



## **Oregon Department of Forestry 2018 Tribal-State Agency Government-to-Government Report**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) offers this annual report, with ever-increasing commitment to work with the nine federally recognized tribal nations in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho.

In early 2016, the department's executive team reaffirmed the agency's commitment to government-to-government relations and implemented many related initiatives. The continued effort is reported below. Throughout the year, department representatives attended various tribal events, cluster gatherings, and other meetings. Agency leadership -- from the Board of Forestry and the state forester on down -- have set an ever-higher trajectory of partnership and collaboration for the coming years.

This report outlines specific government-to-government activities the department performs through its divisions, programs, and field operations. While there is always more to accomplish, the department continues offering its respect and friendship to the tribal nations, the first stewards of this land and its resources, and looks forward to strengthening these relationships in 2019.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Daugherty  
State Forester

## Oregon Department of Forestry Executive and Leadership Team Contact Information

### Executive Team

Peter J. Daugherty Oregon State Forester 503-945-7211 <a href="mailto:Peter.Daugherty@Oregon.gov">Peter.Daugherty@Oregon.gov</a>	Travis S. Medema Interim Deputy State Forester Deputy Director of Operations 541-447-5658 <a href="mailto:Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov">Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov</a>	William J. Herber Deputy Director for Administration 503-945-7203 <a href="mailto:Bill.Herber@Oregon.gov">Bill.Herber@Oregon.gov</a>
Lena L. Tucker, Tribal Liaison Private Forests Division Chief 503-945-7482 <a href="mailto:Lena.Tucker@Oregon.gov">Lena.Tucker@Oregon.gov</a>	Douglas C. Grafe Fire Protection Division Chief 503-945-7204 <a href="mailto:Doug.Grafe@Oregon.gov">Doug.Grafe@Oregon.gov</a>	Liz F. Dent State Forests Division Chief 503-945-7351 <a href="mailto:Liz.F.Dent@Oregon.gov">Liz.F.Dent@Oregon.gov</a>

### Divisions and Programs

Brian Pew State Forests Deputy Division Chief 503-945-7213 <a href="mailto:Brian.Pew@Oregon.gov">Brian.Pew@Oregon.gov</a>	Kyle Abraham Private Forests Deputy Division Chief 503-945-7372 <a href="mailto:Kyle.Abraham@Oregon.gov">Kyle.Abraham@Oregon.gov</a>	Ron Graham Fire Protection Deputy Division Chief 503-945-7271 <a href="mailto:Ron.Graham@Oregon.gov">Ron.Graham@Oregon.gov</a>
Kristin Ramstad Urban and Community Forests Program Manager 503-945-7391 <a href="mailto:Kristin.Ramstad@oregon.gov">Kristin.Ramstad@oregon.gov</a>	Chad Davis Partnership and Planning Program Manager/Legislative Coordinator 503-602-2130 <a href="mailto:Chad.Davis@Oregon.gov">Chad.Davis@Oregon.gov</a>	Ryan Gordon Interim Public Affairs Program Director 503-945-7393 <a href="mailto:Ryan.P.Gordon@Oregon.gov">Ryan.P.Gordon@Oregon.gov</a>

### Field Offices

#### Eastern Oregon Area

Michael Shaw, Interim Director

541-447-5658 x225 [Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov)

Central Oregon District Rob Pentzer, Interim District Forester 541-447-5658 <a href="mailto:Michael.H.Shaw@Oregon.gov">Michael.H.Shaw@Oregon.gov</a>	Klamath-Lake District Dennis Lee, District Forester 541-883-5687 <a href="mailto:Dennis.Lee@Oregon.gov">Dennis.Lee@Oregon.gov</a>	Northeast Oregon District Joe Hessel, District Forester 541-963-3168 <a href="mailto:Joe.Hessel@Oregon.gov">Joe.Hessel@Oregon.gov</a>
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#### Northwest Oregon Area

Andy White, Director

503-359-7496 [Andy.White@Oregon.gov](mailto:Andy.White@Oregon.gov)

Astoria District Dan B. Goody, District Forester; 503-325-5451 <a href="mailto:Dan.B.Goody@Oregon.gov">Dan.B.Goody@Oregon.gov</a>	Forest Grove District Mike J. Cafferata, District Forester 503-359-7430 <a href="mailto:Mike.J.Cafferata@Oregon.gov">Mike.J.Cafferata@Oregon.gov</a>	North Cascade District Steve V. Wilson, District Forester 503-859-4341 <a href="mailto:Steve.V.Wilson@Oregon.gov">Steve.V.Wilson@Oregon.gov</a>
Tillamook Forest Center Fran McReynolds, Director 503-815-6817 <a href="mailto:Fran.A.McReynolds@Oregon.gov">Fran.A.McReynolds@Oregon.gov</a>	Tillamook District Kate J. Skinner, District Forester 503-815-7001 <a href="mailto:Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov">Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov</a>	West Oregon District Mike Totey, District Forester 541-929-3266 <a href="mailto:Mike.A.Totey@Oregon.gov">Mike.A.Totey@Oregon.gov</a>

