



2020 Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

The Oregon Department of Forestry respectfully submits this 2020 report of tribal activities. The department works with 10 federally recognized tribes. Nine tribes are in Oregon and one in Idaho.

The department’s mission is “to serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.” To carry out this mission, the department works with many people and groups who share these goals.

A. Policy adopted under ORS 182.164

This year the department has continued to implement its 2018 Government-to-Government Relations policy and procedures. These documents instruct staff on how to address tribal government topics. They also reflect the tribal interests, department needs, and best practices for responsibly managing forests.

The policy defines the department’s goals, roles, and responsibilities. The procedures set expectations for employees to:

- Communicate and collaborate with tribes early and often
- Identify programs that may affect tribes
- Handle inadvertent discovery of historic, cultural, and human remains
- Receive training on tribal government relations and cultural resources
- Report tribal engagements annually

B. Developing and implementing programs that affect tribes

The department’s tribal liaison is Deputy State Forester Lena Tucker. Southern Oregon Area Director Dave Lorenz and Private Forests Division Field Coordinator Keith Baldwin support the department’s liaison.

All employees may do work that involves tribes. The executive and leadership teams develop and implement the department’s programs. These are the team members.

Executive Team

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Field Offices

Eastern Oregon Area

Central Oregon District Michael H. Shaw, District Forester 541-447-5658 Michael.H.Shaw@Oregon.gov	Klamath-Lake District Dennis Lee, District Forester 541-883-5681 Dennis.Lee@Oregon.gov	Northeast Oregon District Joe Hessel, District Forester 541-963-3168 Joe.Hessel@Oregon.gov
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Northwest Oregon Area

Astoria District Dan B. Goody, District Forester 503-325-5451 Dan.B.Goody@Oregon.gov	Forest Grove District Mike J. Cafferata, District Forester 503-359-7430 Mike.J.Cafferata@Oregon.gov	North Cascade District Steve V. Wilson, District Forester 503-859-4341 Steve.V.Wilson@Oregon.gov
Tillamook Forest Center Jennifer L. Magby, Director 503-815-7062 Jennifer.L.Magby@Oregon.gov	Tillamook District Kate J. Skinner, District Forester 503-815-7001 Kate.J.Skinner@Oregon.gov	West Oregon District Michael Curran, District Forester 541-929-9151 Michael.Curran@Oregon.gov

Southern Oregon Area

South Cascade District Chris Cline, District Forester 541-726-3588 Christopher.L.Cline@Oregon.gov	Southwest Oregon District Dave Larson, District Forester 541-664-3328 Dave.Larson@Oregon.gov	Western Lane District Grant "Link" Smith, District Forester 541-935-2283 Grant.S.Smith@Oregon.gov
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Forest Protective Associations

Coos Forest Protective Association Mike E. Robison, District Manager 541-267-3161 Mike.E.Robison@Oregon.gov	Douglas Forest Protective Association Pat Skrip, District Manager 541-672-6507 Pat.Skrip@Oregon.gov	Walker Forest Protection Association R.D. Buell, District Manager 541-433-2451 RD.Buell@Oregon.gov
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C. Process to identify which programs affect tribes

The department has and continues to engage the tribes to identify forestry issues and department programs relevant to them. Once identified, the department seeks input from the tribes on these topics.

Fire

- Fuel hazard treatments
- Fire liability on forest operations
- Protection agreements
- Firefighter training on how to protect cultural resources during emergency fire response
- Working with incident management teams

Forest health

- Management for resilient forests
- Sudden oak death
- Swiss needle cast
- Emerald ash borer and collecting Oregon ash seeds
- Annual insect and disease report

Private forests

- Administering the Forest Practices Act
- Effectiveness and implementation monitoring
- Work with landowners and operators to avoid impacts to archaeological sites and objects

State forests

- Board of Forestry lands annual operating plans
- Habitat Conservation Plan
- Forest Management Plan
- Collection of cultural vegetation for tribal ceremonial practices
- Seedling diversity and planting density
- Internship opportunities
- Participation on the State Forests Advisory Committee

Federal Forest Restoration

- Federal forestland management impacts to tribal forestland and ceremonial areas
- Archaeological resource surveys for Good Neighbor Authority project areas

Non-program specific areas of interest

- Stream enhancement projects
- Climate change
- Impacts of herbicide use on big game habitat and cultural plants
- Joint trainings on topics such as forest health, pest identification, or firefighting

D. Promoting communications and relationships with tribes

The department continued promoting increased communication and improving relationships with each tribe. The following are activities the department has done throughout 2020 to continue this effort.

