



2025 Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations

January 1, 2025 – January 1, 2026

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) respectfully submits its annual report to the nine Tribes within Oregon. This report also satisfies the requirement to submit an annual report to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor (Oregon Revised Statute 182.166).

Attached to this report, please find the Oregon Department of Forestry's designation of responsible staff and summary of cultural item efforts in support of the Governor's Executive Order 24-06, which reinforces the department's commitment to strengthen Government-to-Government (GTG) relationships with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon and the Oregon Tribal Cultural Items Task Force (CITF).

Policy adopted under ORS 182.164

It is the policy of the Oregon Department of Forestry, hereafter Department, to promote and enhance government-to-government relations with the nine Tribes of Oregon early and often during the development and implementation of ODF programs that may affect Tribes. It is ODF's intent to strengthen intergovernmental relations, address potential concerns, and enhance the exchange of information and resources for the greater good of all Oregonians. This policy provides a framework for government-to-government interactions and opportunities for ongoing staff-to-staff discussions.

Process to identify which programs affect Tribes

The Department assumes all programs and programmatic changes affect Sovereign Nations, Tribes, Confederation of Tribes, and Tribal Entities. Through ongoing communication, the Department and the Board of Forestry work with the State Forester and staff to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and communication strategies, making appropriate adjustments as needed. Programmatic changes that are legislatively mandated may require more in-depth LCIS involvement to make these assessments and meet requirements. Currently, the Department is engaged in government-to-government communications relating to fire protection and prevention, forest health, management of State Forests, administration of the Forest Practices Act, multi-agency initiatives surrounding climate change, cultural and natural resource management, shared-stewardship, community and urban forestry, and landscape resiliency.

Individuals responsible for programs that affect Tribes

All employees of the Oregon Department of Forestry develop and/or implement policy, programs, and projects affecting federally recognized Tribes or members. The contact list below includes Executive Leadership, Executive Staff, and Intersectional Staff who hold the highest degree of responsibility in the Department's programs and actions, but the Department expects all employees to consider and communicate how actions or inactions affect the Department's relationships with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon:

Executive Staff

Kate Skinner Interim Oregon State Forester 503-354-4065 kate.j.skinner@odf.oregon.gov	Tim Holschbach Interim Deputy State Forester 503-480-9756 tim.j.holschbach@odf.oregon.gov	Kyle Williams Deputy Director Fire Operations 503-779-5278 kyle.h.williams@odf.oregon.gov
Wendy Heckman Deputy Director Administration 503-689-3704 wendy.e.heckman@odf.oregon.gov	Sarah Smith Human Resources Director 971-719-3797 sarah.smith@odf.oregon.gov	James Short Chief Financial Officer 503-302-8478 james.short@odf.oregon.gov

Executive Team

Josh Barnard, Division Chief Forest Resources 503-551-8568 josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov	Michael Curran, Division Chief Fire Protection 541-740-7506 michael.curran@odf.oregon.gov	Mike Wilson, Division Chief State Forests 503-945-7351 michael.wilson@odf.oregon.gov
Justin Hallett, Division Chief Agency Administration 541-891-2103 justin.t.hallett@odf.oregon.gov	Brent Grimsrud Chief Information Officer 503-400-5646 brent.grimsrud@odf.oregon.gov	Joy Krawczyk Public Affairs Director 503-910-4311 joy.krawczyk@odf.oregon.gov
Brian Pew Eastern Oregon Area Director 541-447-5658 brian.pew@odf.oregon.gov	Don Everingham Northwest Oregon Area Director 503-707-4240 don.everingham@odf.oregon.gov	Dave Larson Southern Oregon Area Director 541-621-4101 dave.larson@odf.oregon.gov

Intersectional Staff

Cindy Kolomechuk Designated Tribal Liaison Cultural Resources Primary Rep 503-502-5599 cindy.kolomechuk@odf.oregon.gov	Megan Frizzell Cultural Resources Secondary Rep 503-991-8314 megan.d.frizzell@odf.oregon.gov	Derrick Wheeler Legislative Director 971-375-1258 derrick.wheeler@odf.oregon.gov
Scott Altenhoff Economic Development & Community Services Cluster Primary Rep 971-428-7380 scott.r.altenhoff@odf.oregon.gov	Hilary Olivos-Rood Economic Development and Community Services Cluster Secondary Rep 971-707-8946 hilary.olivos-rood@odf.oregon.gov	Casara Nichols Natural Resources Work Group Secondary Rep Primary Rep 971-482-9261 casara.c.nichols@odf.oregon.gov
Lilah Gonen 971-718-2532 lilah.gonen@odf.oregon.gov	Christine Buhl Natural Resources Work Group Primary Rep christine.j.buhl@odf.oregon.gov	Levi Hopkins Fire Protection Rep 503-949-3572 levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov

Employee notification on the provisions of ORS 182.162 - 182.168 and the Department Policy on Tribal Government Relations

The Department's Tribal Liaison is the State Forester or designee. For most of the time period covered by this report, Kate Skinner served as the interim State Forester, and Cindy Kolomechuk served as the interim designated Tribal Liaison. As of December 1, 2025, Cindy will serve as the Agency's permanent Tribal Liaison. Last year, ODF established a Tribal Relations Team to support and build our Tribal Relations Program. Members include the Department's LCIS Cluster and Workgroup representatives (identified above), as well as support staff. Currently, Cindy Kolomechuk is the primary point of contact for Tribal Relations for ODF. The responsibilities related to Tribal relations, the development and implementation of training and communication regarding agency initiatives are the roles and responsibilities of the Tribal Liaison, as designated by the State Forester, and in coordination with the Tribal Relations Team and support staff. The Department's policy is available on its Tribal Relations webpage (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/tribalrelations.aspx>).

Training opportunities and other educational events

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 182.166(1) requires, "At least once a year, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services ... provide training to state agency managers and employees ... on the legal status of Tribes, the legal rights of members of Tribes and issues of concern to Tribes."

- No such training occurred.

On May 8, Dr. Deana Dartt and Heron Brae with Live Oak Consulting delivered a 90-minute virtual presentation to ODF's Forest Resources Division (~80 people) entitled **Meaningful Partnerships with Tribal Communities: Why, How, and When**. This presentation introduced the concept of a Shared Stewardship Model and was intended to help participants better understand Tribal priorities/perspectives with the aim of finding mutually beneficial solutions to pressing forest issues in our region. This presentation also included a brief Q&A session following the presentation.

The Protection Division encouraged all staff to watch "Preserving Cultural Artifacts While Fighting Fire." This video was co-produced with the nine federally recognized Tribes and is intended to promote shared respect and understanding of cultural resources protection and identification.

Promoting communications and relationships with Tribes

To effectively implement our policy, the Department prioritizes open and frequent communication across all levels within the Agency. Active listening is fundamental to successful communication and building strong relationships with Tribes.

Below, please find a summary of the Department's communication initiatives and Tribal engagement activities, along with upcoming opportunities for collaborative partnerships and shared stewardship.

Methods of government-to-government communication

State Forester Engagement

- Several times throughout 2025, the State Forester honored our commitment to engage with Tribes at the highest level by inviting each of the nine federally recognized Tribal Councils or Boards of Directors to open channels of communication with ODF. Our goal is to continue to build our relationships at all levels by listening to Tribal perspectives and priorities, and identify opportunities for shared stewardship, cultural and natural resource protection, and capacity building.
- The State Forester sends an annual letter about upcoming major initiatives, major programs or projects and formally requests discourse and engagement with Tribes.

Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)

- In May, 2025, Board of Forestry Chair, Jim Kelly, Interim State Forester, Kate Skinner, Deputy Division Chief for the Forest Resources Division, Mike Kroon, and interim Tribal liaison, Cindy Kolomechuk addressed the Commission members to formally invite the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to the Ridgetop to Rooftop Landscape Resiliency Summit, held in coordination with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Commission encouraged us to work with Tribal staff and invited us to tour some of the landscape resiliency treatments that the Tribes have completed. We were not successful in scheduling a tour this year, and plan to work with the Tribes to schedule a tour in the next year.
- ODF participates in the following LCIS Cluster groups: Cultural Resource Cluster, Natural Resources Work Group, and the Economic Development and Community Services Cluster.
- Our representatives provide quarterly updates developed by Division and District Foresters. These reports inform cluster meeting discussions.

