

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To transfer certain Federal land into trust for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To transfer certain Federal land into trust for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Grand Ronde Land
5 Transfer Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) GRAND RONDE.—The term “Grand Ronde”
9 means the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
10 Community of Oregon.

1 (2) GRAND RONDE CONVEYANCE LAND.—The
2 term “Grand Ronde Conveyance Land” means the
3 approximately 18,628 acres of Federal land, as gen-
4 erally depicted on the Map.

5 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map
6 prepared by the Forest Service entitled “Grand
7 Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026” and dated July
8 23, 2026.

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 **SEC. 3. LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST.**

12 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER.—Administrative
13 jurisdiction over the Grand Ronde Conveyance Land is
14 hereby transferred from the Secretary of Agriculture to
15 the Secretary.

16 (b) LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.—Subject to
17 valid existing rights, including rights-of-way, all right,
18 title, and interest of the United States in and to the Grand
19 Ronde Conveyance Land, including any improvements lo-
20 cated on the Grand Ronde Conveyance Land, appur-
21 tenances to the Grand Ronde Conveyance Land, and min-
22 eral and other subsurface interests on or in the Grand
23 Ronde Conveyance Land, including oil and gas, shall be
24 held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Grand
25 Ronde.

1 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The land taken into trust
2 under subsection (b) shall be—

3 (1) part of the Grand Ronde Reservation; and
4 (2) administered in accordance with the laws
5 and regulations generally applicable to property held
6 in trust by the United States for the benefit of an
7 Indian Tribe.

8 (d) SURVEY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 shall—

12 (A) provide a legal description of the
13 Grand Ronde Conveyance Land; and

14 (B) complete a survey to establish the
15 boundaries of the land taken into trust under
16 subsection (b).

17 (2) CONFLICTS.—If there is a conflict between
18 the survey completed under paragraph (1)(B) and a
19 map, acreage estimate, or description of any land to
20 be taken into trust under subsection (b), the survey
21 shall control unless the Secretary and Grand Ronde
22 mutually agree otherwise.

23 (e) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The Map and the legal de-
24 scription and survey described in subsection (d)(1) shall
25 have the same force and effect as if included in this Act,

1 except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typo-
2 graphical errors in the Map or legal description.

3 (f) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Map and the legal
4 description and survey described in subsection (d)(1) shall
5 be on file and available for public inspection in the Office
6 of the Secretary.

7 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (b) shall take ef-
8 fect on the day after the date on which the Secretary
9 records the agreement entered into under section 4(c)(1).

10 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF GRAND RONDE CONVEYANCE**
11 **LAND.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Unless expressly provided in this
13 Act, nothing in this Act affects any right or claim of
14 Grand Ronde existing on the date of enactment of this
15 Act to any land or interest in land.

16 (b) PROHIBITIONS.—

17 (1) EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Any
18 applicable Federal law (including regulations) relat-
19 ing to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from
20 Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs
21 that are harvested from the Grand Ronde Convey-
22 ance Land.

23 (2) GAMING PROHIBITED.—The land taken into
24 trust under section 3(b) shall not be used for any
25 class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian

1 Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as
2 those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25
3 U.S.C. 2703)).

4 (c) AGREEMENTS.—

5 (1) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR ADMIN-
6 ISTRATIVE ACCESS.—Not later than 180 days after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall enter into an agreement with Grand Ronde
9 that secures existing administrative access by the
10 Secretary to the Grand Ronde Conveyance Land.

11 (2) RECIPROCAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREE-
12 MENTS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which
14 the agreement is entered into under paragraph
15 (1), the Secretary shall provide to Grand Ronde
16 all reciprocal right-of-way and cooperative
17 agreements to the Grand Ronde Conveyance
18 Land in existence as of the date of enactment
19 of this Act.

20 (B) CONTINUED ACCESS.—Beginning on
21 the date on which the Grand Ronde Conveyance
22 Land is taken into trust under section 3(b),
23 Grand Ronde shall continue the access provided
24 by the agreements described in subparagraph
25 (A) in perpetuity.

1 (d) LAND USE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), on the date on which the Grand Ronde
4 Conveyance Land is taken into trust under section
5 3(b), the Grand Ronde Conveyance land shall not be
6 subject to the land use planning requirements of the
7 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
8 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the Act of August 28,
9 1937 (50 Stat. 874, chapter 876; 43 U.S.C. 2601 et
10 seq.).

11 (2) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Any forest man-
12 agement activity that is carried out on the Grand
13 Ronde Conveyance Land shall be managed in ac-
14 cordance with all applicable Federal and Tribal laws.

15 (3) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Grand Ronde Con-
16 veyance Land shall remain open to the public for
17 hunting, fishing, and general recreation, subject to
18 the condition that Grand Ronde may restrict or reg-
19 ulate access to the Grand Ronde Conveyance Land
20 for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or
21 wildlife management, or emergencies.