#### Southern Oregon Area

Dave Lorenz, Director

541-440-3412 x120 [Dave.C.Lorenz@Oregon.gov](mailto:Dave.C.Lorenz@Oregon.gov)

South Cascade District Chris Cline, District Forester 541-726-3588 <a href="mailto:Christopher.L.Cline@Oregon.gov">Christopher.L.Cline@Oregon.gov</a>	Southwest Oregon District Dave Larson, District Forester 541-664-3328 <a href="mailto:Dave.Larson@Oregon.gov">Dave.Larson@Oregon.gov</a>	Western Lane District Grant "Link" Smith, District Forester 541-935-2283 <a href="mailto:Grant.S.Smith@Oregon.gov">Grant.S.Smith@Oregon.gov</a>
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### Forest Protective Associations

Coos Forest Protective Association Mike Robison, District Manager 541-267-3161 <a href="mailto:Mike.E.Robison@Oregon.gov">Mike.E.Robison@Oregon.gov</a>	Douglas Forest Protective Association Pat Skripp, District Manager 541-440-3412 <a href="mailto:Pat.Skrip@Oregon.gov">Pat.Skrip@Oregon.gov</a>	Walker Forest Protection Association R.D. Buell, District Manager 541-433-2451 <a href="mailto:RD.Buell@Oregon.gov">RD.Buell@Oregon.gov</a>
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# Oregon Department of Forestry

## **2018 Government-to-Government Report**

### **On Tribal Relations**

October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

#### **INTRODUCTION**

During 2018, the [Oregon Department of Forestry](#) (ODF) continued communicating, coordinating, and working with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho. The ODF policies, agreements, training, outreach materials, and intergovernmental dialogues reflect its commitment to increase employee knowledge, skills, and abilities for developing and strengthening tribal relations. This report provides an overview of agency-wide activities, using division, program, tribal, and field office summaries.

#### **Agency Executive Contacts**

*Peter J. Daugherty, State Forester, 503-945-7211, [Peter.Daugherty@Oregon.gov](mailto:Peter.Daugherty@Oregon.gov)*

*Travis S. Medema, Interim Deputy State Forester, 503-945-7205, [Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.S.Medema@Oregon.gov)*

*William J. Herber, Deputy Director for Administration, 503-945-7203, [Bill.Herber@Oregon.gov](mailto:Bill.Herber@Oregon.gov)*

#### **Agency's Designated Representative**

Lena Tucker, incoming Deputy Director for Operations, is ODF's liaison to tribal nations. Former Deputy State Forester Nancy Hirsch served in this role until she retired in early September. Tucker is assisted primarily by Southern Oregon Area Director Dave Lorenz and Private Forests Division Field Coordinator Keith Baldwin.

#### **Oregon Board of Forestry**

The seven-member citizen Oregon Board of Forestry is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate to: 1) supervise all matters of forest policy within Oregon; 2) appoint the State Forester; 3) adopt rules regulating forest practices; and, 4) provide general supervision of the State Forester's duties in managing the Oregon Department of Forestry. The board's mission is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of Oregon's 28 million acres of public and private forests. More information about the board can be found at: [www.oregonforestry.gov](http://www.oregonforestry.gov).

#### **AGENCY-WIDE ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ALL TRIBES**

##### **Strengthening ODF's Government-to-Government Actions**

In 2018, ODF's executive team continued its commitment to continually improving tribal government-to-government relationships by receiving and providing training throughout ODF. As evidenced in this report, executive team members, headquarters and field staff continued and opened new dialogue with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho.

The executive team is nearing approval of an updated agency-wide policy regarding tribal government-to-government relationships. The policy reflects conversations with representatives of the tribes and what's important to them, agency needs and best practices, and the collaborative effort to responsibly manage forests while protecting cultural and historical resources. The policy is also supported by

procedures that include awareness and protection of cultural resources and human remains inadvertently discovered during emergency and non-emergency forestry operations.

Throughout 2018, ODF has been implementing the recommendations to increase awareness and training in government-to-government relationships through its leadership team, which received training at its meetings throughout 2018, including a special presentation in September.

#### **Specific Government-to-Government Activities**

***State Forester's first annual letter to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.*** State Forester Daugherty reached out to the tribes' chairpersons and staff to discuss several ODF rulemakings and policies scheduled for 2018 Board of Forestry meetings. Some topics were new, and others were continuing discussions. The department summarized the initiatives and encouraged discussion. Executive team members reached out to tribal contacts about the topics within their area of responsibility to foster healthy engagement.

***Leadership continuing education.*** Deputy State Forester Nancy Hirsch attended and completed Portland State University's – Center for Public Service, Institute for Tribal Government – Professional Certificate in Tribal Relations course. Hirsch benefited greatly through the opportunities to visit personally with tribal members of multiple tribes in Oregon and their cultural centers. She prepared and delivered as her capstone project, a presentation to ODF's leadership team entitled – "Institutionalizing government-to-government processes to build, maintain, and strengthen partnerships with Tribes." The presentations focused on: Listening and learning, relationships and partnerships, doing what you said you would do, and continuous learning. The department has two employees enrolled in the same program for 2018-2019.