Department-wide

- Each year the State Forester sends a letter to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. He reports on department initiatives and Board of Forestry plans.
- The department participates in the:
 - State-Tribal Cultural Resources Cluster
 - State-Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup
 - Intergovernmental Cultural Resource Council
 - Oregon Geographic Names Board
 - Legislative Commission on Indian Services, including discussions, summits, and Tribal Governments day
 - Governor's Task Force on Tribal Cultural Items, including the cultural items survey

Fire

- The department played a role in two large fires that involved tribes this summer. The Lionshead fire started on Warm Springs' land. The Two Four Two fire burned traditional tribal lands and threatened homes and property of tribal members.
- A regional interagency team managed the Lionshead fire. It also burned thousands of acres under the department's fire protection jurisdiction. Few department resources worked on this fire due to limited availability and increased need elsewhere, based on threats to life, safety, property.
- The department provided fire protection on tribal trust and fee lands through protection and mutual aid contracts. Tribal and department firefighters worked side-by-side this fire season.

- The department worked with tribes on forest health and fuels management projects that are on or next to tribal trust and fee lands.
- Tribes are active members of many of the state’s forest protection associations.
- Collaborated with tribes and other agencies to develop a firefighter training video on cultural resource protection. The video highlights tribal perspectives for the importance of cultural resource protection during emergency fire activities.

Private Forests

Field Support Unit

- Marbled Murrelet Resource Site Protection
 - Contacted tribes and stakeholders about joining a group to help define the resource sites and protection measures for marbled murrelet management areas. Tribes included: Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua Siuslaw, Coquille Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
 - Received mixed responses, most wanted in-person meetings rather than virtual meetings. Staff is trying to accommodate the request while following COVID restrictions.
- Wildlife Food Plot Rulemaking: reached out to tribes during the rulemaking process. The department invited tribes to comment on the draft “wildlife food plot rules.” This included a virtual tribal hearing session, separate from the public hearing. Two tribal representatives commented. The Board of Forestry adopted the rules in July 2020, effective August 1, 2020.

Monitoring Unit

- Requested tribal input on Oregon Forest Practice rules to protect water and streamside resources across western Oregon and the Siskiyou regions. Topics included stream temperature, stream shade, wood contributions to streams, and the stand structure components for desired future conditions of small and medium fish-bearing streams.
- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Coquille Indian Tribe provided feedback.

Forest Health Unit

- Each tribe receives the annual [Forest Health Highlights, USDA and ODF](#) .
- Christine Buhl, Entomologist:
 - Met with the Tribes of Grande Ronde about forest management strategies. Including ways to monitor the western redcedar decline and sampling for the Oregon Bee Project.
 - Sent the department’s information on the Oregon Bee Project work to the Natural Resource Workgroup.
 - Reached out to tribes on identification of western redcedar die back pockets. This is part of the Oregon and Washington USFS-funded western redcedar sampling project.
- Wyatt Williams, Invasive Species Specialist:
 - Identified each tribe in the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture Emerald Ash Borer readiness and response plan. This allows for better outreach and collaboration.
 - Reached out to tribes to find populations of Oregon ash for genetic conservation. This was part of the Emerald Ash Borer readiness and response plan.
 - Welcomed a Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation representative as a member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

