

# 2015 Annual Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations

Submitted to:  
Governor Kate Brown

Legislative Commission on Indian Services  
By: Dick Pedersen, Director

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DEQ is a leader in restoring,  
maintaining and enhancing the  
quality of Oregon's air, land and  
water.



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# Executive Summary

This Oregon Department of Environmental Quality annual Government-to-Government report on tribal relations provides an update on recent efforts and actions by DEQ to consult, coordinate and collaborate together, and enhance relations with Oregon's nine federally-recognized tribal governments regarding environmental protection and improvement activities. These activities include cleanup of contaminated lands, protection of rivers and streams, partnerships for restoration projects, and consultation on the development of rules, policies and procedures, technical assistance and more.

DEQ has government-to-government relationships with the nine federally-recognized tribal governments and communicates formally through in-person meetings, letters and emails and informally through phone conversations and coordination meetings. DEQ is interested in seeking additional opportunities to work together, coordinate with and learn from tribal representatives to protect and enhance Oregon's land, air and water.

# 1. Agency Contacts

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## 2. Agency Interest Areas

As the state's environmental protection agency, DEQ coordinates with the nine federally-recognized tribal governments in Oregon on issues related to air quality, water quality and land quality. The federal Environmental Protection Agency works closely with tribal nations in these same areas. DEQ's work is linked to the work of tribal governments through natural resources, cultural resources and community and economic development programs.

## 3. Department Statement

In 2002, DEQ adopted a “Statement of Intent” to implement Executive Order 96-30 and the requirements of Senate Bill 770 (ORS 182.162-168), which direct state agencies to promote government-to-government relations with Oregon’s Indian tribes. In April, 2010, DEQ updated its Tribal Relations Policy. The policy states that DEQ is committed to building and maintaining strong government-to-government relations with Oregon’s nine federally-recognized tribes. DEQ consults and coordinates with tribal nations on air quality, water quality and land quality issues that affect tribal interests, resources or lands. DEQ builds positive relationships with tribal leaders, managers, staff and representatives to understand tribal interests, explore opportunities for greater partnership and collaboration, and address tribal interests as much as possible in DEQ actions. State-Tribal partnership increases our collective ability to protect and enhance Oregon’s environment and people’s health.

The complete Tribal Relations Policy can be found at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/programs/tribal/tribalrelationspolicy.pdf>. DEQ implements the policy through regular meetings with tribal representatives at the staff, manager and leadership levels, and by seeking opportunities to collaborate with tribes on issues important to tribal governments.

## 4. Participation in the Government-To-Government Process

In 2015, DEQ participated in the following government-to-government activities:

- In February 2015, DEQ's tribal liaison and other DEQ representative attended the Tribal Legislative Days at the Oregon Capital.
- In May 2015, DEQ's tribal liaison and other DEQ representative attended and participated in the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Spring Gathering.
- DEQ's tribal liaison and technical experts when appropriate attended the tribal-state natural resources cluster, cultural resources cluster, and economic development and community services cluster meetings held in 2015 as an important part of government-to-government relations under Senate Bill 770.

In addition, DEQ provided the following government-to-government communications:

- In February 2015, DEQ sent an email to all natural resources key contacts summarizing the situation associated with the Coastal Zone Management Act litigation in Oregon.
- In February 2015, DEQ sent an email to all natural resources key contacts providing an update on DEQ's water quality standards work regarding ammonia.
- In April 2015, DEQ sent an email to all natural resources key contacts regarding DEQ's statewide toxics monitoring report. The correspondence included an offer to meet with the tribes to go over any specifics of interest.
- In May 2015, DEQ sent an email to key contacts of the tribes working on the Portland Harbor Superfund site providing information regarding DEQ's source control work associated with the project. DEQ offered to follow-up as needed.
- In June 2015, DEQ phoned and followed up with emails to natural and cultural resources key contacts, as well as the Executive Director for the Legislative Commission on Indian Services regarding the Coastwide Advisory for soft shell clams. The advisory is based on data collected as part of DEQ's Statewide Water Quality Toxics Monitoring Program. Tissue from the clams was found to contain inorganic arsenic at a level that prompted the advisory. Detailed information regarding the advisory can be found at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/Recreation/FishConsumption/Pages/fishadvisories.aspx>
- During the 2015 Legislative session, DEQ participated in weekly phone calls with representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Natural

Resources Department regarding legislative bills and topics tracked and engaged in by DEQ. DEQ welcomes this coordination with any tribe interested in DEQ's legislative work.

- In August 2015, Director Pedersen sent letters to the tribal chairperson of each of the nine federally-recognized tribes in Oregon summarizing DEQ's plan to update Oregon's water quality standards for copper; inviting participation in the process.
- In October 2015, DEQ sent an email to all natural resources key contacts providing an update of DEQ's process and schedule for revision of Oregon's water quality standards for bacteria on the coast; inviting participation and input.

DEQ greatly appreciates the leadership and partnership of tribal governments working with the state to protect the environment, people's health, as well as natural and cultural resources.

## 5. Internal Tribal Relations Action/Training

DEQ's internal tribal relations activities are focused on improving consultation and communication between agency and tribal managers and staff, as well as providing training to DEQ employees on tribal government, sovereignty and issues of interest to tribal nations.

