even a relaxed setting (like a campfire chat).
- Provide a place for tribal gatherings on tribal lands.
- Focus, money and motivating members to honor and participate in Reservation.
- Best selection of people to govern the Tribe.
- If the young adults and parents stay active with the culture, the children will follow their lead.
- More communication.

LAND USE

6a. What are the Tribe's most important land assets?

- Kilkich.
- Timber and housing.
- Reservation and timber lands.
- Port and prest.
- North band properties.
- Those where expansion outside of Reservation land is possible.
- Timber.
- Forest land.
- The Reservation.
- Not sure, but the land in general is highly important. We should grow our ancient foods for harvesting.
- The Reservation, not sure what's going on in Sixes, Medford and elsewhere.
- Timber.
- Ownership.
- Economic development and natural spaces.
- Mill Casino, waterfront and forest properties in the Coos Forest.

- Killich Reservation and Mill Casino Hotel. 
- Trees and water.
- Our forests, the water that runs through them, and spawning grounds for the salmon.
- I feel the tribal housing available in Coos County is a great asset.
- Empire Reservation.

6a. What are the Tribe's most important land needs?

- More timber lands.
- Purchase more land and make it into a sustainable, productive business to assist the Tribe.
- Land for income production.
- Environmental study.
- Be opportunistic.
- Make sure the land is taken care of.
- Part of our land holdings should be developed into recreational areas for the use of all tribal members.
- Clean water and more fish.
- More land for future development.
- No additional land needed.
- Additional housing in area.
- Encouraging members to value land gifts (e.g. housing on Reservation).
- We are the caretakers of the land, I believe that it would be wonderful if we could develop some sort of camp or recreation area.
- Equal housing to all counties.
- More community spaces, more space for people who don't live ISA, or close to the Reservation. Cabins for short term stays, when visiting from out of town. More housing options for those in need. More connection to the neighboring community - like a trail. A crosswalk and access to the beach. A bigger library with Wi-Fi access and seating to browse books.

6c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's land needs?

- Purchase more land.
- More political involvement to allow us to expand.
- Study and communicate.
- Maybe purchase a few rental properties, 3 or 4 to lease to in need tribal members.
- Hire a team to monitor the lands.
- Council should present several options for land use for discussion among tribal members, not just one.
- Buy more land.

- Saving funds for purchase of more land.
- Use what we have.
- Mitigate the risk of an earthquake and tsunami.
- Long range goals, what are the pros and cons of what we are doing know that could impact our land. Is there any way to insure that our lands won't be taken in the future.
- I would like to see a housing development and apartment complex available to all counties on purchased tribal lands.
- Build cabins, maintain the trail around the Reservation for walking and running. Create safe access to the beach. Create safe access to neighboring communities. Create a bigger, more useful library.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

7a. What are the Tribe's most important economic development assets?

- Working age people.
- The Mill and timber lands.
- Land, timber and Mill Casino.
- Mill Casino and Hotel.
- Mill Casino.
- Land.
- The Mill Casino.
- The business, such as the Mill Casino.
- The Mill Casino, land and tribal members.
- Gaming and timber.
- Mill Casino and other revenue producing properties.
- Mill Casino and Hotel, health clinic, CIHA's assets and timber.
- Mill Casino and Hotel and tribal forests.
- Mill Casino and Hotel.
- I do appreciate the Hotel and Mill Casino. The forests and the land.
- I believe our Mill Casino is one of our most important economic assets.
- Our people and Mill Casino and Hotel.



7b. What are the Tribe's most important economic development needs?

- Young, working age people.
- Diversify enterprises, develop Medford (trust or not).

- Business revenue and expansion in addition to Mill Casino.
- Advertising.
- Employment opportunities.
- To get out of debt.
- It would be nice if there was a large hospital (IHS) facilities, like the one in Anchorage, AK, that could service AK natives, American Indian and veterans, native and non-native alike.
- Good ideas for future projects, thoughtful discussion and careful management of finances.
- Get Casino in Medford built.
- Wise investing for future growth and purchase power.
- Capital investment.
- A plan to diversify away from the Mill Casino as the primary income of the Tribe.
- Industries unrelated to tourism or timber.
- Diversification in viable businesses.
- Continuing to build on our current assets, adjust to maintain our tribal member's quality of life.
- Improved communication, building the pharmacy, building a curbside recycling business and spending within budget.

7c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's economic development needs?