2025 Tribal engagement highlights:
More information can be found in the Division Reports

Shared Stewardship

The Ridgetop to Rooftop Landscape Resiliency Summit

In November 2025, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal co-hosted the Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit to foster a unified, collaborative approach to wildfire resilience across Oregon. Our goal for Tribal engagement was to elevate Tribal voices in achieving landscape resiliency. Agency leadership worked with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to develop session planning and promote attendance. Tribal governments were present throughout the entire process. The program included a closed Staff to Staff session to provide the space for Tribes to share their experiences, perspectives, and priorities with Agency Leadership. Tribal representatives highlighted the importance of conservation and demonstrated the value of integrating Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge and western science to create resilience and reduce wildfire risk. Throughout the event, it was recognized that tribes have maintained landscape and community resilience for time immemorial. Approximately 280 tribal, public and private representatives attended.

The Prescribed Fire & Cultural Burning Program aims to increase prescribed fire and cultural burning use by providing liability coverage for enrolled burns. This legislation authorizes claims for losses from escaped fires. ODF is collaborating with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to implement this program.

Capacity Building

- In the 2023–25 biennium, the Landscape Resiliency Program awarded a \$2 million grant to Klamath Tribes to conduct fuels treatments and prescribed fire projects on Tribal lands and across ownership boundaries. Through this project the Tribe hired and trained a Tribal fire crew and completed 4,553 acres of treatment. In Spring of 2025, ODF staff and a USFS representative were invited to visit the Klamath Tribe where the group was shown a presentation on the science behind the treatments and had the opportunity to see the mitigation work completed on the ground through field visits to treatment sites.
- State Forests provided 23,000 seedlings to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Coquille Indian Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is partnering with nine federally recognized Tribes to administer the Tribal Governments Subaward Grant Program, promoting urban and community forest investments and tree equity in underserved areas. Tribes can submit proposals up to \$1 million by June 30, 2026. No matching funds are required. Professional grant writers contracted through UCF are available to assist Tribes in developing proposals. Three Tribes have already applied and are currently in the grant award phase.

Cultural and Natural Resources Protection

- The \$22 million Forest Legacy Program funding request for Qapqāpa Wildlife Area was successful. This project is a partnership between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. ODF serves as the passthrough agency for federal funds. The project is an 11,434-acre simple acquisition designed to protect and enhance property that will connect two areas of USFS property in Union County, Oregon. The property includes 5.6 miles of the Grande Ronde River and 6 miles of Beaver Creek, both are very culturally important to the Tribe and home to endangered trout, salmon, and steelhead. This is a strategic opportunity for protection of Oregon's wildlife, water, salmon, biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and recreation opportunities, while fostering climate resilience via land protection and carbon sequestration across the northeast Oregon landscape.
- In 2016, the Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde forged a museum partnership rooted in mutual support and cultural exchange. The Grand Ronde Chachalu museum staff aided with the TFC's 10-year celebration. The TFC reciprocated by attending annual tribal Education and Cultural summits, promoting Chachalu to visitors, and organizing site visits for their volunteers to the tribal museum. The TFC also provided an accredited Certified Interpretive Host training to tribal staff and community members at no cost in 2017, 2021, and again in 2025. The curriculum was customized to include more relevant and inclusive material for Tribes.
- This opportunity is open to all nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon.

Detailed Tribal communication

State Forests

- The State Forests Division has had ongoing dialogue with the Tribes to incorporate Tribal perspectives and practices into the stewardship of State Forests through the new Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Forest Management Plan (FMP).
- In early January 2025, the State Forester reached out to the Tribes, inviting them to engage with ODF on any area of interest regarding the Draft Western Oregon State Forests HCP and associated Draft FMP. That spring, The Board of Forestry directed State Forests to begin the rule making process for the Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan. ODF began engaging the Tribes prior to initiating the public rule making process. ODF also provided two Information and Listening Sessions for Tribal staff in October and December 2025. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians participated. In these sessions, ODF worked with the Tribes to build new 10-year Implementation Plans. In the spirit of shared stewardship, ODF staff will reach out to the Tribes in the coming months to integrate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, identify opportunities to encourage access and cultivation of culturally significant plants, discuss protections for cultural resources, and explore opportunities to work in partnership to honor Tribal ties to the lands that ODF currently manages.
- ODF also sought input from Tribes' cultural resources and natural resources staff on Fiscal Year (FY26 and FY27) Operations Plans for the Northwest and Southwest Oregon Forest Management Plans. This provided an opportunity to include Tribal input on specific forest activities such as timber sales, resource protection measures, reforestation, road building, stream enhancement, and recreation projects planned on State Forests for FY26 and FY27. ODF made more intensive and targeted requests for consultation on operations with higher degrees of cultural resource impact concerns, allowing ODF to continue meeting operational goals, while upholding our commitment to cultural resource protection.
- In Spring 2025, ODF offered seedlings to Tribes, providing 23,000 seedlings for reforestation.
- The ODF Office in the City of Toledo has moved to Newport, and ODF is in the process of selling the property. ODF recognizes Tribal sovereignty and, in compliance with ORS Chapter 270, ODF began reaching out to Tribes to assess interest in purchasing the property early in the process.
- In addition to managing forestlands, the State Forests Division includes a Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program that provides opportunities for the public to engage with State Forests through outdoor activities and educational programming. The program's Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) is ODF's sole interpretive center providing

