



2025 ANNUAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT REPORT ON TRIBAL RELATIONS

Director: Mike Reese

Deputy Director: Heidi Steward

Assistant Director of Correctional Services: Larry Bennett

Submitted to the
Governor and the
Legislative
Commission on
Indian Services

Oregon Department of Corrections activities under ORS 182.164 to 182.168

Due December 15, 2025

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1 Executive Summary

This Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations is required by [ORS 182.166\(3\)](#) to be submitted annually to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. It is intended to provide an update on the state of relations between the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) and Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, and highlight Native activities, ceremonies, and events which took place within Oregon prisons around the state over the past year.

Throughout 2025, DOC continued efforts to enhance services provided to Native AICs and strengthen relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, Native nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers providing a variety of services to the incarcerated Native population. DOC Director Mike Reese and several other agency leaders attended Native events within prisons statewide, to include powwows and Spring Celebrations. In October, Assistant Director for Correctional Services Larry Bennett, and Religious Services Administrator Daryl Borello had the honor of participating in the annual Government-to-Government Summit alongside Tribal leaders across Oregon, Governor Kotek and members of her staff, and other Oregon state officials. The Summit provided an opportunity to hear directly from Tribal leaders regarding the needs of Oregon's Tribes, and to have conversations specifically around the needs of those in DOC custody. This year's summit included a cultural demonstration at the Coquille Community Plank House, a bill signing ceremony for Tribal-related legislation, and an innovative neuroscience-informed workshop on strengthening government relationships. Several pre- and post-summit cluster meetings were also held to discuss a variety of topics, including public safety priorities, and ensuring sustained collaboration between the federally recognized sovereign Tribal nations of Oregon, and the State of Oregon. DOC's ongoing efforts aimed at addressing identified issues can be found in [Section 2.4](#) of this report.

DOC's Tribal Liaisons continue to work in partnership with the governor's Tribal Affairs Director and Native non-profit organizations to improve communication with Oregon's Tribes, better coordinate large Tribal events and ceremonies statewide, and increase the number of Native volunteers providing services to AICs. In late 2024, DOC partnered with Tribal leaders and members across the state to establish a DOC Tribal Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing consultation regarding DOC policy and the provision of services to the incarcerated Native population. This ongoing commitment to Tribal consultation, an essential component of DOC's mission – to protect communities, promote accountability, and transform lives – continued throughout 2025.

DOC remains committed to partnering in a collaborative fashion with Oregon's Tribes to explore additional opportunities to support and expand services to the incarcerated Native population. The remainder of this report will address these efforts in more detail.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

2.1 The policy the state agency adopted under <u>ORS 182.164</u> [182.166(3)(a)]	DOC first adopted Policy 10.1.6, “Government-to-Government Tribal Relations” in May 2007 and updated it in November 2019. DOC’s Tribal Advisory Committee established in 2024 and made up of Tribal representatives from across the state and the governor’s Tribal Affairs Director, is currently engaged in reviewing and recommending revisions to Policy 10.1.6, with plans to adopt revisions in early 2026.		
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)]	DOC has two assigned Tribal Liaisons. Religious Services Administrator, Daryl Borello, is directly responsible for developing, implementing, and supporting spiritual programs and services that affect Tribes. Larry Bennett, Assistant Director of DOC’s Correctional Services Division, provides oversight of these efforts. <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Daryl Borello, Administrator Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Religious Services 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-932-9332 Daryl.R.Borello@doc.oregon.gov </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> Larry Bennett, Assistant Director Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Correctional Services Division 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-437-2668 Larry.W.Bennett@doc.oregon.gov </td></tr> </table>	Daryl Borello, Administrator Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Religious Services 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-932-9332 Daryl.R.Borello@doc.oregon.gov	Larry Bennett, Assistant Director Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Correctional Services Division 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-437-2668 Larry.W.Bennett@doc.oregon.gov
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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)]	Like many services available within DOC, Native American programs and activities are often provided through volunteers and supervised by institution chaplains or institution activities staff. Volunteers are recruited by DOC chaplains and community services organizations serving Native communities. All new programs and activities go through an approval process before being implemented within an institution. DOC’s Volunteer Services Unit coordinates with the Religious Services Unit and other key partners throughout the agency to determine where new programs fit best – whether under Religious Services or individual institution Activities Units. The vast majority of programs affecting incarcerated Tribal members are directly coordinated through and supervised by DOC Religious Services staff. Powwows and Spring Celebrations are institution-endorsed events involving collaboration between multiple units within the institution, with Religious Services chaplains serving as sponsors. All Native American programs and activities are tracked in DOC data systems, and specific information is available upon request. The programs and activities affecting Tribes provided by DOC in 2025 are listed in Section 4 of this report.		
2.4 The efforts of the state agency to promote communication	In 2025, DOC made concerted efforts to strengthen its relationships with Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes, Native nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers providing a variety of services to the incarcerated Native population. A summary of these efforts is listed here, and additional information is available upon request.		