***Involvement with State-Tribal Cultural Resources Cluster.*** Agency employees attended and presented information to the cluster at its meetings on January 9-10, April 17-18, and July 24-25. The meetings were held in Grand Ronde, Eugene, and Pendleton, respectively. In January, Jennifer Weikel presented information about marbled murrelets; and Christine Buhl discussed bees and their forest habitat. In April, Keith Baldwin presented information about the wildlife food plots on forested lands.

***Involvement with State-Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup.*** Dave Lorenz (co-chair), Terry Frueh, and Jeri Chase participated in and staffed the workgroup's January, May, and October meetings. The workgroup held its meetings in Salem. During the May meeting, Keith Baldwin presented information about the wildlife food plots on forested lands.

***Interagency meeting with State Historic Preservation Office.*** On May 22, Nancy Hirsch, Keith Baldwin, Lena Tucker, Josh Barnard, and Kyle Abraham attended this annual meeting.

***Legislative Commission on Indian Services Fall Gathering and Annual Training.*** In November 2017, Nancy Hirsch, Keith Baldwin, Carlos Rodriguez and Ron Zilli participated in this annual training at the Chinook Wind Conference Center.

***Legislative Commission on Indian Services Government-to-Government Annual Summit.*** In November 2018, Keith Baldwin and Carlos Rodriguez traveled to the Chinook Winds Conference Center and participated in this summit.

***Legislative Commission on Indian Services State Capitol Tribal Governments Day and Brown Bag Lunch with LCIS Tribal Leadership.*** On February 22, Travis Medema, Dave Lorenz, Keith Baldwin, Ron Zilli and Andy White participated in these events.

**Legislative Commission on Indian Services Spring Discussion.** On May 15, Ron Zilli and Tim Holschbach participated in the discussion covering “Cultural Items, Resources & Places: What they are and Why They are Important to Tribes.”

**Tribal Education Cluster State Meeting.** On March 2, Fran McReynolds participated in the all-day State-Tribal Education Cluster state meeting in Corvallis. Members of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon were present.

**2018 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s Archaeology Awareness Training.** In mid-October, 12 ODF employees (11 stewardship foresters from the Private Forests Division) participated in this course.

**Governor’s Task Force on Tribal Cultural Items.** On August 23, State Forester Daugherty and Keith Baldwin participated in this task force meeting in Lincoln City.

**New Employee Orientation.** On February 28, Keith Baldwin presented information to 40 new employees about tribal government-to-government relations and cultural resource protection.

**Oregon Geographic Names Board.** State Forests Division Chief Liz Dent serves as ODF’s representative to the Oregon Geographic Names Board. Last year, the board took no action on state forest land names.

**Leadership Team Training.** On September 19, Deputy State Forester Nancy Hirsch presented information to the agency’s leadership team about effective government-to-government relationships. The topics included: Native American Rights Fund, tribal government websites, Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes, Legislative Commission on Indian Services, the Cultural Center and Cultural Institute, ODF resources, and the draft of the revised ODF policy on government-to-government relations. The draft policy is already being implemented.

**Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan and Survey.** The department asked the tribes’ chairpersons for input while developing the plan. There is an annual cooperative emerald ash borer survey. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service supply the trapping components. In 2018, the cooperative survey did not find any emerald ash borers. Again, the survey is planned for 2019 and tribal nations are welcome to participate.

## **DIVISION AND PROGRAM SUMMARIES RELATING TO ALL TRIBES**

### **Private Forests Division**

*The Private Forests Division is responsible for enforcement of the Forest Practices Act and other federal and state rules and laws on about 10.7 million acres of private forest lands. The division also provides landowner assistance to small forest landowners to achieve their management goals.*

**Schroeder Seed Orchard Acorns.** The department manages the Schroeder Seed Orchard. In September one of the orchard’s oak trees fell. Mike Kroon invited the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes to harvest the tree’s acorns. The Tribes of Siletz accepted the offer.

**Coordination.** The division provided the Cultural Resource Cluster a dynamic internet link to ODF’s E-Notification system, which allows tribes to review information in their ArcMap project or web service. The information available through the link updates nightly. The Oregon Department of Transportation and Bonneville Power Administration also use this link for current forest operation information that may impact state highways and powerlines. This service provides information about fire protection and

forest management on state forests. Steve Timbrook is ODF's contact for the link:  
<https://gis.odf.oregon.gov/ags1/rest/services/WebMercator/FernsNoap/MapServer>.

**Policy on Government-to-Government Relations training.** On December 20, 2017, Private Forests Division received training on the agency's policy on government-to-government relations and cultural resource protection.

