



2020 ANNUAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT REPORT ON TRIBAL RELATIONS

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Oregon Department of Corrections activities under ORS 182.164 to 182.168

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1 Executive Summary

This report, required by [ORS 182.166\(3\)](#) to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services by December 15 of each year, highlights the activities, ceremonies, and events which took place in 2020 in prisons throughout the state of Oregon. Because the frequency and types of activities offered to Oregon Department of Corrections' (DOC) Native American population varies by location throughout the state, they are grouped by institution. Also included is information on newly added Native American religious programming. This is a result of our continuing efforts to expand services and explore new and traditional ways to serve this population – such as a growing emphasis on outside family involvement and participation in Native American events.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

2.1 The policy the state agency adopted under [ORS 182.164](#) [182.166(3)(a)]

DOC has adopted [Policy 10.1.6](#), "Government-to-Government Tribal Relations." It was last updated November 27, 2019.

2.2 The names of the individuals in the state agency who are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes [182.166(3)(b)]

The Religious Services Administrator, Daryl Borello, is directly responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes. Nathaline Frener, Assistant Director of DOC's Correctional Services Division, provides oversight of these efforts.

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2.3 The process the state agency established to identify the programs of the state agency that affect tribes. [182.166(3)(c)]

Typically, DOC Native American programs and activities are provided through volunteers and supervised by DOC Religious Services chaplains. New programs must go through an approval process before they take place in an institution. As a result of being involved in the development, recruitment, supervision, and approval process, Religious Services is aware of existing and upcoming programs affecting tribes.

Native American religious programs are coordinated through Religious Services. Powwows are institution-endorsed events, with Religious Services chaplains serving as the sponsors. All religious programs and activities are tracked, and specific information is available upon request.

The programs and activities affecting tribes provided by DOC in 2020 are listed in Section 3 of this report.

2.4 The efforts of the state agency to promote communication between the state agency and tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes. [182.166(3)(d)]

DOC is a long-standing member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety Cluster. Participation provides DOC with current information on public safety activities and concerns among the various tribes, as well as those of other state agencies. It also provides an avenue for building ongoing relationships with tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as we implement strategies and develop statewide procedures which may affect tribal members. We also believe DOC participation has helped tribes and other state agencies and stakeholders better understand the agency's mission and operations. DOC's advice and participation in the cluster has been helpful and beneficial to Oregon's tribes.

DOC continues to work with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and tribal members toward identifying opportunities for partnership. Daryl Borello, Religious Services Administrator, oversees all religious services, accommodations, and activities for Oregon's 14 prisons. All institutions maintain contact with tribal representatives and tribal volunteers to develop and present special cultural ceremonies, promote adult in custody (AIC) participation in cultural events and affiliations, and recruit volunteers.

Native American Volunteers

DOC relies on Native American volunteers from around the state. Volunteers conduct Native American ceremonies in the prisons and provide spiritual guidance for hundreds of AICs. DOC, as well as the AICs who benefit and participate in these programs, are very grateful to have such dedicated volunteers. Many of the services and programs would likely not be available without their service.

Tribal representatives began meeting with DOC and the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) Lakota Club in August 2017 to work together toward developing a reentry program for Native Americans scheduled for release. During 2018-19, then Correctional Services Administrator Nichole Brown co-chaired Native American Summit meetings with Jim St. Martin, a Native American volunteer at OSP. Last year the workgroup developed a "Red Road to Transition" model to utilize volunteers and native healers for a Native American-specific Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous-type re-entry program, which is still in use. DOC is actively reaching out to the Native American tribes requesting their support through volunteers to strengthen Lakota Club members through native spiritualism and native-based treatment and cultural activities.

2.5 A description of the training required by subsection (1) of this section. [182.166(3)(e)]

Specific annual training for state agency managers and employees is required by ORS 182.166(1) and ORS 182.166(2). DOC participated in this year's annual tribal summit provided by Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and held on December 1 and 2, 2020. The training was virtual, and the theme was "We're in this Together: Opportunities for Government-to-Government Relations during Challenging Times."

2.6 The method the state agency established for notifying employees of the state agency of the provisions of ORS 182.162 ...to 182.168...and the policy the state agency adopts under ORS 182.164... [182.166(3)(f)]

All DOC employees are notified by email when a new rule or policy is implemented, or when a rule or policy is changed. DOC Policy 10.1.6 is the means by which DOC notifies employees of the state agency provisions under ORS 182.162 to 182.168. DOC Policy 10.1.6 was updated November 27, 2019, and an email notification to all DOC employees was sent shortly thereafter.