State Forests

- Asked the tribes for input on the annual operations plans for Oregon's state forestlands.
- Continued the interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation. This provides an archaeologist's database review of timber sales and forest projects for recorded cultural and historic resources. This database helps protect or avoid cultural and historic resources when planning forest management activities on state forests.
- A representative from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz serves on the State Forests Advisory Committee. This group provides input to the department and the board on state-managed forests. This representative serves in the Habitat Conservation Plan focus groups.
- Utilized the Government-to-Government Natural Resources Workgroup to receive input from the tribes on the Forest Management Plan and development of a Habitat Conservation Plan.
 - Tribal staff and council members participated in the State Forests Division discussions. Tribe members have attended the public meetings, and asked the department for information on the Habitat Conservation Plan.
 - Natural Resource Cluster and Cultural Resource Cluster received updates from the department. Tribal members were invited to meet with department staff to teach them about how to better respect tribal interests.

Tribe Specific Activities

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians

- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, and the Northeast Oregon district participate in water quality planning. This effects the Upper Grande Ronde, Walla Walla, Umatilla Rivers, Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River basins.
- Stewardship foresters introduced local private landowners to tribal biologists. This opened discussions for potential stream restoration projects. Foresters work with the tribe in large wood, tree, and log acquisition for restoring streams.
- Stewardship foresters and tribal biologists serve on the Natural Resources Conservation Service Upper Grande Ronde Regional Conservation Partnership Program. They hope to provide a coordinated and integrated approach to forest health and natural resources restoration in the basin. The tribe, department, and other agencies secured multi-agency Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding. The funding is for a multi-faceted watershed level treatment on private lands. This helps protect and enhance habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation contracts with the district to provide fire protection on about 21,600 acres of tribal fee lands.
- The Umatilla Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs terminated the fee-based fire protection agreement with the department. This agreement started in 1961. The BIA assumed protection for about 55,000 acres of trust lands.
- Cooperation among the department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians, and the tribal fire department provides fire protection for residents of the Umatilla Reservation.
- The tribe and department belong to the Umatilla National Forest Collaborative Group. Both entities serve on the local Natural Resources Conservation Service work group. They hold annual meetings about large-scale forest restoration and fuels treatment projects.

Burns Paiute Tribe

- The tribe hosted the annual Rangeland Fire Protection Association Summit at the Burns-Paiute Tribe's meeting hall.

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

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

- At the tribes' invitation, State Forester Peter Daugherty, State Forests Division Chief Elizabeth Dent, and staff attended and spoke at the tribes' December 2019 Tribal Council meeting about the Habitat Conservation Plan.
- The West Oregon District has a tribal fee-based fire protection agreement. The tribe is a member of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association and tribal staff attend the meetings. The tribes and department often work together on firefighting.
- The Tillamook Forest Center's interpretation and education coordinator and staff and the Chachalu Museum's Cultural Resources Department provided professional development training. They offered a National Association for Interpretation training focused on mission-based customer service. They also scheduled a Certified Interpretive Host training for April 2020, but it was postponed due to the pandemic.
- The Tillamook Forest Center volunteer recognition event was a trip to the Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center. This trip was to see and support the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and highlight their museum.
- Tillamook Forest Center staff members attended the first annual Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Cultural Summit in November highlighting tribal artwork.
- Tillamook Forest Center staff invited Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde staff to attend the National Association for Interpretation Regional Workshop in March at the center. This was a virtual workshop. The center included tribal partners in the invitation and information.
- On the Echo Mountain Complex fire, the department and tribe entered a land use agreement. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde permitted the department to use tribal facilities for fire camp and the incident command post. Tribal members worked as security, food service, and fire camp help. Tribal members were generous in their donations of food and commissary to the fire crews.
- The community wildfire forester coordinated with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde fire prevention forester to do fuel reduction projects using grant funds.
- Scheduled a meeting with the tribes' natural resource staff and District Forester Michael Curran to discuss the department's operating programs.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz

- The West Oregon District has a tribal fee-based fire protection agreement. The tribe is a member of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association and tribal staff attend the meetings. The tribes and department often work together on firefighting.
- State Forests Division district staff contacted Confederated Tribes of Siletz forestry staff to discuss routine road maintenance issues on shared roads and timber harvests on state forests adjacent to tribal lands. The State Forests staff regularly seeks input on planned timber sales, also called Annual Operations Plans, from tribal forestry staff.
- The department and tribe started developing reciprocal permanent easements, but decided to delay them until there is an actual need to access the timber.
- The district is setting a meeting between the tribes' natural resource staff and District Forester Michael Curran to discuss interactions across the department's operating programs.
- The West Oregon District invited a forester from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to attend the West Oregon Districts' Annual Operations Plan Specialist meeting. The tribe offered to help the district with locating or surveying for cultural resources. The district plans to

collaborate with the tribe on at least one sale that an department archaeologist identified as a potential cultural site.

- The West Oregon District has also been working with the tribe on reciprocal permanent easements to help both parties manage their forests.

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians

- Western Lane District staff attended the Xintmiis txain' (sharing our path) program. This was designed to educate organizations on Tribal history, culture, and government.
- State Forests staff met with members of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, including the chief, tribal council members, and natural resources staff to share information about the Habitat Conservation Plan. The tribes provided testimony at the October 6 Board of Forestry meeting in support of the HCP.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

- The tribe, Central Oregon District staff, Central Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, and the Central Oregon Fire Operations Group participated in monthly fire meetings.
- District staff and tribal members participated in fire training activities.

Coquille Indian Tribe

- 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 association provides fire protection on tribal trust lands. The tribe is an active member of the protection association.
- The association participates in the Coquille Indian Tribe's youth field day. Youth field day includes tree planting activities, wildlife habitat, and fire prevention.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

- Douglas Forest Protective Association provides fire protection through the Bureau of Indian Affairs' contracts. This fire protection is for both trust and fee tribal owned lands.
- The tribe is an active member of the protection association.
- The association and the tribe met regularly to review and update operating plans, discuss fire management, and update agreements.
- Both parties continued working together on forest health and fuels management projects. These projects are on or next to both trust and fee tribal owned lands. The association will continue working with the tribe on smoke management issues. There is an opportunity to develop a forest management plan, including slash and pasture burning.
- The tribe provided rapid COVID-19 testing for the association's staff during the pandemic. This allowed firefighters to return to duty quickly.

Klamath Tribes

- The Sun Creek Project is an ongoing partnership. This expands bull trout distribution downstream from Crater Lake National Park into a section of Sun Creek in the Sun Pass State Forest. The project supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Draft Recovery Plan for this species. State and federal fishery agencies say this is one of the most important recovery actions for bull trout in the Klamath Basin. On-site monitoring from the Klamath Tribes has occurred throughout the project. Trout Unlimited has led this work with the tribes. The Sun Creek channel has been

restored and connected to the Wood River. Monitoring of fish expansion and channel use continues.

- The department participates in the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, which includes the U.S. Forest Service and tribe.
- The department participates in pre-fire season tribal check-ins with tribal leadership.
- The department's Incident Management Team 2 managed the Two Four Two fire and reported positive relationships with the tribe.

Nez Perce Tribe (federally recognized in Idaho)

- The Wallowa Unit and Nez Perce tribes continue working together on forestry issues.
- The unit forester serves on the committee that advises the tribe on forest management plans.
- Both entities participate in the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Council. They are discussing the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project and fisheries concerns.
- The department protects 14,984 acres of tribal land in the Northeast Oregon District under a fire protection agreement.

E. Training opportunities and other educational events

The department has participated in various training and educational events and plans to do so in the future. Due to COVID-19, most 2020 trainings and events were canceled, so there are no items to report.

F. Employee notification on the provisions of ORS 182.162 to 182.168 and the department policy on tribal government relations

The department has established a Government-to-Government workgroup, comprised of field and headquarters staff. The role of the workgroup is to create an environment for continued learning, communicating, and implementing the government-to-government policies and procedures to enhance the department's relationship with the tribes.

This workgroup serves as an advisory group to the department's executive team on the department's policy and procedures documents on tribal government relations.