

## **Class I Redesignation of the Kalispel Indian Reservation Frequently Asked Questions**

On March 8, 2017, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians issued public notice of a proposal to redesignate the Kalispel Indian Reservation a Class I air quality area under the Clean Air Act. The Tribe is accepting written comments on the proposed redesignation until April 7, 2017 and will be accepting oral testimony at a public hearing at the Camas Center for Community Wellness on April 10, 2017. A Technical Report describing the potential effects of Class I redesignation is currently available for public review at Tribal Headquarters, the Newport Public Library, and on the web at <http://kalispeltribe.com/kalispel-natural-resources-department/overview>. This FAQ addresses some of the questions the Tribe has received to date regarding the redesignation.

### **1. Why is the Tribe proposing to redesignate the Reservation a Class I area?**

The Tribe wants to better protect our people and resources from problems caused by air pollution. The Reservation is the Tribe's only home, which makes Reservation residents particularly vulnerable to localized environmental pollution.

### **2. What gives the Tribe the right to redesignate its Reservation a Class I area?**

The Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7474, specifically authorizes states and federally recognized Indian tribes to redesignate their sovereign lands as Class I areas. A number of tribes have already redesignated their reservations as Class I areas.

### **3. Which Kalispel lands will the Class I redesignation include?**

The redesignation will only apply to lands within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe's reservation near Usk, WA.

### **4. How will Class I redesignation better protect air quality on the Reservation?**

The Reservation is currently part of a Class II area under the Clean Air Act's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program. This designation prevents Reservation air quality from being degraded up to the level allowed by National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Class I redesignation will provide significantly more protection than Class II status.

### **5. Are there other Class I areas in Washington?**

Washington has nine Class I areas including five wilderness areas, three national parks, and one Indian reservation.

### **6. What pollutants are addressed by the PSD area classification system?**

The PSD program currently regulates three pollutants under the PSD area classification system: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter. For these three pollutants, PSD "increments" have been established for Class I, II, and III areas that define the allowed amount of degradation.

**7. What types of facilities are regulated by the PSD program?**

The PSD program regulates large industrial facilities such as steel mills and petroleum refineries. The Department of Ecology maintains a list of all PSD-permitted facilities in Washington at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/psd/psd\\_permits.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/psd/psd_permits.htm).

**8. How will Class I redesignation affect Pend Oreille Newsprint?**

Class I redesignation will have no effect on Ponderay Newsprint's current operations.

**9. How will Class I redesignation affect new industrial development?**

Class I redesignation will have no effect on new industrial development unless a facility emits or has the potential to emit enough of a PSD-regulated air pollutant to trigger PSD review. If a facility meets this threshold, it will go through a similar review process as is already required because of the area's Class II designation. The primary difference due to the redesignation is that the new facility may have to install better pollution-reduction technology to meet Class I pollution standards. If a new industrial facility cannot meet Class I pollution standards on the Reservation, it would have to be constructed farther away.

**10. What can be done to offset any lost economic opportunities due to redesignation?**

A proactive planning effort by Pend Oreille County, the Tribe, and other community leaders can help identify and attract the types of development that provide good jobs without harming our natural resources and way of life.

**11. What are the potential economic effects of Class I redesignation?**

Based on the economic analysis in the Tribe's Technical Report, Class I redesignation will likely have a neutral to positive economic effect on the Reservation and surrounding area. Class I redesignation will have no effect on the types of economic activity that are currently driving the local economy and will help protect the environmental values that attract outside income to Pend Oreille County.

**12. What are the likely benefits of Class I redesignation?**

The Technical Report concludes that Class I redesignation will benefit the Kalispel people and the surrounding community by reducing health problems related to deteriorating air quality, better protecting our use and consumption of natural resources, preserving visibility in the Pend Oreille Valley, and enhancing worker productivity, property values, and quality of life.

**For more information, visit:** <https://www.epa.gov/nsr/prevention-significant-deterioration-basic-information>; [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/psd/PSD\\_Info\\_Site.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/psd/PSD_Info_Site.html)