3 2019 Native American Programs and Activities

A limited number of Native American services and events were provided during the year at each of Oregon's 14 prisons. DOC's Religious Services Unit continued to develop and deliver Native American spirituality and healing programs to the extent possible under challenging COVID-19 restrictions. Religious Services developed healing ceremonies at multiple facilities and plans to expand offerings during 2021.

While nearly all programs experienced some sort of decline or negative impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Religious Services continues to work with Native American religious leaders and volunteers to disseminate materials and aid in the communication between AICs and Native American volunteers. This partnership has flourished during the pandemic and has strengthened the working relationship between Religious Services and the Native American religious leaders and volunteers.

Prior to COVID-19, hundreds of AICs attended Native American ceremonies and services. However, sweat lodges, powwows, drumming circles, talking circles, spirit runs, smudging, pipe ceremonies, and other cultural and spiritual practices were curtailed after March 2020, and all powwows were canceled. To provide alternatives, DOC worked with volunteers to provide written materials and encouragement to the Native American population, and DOC chaplains facilitated many smudges, pipe ceremonies, and other activities when possible. In addition, an extensive series of educational videos and seminars were made available to help people understand and heal from historical trauma and further develop healthy self and tribal identities.

Religious Services staff continues to work with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of eagle feathers for AICs. Each prison provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American Sweat Lodge and outdoor worship areas.

Augmenting Native American programs and activities, DOC continuously seeks more avenues and opportunities to enhance positive family involvement in AICs' lives. Before the pandemic, DOC saw an increase in family attendance at several Native American celebrations.

Individual Institution Programs and Activities

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), Wilsonville

Chaplain Emily Brault, Medium (503) 570-6785 Emily.R.Brault@doc.state.or.us
Chaplain Claudia Al-Amin, Minimum (503) 570-6604 Claudia.T.Al-Amin@doc.state.or.us
Chaplain Sue Matranga-Watson, Intake (503) 570-2211 Susan.M.Matranga-Watson@doc.state.or.us

Before COVID-19 changed the world, Native American volunteers were providing regular sweat lodge ceremonies, talking circles in the minimum-security facility, and a healing the sacred hoop class in the medium-security facility. Without volunteers, providing these services has been more difficult, especially considering the varying COVID-19 tier-level limitations of contact AICs can have with one another and Religious Services staff. CCCF tries to offer one smudge each month in the medium-security facility. Until the latest restrictions, CCCF had added one drumming circle each month. CCCF hopes to resume that schedule soon. Unfortunately, the minimum-security facility has had fewer opportunities to gather due to lack of staffing and supervision related to COVID-19.

The CCCF chaplain's office distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to show on AIC televisions. CCCF Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Intake for Incarcerated Men

Because men spend such a short time on intake status, there are no organized religious services offered at the Intake Center. A Religious Services Orientation class is provided to the men. Orientation was offered until March 2020, when it was halted due to COVID-19 staff restrictions. Since then, Native American religious books, nonfiction and fiction books, and newspapers are provided to the men at Intake as well as information regarding eagle feathers, medicine bags, powwows, and sweats.

Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI), Portland, and South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC), Tillamook

Chaplain Phil Holbrook (503) 971-673-3563 Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.state.or.us

CRCI and SFFC are both served by Chaplain Phil Holbrook. Even during the pandemic, Chaplain Holbrook managed to offer weekly smudge ceremonies. In the months prior to COVID-19, CRCI provided a weekly volunteer-led Native American crafting group and drumming circle, and a weekly crafting circle was supervised by Chaplain Holbrook at SFFC. Due to facility restrictions, Native American volunteers have not been permitted access since March 2020.

In addition, the CRCI chaplain's office distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to broadcast on AIC televisions. CRCI Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that will be led by an offsite volunteer.

Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI), Madras

Chaplain Ken Ball (541) 325-5617 Ken.W.Ball@doc.state.or.us

To reinforce traditional Native American values, DRCI began the year by continuing weekly and semi-monthly Native American activities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all in-person visits from volunteers have been suspended. However, DRCI initiated a pilot project in April whereby volunteers were able to lead religious services virtually on Skype for Business. Native American volunteers began leading weekly talking circles in the chapel on a 70" Polycom screen and were able to interact with up to 25 AICs at a time. The pilot project was a success. Several Oregon prisons are now using Skype for religious services.