- In November 2015, DEQ's tribal liaison participated and presented at the annual Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and EPA. The discussion included a summary of DEQ's schedule for toxics monitoring for the coming years and an update on DEQ's work to update Oregon's water quality standards for bacteria on the coast and for copper statewide.
- Throughout the year, DEQ's tribal liaison advised and assisted DEQ managers and staff on issues of interest to tribal nations and provided guidance for consulting and coordinating with tribal governments on environmental activities.
- DEQ maintains a [Tribal Government Relations web page](#)<sup>1</sup> to provide information about the government-to-government process, federally-recognized Tribes and DEQ's tribal relations activities. DEQ employees regularly use this site to learn about tribal nations and our government-to-government responsibilities.
- DEQ's tribal liaison and other DEQ representatives participated in the February Tribal Legislative Day, May Tribal Government Day, and state training sessions held in the Capitol; sponsored by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.
- DEQ maintains an online training for DEQ staff and managers through iLearn, a state online tool for instruction. The training module covers the history of tribal-state relations in Oregon, tribal sovereignty, government-to-government consultation and highlights opportunities for greater collaboration with tribes.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.deq.state.or.us/programs/tribal/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/programs/tribal/index.htm).

## 6. Summary of Program Related Issues/Activities

DEQ works to protect water, air and land quality across the state and interacts regularly with tribal managers and staff on a broad range of activities and issues. Some of the primary areas of collaboration between tribal nations and DEQ over the past year are summarized below.

### 6.1. Improving Water Quality

#### **Implementing More Stringent Water Quality Standards for Toxics Based on a Higher Fish Consumption Rate**

DEQ continues to implement more stringent toxics criteria to protect human health based on a higher fish consumption rate. EPA approved revised criteria for Oregon in October 2011. Final guidance documents for implementing permitting compliance tools, such as intake credits and variances, as well as guidance for addressing specific pollutants such as methyl mercury and arsenic can be found at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/humanhealthrule.htm>. DEQ has also developed several memos specific to individual toxic pollutants to assist DEQ staff and the regulated community to consistently implement the criteria. Find these memos at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/toxics.htm>.

Over the last year, DEQ's water permitting program has continued to implement the revised human health standards through renewed and newly issued wastewater permits. Since the new human health standards were adopted in 2011, DEQ has issued approximately 20 permits per year. These permits include new toxics monitoring requirements for large municipal dischargers and industrial facilities with the potential to discharge toxic pollutants. In addition, facilities with known toxic pollutants in their discharge have been evaluated to assess their potential to exceed the human health standards. Two industrial facilities (both related to cleanup activities in the Portland Harbor) were found to have the potential to exceed the standards and were issued permits containing stringent effluent limits designed to ensure compliance with the standards. As more high quality discharge data are collected, DEQ will continue to evaluate the potential of each new and renewed permit to exceed the human health standards and will continue to condition permits appropriately.

DEQ used the revised human health toxics criteria to assess water quality for Oregon's 2012 Integrated Report. The report was submitted to EPA in November 2014. The assessment identifies additional waters in the state that are impaired by toxics, also known as 303(d) listings, including several new listings based on mercury in resident fish tissue and others based on arsenic and toxic compounds in water. Additional waters impaired by metals such as iron, copper, and lead were identified and added to the listings. To date, EPA has not yet taken action on Oregon's 2012 Integrated Report.

#### **Progress in Addressing EPA Aquatic Toxics Criteria Disapprovals**

The Environmental Quality Commission adopted revised water quality standards for ammonia in January 2014 to address EPA's disapproval of the state's previous ammonia criteria. The Commission adopted EPA's latest ammonia criteria recommendations, which protect freshwater mussels and snails as well as salmonid fish. EPA approved the revised criteria in August, 2015.

Detailed information is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/WQ/Pages/Standards/ammonia.aspx>.

DEQ is currently reviewing the state's freshwater copper criteria to address the Jan. 31, 2013 disapproval

by EPA. EPA's latest recommendations for copper are based on the Biotic Ligand Model. This model derives site-specific criteria based on ten water quality parameters that affect the toxicity of copper on aquatic life. DEQ is evaluating adoption of a new water quality standard and procedures for implementing such a standard. DEQ is currently undergoing technical review and will convene a stakeholder advisory committee from December 2015 through April 2016. DEQ anticipates public comment on proposed water quality standards for copper in summer 2016 and a recommendation to the Commission in December 2016.

### **Progress in Revising Bacteria Standards for Coastal Waters**

DEQ is currently conducting a rulemaking process to revise Oregon's bacteria standards for coastal waters. DEQ is planning to propose that the Commission adopt EPA's recommended enterococcus criteria for contact recreation in coastal (saline) waters in August 2016. In addition, DEQ is proposing to clarify where Oregon's three different bacterial indicator criteria will apply. This involves delineating the boundary between coastal waters and fresh waters for purposes of applying the correct contact recreations criteria – enterococcus and *E. coli* respectively. DEQ will also delineate where the fecal coliform criterion for marine and shellfish-growing estuarine waters applies to protect shellfish harvesting.

### **Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan**

DEQ is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and EPA to develop and implement a Columbia River Toxics Reduction Strategy. In September 2010, EPA and the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group released the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan outlining 61 actions to reduce a wide array of toxics in the Columbia River Basin.

In August 2011, Federal, State, and Tribal leaders signed the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group Executive Statement that commits all signatories to a collaborative approach to reduce toxic pollutants in the Columbia River Basin through the formalization of the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group. The working group includes the support of tribal nations and agencies to guide toxic pollutant reduction work in the Columbia Basin through collaborative decision-making.

The Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group met twice in 2015. During these meetings, work group contributors and invited speakers provided updates on science and regulations pertaining to toxics in the Columbia River basin. Ongoing work group efforts include comparison of how toxics are addressed in Columbia Basin states' stormwater regulations, expanding Salmon-safe pesticide use practices to urban areas, and Toxics Substances Control Act reform led by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

### **DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy**

Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde served as members of DEQ's Toxics Stakeholder Group that helped establish the framework for a comprehensive toxics reduction strategy. Tribal nations are identified as key implementation partners for some of these draft recommended actions. Similar to the Columbia Basin Toxics Reduction effort, DEQ proposed five toxics reduction actions from the strategy as short-term priorities for implementation. These priorities are informed by the Columbia Basin toxics work and by an Oregon Governor's Executive Order to advance "green chemistry" in Oregon. State government purchasing is one of the primary elements of the executive order. For the last three years, DEQ has been working with the Department of Administrative Services and the Governor's Office to develop and implement low-toxicity purchasing initiatives and guidelines. The most recent effort involves reducing or

eliminating the purchase of flame retardant chemicals in furniture. Oregon is working with Washington and California on this initiative, as well as other green chemistry and toxics reduction opportunities. The directors of west coast state environmental agencies recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support collaboration between states on green chemistry and safer products initiatives, including government purchasing. Tribal governments based in Oregon can join low-toxicity price agreements for specific categories of products. In addition, DEQ, along with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is participating in Northwest Green Chemistry, a new regional organization that promotes green chemistry through a range of actions including conducting chemical alternatives assessments for priority toxic chemicals (e.g., copper boat paint). Finally, DEQ is beginning the process of updating its Toxics Reduction Strategy to reflect new information and opportunities. As draft elements of the updated strategy are developed, DEQ will seek input and insight from tribal governments on toxics reduction priorities.

#### Monitoring toxic pollutants

During 2015, DEQ's Statewide Toxics Monitoring Program began the second round of monitoring around the state. The monitoring consisted of three seasons of water samples and one summer sample of sediments in the North Coast, Klamath, Rogue and Umpqua basins. DEQ collaborated with the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians on the monitoring plan for the Umpqua basin. DEQ is working collaboratively with tribal representatives to plan the next round of water quality toxics monitoring which is focused in the Umatilla, Grand Ronde, Powder, Malheur, and Owyhee basins in Eastern Oregon. DEQ continues to communicate the results from the previous sampling efforts with tribal representatives as requested.

#### Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program continues to provide low-cost loans for planning, design and construction of projects that enhance or protect water quality. A federally recognized Indian tribal government is eligible as a public agency to apply to DEQ's loan program. Recent administrative rule changes now allow DEQ's loan program to offer loans to fund both wastewater treatment or nonpoint source projects with up to 30-year loan terms. The program also allows principal forgiveness to qualified borrowers for certain types of projects.

#### Developing and implementing water quality improvement plans

Many tribal nations have worked collaboratively with DEQ over the past year to develop and implement plans to reduce pollution in waters across the state that currently do not meet water quality standards. Progress made on these clean water plans, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs, is summarized below.

Mid-Coast TMDL – The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon are active participants with DEQ and others in development of implementation-ready TMDLs for the Mid-Coast Basin.

Representatives from the tribes are on the advisory committee and are working with DEQ on topics related to sedimentation, drinking water protection and aquatic habitat in the Siletz subbasin. The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians collect monitoring data in the Siuslaw subbasin that helps to understand estuarine processes and protection of beneficial uses and which can be used in TMDL development. Both tribal governments periodically provide water quality technical assistance to local partners, including watershed councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and municipalities. Work on TMDL development will continue into 2016.

Coquille River TMDL – DEQ has worked closely with the Coquille Indian Tribe to develop the Coquille TMDL to address pollution problems with dissolved oxygen, temperature, chlorophyll a, toxic algae, pH and bacteria. The Coquille Indian Tribe has provided valuable technical data for use in the development

of the TMDL and continues to show interest in assuring that urban stormwater management strategies are an integral part of implementation.

**Deschutes River Basin TMDL** – The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, DEQ and EPA are working together under a Memorandum of Understanding on the development and implementation of TMDLs for the Deschutes River Basin. Previous TMDL development efforts were halted in 2012 because of litigation associated with Oregon’s temperature standard. At this point, DEQ is working to develop TMDLs for pH, dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll on the Deschutes River above Lake Billy Chinook and the Little Deschutes River. DEQ has begun the initial stages of monitoring for this effort and continues to consult with a tribal representative as part of this effort. Data collection will continue through 2016.

**Western Hood TMDL** – The Western Hood Subbasin, which includes the Hood River watershed, TMDL for temperature was approved by EPA in 2002. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were active participants in TMDL development and have continued to participate in TMDL implementation. Both DEQ and the tribes are active members of the Hood River Watershed Group and technical stakeholder groups working with several of the irrigation districts to change district operations to improve water quality and fish habitat.

**Middle Columbia-Hood (Miles Creeks) TMDL** – This TMDL for temperature was approved by EPA in 2009. DEQ has been involved with implementation activities since that time. Concerns about decreasing stream flows and the effects on stream temperature and aquatic habitat continue to be an issue in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. There are a number of stakeholder initiatives underway under the guidance of the Fifteenmile Creek watershed council to better understand surface water-groundwater interactions and to protect instream flows. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and DEQ have been involved with a number of these efforts. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are particularly interested in the Fifteenmile Creek watershed because of the presence of lamprey.

