



Oregon Travel Experience
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97302
503-378-4508 1-800-574-9397
503-378-6282 FAX
ortravelexperience.com



2014 Government-to-Government Annual Report November 21, 2014

This report identifies activities of the travel Information Council (dba Oregon travel Experience or OTE) in accordance with ORS 182.162-182.168, the Relationship of State Agencies with Indian Tribes.

1. Policy adopted by agency

The policy statement for OTE's Government-to-Government Relations was established on January 1, 2013 with enactment of Senate Bill 1591 giving OTE managerial authority over certain safety rest areas located on Oregon Highways. (The agency's policy statement is appended to this report). The policy recognizes the responsibilities of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the protection of cultural resources and establishes the responsibilities of agency staff to uphold those protections and develop relations with the federally recognized tribes located in Oregon.

2. Agency contacts

Tribal Relations Contact:
Heather Wyland, Chief Rules and Policy Advisor
503-373-0870
heatherw@oregonte.com

Agency Director:
Troy Costales, Interim Chief Executive Officer
503-373-1042
troyc@oregonte.com

Agency Deputy Director:
Tim Pickett, Chief Operating Officer
503-378-3480
timp@oregonte.com

3. Agency programs that affect tribes

3.1 Safety Rest Areas

OTE manages 29 safety rest area locations on Oregon highways. As there is possibility that cultural resources could be uncovered during a ground-disturbing activity, the agency consults with LCIS and SHPO, and contracts with a professional archaeologist to assure protection of cultural resources before any planned construction activity.

OTE manages safety rest areas in the following locations:

French Prairie rest areas, I-5 south of Wilsonville
Santiam River rest areas, I-5 south of Salem
Oak Grove rest areas, I-5 west of Junction City
Gettings Creek rest areas, I-5 north of Cottage Grove
Cabin Creek rest areas, I-5 north of Sutherlin
Manzanita rest areas, I-5 north of Grants Pass
Suncrest rest area, I-5 North of Ashland
Memaloose rest areas, I-84 west of the Dalles
Boardman rest areas, I-84 west of Boardman
Stanfield rest areas, I-84 west of Stanfield
Deadman's Pass rest areas, I-84 east of Cabbage Hill
Charles Reynolds rest areas, I-84 east of La Grande
Baker Valley rest areas, I-84 west of Baker city
Weatherby res area, I-84 east of Baker City
Ontario rest area, I-84 in Ontario
Tillamook River rest area, US 101 south of Tillamook
Government Camp rest area, US 26 on Mount Hood

OTE bases its rest area management on the needs of visiting motorists and collaborates with communities, industry partners and regional business to provide the best traveling experience possible. Rest area information centers provide visitors with travel displays and brochures about area hotels, restaurants, golf courses, museums and other attractions. The rest area "Free Coffee" program is a service sponsored by local non-profit organizations in the interest of public safety.

3.2 Highway Business Signs

OTE serves travelers and business interests through its business logo and guide signs program. Known for their iconic blue sign backgrounds, logo signs guide motorist to local services offering gas, food, lodging, camping and area attractions. On conventional highways, the agency also provides blue signs to tourist oriented businesses and brown signs to museums and historic sites.

3.3 Historical Markers

OTE also administers the Oregon Historical Marker program that restores and maintains the state's oldest wooden markers while creating a new generation of markers to tell Oregon's stories and reflect the changing perspective of the state's history. Newer historical markers include "Homeland of the Cow Creeks," and "Homeland of the Burns Paiute." New additions to this program are the collaborative "Regional Markers" that team up two or more organizations to tell the story of a larger area and honoring the people who have lived there.

4. Area of work and communication with tribes

4.1 Contract with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) status update: Prior to OTE replacing the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) management and operation of the rest area at Deadman Pass, ODOT initiated a contract with CTUIR to provide janitorial services for this location. OTE and CTUIR began negotiations to transfer the existing contract over to OTE. Both parties were unable to negotiate a mutually acceptable contract, and amicably allowed the contract to end in June 2014.

OTE also investigated the well at the Deadman Pass rest area to determine whether it can be revived. The inspection and associated activities were coordinated with the local CTUIR representative to ensure that OTE was in compliance with any archeological restrictions for activities in known areas with artifacts.

OTE worked with SHPO to request approval for placement of five modular buildings at various sites in 2014. OTE again coordinated with the local CTUIR representative to ensure that placement of the building at the Deadman Pass and Oak Grove rest areas were also in compliance with any archeological restrictions for activities in known areas with artifacts.

4.2 May 2014 quarterly council meeting: OTE held one of the 2014 quarterly council meetings in Medford, Oregon this year and extended an invitation to The Klamath Tribes, The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to attend our reception. Neither of the Tribes were able to attend, but extended their thanks for our invitations. However, the invitation did provide another opportunity. (Refer to section 5 below.)

5. Partnership Projects.

Robert Kentta of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians reached out to OTE for possible participating in a group that was forming to inventory the Rogue River Wars battlefields/U.S. Army Forts/Settler and Miner Forts associate with the Rogue River Wars, and possibly to include military roads/trails. All of which would include doing some assessment work as to ownership, condition, accessibility, interpretive value, risks in bringing to attention to the public, etc. The plan would then be to write a larger (possibly Nat. Park Service American Battlefields Program Grant) and do an actual interpretive plan including those which are chosen to be included. The group was in the planning stages, and no further information regarding the group or project has been received since this initial contact and OTE's confirmation of interest.

6. Training and employee awareness

6.1 Training: OTE was represented by staff who attended a full day workshop on May 2, 2014 on "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" hosted by Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Topics included History of Federal Indian Policy, Oregon

Tribes and Treaties, Government-to-Government Relationship, Jurisdiction and Courts, Tribal Government Structures and Working with Indian Tribes. Several contacts were made, staff had an opportunity to gain further understanding of how to work with Tribal governments, including communication, first contact, etc.

6.2 Awareness: OTE was also represented by staff at the 2014 Spring Gathering hosted by the confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to learn about the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and their culture. The Spring Gathering also provided opportunities to build and enhance relationships with the Tribal governments and to participate in a cultural presentation and an opening ceremony. This event was well attended and included representatives from the Oregon legislature and a guest appearance by Former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh. Topics included Legislative Branch Partnerships with Tribal Government, Review and Discussion of a Tribal Sovereignty Panel, State Agency Communication and Tribal Input and Feed-Back on that Communication, Cluster/Workgroup Briefing and Select State Agency Annual Report Highlights.