**Monitoring Question Scoping for the Siskiyou and Eastern Oregon Geographic Regions.** In March 2018, the Oregon Board of Forestry directed the ODF Forest Practices Monitoring Unit to conduct streamside protection review projects, one in the Siskiyou and one in the rest of western Oregon. For these projects, ODF has reached out to a range of potentially affected or interested groups and nations, including the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Each tribe received a letter informing them of the Board of Forestry's direction for us to work on these projects. The offer was also extended for ODF staff to personally visit tribal offices to further explain the projects' goals. Each of these projects were summarized for tribes at the two State-Tribal Clusters (Natural Resources and Cultural Resources). Each of the projects have multiple steps for input and conversation with tribes, and ODF has sought tribal input on the first steps of each project. Two Tribes (Coquille Indian Tribe and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians) provided input on the first step of the western Oregon project, and we are waiting to hear if we receive input from tribes on the first step of the Siskiyou project. ODF will continue outreach and engagement with the tribes as these projects progress.

**Forest Health Program.** The natural resource lead staff contact for the nine federally recognized tribes continue receiving the *Forest Health Highlights* publication. The *Highlights* is an annual summary of overall forest health conditions. Every year, ODF cooperates with the USDA Forest Service to map forest insect and disease damage on over 30 million acres of forest – nearly every forested acre in Oregon.

**Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Survey.** In December 2018, ODF continued inviting the tribes to participate in developing the Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan. This plan will serve as a guide for the state of Oregon to actively prevent the introduction of emerald ash borer and to control and manage any populations that could arrive in the future. Employees from the Forest Health Unit presented a summary of this effort to the State and Tribal Government Natural Resources Workgroup and followed up with several emails and phone calls.

**Oregon Bee Project.** The Oregon Departments of Forestry and Agriculture, and Oregon State University lead this collaborative effort to enhance bee health and habitat. This work started in 2016 following federal initiatives and Oregon House Bills (3361 and 3362). The goals of this program are to:

- 1) Improve public understanding of bees
- 2) Train pesticide applicators on best management practices for pollinators
- 3) Showcase landowners with pollinator habitat
- 4) Collect baseline bee population data
- 5) Work with researchers to develop strategies that address bee health and habitat concerns.

In 2018, the project team members presented our draft strategic plan to the State-Tribal Cultural Resource Cluster for input. The project team has also asked for time with the Natural Resources Workgroup and invited members to join the advisory board.

### **State Forests Division**

*ODF manages about 730,000 acres of state forest land for environmental, economic, and social benefits.*

**Cultural Resources Interagency Agreement.** The State Forests Division has an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to have professional archaeologists review proposed timber sales and forest projects for cultural resources. Through this agreement, the Oregon Department of Transportation archaeologist accesses the cultural resource database maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office, which assists the division with efforts to ensure cultural resources are protected or avoided when planning forest management activities.

**Annual Operations Plans.** The division shared the State Forests 2019 Annual Operations Plans, including digital maps, with all federally recognized tribes in Oregon for awareness, feedback and comment.

### **Fire Protection Division**

*ODF protects 16 million acres of private and public forestlands, including the Bureau of Land Management forestlands west of the Cascades, from wildfire. ODF coordinates these efforts with tribes primarily at the local level throughout the year. A large fire is generally considered an incident beyond extended attack. The district forester or incident commander coordinates with the tribes when these types of fires threatens tribal owned lands.*

See agency-wide accomplishments and tribal summaries for more information.

### **Urban & Community Forestry Program**

*ODF's urban forestry program helps communities enhance urban health and livability. The program relies upon strong partnerships and cooperative relationships with other organizations and agencies (such as Oregon Community Trees and the U.S. Forest Service).*

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural Resources Manager Michael Wilson serves on the Oregon Community Tree Board of Directors, which is the statewide urban forestry advisory committee.

### **Partnership and Planning Program**

*This program provides information, research, analysis and planning to assist the Board of Forestry and the department, and identifies funding opportunities, coordinating grants and incentives for forest landowners. The program supports federal forest restoration activities, contributes to Oregon's rural economies through local collaborative efforts and implementing the federal Good Neighbor Authority.*

**Oregon Annual Timber Harvest Report.** ODF's principal economist contacts all tribes in Oregon asking for information for the state's annual Timber Harvest Report. Timber harvest reporting data is available electronically for the years 1962 through 2016, broken out by county and general land ownership categories (including the compilation category of "Native Americans"), on the State of Oregon's data.Oregon.gov website at <https://data.oregon.gov/Natural-Resources/Timber-Harvest-Data-1942-2015/v7yh-3r7a/data>. This site has a PDF file of the past 25 years of timber harvest history, and separate PDF files of volume east and west of the Cascades.

**Good Neighbor Authority.** The agency has significantly increased its role to implement projects through the Good Neighbor Authority. In 2014, Congress authorized this authority to allow the USDA Forest Service to sign over projects to states for implementation. ODF is conducting noncommercial thinning, prescribed burning, and administering timber sales. The 2018 Farm Bill would extend this authority to include tribes and allow a direct partnership between the Forest Service and tribal governments. ODF is engaged in projects on nine of the eleven National Forests statewide, including a current timber sale on the Fremont-Winema. Other projects are in the planning stage across the state, including a project to implement a vegetation management project on the east side of the Mt. Hood to increase huckleberry

production. ODF is interested in having conversations with interested tribes regarding restoration needs on federal lands as we increase our focus on this work.

**Projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface.** The Western States Fire Managers and Community Assistance grant programs seek to improve prevention and education efforts in the wildland-urban interface, supports hazardous fuels reduction projects, and assists in planning efforts to reduce the threat of wildfire to communities. ODF field staff work throughout the state to administer projects, working in communities that often have strong ties to tribal nations in Oregon. Two projects that highlight the connection to tribal nations are a recently attained Western States Fire Managers project focused on the community of Chiloquin and a Community Assistance project focused on the community of Grand Ronde. Tribal involvement is encouraged as both efforts take community participation to successfully make the forest, homes, and community less vulnerable to fire. Funds are still available in both projects and interested parties are encouraged to contact the local ODF office for more information. (Chiloquin project contact Klamath Falls ODF office and Grand Ronde project contact Dallas ODF office). Another example, the Strawberry Front project is a 13-acre hazardous fuels reduction project for the Burns Paiute Tribe in Logan Valley, southeast of John Day in a mixed conifer forest. The Tribe was reimbursed for costs associated with a hand crew that pruned, thinned and removed hazardous fuels on the property. In this instance ODF's role mainly involved a financial incentive, but in many cases, there are various ways ODF staff can work with tribes or their members to mitigate the risks of fire to property and homes. ODF staff strive to cater fuels reduction prescriptions to landowner objectives.

### **TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER**

*The [Tillamook Forest Center](#) showcases the legacy of the historic Tillamook Burn and the public spirit behind a monumental and historic reforestation effort that has shaped sustainable forest management.*

**Continued Collaboration.** *The Tillamook Forest Center continues to collaborate with the Tribes of Siletz and Tribes of Grand Ronde about displaying their cultural items.*

**Tillamook State Forest Past and Present Education Program.** The program incorporated new language in its materials to better reflect appropriate language and references about Oregon Tribes.

### **SERVICE DELIVERY TO / INTERACTIONS WITH TRIBES**

Services and interactions with the nine federally recognized tribal nations in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho are described below. ODF delivers services and strengthens relationships both at headquarters and through the field offices across the state. These services include preventing and suppressing fires; assisting private forestland owners; administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act on private forestlands to help protect the environment; and state forest management. As ODF provides these services, it works with tribal governments to address key issues, communicate, and collaborate with other agencies and the tribes.

### **BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE**

The Rangeland Protection Association program is committed to provide basic fire training to the Tribe.



Coordination opportunities are presented by Central Oregon District staff with the Burns-Paiute Tribe at local county Soil and Water Conservation District meetings.

### **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW**

**Coordination regarding potential impact to tribal burial site and forestry operations.** On February 26, ODF contacted the Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and Legislative Commission on Indian Services to provide notice of a forestry operation in the vicinity of a known burial site, so the tribes could work with the landowner and operator. The group discussed broadly their upcoming management and fire protection needs on the two tracts of land (14,742 acres) they are receiving from BLM in the Western Lane District.

**Fire Protection on Tribal Forestlands.** The Coos Forest Protective Association provides fire protection on 19 acres of lands in Coos County that are owned by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

**State Forests Management.** The ODF Western Lane District provided its draft Annual Operations Plan for management of the district's state forest lands to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, for feedback and comment.

### **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE**

**Water Quality.** The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde participated on the Oregon Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (ODF is a member), which evaluated the South Yamhill Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Area.

**Emerald Ash Borer Survey.** The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde participated in the 2018 cooperative emerald ash borer survey. Trapping components were supplied by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. No emerald ash borers were found in the 2018 cooperative survey. Again, the survey is planned for 2019 and tribal nations are welcome to participate in this ongoing effort.

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde forest acquisition and harvesting.** The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde recently acquired about 800 acres from Tillamook County. In late 2017, a Grand Ronde forester contacted the Tillamook district to discuss forest operations on this property. They covered these topics: forest road improvements and reconstruction; best practices and the Forest Practices Act; protected resources – streams and a great blue heron rookery; and a written plan for protecting natural resources. In 2018, the tribes harvested some timber and worked closely with the district to continue improving its management practices to protect natural resources. The Tribe notified the district of harvest plans for 2019.

**Fire Protection Agreements and Activity.** The West Oregon District has fee-based fire protection agreements with both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Staff from the Tribes regularly attend and participate in meetings of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association. It is common to have joint fire suppression action from the Tribal and ODF on fires of mutual concern.

Slash disposal and restoration burning are frequent activities requiring communication and coordination. Larger planning efforts, including fire mobilization plans from each organization, are shared and reviewed between the organizations.

**Mid-Willamette Interagency Fire School.** In 2018, the Sweet Home Unit again hosted the Mid-Willamette Interagency Fire School to prepare for the upcoming fire season. This fire school is a cooperative event between the ODF, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The school hosts about 200 students and instructors annually and teaches entry-level to advanced courses. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde participate in planning the school, supply overhead to teach classes and assist with field operations, and send students to the school during years when the classes being taught meet the needs of their training program.

**State Forests Advisory Committee.** Mike Kennedy, a representative from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde serves on the ODF State Forests Advisory Committee. The committee represents diverse interests and provides input to the department and the Board of Forestry on state-managed forestlands in ODF's Northwest Oregon Area and the Southern Oregon Area's Western Lane District. Committee membership also includes representatives of environmental, recreational, and timber industry groups, as well as non-affiliated individuals. In addition, Oregon counties receiving revenue from timber sales are represented.