**Umatilla Basin River TMDL Monitoring** – Water quality monitoring in the Umatilla Basin continues to be a cooperative effort between DEQ, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation and other basin stakeholders. DEQ, the tribes and the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council are currently collaborating on monitoring protocols for sediment loading and remote sensing, and are working to implement a more efficient way to upload, store and disseminate water quality data. As part of the cooperative monitoring effort, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation maintain temperature, sediment and flow monitoring sites within the Umatilla Basin and provide valuable technical support to the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council for composite sediment sampling.

In addition to these specific examples, many tribal nations work on TMDL implementation projects throughout Oregon such as channel reconstruction, fencing and flow restoration, levee elimination, and riparian planting to improve water quality.

### **Relicensing hydroelectric projects**

Tribal nations and DEQ have worked together on the following hydroelectric relicensing projects over the past year:

**Hells Canyon Hydroelectric Project** - DEQ is currently reviewing a Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification application in association with Idaho Power Company’s application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a new federal license for continued operation of the Hells Canyon Complex Hydroelectric Project. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Burns Paiute Tribe, Shoshone Paiute Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, the Upper Snake River Tribes Federation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

are interested in the relicensing process. DEQ looks forward to continued discussions as the 401 certification process progresses.

**Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project** – DEQ and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation are working with other stakeholders to implement the hydroelectric license for this project on the Deschutes River. Among other items, reintroduction of anadromous fish above the Pelton Round Butte project is required. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have important roles as a regulatory entity, 401 water quality certification authority, Fish Committee member, and co-owner and co-licensee with Portland General Electric for the project. During 2015, DEQ, the tribe and Portland General Electric continued to work together to evaluate the water quality impacts of the new selective withdrawal structure at the Round Butte Dam, and to assess compliance with terms of the 401 certifications. DEQ and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have entered into Interim Implementation Agreements with Portland General Electric every year since 2010. These agreements have allowed Portland General Electric to target compliance with the current state standards for temperature and dissolved oxygen, rather than the standards that were in place when the 401 certifications were issued in 2002.

**Powerdale Hydroelectric Project** – For many years, DEQ, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and others were involved with a plan to decommission the Powerdale Dam on the Hood River, as required by a 2003 settlement agreement. The dam was removed in September 2010, allowing the Hood River to flow free of artificial structures for the first time in 87 years. In 2011, DEQ, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and others participated in a series of meetings to attempt to negotiate the conversion of the Powerdale hydroelectric water right to an instream water right. The stakeholder group was not able to reach consensus. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) issued a proposed final order for the conversion in December, 2011. Protests of the order were received from National Marine Fisheries Service, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, WaterWatch of Oregon, and the Middle Fork Irrigation District. OWRD, DEQ, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have had several meetings to discuss some of the issues raised in the protests. OWRD represents the state in negotiations with the protestors. A first mediation session was held on October 1, 2015, with OWRD, the protestors and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Warm Springs Dam** – In 2014, DEQ met with stakeholders, including representatives of the Burns Paiute Tribe, during an environmental site visit and public scoping meeting regarding a proposed hydroelectric development on the Warm Springs Dam near Juntura, Oregon. DEQ and the tribe share a mutual interest in maintaining adequate water quality and quantity sufficient to support aquatic resources of the Malheur Basin. In April 2015, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application was withdrawn and the project is no longer active. DEQ continues to coordinate with the tribe on other projects related to water quality in the Malheur Basin.

### **Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships**

Since 1999, DEQ has been using a voluntary, collaborative approach called Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships to identify problems and improve water quality associated with pesticide use. The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership approach uses local expertise in combination with water quality sampling and DEQ's toxicology expertise to encourage and support voluntary changes which result in measurable environmental improvements. For more than ten years, The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program was funded primarily by grants and contributions from tribal governments. However, in 2013, the Oregon Legislature adopted a \$1.5 million funding package for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program, with funds split between DEQ and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Funds have also been reserved to support much-needed pesticide waste collection events around the state, and for a small grant program for technical assistance activities. In 2014, DEQ worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and other state agencies to implement the expanded program. Pesticide monitoring was initiated on a pilot

basis in 2014 and continued into spring 2015 in four new watersheds: Middle Deschutes, Middle Rogue, South Coast, and South Umpqua. Based on the results of this monitoring data, the Middle Rogue watershed was selected for implementation of longer-term project in 2016. The other pilot watersheds will be evaluated for possible inclusion in the program in future years. DEQ and the Oregon Department of Agriculture are working closely with numerous partners including the Cow Creek Tribe in the South Umpqua in each of the watersheds.

From July 2014 through May 2015, the Pesticide Stewardship Program funded eight waste pesticide collection events in Milton-Freewater, Hermiston, Ontario, Madras, McMinnville, Medford, Coos Bay and Dallas. The program also partially funded three locally planned pesticide collection events or on-going programs in Tualatin, Hood River and La Grande.

Significant statistics include:

1. Number of participants: 235
2. Total pounds collected: 145,616 (Does not include amount collected in Hood River or La Grande)
3. Total cost: \$233,646 (Average \$29,000 per event. The cost ranged from \$15,840 to \$53,666)

Additionally, over 10,000 pounds of empty, rinsed plastic pesticide containers were collected for recycling at these events. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde co-sponsored the McMinnville event, which generated 39,218 pounds of waste from 54 participants. This represents the largest single-day event of the biennium.