- Being more transparent about what is going on and the businesses CEDCO is getting involved with.
- Move educational funding and small business funding.
- Needs independent sources of revenue to support operations and independent of TMCH subsidies.
- Communicate and advertise.
- Good leadership.
- Money and businesses that generate it.
- Management should be held accountable for decisions and actions.
- Make more money.
- Proper investing and development.
- Let the business do business and provide capital.
- Identify and implement a plan to add to the Tribe's economic portfolio.
- Keep exploring.
- Ensure trust funds are protected (don't follow the Fed's example) and protect current assets.
- I don't know if this is "future economic development" or not. It gets too easy to get stuck in your own personal situation and continue to only work on one's personal future. I believe what needs to be addressed is how to get and keep people involved "now" so that there is a

future. A question I have asked myself as an OSA member is, "Why would I want to move back to tribal lands and work with the Tribe?" I need to know that I'm going to be secure for my future if I make that leap.

- More information on the use of lands in Jackson County.
- CEDCO audit.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

8a. What are the Tribe's most important open space and recreation assets?

- Plankhouse and supporting out buildings.
- Plankhouse, East Ridge and access to public lands.
- Housing and a location for annual family gathering.
- Tie it into the family camp that has really helped to use family time along with cultural and family activities.
- The land the Tribe owns including the Reservation.
- Beautiful land.
- Hiking and learning opportunities for kids.
- Playground on Killich.
- Plank house and surrounding space.
- Reservation, plankhouse and new forest lands.
- Forest and beach.

8b. What are the Tribe's most important open space and recreation needs?

- An open field to teach and play traditional sports and dancing.
- A world class golf course to attract world class players.
- An overnight camping area and need a place tribal members can park RVs.
- Ownership of land.
- Campground in forest area.
- More salmon hatcheries and a place to go salmon fishing.
- Communication about availability of current open space and recreation assets.

8c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's open space and recreation needs?

- Level a plot.
- Need land and facility for tribal gathering and individual family camping.
- Be patient, one step at a time.

- Same, needs money "revenues" with new businesses. Would like to see an online gift shop.
- Good planning, smart development, follow through and accountability.
- Opportunity for tribal members to purchase land owned by CIT.
- Create gathering place in tribal forest land.
- Protect from abuse and use frequently.
- I would love to see a place where we can all gather for "Family Camp" "Restoration Celebration" etc. that is ours to enjoy, where we can all come together and enjoy each other's company, to cook for one another, to tell stories, to be a people together.
- Information regarding what is available and happening, beach access, more communication about all recreation assets and availability in general.

HOUSING

9a. What are the Tribe's most important housing assets?

- Only one option – Reservation.
- HUD apartments.
- Reservation.
- Remove all non-tribal people living on our Reservations.
- There is no housing need except for affordable housing for employees and other people in Coos Bay area.
- Affordable housing for tribal members and employees.
- The Reservation.
- Existing houses that are already built.
- The Reservation houses and lots.
- Its tribal members.
- Full ownership and being able to provide for Elder comfort and stability.
- Existing infrastructure.
- CIHA's residential property.
- Subsidized Kilkich housing.
- HUD housing, and Reservation land.
- What we have right now is pretty good. The OSA rental assistance is wonderful and very helpful.
- Tribal housing on the Reservation.
- Reservation.

9b. What are the Tribe's most important housing needs?

- More equitable housing for members.
- Off Reservation housing development.
- Have an assistance program set up for tribal members who want to live on tribal lands.
- Affordable housing.
- Help those in need or on the fringes.
- More available houses that the people can afford. It would be neat to offer those "tiny houses" for some of the people.
- All tribal members, not just low income families, should be able to find housing on tribal lands.
- Filling all houses with tribal members.
- To fund future Elder housing and stability.
- People who don't fit the rules of CIHA.
- Short-term housing options for new hire Tribal Member employees that moved to Coos County, but are ineligible for CIHA to assist due to the projected next 12 months income being too high.
- Tribal assisted living situations and non HUD compliant housing.
- I believe that very affordable housing for young adults striking out on their own is very important. Also, counseling on what it means to run a successful household. How to pay bills, create a budget, etc.
- Cabins for OSA people to stay in and non-HUD housing.

9c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's housing needs?

- Make housing more equitable, not just for low income members.
- Find open lots in residential areas and build new apartments.
- Get the government out of our housing needs.
- More money available to build.
- Money would help.
- Apartments or houses should be available for rent or purchase, even if you're employed and earning middle to above income.
- Lower rent, make houses more affordable so all houses will be full.
- Invest and develop more housing for CIT members.
- Might need to revisit lot program.
- As the Tribe is invested in our Youth's education, there is some hope a few of the educated members would return to the Tribe to serve in some capacity, utilizing their education and benefitting all of the Tribe as a result. Unfortunately, for an educated member to return to begin their career, that means they most likely have little to no assets or savings. Due to CIHA's requirement's to strictly follow HUD's guidelines, they will be unable to provide low-income housing assistance, as their next 12 months would bring their income over the maximum allowed for assistance. One option I could suggest would be to have a property available for 6-12 months at a modest rental value for the member to

not have to worry immediately about housing and be able to focus on their work. I could see the inability of adequate housing to be a limiting factor in being able to bring in some of our more educated members to work for the Tribe.