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

**between the
state agency
and Tribes and
government-to-
government
relations
between the
state and Tribes.
[182.166(3)(d)]**

- DOC Director and Assistant Director attended multiple Native American events in 2025, including powwows and spring celebrations at various DOC institutions. During these events they were able to meet Tribal Leaders and volunteers, express appreciation for their partnership, and inquire about their experiences in working with DOC.
- DOC Assistant Director continued to serve as Tribal Liaison representing the agency's executive team. The Assistant Director consults with key established Tribal Liaisons within other state agencies including the Department of Human Services, Office of Tribal Affairs, and the Deputy Secretary of State's Office.
- Regular meetings are held between DOC Tribal Liaisons and the governor's Director of Tribal Affairs to discuss progress, review and discuss policy-related decisions, and strategize best ways to strengthen DOC's relationship with Tribes and enhance service offerings.
- DOC and Red Lodge Transitional Services staff and volunteers who provide powwows and Spring Celebrations within DOC institutions statewide, met regularly to improve coordination efforts and debrief successes and challenges encountered at each DOC institution.
- DOC worked with the Governor's Tribal Affairs Director, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Red Lodge Transitional Services to secure salmon donations for this year's powwows and Spring Celebration.
- DOC Assistant Director met with DOC institution leadership teams around the state to emphasize the importance of DOC's relationship with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.
- DOC began holding monthly Native American Advisory Committee meetings to collectively seek consultation and advisement on DOC policy and services provided to incarcerated Natives. Tribal Leaders were invited to assign a DOC Liaison/committee member in May of 2025. As of the date of this report, committee members have been identified for Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Suislaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and Klamath Tribes.
- A Tribal Partners webpage is maintained on DOC's website containing pertinent information regarding various programs and services the department offers to Native American AICs. This page includes information such as the religious events calendar, details on becoming a volunteer, Religious Services and Tribal Liaison contacts, and other important information related to incarcerated Native Americans. The webpage can be viewed at <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/family-connections/pages/Tribal-partners.aspx>.
- A DOC-wide email announcement was sent out informing all staff that November was [National Native American Heritage Month](#), the importance of DOC's partnerships with Oregon's Tribes, and the opportunity the month's observance presented to honor the rich

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

cultures, traditions, and contributions of the Native American communities.

- DOC has been invited to meet with various Tribal leaders around the state in 2026.
- DOC Religious Services Unit set a goal for 2026 to recruit for and hire a Native American chaplain to join the DOC Religious Services Team.

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 provides an avenue for building ongoing relationships with Tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as DOC implements strategies and develops statewide procedures which may affect Tribal members. DOC believes participation has helped Tribes and other state agencies and stakeholders better understand the agency's mission and operations. DOC also believes its 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 to identify opportunities for partnership. Religious Services Administrator Daryl Borello oversees all religious services, accommodations, and activities for Oregon's 12 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. The DOC Religious Services Administrator also attends Legislative Commission on Indian Services meetings and offers in-person briefings when requested.