The two existing watershed-based Pesticide Stewardship Partnership projects that include active partnerships with tribes are:

**Hood River Basin Pesticide Stewardship Partnership** – Two initial pilot projects using the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership approach in Hood River and The Dalles have shown major improvements in water quality associated with changes in pesticide management practices. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have been active partners in the Hood River Pesticide Stewardship Partnership since its inception, including being the primary funder of pesticide monitoring work in the watershed since 2006. DEQ and the tribe communicate on a regular basis and DEQ provides annual reports on the pesticide monitoring results. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have provided consistent and generous financial support for Hood River Pesticide Stewardship Partnership monitoring activity conducted by the Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District and DEQ, as well as working closely with Oregon State University Extension and local grower groups to implement best management practices to minimize pesticide water quality impacts. In 2014, DEQ and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs deployed “passive” sampling devices in streams that are a high priority to the tribe, thereby enabling the collection of more consistent data over time that will complement the “grab” samples collected in the watershed. Passive sampling results showed detections of multiple legacy pesticides, as well as common herbicides, personal care products and one insecticide. The grab sample monitoring results from 2014, presented to partners in early 2015, showed that levels of priority pesticides in surface waters remain low, demonstrating the continued success of partnership efforts. Significantly, there were no exceedances of the insecticide chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) throughout the year.

**South Yamhill Basin Pesticide Stewardship Partnership** – In 2010, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Oregon Department of Forestry evaluated opportunities to start the first Pesticide Stewardship Partnership focused on managed forest areas, and to

complement the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership effort in the central part of the Yamhill Sub-Basin. With the help of the tribal staff and the Oregon Department of Forestry, three stream monitoring locations downstream of managed forests in the South Yamhill River watershed were identified. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has been collecting samples at these locations as an in-kind contribution to the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership project for the past four years. The monitoring data generated by DEQ is shared annually with the all of the project partners. No analytes were detected in 2014 samples. This is positive news for all partners in the watershed. However, DEQ continues to work towards more precisely timed and located sample collections to correspond with forest herbicide applications, and more understanding of which pesticides are used, thereby providing more confidence in future monitoring results.

### **Other Water Quality Projects**

- Malheur River Basin bull trout recovery and water quality – In March, 2015, DEQ staff attended the annual bull trout conference sponsored by the Burns Paiute Tribe. A number of state and federal stakeholders attended the meeting and learned about the restoration work being done by all of the partners. DEQ brought a water quality perspective to the discussions.
- Umpqua Basin – The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians cooperate with DEQ and local partners to assess toxics in the South Umpqua through a pilot project of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership as well as through tribal-led efforts. DEQ is exploring additional collaborative monitoring and assessment projects with natural resources staff at the Tribe and Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers. The tribe has also served as a natural resources hub for local and state agencies through periodic meetings and forums.
- Willamette River Report Card – DEQ is working with a multi-agency group to develop ecosystem health indicators, thresholds and a framework for an ecosystem health report card for the Willamette River. The group includes representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde. This work will continue into 2016.
- Umatilla Basin Assessment –To help protect, improve and enhance the quality of Oregon’s waterways, DEQ conducts in-depth assessments of the state’s basins. These assessments take the form of local water quality status and action plans, which describe water quality conditions and include recommendations for actions that DEQ and others who are interested in these basins can take to improve water quality. The Watershed Approach process for the Umatilla Basin was initiated in late 2012 and is progressing toward a finished assessment. The involvement of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other stakeholders is invaluable to this process. Completion is expected in late 2016 or early 2017.
- Umatilla Basin TMDL Technical Team – DEQ participates with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in a technical advisory team for a basin-wide hydrogeology assessment. The assessment is designed to address key questions in water resources management in the basin as well as water quality. This team is currently exploring potential changes to its role in directing the implementation of the TMDL and acting as technical advisor in water quality and quantity projects throughout the basin.
- Milton-Freewater Levee Setback Assessment, Phase 3 – DEQ funded a multi-phase levee setback assessment project through federal Nonpoint Source 319 funds on a seven-mile segment of the Walla Walla River near Milton-Freewater, Oregon. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects were successfully completed from 2010-2013. DEQ funded Phase 3 (2013–2016) of the levee setback

assessment project which has two major components. The first is completion of an Alternatives Analysis, and Conceptual and Preliminary Design focusing on a half-mile reach just upstream of the Milton-Freewater Levee (the Bolen Kelly reach) where project funds will be used to complete a design that will enable implementation to proceed once habitat construction funding and permits have been secured. The second project component is the construction and design oversight for the Zell Diversion Dam removal and channel stability improvements (a fish passage grade control and habitat improvements) located at the upstream end of the Milton-Freewater Levee System. This project component will restore fish passage access to 49 miles of spawning habitat, avoid fish being stranded in irrigation ditches, and improve habitat diversity and water quality for the Walla Walla River. Annual construction of a cobble and gravel push-up dam for the gravity fed Zell irrigation diversion will be replaced with two roughened riffle structures engineered to maintain grade control for the diversion and ensure fish passage, a headgate structure, ditch piping, and a new fish screen. At project completion, ESA listed steelhead and bull trout, reintroduced spring Chinook salmon, and redband trout will be able to migrate to upstream spawning areas. Specific resource benefits for the Phase 3 project includes increased and enhanced fish habitat, particularly for juvenile fish; increased flood refugia for fish; increased flood conveyance in the side channel and in the adjacent floodplain fringes along the side channels; and increased and enhanced salmonid and riparian habitat in the form of vegetated floodplains, in-stream complexity, hyporheic exchange and groundwater recharge. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Transportation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Milton-Freewater Water Control District, local irrigation districts, Umatilla County, Milton-Freewater, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries Division, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bonneville Power Administration, Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce, local landowners, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, DEQ and others. This project has been expanded to include additional stream channel restoration. New landowners have signed up to participate, bringing additional segments of the river channel into the project, nearly doubling the original project size. To accommodate the additional work and landowner participation, and to address in-channel changes from a high flow event, the project deadline has been extended to December 31, 2016.