Oregonians and tourists with a chance to connect with their forests and our shared history.

- **Tillamook Forest Center:** In 2016, the Tillamook Forest Center (TFC) and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde forged a museum partnership rooted in mutual support and cultural exchange. Soon after, staff from the Grand Ronde and the Chachalu Museum helped the TFC enhance their 10-year celebration with events and exhibits. In reciprocity, TFC began attending the tribal biannual Education and Cultural summits, offering Certified Interpretive trainings at no cost, promoting Chachalu to TFC visitors, and taking TFC volunteers to visit the museum. The Grand Ronde museum Director expressed interest in having the Certified Interpretive Host (CIH) training offered at Chachalu for their staff and volunteers. The TFC offered this training workshop in 2017 and again in 2021 and in 2025. Attendees included staff, volunteers, elders, and State of Oregon Capitol staff. The traditional curriculum was customized to include more relevant and inclusive material for the Tribe. This included education specific role-playing activities to address insensitive and inappropriate visitor questions.

Fire Prevention and Protection

In 2025, there were 1,160 fires on ODF-protected lands that burned a total of 24,447 acres. The 10-year average is 938 fires and 136,612 acres burned. ODF has responded to 368 non-statistical fires and 2,228 Non-Fire Crew Actions (smoke checks, reports of fires and violations). To date, ODF has been successful keeping 94% of fires at 10 acres or less. The Legislative Key Performance Measure is 98%. Five fires qualified for FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) this year, three in the month of June in a one-week time frame, one on July 12, and one on August 22. Statewide across all jurisdictions in 2025, 339,461 acres burned. The 10-year statewide average is 715,581 acres.

As these fires spanned ownership boundaries, ODF worked in coordination with Tribal governments and state and federal agencies to manage and suppress fires across the landscape. The Department executed multiple Delegations of Authority with Tribes, Agencies, and other affected landowners to ensure alignment in fire response strategy, priorities, and protection of cultural and natural resources.

Fire Preparedness

All District leadership and field staff held fire planning meetings to prepare for fire season, including priorities for cultural and natural resources protection. A few examples are as follows:

Northeast Oregon District

Spring Coordination meetings were held among ODF, and The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Umatilla Tribe Fire Department, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to work toward continuous improvement of fire in response and coordination on and around Tribal lands. Continued engagement with

Department of Natural Resources and the Umatilla Tribal Fire Department surrounding fire response on fee lands within the Northeast Oregon District to include those that fall within and outside of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

West Oregon

Every fall, staff work with the Grande Ronde and Siletz Tribes to accomplish their smoke management and prescribe fire goals. The Siletz Tribe is a member of our West Oregon Forest Protective Association. A Siletz representative is a board member of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association

The Klamath –Lake District is a member of the [South-Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership](#), an interagency fire management program that provides comprehensive wildland fire service to south central Oregon and northwest Nevada.

The partnership strives to achieve a more efficient, effective and integrated interagency fire management program for all participating agencies on the land administered and protected by each agency. The partnership encompasses all aspects of fire management.

The Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning Program aims to increase prescribed fire and cultural burning use by providing liability coverage for enrolled burns. This legislation authorizes claims for losses from escaped fires. ODF provides fire protection for Tribal lands covered by ODF agreements and is collaborating with Tribes to learn about cultural/ecological burning techniques and their landscape benefits. In 2025, ODF has been engaged with all of the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to plan examples of this collaboration and implement the Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning Program to some degree. A few examples of this collaborative work include the following:

The Klamath Tribes

The Klamath Tribes are working through ODF's Certified Burn Manager (CBM) program for cultural and prescribed burn leadership and liability protection through the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Fund. They first began using the CBM program for cultural burning in spring 2025. ODF worked with The Klamath Tribe to create and deliver a panel discussion on cross-boundary prescribed burning at the Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit in December 2025.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have been using the CBM program both outside and within ODF protection for prescribed and cultural burns since 2024. They have one CBM and where they are not working through the BIA for fire management work, they are using ODF's CBM burn plan template and planning processes.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

ODF is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to help build capacity for their fire management program. This includes providing their fire manager with focused mentoring to get certified as a National Wildfire Coordination Group Type 2 Burn Boss. Prior to Siletz hiring a fire manager, ODF provided technical assistance to plan and implement cultural burning at their Camp Creek Hills property in fall 2024. ODF, CTSI, and Willamette Ignitions Network delivered CBM classroom training collaboratively in September 2025.

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

ODF's Prescribed Fire Coordinator is serving on the graduate committee for a student in the Master of Natural Resources program at Oregon State University (OSU). The Warm Springs student is writing a huckleberry management plan for the tribe including the use of prescribed and cultural fire. ODF's Prescribed Fire Coordinator did her master's on the cultural fire management of huckleberry and is providing technical assistance as an advisor. CTWSI otherwise uses BIA fire management planning and NWCG qualifications and are not currently using the liability pilot or Certified Burn Manager program.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

ODF staff assisted the Umpqua Oak Partnership with accessing grant programs for cultural burning being planned through the Takelma Cultural Center, in coordination with the Education Programs officer. ODF also supported a community education event, blending cultural and prescribed fire management at Glide Elementary School in October 2025. students in Glide High School's fire management program worked alongside wildland firefighters from Wolf Creek Job Corps and Glide Rural Fire Department to reintroduce fire into an indigenous garden at the elementary school, with a focus on language revitalization and use of cultural plants.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coquille

ODF connected Coquille's education department with the Wild Rivers Forest Collaborative. They worked together to develop a prescribed burn association in *Coquille's* ancestral territory. The Director of the education department attended a prescribed fire training exchange in Ashland and is interested in continuing to work with his tribe to revitalize their fire culture.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

The Tribe sent two of their staff members to CBM training in fall 2025 and are preparing to use the program as part of their forestry program.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program has continued to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on the 54 North Fuels Reduction & Huckleberry Restoration GNA Project. This 40,000- acre project on the Umatilla National Forest will improve huckleberry habitat and reduce wildfire risk and qualifications for conducting prescribed burning.

The Confederated Tribes of the Burns Paiute

The Burns Paiute Natural Resources/Cultural Resources Director is interested in building capacity for Prescribed and Cultural burning through the Certified Burn program

Forest Resources

November 2025, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal co-hosted the Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit, designed to promote wildfire resilient landscapes. Recognizing that true wildfire resilience requires an integrated approach, the 2025 Summit reflects a deepening partnership between resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities.

The 2025 Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit: Creating a Wildfire Resilient Oregon was a unique, invitation-only opportunity for Tribal, local, state and federal wildland fire leadership, practitioners, and decision-makers to come together and share perspectives on high-priority topics. This event was intended to foster a unified and collaborative approach to wildfire resilience by deepening mutual understanding, strengthening shared stewardship, and aligning efforts across ownerships and jurisdictional boundaries.

- The agencies recognize that tribal sovereignty and culture are rooted in rich intergenerational knowledge that has guided management practices since time immemorial. These practices are also fundamental to achieving landscape resilience. Agency leadership formally invited each of the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon to participate in the Summit. Leadership also invited them to share their perspectives early in the process to help us craft an agenda that reflects their priorities for discussion and action.
- Given their status and the merit their participation brings to the conversation, we waived registration fees and offered lodging for tribal government representatives and staff, upon request.
- Eight Tribal governments were present throughout the entire process. The program included a closed Staff to Staff session to provide the space for Tribes to share their experiences, perspectives, and priorities with Agency leadership. Tribal representatives highlighted the importance of conservation and demonstrated the value of integrating Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge and western science to create resilience and reduce wildfire risk. Approximately 280 tribal, public and private partners were in attendance.

