KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS

Kalispel natural resources

March 6, 2017

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
1310 Bear Creek Road
Colville, WA 99144

Sent by email to: lpo@fws.gov

RE: Redesignation of the Kalispel Indian Reservation as a Class I Area

Dear LPO Refuge Manager:

The Kalispel Tribe has a sovereign interest in protecting air quality on our Reservation for the health and well being of our people and natural resources. In order to advance this sovereign interest, the Tribe has decided to exercise our authority under the Clean Air Act to redesignate our Reservation a Class I area under the Act's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program. The purpose of this letter is to invite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with the Tribe on this matter if you have any questions or concerns.

As detailed in the Technical Report commissioned by the Tribe to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed redesignation, upgrading the Reservation from a Class II to a Class I PSD area would provide much better protection for Reservation air quality without harming the regional economy. The Technical Report concludes that redesignation would benefit Kalispel people and the surrounding community by:

- Reducing future health problems related to degrading air quality
- Better protecting natural resources from problems caused by air pollution
- Making it safer for people to use and consume natural resources
- Better protecting visibility in the Pend Oreille Valley
- Enhancing worker productivity, property values, and quality of life

The Technical Report also concludes that redesignation will have no effect on existing industrial facilities, is unlikely to adversely affect future economic development based on the types of economic activity that are currently driving the economy in Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Spokane County, and is unlikely to adversely affect reasonably foreseeable energy development on and near the Reservation.

If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in consulting with the Tribe on this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting.

Kalispel Tribe of Indians P.O. Box 39 Usk, WA 99180 (509) 445-1147 (509) 445-5302 *fax* www.kalispeltribe.com

Regards,

Deane Osterman, Executive Director
Kalispel Natural Resources
(509) 447-7282