- An Emergency housing fund, almost like an insurance plan, should be set up. If a Tribal Member or family gets in trouble with their housing, i.e. gets evicted or rent increases to unaffordable levels then there is money's to tap into for first, last and deposit. It would be something that tribal members could buy into and pay a small monthly fee to maintain. In today's housing markets landlords down here where I currently live are raising rents to astronomical rates, causing it to be almost impossible to stay in the hometown I grew up in. I don't want to see that happen to anyone of our tribal members.
- I would like to see housing available in other counties available for our Elders and low income individuals.
- Think more globally.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

10a. What are the Tribe's most important transportation and transit assets?

- Yellow cab vouchers and CCAT.
- Make it easier to just give a flat amount of money each month instead of having to fill out so many forms. This will allow individuals to pay for gas, taxi rides, Uber, transportation for fun. Much easier.
- There is no transportation need except for inadequate local and public services.
- Any type of transportation to get outside to the Mill Casino, Elder transportation and transportation for the people in general.
- All tribal vehicles.
- Shuttle buses, vans and fleet vehicles.
- Tribal vans.
- The transportation specialist.

10b. What are the Tribe's most important transportation and transit needs?

- Shuttle between Mill Casino and Reservation for Mill employees.
- Transportation for Elders out of area.
- Elders and tourists.
- Movement of tribal members for their needs as well as Tribes.
- Help for tribal members.
- Improved bicycle access in Coos Bay and North Bend.
- Elders van, like other Tribes, might be helpful.
- Making sure our Elderly get to their appointments and the children get to school.
- Ensuring members get to health care and social engagements for Elders.

10c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's transportation and transit needs?

- Purchase shuttle bus.
- Many more available modes of transportation year-around.
- Get grants.
- Suggest to city planners, diplomatically, that some of the pilot funds could go to dedicated bicycle lanes.
- Has there been a cost analysis of a charter bus vs owning vehicles that could be used for multiple needs.
- Perhaps having a vehicle for use to attend tribal activities at a distance from other counties. Coos seems to house all vehicles.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

11a. What are the Tribe's most important public facilities and services assets?

- Health and community center.
- Health clinic and Head Start.
- Health care locally, recreation and business expansion outside CB/NB.
- Medical.
- Health insurance and prescription drug plan. Without that, many of our tribal members would slip into poverty.
- Mill Casino, health clinic and RV services.
- Mill Casino and RV park.
- Mill Casino for revenue and health clinic for health needs of members.
- Health Care.
- Location for family camp.
- Health Center, Community Center and CELS.
- Health clinic and community center.
- Hotel.
- Education, Elder Benefits and Housing Benefits. The list is long.

11b. What are the Tribe's most important public facilities and services needs?

- Health and Wellness facility, youth and family facility.
- Out of service area benefits for members.
- I think the focus has to be health, education and some sort of housing or even temp housing for people that have nothing.
- Hospital facility.
- Tribal owned credit union or lending services for members.




- Pharmacy access and Dental Access (non referral).
- Tribal pharmacy.
- Maintaining services.

11c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's public facilities and services needs?

- Funding and reorganization and priority.
- Consider the money that is saved by not having services for people that do not live in Oregon.
- If you have to ax family camp to Eagle Crest do it, but keep a local Coos Bay version -even if you have to rent Basendorf Campground for 4 days. It's important to keep people together.
- This service is the first step.
- Revenue producing facilities and lending services for home purchases for members.
- Provide routine dental services and common pharmaceutical access from within the Tribe.
- Expand health clinic and relocate Head Start.

KILKICH

12a. What are the Tribe's most important assets at Kilkich?

- Police and community center.
- The people that live there, the Community Center, Health Center and CELS, the cemetery, the lakes, dog trail, playground, park and community garden.
- Police Station and house structures.
- Community center, plankhouse and playgrounds
- Community Center and Head Start.
- The Plankhouse and Omashi's. 

12b. What are the Tribe's most important needs at Kilkich?

- More housing options for all members to rent, not just low income.
- Play area for infants to young toddlers, a place to park RVs and reflection area at Columbarium Cemetery.
- Larger community garden.
- More affordable housing.
- More useful spaces for residents and non-residents (ie. cabins, library).

12c. What future actions are needed to address the Tribe's needs at Kilkich?

- I only visit but my Grandma lived there and was thriving and happy.
- Relative safety from speeding vehicles, so kids can play near the road.
- Cabins, library, trail and beach access.