In September, due to the wildfires and the evacuation of the women's facility and Intake Center to DRCI, DRCI had to suspend all religious services, including those on Skype. Shortly thereafter, DRCI had its first COVID-19 positive test result with several more to follow. As of the date this report was prepared, DRCI was placed on emergency operations, and all religious services are on hold until further notice.

Faithful Native American volunteers are eager to come back, if only via Skype. DRCI sees the value of volunteers' physical presence when they are able. As the handful of those infected return to health, DOC Religious Services looks forward to resuming Skype services and eventually in-person volunteer visits as soon as permitted.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI), Pendleton

Chaplain Lorinda Schwarz (541) 278-3641 Lorinda.L.Schwarz@doc.state.or.us
Chaplain David Betts (541) 278-3642 David.K.Betts@doc.state.or.us

The planning for EOCI's annual powwow, which takes place in May between Mother's Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend, began in January – before the impacts of COVID-19. EOCI requested a grant from the Siletz Tribe to help pay for powwow expenses and were informed early in the year the institution had been awarded the grant. While making plans for powwow in February, the flu hit the AIC population at EOCI causing all institution volunteer activities to be placed on hold. In March, most Religious Services activities were canceled due to COVID-19, including the powwow.

EOCI continues to offer tribal newspapers to all AICs who would like them. EOCI has also offered other written materials donated by volunteers and other tribal groups or authorities. Native American coloring books provided by Red Lodge Transitional Services were distributed.

EOCI invited AICs and volunteers of every faith group to participate in "30 Days of Prayer" for EOCI and the local community, according to their own traditions. This took place from September 20 through October 20, 2020 and was well received by every faith group. The EOCI chaplain's office has encouraged AICs to keep a prayer journal during this time to share with volunteers when activities resume.

During the COVID-19 operational restrictions, Native American men who have experienced a family emergency have been able to request time to spend in prayer with pipe or smudge, or a place to sing songs.

In addition, the EOCI chaplain's office distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to broadcast on AIC televisions. EOCI Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF), Salem

<i>Chaplain Karuna Thompson</i>	<i>(503) 373-1350</i>	<u>Karuna.r.thompson@doc.state.or.us</u>
<i>Chaplain Avrohom Perlstein</i>	<i>(503) 378-2333</i>	<u>Avrohom.Y.Perstein@doc.state.or.us</u>
<i>Chaplain Dennis Stahlnecker</i>	<i>(503) 373-1673</i>	<u>Dennis.U.Stahlnecker@doc.state.or.us</u>

Since COVID-19 restrictions have stopped sweat lodge and powwow events, the Native American AICs at MCCF have gathered on Saturday afternoons for a smudge ceremony and talking circle. Fifteen AICs from various tribes gather on Wednesday nights for Native American craft and beading projects. In addition, the MCCF chaplain's office has distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to broadcast on AIC televisions. MCCF Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI), Salem

<i>Chaplain Ron Borden</i>	<i>(503) 373-0147</i>	<u>Ron.D.Borden@doc.state.or.us</u>
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Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Native American programming at OSCI included a monthly sweat lodge, talking circle, and drumming circle as well as the annual powwow and Change of Seasons meal. There is also a Native Club through the Activities Department, which supports the powwow with resources. OSCI has three Native American volunteers, with two backups. However, since COVID-19 impacted OSCI operations in March, volunteers have not been able to come into the facility and monthly activities have been suspended. The OSCI chaplain's office has also distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to broadcast on AIC televisions. OSCI Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Salem

<i>Chaplain Karuna Thompson</i>	<i>(503) 373-1350</i>	<u>Karuna.r.thompson@doc.state.or.us</u>
<i>Chaplain Avrohom Perlstein</i>	<i>(503) 378-2333</i>	<u>Avrohom.Y.Perstein@doc.state.or.us</u>
<i>Chaplain Dennis Stahlnecker</i>	<i>(503) 373-1673</i>	<u>Dennis.U.Stahlnecker@doc.state.or.us</u>

Religious services and activities such as weekly sweat lodge, sweat lodge maintenance, pipe ceremony, and learning and talking circles usually coordinated and facilitated by chaplains and volunteers from the community have not occurred due to COVID-19 restrictions. Religious Services has been able to arrange a weekly smudge circle and facilitated a spirit run out on the yard.

