

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Agency: Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

2. Executive Committee Member:

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3. Department Statement:

The department developed an agency statement of interest in August 1997. Copies of the statement may be obtained from the director's office, or from the tribal liaison.

4. Major areas of work with Oregon tribes FY 2005 - 2006:

John Byers, Natural Resources Division Operations Manager, represents the agency in the Natural Resources Cluster of the Government-to-Government organization, a committee that includes representatives of natural resource agencies and Oregon's tribes. This group exchanges information and updates and promotes appreciation for and understanding of tribal and state programs and processes.

Oregon Department of Agriculture divisions serving the needs of and providing assistance to Oregon tribes during FY 2005 - 2006 were:

Agricultural Development and Marketing: The Agricultural Development and Marketing Division finds solutions and creates marketing opportunities for Oregon's food and agricultural industry. It offers assistance through the development and retention of production and processing capacity, and is available to help with the promotion and marketing of tribes' agricultural and food products industries.

Animal Health and Livestock Identification: The Animal Health and Livestock Identification Division (AHID) has the responsibility to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases in animals. The AHID, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, has worked with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) in the past to survey their horses for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). Our federal veterinary counterparts have conducted animal health liaison visits on the Warm Springs reservation.

Through a Homeland Security cooperative agreement, the division has distributed emergency disease preparedness plans that have been developed on the subject. The tribes have been asked to keep close watch on their livestock for symptoms of unknown diseases and to contact a veterinarian as soon as any suspicious systems arise. AHID staff is available to provide assistance to the tribes on livestock health issues.

The Oregon Animal Disease Emergency Management Plan calls for ODA to take action to protect Oregon livestock from any foreign or emerging disease. Such actions may include wide spread quarantine, animal depopulation, and carcass disposal. These actions may have an impact on tribal lands and require coordination of response activities with tribal governments. In 2006, ODA continued communications with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the CTWS to discuss agreements that would promote optimal cooperation during a highly contagious animal disease emergency.

In 2006, AHID met with the CTUIR new Emergency Management Coordinator and agreed to assist the Coordinator in developing the Tribes Animal Disease Emergency Management Plan.

AHID continues to work with the Warm Springs and Umatilla Tribes to help them with brand inspection and estray livestock issues.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Division is responsible for regulating agricultural practices for the protection of water quality; it coordinates its planning process at the basin and sub-basin levels with tribes and with federal land management agencies. Participation from local tribes has been sought in the advisory groups to ensure that tribal concerns about water quality and endangered species protection are provided a forum among agricultural producers.

Water Quality Program

Water Quality Specialist, Tom Straughan, interacted with tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the following projects or programs:

- In 2006 Mr. Straughan participated in monthly meetings of the Tiicham Conservation District, chaired by Louie Dick, member of the CTUIR and an at-large director of the Umatilla County SWCD. ODA assisted with the creation and organization of the Tiicham Conservation District, which was founded under tribal law rather than state law.

- He interacts with CTUIR staff in all natural resource issues in the Umatilla Basin. These include the OWEB Small Grant Team, the Umatilla Technical Team that coordinates the basin-wide water quality monitoring project, Watershed Field Days, the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area LAC, Umatilla AgWQM LAC and the Critical Groundwater Task Force.
- He is assisting in the development of an Agricultural Management Plan for cropland on the reservation held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- He worked with the Fish and Wildlife staff to develop strategies and priorities for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funding proposals and the Walla Walla Habitat Conservation Plan.
- He participated in the Local Working Group to develop local priorities for the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding on CTUIR lands.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Grant SWCD has a close working relationship with the CTWS to develop and install restoration and irrigation diversion improvement projects in the Upper John Day Basin through BPA funding. SWCD staff does the engineering and design work and administration of the contracting for the projects.

The Wheeler SWCD works closely with CTWS staff on projects and programs in the Middle John Day area including the tribally owned Pine Creek properties.

The Monument SWCD, Umatilla County SWCD, and North Fork John Day Watershed Council cooperate with CTUIR staff (Todd Shaw and Jim Webster) in developing restoration projects in the North Fork John Day watershed.

Smoke Management Program

John Byers, Operations Manager and Smoke Program Manager, consulted with CTUIR representatives involved with implementing a tribal smoke management program.

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