Native American Volunteers

DOC relies on Native American volunteers from around the state to conduct Native American ceremonies in the prisons and provide spiritual guidance for AICs. However, DOC has historically struggled to recruit Native American volunteers to provide these services, especially in Eastern Oregon prisons where travel distance can be a barrier. In 2025, DOC was able to increase the number of approved Native American volunteers providing services to AICs.

DOC, as well as the AICs who benefit from 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. DOC cannot thank these volunteers enough for generously giving of their time and energy.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

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 the 2025 annual Tribal-State Government to Government Summit hosted by the Coquille Tribe. The agenda included workshops on Celebrating Resilience and Wellness Together: Nurturing Tribal and State Partnerships, From Tension to Intention: Reshaping How We Connect, and a sovereign leaders' assembly.

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 directive through which DOC informs and notifies employees of the state agency provisions under ORS 182.162 to 182.168.

DOC is currently working with its Tribal partners to review OAR 291-143 and DOC Policy 10.1.6 for updates and revisions. An email notification to all DOC employees will be sent out following revision adoptions.

3 Tribal Cultural Items Efforts

DOC has knowledge of prior enterprise-level efforts to obtain information related to Native cultural items currently held in storage or on display and was engaged in the survey work that took place in 2019. We look forward to being contacted by and partnering with the Executive Order 24-06 Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items in this important work.

DOC's points of contact for this effort are DOC Tribal Liaison Daryl Borello, Religious Services Administrator (Daryl.R.Borello@doc.oregon.gov, 503-932-9332) and Larry Bennett, Assistant Director for Correctional Services, (Larry.W.Bennett@doc.oregon.gov, 503-437-2668).

4 2025 Native American Programs and Activities

A wide range of Native American programs and activities were provided at all DOC-operated prisons in Oregon during 2025. DOC's Religious Services Unit continues to work closely with Native American leaders and volunteers to disseminate materials and aid in communication between AICs and Native American volunteers. These partnerships have strengthened noticeably in the last couple of years.

DOC also continues to seek out and facilitate additional Native cultural and spiritual programs, events, and ceremonies at multiple facilities. This work includes plans to expand [Wellbriety](#) groups at CCCF in 2026, and working with Tribal partners to enhance the transition experience of AICs releasing from DOC custody. Several Tribes are conducting pilot transitional services programs currently, and the results have been positive.

Each DOC facility provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American sweat lodge and outdoor worship areas. Several sweat lodges were updated in 2025 in partnership with Native American volunteers and Red Lodge Transitional Services. Religious Services chaplains also work with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of feathers for AICs.

Native-specific programs, services, and activities by DOC facility in 2025, are covered in the following pages.



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), Wilsonville

Chaplain Emily Brault, Minimum (503) 570-6604 Emily.R.Brault@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain David Cary, Intake/Medium (503) 570-6785 David.J.Cary@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Heather Summers, Medium (503) 570-6784 Heather.E.Summers@doc.oregon.gov

Spring Celebration was held April 26, 2025, with both medium and minimum custody facilities gathering outside for songs, stories, ceremony, giveaways, food, conversation, and laughter. The celebration included over 35 Native elders, visitors, and volunteers representing Tribes from across Oregon. Director Reese and Assistant Director Bennett were also able to join in the celebration.

Over this last year, CCCF successfully recruited a few more volunteers to help with the monthly sweats, smudge ceremonies, and talking circles. What a blessing! CCCF also hosted a Wellbriety class in both the minimum and medium facilities. Chaplain David and Chaplain Summers continued to supervise extra smudges as needed. Both the medium and minimum facilities offered beading group in the months leading up to the Spring Celebration.



Intake Population

People are typically housed at the Coffee Creek Intake Center for only 30 to 45 days while they undergo risk and needs assessments before transferring to a DOC facility. Therefore, recurring religious services and activities are not provided in this short-term facility. However, a chaplain is available, and Native American reading materials are provided upon request. Information and DOC rules on eagle feathers, medicine bags, powwows, and sweats within DOC institutions are also available to the residents.