- Red Boy Mine Assessment and Restoration – DEQ funded an assessment and restoration project through federal Nonpoint Source 319 funds at the Red Boy Mine in the John Day River Basin near Granite, Oregon. The mine was categorized by DEQ as an Orphan project in May 2000. Mine drainage contains high concentrations of arsenic and iron, representing a threat to spring Chinook, summer steelhead and several species of resident fish in Granite and Clear Creeks. Project work analyzed concentrations of toxic metals in stream surface water, sediment, and adjacent waste rock piles and assisted with the design for ultimate remediation of contaminated areas in the watershed. These remedial efforts are a key element of comprehensive habitat improvement for anadromous fisheries in Upper John Day River Watershed. Monitoring of mine drainage and characterization of mine tailings and waste was initiated in November of 2011 and extended through December 2013. The findings of the research are being used to inform additional study needs and remediation pilot projects. Interpretative signs explaining the site history and the restoration activities have been installed at the project site. The new system is oversized and has been installed with multiple cleanout stations providing easy access for landowners to perform cleanouts as necessary. It is working well. The installation of this new system dramatically reduces the chance that untreated water will enter Congo Gulch (a tributary of Clear Creek). Water quality sampling has shown that the chemistry of the Red Boy Mine treatment system is more complicated than previously thought. The results of a bench-scale test designed to better characterize the efficiency of three different alternative treatment methods to increase the pond's pH was inconclusive due to challenges in the base materials used. Additional

research is ongoing. Once an alternative is selected and implemented, it is expected that the metals removal efficiency of the system will be improved. DEQ continues to address this site through the cleanup program and coordinates with the US Forest Service on two nearby sites. A representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation was present at a site visit in October 2015. This project represents a cooperative, collaborative effort between North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Cascade Earth Sciences, landowners, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, US Forest Service and DEQ.

- Onsite septic system improvements – DEQ provided technical assistance to representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding the tribe’s onsite septic system program. In the past, DEQ has assisted the tribe with inspections on deeded lands on the reservation. The tribe now operates their own program. Since over 30 percent of Oregonians rely on septic systems to treat wastewater from their homes and businesses, the correct siting, design, installation and ongoing operation and maintenance of septic systems on tribal lands as well as the rest of the state is important. Without proper oversight, septic systems can fail or malfunction, polluting Oregon’s land and waterways with raw sewage and creating public health hazards.

## 6.2. Improving Air Quality

### **Partnering with tribal nations on air monitoring**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation assist DEQ in the operation of air quality monitoring stations in Pendleton and Hermiston since DEQ no longer has staff available to operate the sites. When requested, DEQ assists the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians with operation and maintenance of a fine particulate air quality monitor in Coos Bay, providing technical assistance and training at the monitoring site. DEQ welcomes the opportunity for greater partnership with tribal nations to establish and operate air quality monitoring stations. DEQ can provide technical assistance, data analysis and data reports to support tribal monitoring projects.

### **Responding to open burning complaints and asbestos issues**

DEQ works closely with tribal nations to respond to complaints about open burning and the safe handling of asbestos, particularly when complaints occur near tribal land. DEQ, tribal governments and tribal police departments work quickly and collaboratively to address complaints when they arise.

### **Partnering with tribal nations on local air quality improvement**

During 2014, DEQ initiated the formation of a local North Harney County Air Quality Task Force. This is a local, voluntary effort aimed at reducing woodstove smoke emissions that cause intermittent violations of the federal air quality standards and to protect against effects of small-particulate emissions on local public health conditions. The local air-shed is composed of the cities of Hines and Burns, the Burns-Paiute Reservation and adjacent and nearby unincorporated areas of Harney County. The Environmental Program Manager for the Burns-Paiute Tribes has consistently participated in the formation and scoping of the task force.

## 6.3. Improving Land Quality

### **Emergency Response Program**

DEQ's Emergency Response Program interacts periodically throughout the year with several federally-recognized tribes in the region and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Activities during 2015 include:

February, 2015: Oregon held a multi-agency tabletop exercise to test plans for response to crude oil spills from railroads. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission participated in this exercise.

April, 2015: DEQ worked with the Washington Department of Ecology to update and develop new oil spill response strategies for the Lower Columbia River (and Willamette River) and Middle Columbia River Geographic Response Plans. As a part of that effort, a public outreach meeting was held in The Dalles to view and discuss response strategies on the Middle Columbia River. In attendance at the meeting were the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

October, 2015: DEQ participated in a week-long fast water boom training and tabletop exercise with both Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Bands of the Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs representatives in attendance.

October, 2015: In our role as a member of the Region 10 Regional Response Team. DEQ was part of a Spill of National Significance spill response exercise. Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Makah Tribe also participated.

November, 2015: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation participated in a roundtable discussion on oil spill preparedness and response to crude oil shipments by railroad.

Throughout the year, DEQ continued efforts to make timely notifications to Tribal Nations regarding spills of petroleum and hazardous materials throughout the state. DEQ has created a mechanism whereby interested tribal contacts may be added to an e-mail list to receive every report generated by the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS), in their area of concern, at the same time reports are e-mailed to DEQ by OERS. DEQ has also developed an “Oregon Tribes by County” fact sheet which has been distributed to cleanup contractors who routinely respond to spills. This document gives users Tribal contact phone numbers in an easy to use, at-a-glance format, by county. Contractors have been advised to contact the Tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer before performing any excavation activities.

