



# Oregon

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July 7, 2016

TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jim Rue, Director  
Grant Young, Eastern Oregon Regional Representative

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 13, July 21-22, 2016, LCDC Meeting**

## **FIRST FOODS & LIFE CYCLE BRIEFING**

### **I. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

The Land Conversation and Development Commission (commission or LCDC) will receive a briefing by Grant Young, Eastern Oregon Regional Representative for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD or the department) and Eric Quaempts, Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), on First Foods. First Foods is a way of life for the native people of Northeast Oregon/Southeast Washington, and an organizing principle and policy tool for the Tribes. The briefing is intended to acquaint the commission with this principle and the importance it has to the CTUIR. This item is an information briefing and discussion opportunity. No commission action is requested.

For further information, please contact Grant Young, Eastern Oregon Regional Representative, at 541-325-6924 or [grant.s.young@state.or.us](mailto:grant.s.young@state.or.us).

### **II. BACKGROUND ON FIRST FOODS**

The CTUIR Department of Natural Resources has organized natural resource functions and goals through a focus on traditionally gathered resources identified by the Tribal community as First Foods. The cultural recognition of the First Foods order is evident in the ritualistic serving order of native species in a traditional meal. The serving ritual includes ecological grouping of foods (resources) as well as their geographic and temporal distributions. The community places particular importance on the activities and interactions associated with gathering, preparation and serving of these foods. Further, these foods are religiously, physically, economically, culturally and socially important to the community and are largely not recognized outside of Tribal culture. Traditional culture and contemporary science reinforce the First Foods paradigm. Thus explicitly representing the relevance of the First Foods order in planning and management efforts is an important step to ensure that the appropriate ecological products are returned to the Tribal community.

Climate change challenges us to forecast the potential distributions of habitats and species to ensure that they are available to the tribal public. In order to address the management of these foods, the CTUIR is developing several efforts: restoring ceded river tributaries consistent with a coherent future vision; proposing to identify, characterize, and acquire alluvial floodplain segments that demonstrate temperature resilience to climate change; assessing the distribution of plant foods to understand their requirements and inform future climate change assessments, First Foods policy development; and increasing and protecting Tribal member access to First Foods throughout the aboriginal use lands of the CTUIR.

The First Foods Policy Framework reflects the history of the Tribes way of life in locating and utilizing the land's bounty to sustain their people and a current adaptation of Tribal policy in governance to keep that way of life viable. Eric Quaempts will provide additional insights and information at the meeting.