Coffee Creek Spring Celebration



Ed Edmo – Native American Culture Keeper and Storyteller

Coffee Creek Spring Celebration





Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI), Portland



South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC), Tillamook

Chaplain Phil Holbrook

(971)-673-3563

Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Holbrook is assigned to both the Columbia River Correctional Institution and South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC) facilities. He spends one day per week at SFFC.

Columbia River Correctional Institution:

Chaplain Holbrook supervised a weekly talking circle and smudge ceremony. Volunteer William Ward provided monthly sweat ceremonies. Volunteer Fred Cooper provided a weekly talking circle and smudge ceremony. These volunteers also assisted with weekly crafting classes when they were able.

CRCI hosted a joint powwow with SFFC. This year's powwow took place Sunday October 5, 2025. Thirty-four (34) adults in custody along with 21 volunteers from the Native American community and 38 AIC family members signed up to attend. Red Lodge, under the supervision of volunteer Patricia Jordan, provided all the food for the participants. A wide variety of Native foods such as elk, salmon, fry bread, and berry soup were served.

Working with Native American volunteer Fred Cooper, CRCI/SFFC recently applied to the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund hoping to receive grant money to help AICs purchase crafting supplies and Native American medicines for the coming year.

Note: Multnomah County declared a burn ban throughout the summer in Portland. As a result, CRCI was not permitted to have sweat ceremonies during the summer months.

South Fork Forest Camp:

The chaplain supervises a weekly talking circle, smudge ceremony, and crafting class at SFFC. Volunteer William Ward provides a monthly sweat ceremony at SFFC.



CRCI and SFFC Powwow





Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI), Madras

Chaplain Domnic Pillay

(541) 325-5617

Domnic.N.Pillay@doc.oregon.gov

Throughout 2025, the Native American Circle actively engaged in monthly smudging ceremonies and sweat lodge rituals conducted on the dedicated sweat lodge grounds. Additionally, every Thursday, American Indian Circle (AIC) members participated in drum circles held in the outdoor chapel area. Pipe ceremonies were conducted for bereavement support on the sweat lodge grounds.

Weekly talking circle meetings were facilitated by volunteers Mable Jackson and Rosana Jackson, who have further led Native American cultural studies sessions each week.

Volunteer Owen Wallulatum led monthly sweat lodge ceremonies. Under his guidance, the Circle successfully repaired the sweat lodge structure this year. Mr. Wallulatum and his wife, Rosanna, generously provided willow branches for the project.

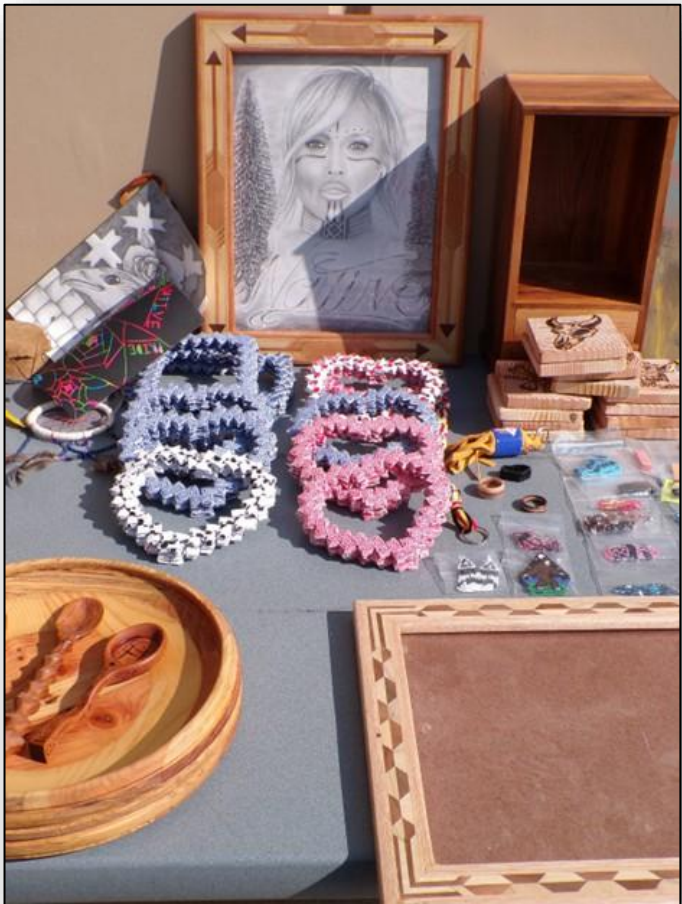
In July 2025, the Native American Circle received a \$900 grant from the Grand Ronde Tribe. The Circle also benefits from ongoing support from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, including supplies of medicine, firewood, and cultural craft materials. Furthermore, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians provided a generous supply of beads. The Native American AICs also contribute financially towards the purchase of Native American medicine and cultural craft supplies.