In addition to the automatic e-mail notification and outreach to contractors, the DEQ daytime duty officer endeavors to make additional Tribal and State Historic Preservation Office notification by phone or e-mail on incidents where waterways or riverbanks are impacted or where extensive excavation is necessary.

### **Investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites**

DEQ and tribal nations have collaborated on a number of projects over the past year to investigate and clean up contaminated lands across the state. DEQ contacts tribal nations when working on projects in their areas of interest. Some significant projects are described below.

- Portland Harbor Superfund Site – DEQ works closely with six tribal governments on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and the McCormick and Baxter Superfund Site. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, and Nez Perce Tribe are partners in these projects. DEQ, tribal partners, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and National Marine Fisheries Service representatives meet every other week to discuss technical issues on this regionally important cleanup project.
  - Portland Harbor Superfund Site: The Portland Harbor Superfund Site is located in the Lower Willamette River, stretching approximately ten miles from River Mile 2 to River Mile 12. DEQ provides technical support and works to ensure Oregon state rules are applied to the project in support of EPA, as the lead agency working on investigating and cleaning up pollution in the river itself. DEQ leads the work controlling contaminants in upland areas to prevent recontamination of the river following EPA’s in-water cleanup. Prior to making source control decisions, DEQ solicits input from the tribes on proposed source control decisions. Recent significant source control actions include:
    - Removal of contaminated riverbank soil, capping and habitat construction at Evraz Oregon Steel Mill to prevent migration of soil contaminated with metals and PCBs to the Willamette River.
    - DEQ developed a multi-media presentation for widespread public outreach on sufficient source control completion for EPA’s in-water remedy to go forward without threat of recontamination. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are featured in the video presentation, which also includes historical photos, footage at cleanup sites, and information on the status of DEQ’s work at 170 sites and on EPA’s process for implementing the in-water remedy. So far, DEQ has presented the videos and led discussions at 20 venues, including neighborhood associations, universities, and community events. More

presentations are scheduled. The videos are available on DEQ's website for everyone to view and download: [www.deq.state.or.us/portlandharbor/](http://www.deq.state.or.us/portlandharbor/)

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is the state lead agency working with federal agencies and tribal nations on the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Damage Assessment effort, which seeks to restore the natural resources, such as fish populations, wildlife and habitat, which are damaged by contamination. DEQ supports the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in this role.
- Astoria Marine Construction Company–  
During 2015, DEQ continued to coordinate with representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe and Yakama Nation to get their review and input on the remedial investigation and feasibility study work at this cleanup site located along the Lewis and Clark River near Astoria, Oregon. This facility was deferred to DEQ by EPA in 2012 for all cleanup work. DEQ's work with the tribes is guided by government-to-government memorandums of understanding between DEQ and these tribes. The major efforts involved in the project during 2015 included:
  - Review and input for the Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports for the project. The Remedial Investigation report summarized investigation of site soils, groundwater, adjacent surface waters and sediments. The Feasibility Study report presented cleanup alternatives and the AMCCO recommended remedial alternative. DEQ requested and received feedback, questions and recommendations from participating tribes on the results of the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study and forwarded the compiled comments to the participating tribes and other trustees.
  - DEQ held a meeting with tribes and other participating state and federal agencies to summarize and discuss the results of the Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports.
  - DEQ anticipates participating in meetings with the tribes and other federal Natural Resource Trustees to initiate discussions for the Natural Resources Damages Assessment process.

DEQ will continue to consult with tribal governments to ensure that tribal concerns are considered in development of the remedy at the marine facility located on the Lewis and Clark River in Astoria, Oregon.

- Bradford Island – DEQ continued work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate contamination levels at Bradford Island in the Columbia River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to evaluate the effects of contamination on Bradford Island and in the Columbia River near the island. The primary concern is PCBs from electrical components that were dumped into the river decades ago. Cleanup so far has involved efforts in 2000 and again in 2002 to remove electrical components from the river, and dredging of contaminated sediment in 2007. Despite this work, fish tissue sampling indicates that further remediation is needed. A feasibility study is being prepared to determine the best way to proceed.
- Coos Head Air National Guard clean-up site - DEQ continue work with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians on cleanup projects at the Coos Head site,

which was acquired by the Tribes in 2005. The site was formerly owned by the federal government, which is responsible for paying costs associated with cleaning up the site to industrial standards. DEQ oversees the work being done by the Air National Guard, the U.S. Navy, coordinating with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to complete the cleanup work at the site as quickly as possible. Much of the site has already been remediated. A Record of Decision that selects the remedy for the site was signed in September 2012. A building located on a source area for contamination was removed in September 2012. Approximately 3,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil at the site was removed in July and August 2013. DEQ issued a partial No Further Action for soil at the site in December 2013. Groundwater work continues with additional groundwater wells, installed to clean up contaminated groundwater during the same timeframe to be removed once the appropriate cleanup levels are met. Groundwater remediation is expected to conclude in 2016. The Air National Guard is working with the tribes to remove an additional source of petroleum hydrocarbons found in the course of the groundwater remediation effort. That work will be carried out in 2016.

