



## TASK FORCE ON OREGON TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS

February 13, 2020

Christina Higby  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Cultural Items Taskforce Report

Dear Christina Higby:

Thank you for submitting Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Cultural Items Report to the Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items in response to Executive Order 17-12 and thank you for your agency's hard work on completing this survey. The response we have received from all of the State agencies is a testament to the strong government-to-government relationship the State of Oregon has with the nine federally recognized Tribes. As part of next steps in this process, the Task Force is issuing an updated definition of "cultural items", which is included as an attachment to this letter and can be found posted on the Cultural Items Taskforce webpage.<sup>1</sup> This definition is intended to further aid the State agencies as they continue to collaborate with the Tribes on this important work. It is important to bear in mind that this definition, subject to change, is intended to be a working definition that is informed by the information we receive from agencies, universities, and institutions throughout this process.

We appreciate the attention to detail you have provided in your Report. The breakdown of agency roles and responsibilities was especially helpful for reviewers in reading the report. We appreciate that you did not specifically call out records, items, and resources as "of interest to tribes" (or not), which allows for reviewers to understand the full scope of the materials ODA manages and allows each tribe to self-identify what materials are of interest. There was a great deal more information in the report than we had expected to receive, which is outstanding. That effort, we hope, will help the Tribes and your agency in many ways even beyond the scope of this Task Force's charge. To that end, we would like to use ODA's report as an example for other agencies and institutions to use in their future work.

As we reviewed ODA's report, we identified a few areas where we would like some clarification or additional information:

1. Retention policies were not included for all sections. What is the retention policy for lab test results? Reports, photos, and maps?
2. Does the agency maintain an index of reports or photos?
3. The report mentions "progress notes" but doesn't reference what/whose progress is being tracked/noted?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/TCITF\\_aboutus.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/TCITF_aboutus.aspx)

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The Task Force appreciates the work your agency has conducted on your initial report. We encourage you to submit additional information that addresses the feedback noted above, by July 31, 2020, if that is feasible for your agency. This update can be emailed to the same contacts to whom the initial reports were submitted in November 2019. Additionally, because this is an ongoing process, we hope to see each agency's Annual Report include an update about Cultural Items going forward.

Sincerely,

*Daniel P. Santos*

Danny Santos  
Taskforce Co-Chair



Brenda Meade  
Taskforce Co-Chair