The DRCI Spirit Run was held on August 10, 2025, and was attended and facilitated by volunteer Owen Wallulatum.

Between May and August, AIC members participated in a beading program to prepare gifts for the annual powwow. The DRCI powwow took place August 31, 2025, and was attended by Tribal elders and representatives, as well as volunteers from Red Lodge and AIC family members.



DRCI 2025 Powwow





Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI), Pendleton

Chaplain Carmelo DiSalvo
Chaplain Nondier Zuleta

(541) 278-3641
(541) 278-3642

Carmelo.DiSalvo@doc.oregon.gov
Nondier.D.Zuleta@doc.oregon.gov

EOCI Religious Services continues to build on its successes of the previous two years while serving the AICS in Native American services. EOCI has been very fortunate to continue to partner with Jered McMichael who is a Pendleton resident and Native American volunteer. Having someone committed as a volunteer and close-to-home is a game changer for EOCI and the Native American AICs.

Jered not only facilitates smudges, sweats, and beading for powwow, but is helping to mentor many of the Native American AICs in their religion and culture as well.

The number of AICs joining Native American services continues to increase, and for the first time, EOCI is considering creating two services each for the east and west side units for smudge, sweat, and talking circle to accommodate the larger number of AICs who are joining.

EOCI Powwow







Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI), Salem

Chaplain Don Hodney

(503) 373-0147

Don.E.Hodney@doc.oregon.gov

OSCI saw continued growth in the Indigenous community and in providing program opportunities. Following are a few 2025 highlights:

Drum Circle – This program continues to meet on a weekly basis, providing opportunities to enhance communication among the Indigenous residents at OSCI, build a cooperative spirit, and teach Indigenous spirit songs within the Native community.

Pipe Ceremony – When a notification of a family death occurs that affects a member of OSCI's Indigenous community, a pipe ceremony is provided upon request for the resident who has received the notification. In September, a member of the OSCI Native community died, and there was a request to have a pipe bereavement ceremony. There was a huge turnout in sharing the pipe and songs. Pipe ceremonies were supervised by the facility chaplain.

Sweat Ceremony – The Circle continues to gather monthly for their sweat ceremonies, maintaining consistency. Historically, OSCI sweat ceremonies were held on weekends and were often canceled due to volunteer cancellations, weather, fire marshal burn-ban restrictions, or no available staff to provide supervision. Since rescheduling the sweat ceremony from the weekend to a weekday, the Native Circle has been able to celebrate sweats each month unless an institution shutdown occurs.

Wellbriety Program – Wellbriety is a culturally specific substance use disorder (SUD) program similar to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous. A six-week Wellbriety event was sponsored through OSCI's substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program, after which OSCI Religious Services partnered with the SUD program to facilitate the celebratory sweat ceremony for those AICs who completed the Wellbriety event.

Many Nations Cultural Club (MNCC) & OSCI Chaplain Meetings – The chaplain continues to hold meetings with the Indigenous officers of the MNCC reviewing existing religious programs for the Native Circle, discussing new proposals, and planning for the annual powwow. Additionally, the chaplain meets with individuals who wish to confidentially discuss issues affecting them.