- North Ridge Estates - North Ridge Estates was added to the National Priorities List, known as Superfund, after being nominated by DEQ in September 2011. North Ridge Estates is a residential subdivision located approximately three miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The site is contaminated with asbestos-containing materials resulting from the demolition of approximately eighty 1940s-era military barracks buildings. EPA is the lead agency for the project, but works closely with DEQ. The federal government approved funding to perform remedial actions at the North Ridge Estates Site in March 2014. EPA expects to start on-site work in late summer, 2016. As the project progresses, there will be continued coordination between state and federal agencies, the Klamath Tribes, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

### **Landfills**

The Toledo Mill landfill is a small wood waste landfill that was closed in 2004 without an adequate cover. The landfill is exempted from requirements for environmental monitoring and financial assurance. DEQ asked the permittee to place one-foot of top soil cover on the entire landfill at the time of the closure (2004), the permittee, however, did not fulfill this request. As a consequence, the landfill remains uncapped. Due to the landfill being uncapped and uncontained, there are no structures to divert the surface water away from the landfill area to prevent filtration. During the inspection in 2013, DEQ observed low areas and water drainages specifically at the middle and eastern portion of the landfill. The water drainage is causing water filtration that raises concern of leachate generation. During 2015, DEQ coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to renew the solid waste closure permit. In conjunction with the permit renewal, a plan was developed for the placement of one foot of top soil over the landfill area to establish vegetation, prevent soil erosion, and minimize filtration and leachate generation, for the post-closure maintenance of the landfill. The cover construction is scheduled to be completed before the end of 2015.

### **Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility**

Throughout 2015, DEQ continued to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on DEQ's oversight of the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement between DEQ and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the two parties consult, coordinate and communicate on a government-to-government basis on matters related to state permitting activities that apply to the U.S. Army's closure of hazardous waste permits at the Depot.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Event**

DEQ coordinated with the Burns Paiute Tribe and sponsored a Household Hazardous Waste, Conditionally Exempt Generator and Ag-Pesticide event held in Burns October 3, 2015. The event was intended to provide environmentally safe management of household hazardous wastes and education about safe alternatives to hazardous household products. The Tribe provided outreach to the tribal community about the event.

## 6.4. Other Projects

### **West Coast Ocean Summit**

In January, 2015, DEQ participated in the West Coast Ocean Summit with some of the West Coast Tribes, representatives from the Governors' offices of California, Oregon, and Washington and state and federal agencies to share ocean health priorities and discuss regional ocean coordination and collaboration opportunities. The objectives of the Summit were to develop a shared understanding of common priorities, document issues of mutual importance, create strategies for identifying opportunities for coordination and overcoming challenges, and develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue among federal and state agencies and tribes in the region.

### **Proposed Jordan Cove Liquefied Natural Gas project**

In January 2015 DEQ staff met with natural resources staff of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe in Roseburg. DEQ staff discussed possible DEQ permits and other work plans for the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project. (The proposed Jordan Cove Energy project includes a liquid natural gas terminal, power plant, shipping dock and 231-mile pipe line from Malin to Coos Bay.) DEQ will continue to meet with the Tribe as requested.

In August 2015, DEQ met with natural resource staff of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. DEQ staff discussed possible permits and other work plans for the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project. The discussion focused on air quality permits and source testing, water quality permits, and evaluation of water quality impacts described in removal/fill application. DEQ will continue to meet with the tribes as requested.

In September 2015, DEQ staff participated in federal and state agencies meeting hosted by Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw on cultural resource impacts that could occur during ground disturbing activities. DEQ is committed to coordinating with the tribe prior to permit actions or work plans with ground disturbance activities.

### **Consultation on projects with federal Clean Water State Revolving Loan funding**

DEQ continues to administer federal funds associated with the Clean Water State Revolving Loan capitalization grant and works with city and county applicants to ensure that early consultation with tribal nations occurs on projects with ground-disturbing impacts.

### **Regional Solutions**

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 4015 to codify the regional solutions work around the state. The law outlines the importance of working locally to identify priorities, solve problems, seize opportunities to get projects done, and align resources. State resources have been strategically aligned throughout Oregon to accomplish these goals through Regional Solutions Advisory Committees, Centers and Teams. DEQ is represented on all of the regional solutions teams in the centers throughout the state. Listed below are examples of regional solutions work linked to tribal governments:

- The Executive Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is a standing member of the Greater Eastern Regional Solutions Center Advisory Committee. DEQ

has assisted the Advisory Committee in identifying, evaluating and selecting regional economic development projects that have the greatest potential to create jobs in the region and support positive changes in the regional economy. CTUIR participated in the selection and submittal of regional projects considered and funded by the Legislature for 2015-17 for over \$1.4 million.

- DEQ is a key permitting agency in assisting and evaluating Calico Resources USA Corp in its pursuit of a Consolidated Permit under Oregon's chemical mining statutes in southeast Oregon. This is a multi-year and multi-agency process that intends transparency and streamlining in its approach to permitting with regard to state resources such as water quality, groundwater, wildlife, land use, geology, soils, socioeconomics, recreation and mineral resources. The process is anticipated to continue well into 2017. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation have been contacted and invited to participate at the Project Coordinating Committee or Technical Review Team levels of the project. A Cultural Resources Specialist for the Burns-Paiute Tribes has participated on the Project Coordinating Committee.
- DEQ, for the Greater Eastern and Northeast Regional Solutions Center, has facilitated a formal working partnership between Eastern Oregon University and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. One of the flagship projects of the partnership, Cottonwood Crossing Summer Institute, is focused on Cottonwood Canyon State Park. The Director of the Natural Resources Department for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has participated, delivering information and providing support for a key cultural program connection, *First Foods*. For 2016, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation have also expressed interest in participating.