OSP has two cultural television channels that include Native American programming. The OSP chaplain's office has also distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to air on AIC televisions. OSP Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF), Baker City

Chaplain Roger Haefer

(541) 523-9560

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PRCF was awarded a \$500 grant by the Siletz Tribe for this year's powwow. However, all powwows and other group services were canceled due to COVID-19. The Siletz Tribe granted permission to keep the funds for next year's powwow. From January through March of 2020, PRCF held three sweat ceremonies. The weekly drumming service and Native American movie time were canceled in March. Since March, the chaplain has been supervising three weekly smudge and drum services - one for each of the three housing units. The PRCF chapel has 68 different Native American-related DVDs or VHS movie titles AICs can watch. The chaplain has distributed written material donated from Native American volunteers. PRCF Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI), Salem

Chaplain Larry Bowen

(503) 378-3188

Larry.D.Bowen@doc.state.or.us

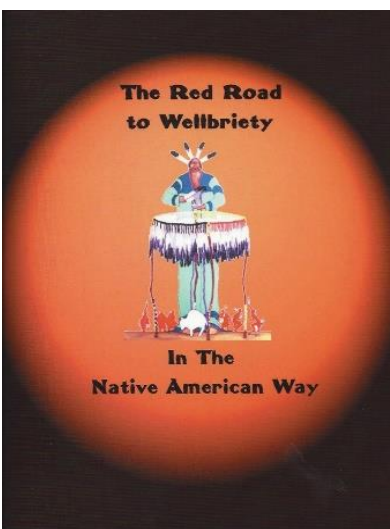
The Native American religious group at SCI is dedicated to sustaining Native American culture and heritage and encourages everyone who is interested in learning the teachings of the Native American culture. Before COVID-19, the group developed and coordinated various cultural-based activities along with monthly sweat lodge ceremonies. Some of the activities offered were sweat lodge, drumming sessions, beading talking circles, an annual spirit run, and powwows.

COVID-19 restrictions have prevented volunteers from coming into the facility since March. However, the SCI chaplain's office has distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to show on AIC televisions. SCI Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Shutter Creek Correctional Institution (SCCI), North Bend

Chaplain Chris VonLobedan (541) 756-6666 Ext 264

Christopher.E.VonLobedan@doc.state.or.us



Native American programming at SCCI offers a weekly recovery program based on "The Red Road to Wellbriety." Grants from the Coquille Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians have helped underwrite the cost of the curriculum. SCCI collaborated with Red Lodge to train volunteers through a grant from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Programing at SCCI has been restricted to limit the spread of COVID-19. The SCCI chaplain's office has distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to show on AIC televisions. OSP Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

A weekly meeting is held using the Wellbriety curriculum to assist with continuity of care for AICs releasing to supervision in the area. Three volunteers attended a 40-hour certified recovery coach training. The volunteers also network with Wellbriety groups across the state and with tribes in the area.



(Community based sweat lodge for aftercare)

Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI), Ontario

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<i>Chaplain Trime Persinger</i>	<i>(541) 881-4686</i>	Trime.N.Persinger@doc.state.or.us
<i>Chaplain Steve Toth</i>	<i>(541) 881-4626</i>	Steven.M.Toth@doc.state.or.us
<i>Chaplain Samuel Suh</i>	<i>(541) 881-4625</i>	Samuel.S.Suh@doc.state.or.us

Many difficulties arose in 2020 due to the pandemic, but SRCI continued commitments in service to the Native Americans. Prior to March, Native Americans held monthly sweats in three complexes at the medium facility and one at the minimum facility, as well as regular beading activities. Individuals who lost loved ones gathered for a pipe ceremony.

Regular group activities ceased in March. With the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, facilitating Native American spirituality became more individualized. Some of these highlights are described below.

In May, circle representatives tore down the existing and sagging sweat lodge and constructed a new one. Willows from a nearby riverbank were cut by one of the chaplains to serve as building material. The spirit of the men made the work easy, and the elders taught the younger AICs spiritual ways while building the lodge.



(AICs constructing the new sweat lodge)

Providing for the men's spirituality during pandemic restrictions required developing modified ways to conduct activities in a healthy way. Plans were submitted to conduct healthy and safe bereavement pipe ceremonies, complex-specific talking circles, and pipe ceremonies.

The SRCI circle received a gracious financial grant from the Siletz Tribe for powwow and other cultural enhancing activities. It was a great disappointment to cancel the annual powwow scheduled for August, but accepted with understanding for the health of friends, family, and AICs.