- The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is administering the federally funded IRA Tribal Governments Subaward program and is continuing to accept proposals until June 30, 2026. Oregon's Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations can use these federal funds to advance planning and monitoring; nature-based education, recreation and engagement; network development and relationship building; workforce diversification and development; nursery capacity building and tree production and maintenance; and adaptive management and state-wide lesson sharing. Up to a million dollars is available to each Tribe with the potential for additional funding to be made available after initial agreements are entered into with each Tribe
- UCF Program staff have continued to be in regular communication with all nine of the Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon regarding the IRA Tribal Governments Subaward Program. Seven of the nine Tribes have submitted proposals and received grant award letters. The program has executed subaward agreements with three Tribes and anticipates executing agreement with the four other awarded Tribes by the end of the year. We are actively working with the remaining two Tribes to help them develop and submit grant proposals within the next several months.
- Through the Forest Legacy Program, a partnership with the USFS, Oregon is able to apply for and accept federal grants for the purchase of development rights to eligible private forestlands through either conservation easement or fee-title acquisition into public ownership with the goal of promoting stewardship and sustainable management of private forest lands by maintaining working forests that conserve important commodity and non-commodity forest resource and conservation values. ODF serves as the passthrough entity for any Oregon funds received as part of the Forest Legacy Program.
- ODF submitted a funding request for the Qapq̓apa Wildlife Area State-Tribal Partnership Project and the project was awarded \$22 million in funding for FY25. This project is a partnership between the ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and is an 11,434-acre fee simple acquisition to protect and enhance property that will connect two areas of USFS property in Union County, Oregon. The property includes 5.6 miles of the Grande Ronde River and 6 miles of Beaver Creek, both are very culturally important to the Tribe and home to endangered trout, salmon, and steelhead. This is a strategic opportunity for protection of Oregon's wildlife, water, salmon, biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and recreation opportunities, while fostering climate resilience via land protection and carbon sequestration across the northeast Oregon landscape.
- In the 2023–25 biennium, the Landscape Resiliency Program awarded a \$2 million grant to The Klamath Tribes to conduct fuels treatments and prescribed fire projects on Tribal lands and across ownership boundaries. Through this project the Tribe hired and trained a Tribal fire crew and completed 4,553 acres of treatment. In Spring of 2025, ODF staff and a USFS representative were invited to visit The Klamath Tribe where the group was shown a presentation on the science behind the treatments and had the opportunity to see the mitigation work completed on the ground through field visits to treatment sites.

- The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program has continued to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the 54 North Fuels Reduction & Huckleberry Restoration GNA Project. This 40,000- acre project on the Umatilla National Forest, will improve huckleberry habitat and reduce wildfire risk. ODF contractors worked closely with CTUIR natural resources staff to incorporate their feedback in the development of silviculture prescriptions for the project. Significant progress has been made in 2025 and in 2026 all project planning and compliance work will be complete, and the work will enter the implementation phase. ODF, CTUIR, and Umatilla National Forest staff will work together to implement the 54 North project in 2026 and beyond.
- FFR field staff also participated in the Wildfire Risk Reduction Partnership led by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (CCBUTI). The partnership works to prioritize forest health and fuels reduction across the Umpqua National Forest, the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management, and adjacent Tribal and private lands.
- The Oregon Seedbank and J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard hosted natural resources staff from the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians to share details of seed collection and orchard management, discuss seed availability through State Forests surplus and the Seed Bank and provided bags to support the tribe's wild cone collection.
- Northeast Oregon District: ODF is working with the Tribes of the Confederated Umpqua Indian Reservation regarding a violation of the Forest Practices act on private land that included lands within the established boundary of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Violation was discovered by CTUIR Department of Natural Resources staff and relayed to ODF. Close communication between ODF and CTUIR DNR staff has continued this issue. This issue has brought to light the need for local ODF staff to have closer ties to other CTUIR departments to ensure that all potentially impacted departments are in the know regarding these types of issues. Local staff will be seeking opportunities through known contacts in DNR to ensure communication channels are established and maintained.
- Aerial surveys are conducted annually to assess damage to Oregon forestlands. These efforts are conducted jointly between ODF and the USFS. Due to the limited capacity of our federal partners, aerial survey east of the Cascade Crest was limited to priority geographies. However, the aerial survey included forestlands of the Confederated Tribes of the War the Warm Springs and the Klamath Tribes.
- ODF Presented mass timber housing options at Columbia Pacific NW Housing Summit. We also shared a panel with Tribal business developing modular mass timber housing products. In October, ODF provided a mass timber update including housing opportunities to the Economic Development LCIS cluster.