OSCI Powwow – OSCI held its annual powwow July 19, 2025, and it was partially funded through a grant received from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation. The theme was focused on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). The collaboration between the OSCI MNCC Club and OSCI Religious Services was good, and the outcome of the event was highly successful. The food was excellent, the program well received. A number of honored guests from various Tribal communities and State of Oregon agencies as well as families and friends of the OSCI Native Circle attended. Honored guests included **Ed Edmo**, an Elder and Native American culture keeper and storyteller, **Patricia Jordan**, Red Lodge, **Cheryl Meyer** (former Deputy Secretary of State and Tribal Liaison), **Mercedes White Calf** (Tribal Liaison for Southwest Washington Accountable Communities) and Assistant Administrator of Religious Services, **Miguel Melendez**.

OSCI Powwow





Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Salem

Chaplain Avrohom Perlstein

(503) 378-2333

Avrohom.Y.Perstein@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Isaac Witcraft

(503) 373-1350

Isaac.H.Witcraft@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Paul Richter

(503) 373-1673

Paul.B.Richter@doc.oregon.gov

At OSP, a weekly drum circle is provided for the Native adults in custody, and it is well attended.

OSP has one dedicated Native volunteer who comes once a month to lead a sweat. If another volunteer is available during the month, OSP attempts to accommodate them as well and provide an additional sweat that month.

OSP hosted a Spirit Run for four days in July. A very nice crowd joined the opening and closing ceremonies on the yard which included a pipe ceremony. Immediately following the Spirit Run, a Sundance Sweat was held on each of the four subsequent evenings. This was possible due to some very dedicated volunteers who staffed each of the evening sweats.

OSP's Big Yard powwow was held in August. The close to 200 in attendance included around 70 outside volunteers, 40 family guests, AICs, and staff. Some of the food was donated by the Tribes, and the rest was purchased with money donated by Tribes and grants that support the powwow. There was a lot of delicious and good food! Honored guests left with giveaways, and everyone had a great time.



OSP Powwow









Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF), Baker City

Chaplain John Agbasiere

(541) 523-9560

John.C.Agbasier@doc.oregon.gov

The PRCF Native American Circle practiced and participated in weekly smudges on the sweat lodge grounds and monthly sweat ceremonies. Pipe ceremonies were provided as needed for bereavement purposes on the sweat lodge grounds.

Weekly talking circle meetings were followed by a viewing of a Native American movie. Native American volunteer Mable Jackson donated the book, "Meditations with Native American Elders: The Four Seasons" to the PRCF Native American Circle, which is read from during talking circles.

The PRCF Native American Circle also participated in Spirit Run and Change of Season celebrations.

This year, due to poor air quality during the fire season, the powwow celebrations were postponed from July to September. Because of the schedule change, there were fewer visitors to the celebration; but the powwow was attended by Tribal elders and Trish Jordan from Red Lodge.

PRCF continues to seek the services of Native American volunteer(s) to provide more opportunities and programs.



PRCF POWOW







Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI), Salem

Chaplain David Betts

(503) 378-3188

David.K.Betts@doc.oregon.gov

SCI offers a variety of Native American services for those interested in participating. Volunteers lead smudging ceremonies and talking circle. Drum practice is provided weekly in the months leading up to powwow. Additionally, a pipe ceremony is scheduled upon request whenever an AIC's loved one dies. Native American literature is available in the Chapel Library for checkout for interested AICs.

A monthly sweat ceremony is provided, and SCI is extremely grateful to Leon Araiza, Dallas Soliz, and Mable Jackson for helping the SCI Circle rebuild the sweat lodge this year!

SCI's powwow was held May 31, 2025. It was attended by AICs, their family members, volunteers, and honored guests and elders from a variety of Tribes. It was a great turnout for powwow, and everyone had a wonderful time of celebrating their heritage through traditional Native foods, singing, drumming, dancing, smudging, and gifts made in advance by the AICs for all the guests.