**State Forests Management.** The ODF Western Lane District provided its draft Annual Operations Plan for management of the district's state forest lands to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, for feedback and comment.

**Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency.** A Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde representative, Michael Langley, serves as a board member of the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency.

**Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust.** Tribal Council member Jack Giffen serves on the Board of Trustees for the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust.

**Grand Ronde Annual Cultural Summit.** In November 2017, Fran McReynolds attended the annual Tribes of Grand Ronde Cultural Summit.

### **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS**

**Coordination regarding potential impact to tribal burial site and forestry operations.** On February 26, ODF responded to concerns from the Coquille Indian Tribe about a forestry operation impacting a known burial site, which was not recorded in the database of State Historic Preservation Office. ODF communicated with the forest operator about laws requiring site protection and the location of the operational activities. The operation was not active in the vicinity of the site and had not impacted the site. ODF provided operational information to the Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

**Fire Protection Agreements and Activity.** The West Oregon District has fee-based fire protection agreements with both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Staff from the tribes regularly attend and participate in meetings of the West Oregon Forest

Protective Association. It is common to have joint fire suppression action from tribal and ODF organizations on fires of mutual concern.

Slash disposal and restoration burning are frequent activities requiring communication and coordination. Larger planning efforts, including fire mobilization plans from each organization, are shared and reviewed between the organizations.

The Coos Forest Protective Association also provides fire protection on 6,512 acres of land in Douglas County owned by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The Tribe is an active member of the protection association.

**State Forests Management.** State Forests Program staff from the West Oregon District contact Tribal forestry staff to discuss routine road maintenance issues on shared roads and any timber harvesting activities on state forest lands that are immediately adjacent to Tribal owned lands. The State Forests' staff regularly seeks input on planned timber sales (Annual Operations Plans) from Tribal forestry staff.

The ODF Western Lane District provided its draft Annual Operations Plan for management of the district's state forest lands to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, for feedback and comment.

### **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIANS**

**Water quality.** The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, and the Northeast Oregon district continue to be involved in water quality planning processes in the Upper Grande Ronde, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Rivers, as well as the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River basins in Wallowa County. Tribal interests in northeastern Oregon are well represented in all facets of salmon recovery and water quality issues.

The Umatilla Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe continue a strong wildland firefighting relationship with the district through long-standing contracts that designate ODF as its primary protection agency.

**La Grande Unit.** Stewardship foresters have used their working relationships with local private landowners to introduce them to tribal biologists about potential stream restoration projects. These foresters occasionally work with the tribe in large wood, tree, and log acquisition for restoring streams.

Stewardship foresters and tribal biologists serve together on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Upper Grande Ronde Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This workgroup's goal is to provide a coordinated and integrated approach to forest health and natural resources restoration in target areas within the basin. The tribe, ODF, and other agencies secured multi-agency Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding. The funding is for a multi-faceted watershed level treatment on private lands to help protect and enhance habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

**Pendleton Unit.** The Umatilla Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has a fee-based fire protection agreement with ODF that has been in place since 1961. Under the agreement, which complies with the Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement, ODF's Northeast Oregon District provides fire protection for about 55,000 acres of Indian trust land. Through a contract the district also provides wildland fire protection on the tribe's roughly 21,600 acres of fee lands.

For seven years the BIA has been using Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center as its primary fire-response dispatch center, so coordination between BIA and ODF continues improving. ODF allows BIA use of ODF radio frequencies to dispatch crews, provide fire updates, and order shared resources, such as retardant aircraft and crews. BIA provides a back-up frequency for both entities.

The Tribe, BIA, and ODF have mutual aid fire protection agreements that enable these entities to assist each other with available firefighting resources as needed and available. The tribal fire department primarily provides structural protection, while BIA and ODF provide wildland fire protection. Throughout fire season, the entities' firefighters and fire managers communicate regularly. Close cooperation among the agencies continues to provide an effective fire protection system for residents in the Umatilla Reservation boundaries.

In June 2018, ODF and the BIA jointly funded Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist firefighter position. The person will provide wildland fire suppression duties, fuels management, and develop prescribed fire plans for BIA and Tribal owned lands.

Early in the 2018 fire season, a coordination meeting was held for the Tribe's emergency management office and fire department, BIA, and ODF had a meeting to coordinate fire response. ODF hosted multiple helicopter and single engine air tanker trainings that included BIA and tribal firefighters. This training allowed the agencies' firefighters to talk to pilots and direct them for practicing bucket work and water drops. ODF provided engines and overhead for two BIA prescribed fires.