The Native American chapel clerks sewed medicine bags for authorized Native Americans in special housing and provided several medicine bags to the circle at PRCF. PRCF chaplains coordinated the receipt and delivery of feathers from the National Wildlife Eagle Repository and Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Repository.

Red Lodge Transition Services provided beautiful therapeutic adult coloring books to assist those restricted during the pandemic to have an in-cell activity. Some AICs enjoyed them so much, they donated funds to obtain another book.

Circle members have grown, harvested, dried, and prepared both sage and sweetgrass. Sage has been prepared and processed for the circles at OSP and CRCI. Sweetgrass was braided from the minimum facility for use at other facilities, gifts to guests, and institutional ceremonies.



The AIC audio/video library has distributed a variety of Native American DVDs to broadcast on the AIC television. One channel is dedicated to religious broadcasting 24 hours-a-day. Native American DVDs are shown regularly, but the variety of titles is limited.

The SRCI chaplain's office has also distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to broadcast on AIC televisions. SRCI religious services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.



(An AIC preparing sweetgrass)

Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI), Umatilla

Chaplain Jaime Cardona (541) 922-2086 Jaime.A.Cardona@doc.state.or.us
Chaplain Don Hodney (541) 922-2087 Don.E.Hodney@doc.state.or.us

Due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, group gatherings at TRCI were suspended in March. Sweat ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, and drum circles were canceled.

During the COVID-19 restrictions, alternative opportunities were created for the TRCI Native American circle to receive spiritual encouragement. These included DVD documentaries or movies about Native American community and culture; individual or small group gatherings which consisted of smudging, prayer, fellowship, and drum worship; and forwarding news to AICs from DOC Native American religious service volunteers who provide letters of encouragement and strength to the TRCI Native American circle and individuals.

The TRCI chaplain's office also distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to show on AIC televisions. TRCI Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF), Lakeview

Chaplain Stan Friend (541) 947-8217 Stan.E.Friend@doc.state.or.us

WCCF Native American activities typically include weekly drumming ceremony, beading, smudge ceremony, Native American videos, and talking circle. WCCF held the Native American sweat lodge ceremony and Native American fire starters ceremonial preparation in February.

Due to COVID-19 social restrictions, sweat lodge and powwows were canceled. However, WCCF continued to provide some activities on a weekly basis. WCCF Religious Services doubled the Native American callouts to accommodate social distancing when allowed.

In addition, the WCCF chaplain's office distributed written material provided by Native American volunteers as well as video-based programming to show on AIC televisions. WCCF Religious Services is working to implement virtual services that can be led by an offsite volunteer.

4 Data on DOC Native American Programs

Institution	Native American Programs							
CCCF	Crafts	Flute	Flute Practice	Smudge	Spring Celebrate	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle	
CRCI	Drumming	Fire Starters	Powwow	Sweat Lodge				
DRCI	Cultural Study	Drum Circle	Fire Starters	Powwow	Spirit Run	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle	Wooden Flute
EOCI	NA Movie	Powwow	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle				
MCCF	Powwow (SCI)	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle					
OSCI	Drumming	Fire Starters	Powwow	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle			
OSP	Beading	Drumming	Fire Starters	Powwow	Sweat Lodge	Sweat Lodge Main		
PRCF	Drumming	Fire Starters	NA Movie	Powwow	Sweat Lodge	Sweat Lodge Main	Talking Circle	
SCCI	Change of Seasons	Drum/Wellbriety	Sweat Lodge					
SCI	Powwow	Smudge/Drum	Song/Drum	Sweat Lodge				
SFFC	Powwow (CRCI)	Smudge	Sweat Lodge	Sweat Lodge Main				
SRCI	Drumming	Powwow	Sweat Lodge	Fire Starters				
TRCI	Fire Starters	Powwow	Sweat Lodge					
WCCF	Beading	Drumming	Native Planning	Powwow	Smudge	Sweat Lodge	Sweat Lodge Main	

5 Conclusion

DOC continues its work with tribal representatives throughout the state to maintain cooperative relationships even within the challenging restrictions posed by the pandemic. Although not an ideal situation, Native American AICs within DOC continue to move forward with critical religious expression. DOC values the work done by volunteers during this difficult time. DOC will work to maintain and enhance those relationships in 2021. One of Religious Services' goals is to engage more Native American volunteers through recruiting and outreach.

DOC Religious Services anticipates more opportunities to involve the Native American community in institutional programs and in the transition of AICs into communities. DOC appreciates the Native American volunteers and looks forward to working with them in the coming year.

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