Many thanks to Trish Jordan and Red Lodge Transitional Services for preparing the meal, as well as providing an emcee and color guard. The generous donation of funds and salmon for powwow and a drum for the SCI Circle to keep from the Grand Ronde Tribe was greatly appreciated. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife also donated salmon for every DOC powwow this year, and the elk was a donation from Ronald Coltrin. DOC extends its thanks to all these individuals and groups for making the OSP powwow possible!



SCI Powwow





Snake River Correctional Institution (SCRI), Ontario

Chaplain Mike Clig	(541) 881-4624	Mike.A.Clig@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Kent Sullivan	(541) 881-4686	Kent.Sullivan@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Samuel Suh	(541) 881-4625	Samuel.S.Suh@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Steve Toth	(541) 881-4626	Steven.M.Toth@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Chuck Varner	(541)881-4626	Chuck.E.Varner@doc.oregon.gov

SCRI had a successful powwow this year having outside guests, volunteers, a host of Red Lodge Transitional Services staff, and supporters in attendance. Trish Jordan and the Red Lodge staff provided Indigenous foods for everyone.

SCRI provided the following Native American programs and activities during 2025.

- Bereavement pipe ceremonies were offered as needed, and for changing of the seasons.
- Devery Saluskin, the Recovery Support Supervisor for the Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services, provided a weekly Native American cultural education class via Skype. Topics include Tribal values, healthy relationships, anger management, addiction recovery, etc.
- An annual powwow event was held. In addition to creating gifts through craftwork, AICs worked to design and repair regalia, the sweat lodge, and drums in preparation for the powwow. The SCRI grounds crew trimmed and harvested the sage brush and maintained the sweat lodge grounds. This year the sweat grounds was remodeled with a gravel walkway lined with stones.
- Native American craftwork including beading i.e., necklaces, bracelets, medallions, earrings, pens, keychains, leather work, and dream catchers were offered.
- Medicine bags were constructed and provided to verified AICs for in-house use.

Staff worked closely with the feather repository in assisting AICs in ordering and receiving feathers.

SCRI had 17 AICs participate in drumming, 10 of which had never drummed or sang powwow songs before. Together they learned to sing and drum ceremonial and powwow songs. The drum group continues throughout the year, not only for powwow preparation, but also for sweat ceremonies.

- This year, AICs learned different styles of dancing (Traditional, Grass Dance, Fancy Dance, and Haka). There were six Native American dancers and 12 Haka dancers. Six of those had never danced before, and the Islander Haka was introduced and danced at powwow for the first time.

DOC is optimistic the new year will provide AICs more opportunities to access cultural education about Indigenous lifeways and continue their growth on the Red Road.

Adding to the above, DOC is actively seeking volunteers to help with Wellbriety, Talking Circles, Native and Islander culture classes, beading, leather work, and art classes as well with powwow dances.

SRCI Powwow and Other Events







Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TCRI), Umatilla

Chaplain Jaime Cardona
Chaplain Richard Bates

(541) 922-2086
(541) 922-2087

Jaime.A.Cardona@doc.oregon.gov
Richard.P.Bates@doc.oregon.gov

TRCI provides monthly sweat ceremonies. If a volunteer is not available, a chaplain supervises the sweats with the approval of Security Managers. Due to the number of participants as well as assigned housing, there are three groups that participate in sweat ceremonies – two groups from general population and one from the Administrative Housing Unit.

TRCI's Spirit Run ceremonies began at 6:00 a.m., starting with the preparation of the fire and the rocks by the fire starters, and ended at 4:00 p.m. The first group from general population participated in the morning, and the second general population group participated in the afternoon hours.

This year's powwow was held July 26, 2025. Family and Tribal members were welcomed to share a traditional meal and music. This year's honored Native American guests included **Sissy Falcon**, who entertained with her guitar and original music, and Ed Edmo who made everyone laugh with his wonderful story telling.

Volunteers: Currently TRCI has one approved/carded Native American volunteer, Mr. Leo Araiza, who assists with sweat ceremonies two or three times a year. