



Chúush: Water for Warm Springs Campaign

Coalition of Pacific Northwest Conservation Organizations Join Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, MRG Foundation, and Warm Springs Action Team in Campaign to Restore Tribal Access and Infrastructure for Clean Water

Water is life. From the majestic vistas of the Columbia River Gorge to the enchanting wild, winding banks of the Deschutes River, many of Oregon's most beloved natural places are defined by water. For generations it's been the lifeblood of our region. Without ample, safe sources of fresh water rivers and forests can't support life, local farmers can't grow crops or rear livestock, and drinking water taps could run dry.

The combined pressures of climate change, rapid population growth, and aging public infrastructure, however, is placing increased strains on decades-old water systems. The community of Warm Springs is now threatened by one of most dire water emergencies our region has seen in recent history.

The people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—the largest reservation in the state of Oregon—are now in the second year of a devastating water crisis due to a series of pressure breaks in key community water lines. Over 60% of Warm Springs residents currently do not have regular, consistent access to clean water—preventing many families from regularly showering, doing laundry, or providing adequate water for livestock or crops.

We champion the existing innovative work by Tribal leaders, the MRG Foundation, and the Warm Springs Community Action team in the creation of The Chúush Fund—an inventive financing tool allowing both the public and institutional funders alike to directly assist the people of Warm Springs in confronting this crisis.

And we aim to build upon that work. Immediate collective action is needed to help the people of Warm Springs as they manage both a devastating water emergency and community response to the global coronavirus pandemic. As a coalition of eight of the Pacific Northwest's largest environmental and conservation groups, we're committed to partnering with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Tribal community activists, MRG Foundation, and leaders at the state and federal level to help return reliable and safe water access to the people of Warm Springs.

Our goals are two-fold: strengthen available financial resources to meet immediate, emergency health needs and advocate for policy solutions needed to help the people of Warm Springs restore their access and infrastructure for clean water.

Access to clean drinking water is essential to healthy, vibrant communities. It's a basic human right that—as this illustrates—is not enjoyed equally across the Pacific Northwest. All who live in the Pacific Northwest also have a responsibility and role to play in helping the people of Warm Springs restore clean and stable water to their community.



Chúush: Water for Warm Springs Campaign Participating Organizations

- **[Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs](#)**
- **[MRG Foundation](#)**
- **[Warm Springs Community Action Team](#)**
- **[Blue Mountain Land Trust](#)**
- **[Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts](#)**
- **[Columbia Land Trust](#)**
- **[Columbia Riverkeeper](#)**
- **[Deschutes Land Trust](#)**
- **[Friends of the Columbia Gorge](#)**
- **[The Nature Conservancy of Oregon](#)**
- **[Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility](#)**

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