During the 2018 fire season, ODF included three fires in its statistics for protection within the tribe's boundaries. Two fires were human caused and one by lightning. The human-caused Milepost 220 fire was one-tenth of an acre. The Calamity Fire started from a lightning on August 20 in the McKay Creek drainage. ODF and tribal fire resources responded to the fire. The fire burned 79 acres, 22.5 acres were BIA Trust lands. The estimated cost of fighting this fire is \$32,923. The human-caused Cabbage fire started on September 20, just north of Interstate 84 in the cabbage hill area. Multiple agencies and aerial resources responded to this wind-driven fire including two single engine air tankers, two helicopters, three dozers and firefighters from ODF, BIA and CTUIR and various other fire agencies. Multiple structures were threatened during this incident, but no structures were lost. The fire burned 129 acres, 81.1 were BIA trust lands. The estimated cost of this fire is \$269,326.

Additionally, ODF Pendleton fire resources provided mutual aid to four fires on lands protected by the BIA. The Kash Fire burned 0.6 acres, the Construction Fire burned 6.3 acres, the Spring Hollow Fire burned 3.0 acres, and the Tubbs Ranch Road Fire burned 55 acres. BIA provided mutual aid to ODF for the Linton Mountain, Little Rail, Eli Creek, and Wilkins Fires.

The district's Pendleton unit administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act on private lands within the Tribe's reservation boundary. Before starting work on private forest lands the landowner or operator must submit a Notification of Operation and Permits to Operate Power-driven Machinery. The Tribe subscribes to ODF's E-Notification system, which allows access to notifications.

The ODF stewardship foresters coordinated with tribal forestry staff and private landowners about tribal permit requirements for forest activities and attended several of the tribe's natural resources public hearings. One 80-acre timber harvest was within the tribe's reservation boundary. The ODF forester and the NRCS forester are working with the tribe on an NRCS project that includes 43 acres of Tribal owned lands.

Both the Tribe and ODF are active members of the Umatilla National Forest Collaborative Group and attend monthly meetings. Both entities are represented on the local NRCS working group and attended the yearly meeting to discuss large-scale forest restoration and fuels treatment projects in Umatilla County that all landowners could collaborate on. The tribe's staff forester was also involved with the hiring of the new ODF field forester.

### **CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS**

ODF's interactions with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs at the local level take place primarily with the Central Oregon District, and are usually related to fire protection and ODF's Private Forests Program that administers Oregon's Forest Practices Act. The district continues building on the positive working relationship with the tribe.

**Fire Protection.** The Central Oregon District staff and tribal representatives participate in monthly interagency fire meetings. These meetings also include cooperators such as the Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, and the Central Oregon Fire Operations Group. The district staff and tribal members also participate in training activities in Jefferson County. These types of activities build collaborative working relationships between the district, tribe, and cooperating fire protection agencies.

District staff in Prineville and The Dalles continue to coordinate with the tribe in supporting fire prevention projects through the central Oregon and mid-Columbia fire prevention cooperatives.

There is ongoing communication and coordination with the tribe during fire season with both the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center and the dispatch center in The Dalles, and in 2018 a strong mutual aid partnership continued assisting partners with initial and extended attack fire responses. District staff and tribal members sit on the Central Oregon Dispatch Steering Committee, which was revitalized in 2018. Discussions continue about incorporating the tribe into the new Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center. In 2018 the interagency dispatch center continued dispatching aviation resources for the BIA for lands within the tribe's boundaries.

ODF attended an interagency pre-season meeting with Tribal representatives, and state and federal partners, to discuss and plan for the 2018 Fire Season. There was outreach to the tribe during the South Valley Road Fire. During this fire, Tribal representatives attended the fire managers' in-brief meeting, participated in crafting a Delegation of Authority (which was not needed because no Tribal owned lands were affected), and received regular updates. ODF coordinated with the Tribe's fire management officer regarding potentially affected lands during the Substation Fire.

### **COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE**

**Coordination regarding potential impact to a tribal burial site and forestry operations.** On February 26, ODF contacted the Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and Legislative Commission on Indian Services to notify them of a forestry operation near a known burial site, so the tribes could work with the landowner and operator.

**Siskiyou and Eastern Oregon Area Streamside Protection Rule Review Project.** Coquille Indian Tribe and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians provided input on the streamside protection review project in western Oregon, which excluded the Siskiyou Region.

**Smoke Management Review Committee.** Colin Beck, Coquille Indian Tribe, serves as a tribal representative on ODF's Smoke Management Review Committee, which is reviewing the state's Smoke Management Plan and recommending improvements to ODF and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for using controlled burns to improve forest health and protect nearby residents from wildfire, while minimizing impacts on communities to protect public health.

**Fire Protection.** The Coos Forest Protective Association, through agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a local operating agreement, maintains a positive and productive relationship with the Coquille Indian Tribe. The district also participates in the Coquille Indian Tribe's youth Field Day, which covers tree planting activities, wildlife habitat and fire prevention.

The Coos Forest Protective Association provides fire protection on 6,555 acres of Coquille Indian Tribe lands that are held in trust throughout Coos and Curry counties, 6,512 acres of land in Douglas County owned by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and 19 acres of lands in Coos County that are owned by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are active members of the protection association.

### **COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS**

**Water Quality.** The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians are planning to participate in a water quality management team that ODF also participates in for evaluating pesticide use in part of a watershed in southern Oregon.

**Siskiyou and Eastern Oregon Area Streamside Protection Rule Review Project.** Coquille Indian Tribe and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians provided input on the streamside protection review project in western Oregon, which excluded the Siskiyou Region.

**Fire season communications.** Throughout 2018 Fire Season, Dave Lorenz regularly engaged the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe and met with its representatives to discuss the tribe's concerns.

**Fire Protection – Douglas Forest Protective Association.** The Douglas Forest Protective Association continues to have a very close and positive working relationship with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. The association, through agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, provides fire protection on 21,579 acres of Tribal owned lands that are held in trust located throughout Douglas County, this includes 17,906.10 acres that were conveyed to the Tribe thru the Canyon Mountain land Conveyance in 2018. The association also provides fire protection on another 4,902 acres of fee lands, which are owned and managed by the Tribe.

As a member of the association, the Tribe attends the Annual Membership Meeting and engages with association staff regularly. The Tribe chose to become an association member in 2016. The association and its members greatly appreciate the Tribe's continued support and commitment to protecting natural resources.

The association and the Tribe met on several occasions throughout the year to review and update the local operating plan, discuss fire management across the landscape, and update agreements. These productive meetings provided managers from association and the Tribe the opportunity to share the critical information that is necessary for efficient and effective fire suppression operations. The association and the Tribe maintained frequent contact throughout the year.

The association continues working with the tribe on forest health and fuels management projects, on or adjacent to Tribal owned lands, including both trust and fee lands. The association will continue coordinating with the tribe on smoke management issues. In 2018, the association helped the tribe with pasture and slash burning for a variety of benefits, while allowing for hands-on training for Tribal employees. Opportunities for an active burning program continue to grow.

**Fire Protection – Southwest Oregon District.** The Southwest Oregon District provides fire protection for 1,800 acres of tribal inholdings.

### **KLAMATH TRIBES**

**Sun Creek Project.** The Sun Creek Project is an ongoing partnership project that ODF's Klamath Falls Unit has been participating in since 2010. It is intended to expand bull trout distribution downstream from Crater Lake National Park into the section of Sun Creek on the Sun Pass State Forest. The project supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Draft Recovery Plan for this species, with state and federal fisheries agencies stating that this type of activity is among the most important recovery actions for bull trout in the Klamath Basin. On-site monitoring from the Klamath Tribes has been utilized throughout the project, with Trout Unlimited taking the lead working directly with the tribes to make that happen. While there is still some work to do, the Sun Creek channel has been restored and connected to the Wood River. Activities like this further strengthen the partnership between the Klamath tribes and the other partners of the Sun Creek Project, including ODF's Klamath Falls Unit.

**State Forests Management and Other Coordination Opportunities.** ODF's Klamath-Lake District regularly communicates with the Klamath Tribes. These discussion topics include the district's cultural surveys and protection standards; State Forests' Annual Operations Plan, and management of the Gilchrist and Sun Pass State Forests; and the Private Forests and Fire Protection Programs. The district looks forward to continued discussions and coordination.

### **NEZ PERCE TRIBE (federally recognized in Idaho)**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, and ODF's Northeast Oregon District continue the water quality planning processes in the Upper Grande Ronde, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Rivers, as well as the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River basins in Wallowa County. Tribal interests in northeastern Oregon are well represented in all facets of salmon recovery and water quality issues.

The Umatilla Agency of the BIA and both Tribes continue a strong wildland firefighting relationship with the district through long-standing contracts that designate ODF as its primary protection agency.

**Wallowa Unit.** ODF administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act on Nez Perce Tribal owned lands in Wallowa County. In 2018 ODF received no notifications of operations. Given the limited access, steep terrain, and the primary management goal of promoting wildlife habitat, not much harvesting is expected.

The Wallowa Unit Forester is a member of the steering committee that provides input to the Nez Perce Tribal staff to aid management plan implementation for Tribal owned lands in Wallowa County.

ODF and Nez Perce Tribal representatives participate in the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Council. The Tribe has been interested in continuing discussions about the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project area and associated fisheries concerns.

The Wallowa Unit continues its service under the 1999 Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho. By contract, ODF provides fire protection on 14,984 acres of tribal land in the Northeast Oregon District. This area, located in northeastern Wallowa County, is known as the "Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area." The Tribe provides a representative (Resource Advisor) to work with fire managers when heavy equipment or retardant may be used on the property. Resource advisors give advice on cultural and fishery resources. ODF continues coordinating with the Precious Lands Resource Manager to assure proper access to the lands. In May, the Tribe hosted a field tour for ODF, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Rocking J Ranch owner Rocky Dixon to discuss fire suppression strategies, fire prevention, grazing strategies, and general resource concerns in the Joseph Creek drainage. In 2018, there were no fires in the Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area.

### **SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

ODF is very pleased overall with the relationships that have been developed and continue with the tribes over the past year, and particularly appreciative with the involvement of the tribes in our program activities, and as members of agency advisory committees and other groups. This involvement requires a significant commitment of time and energy from the various tribal representatives. It also adds a tremendous amount of value and important perspectives to these group processes and products that the agency would not otherwise achieve. ODF remains committed to continuing and enhancing those relationships and activities.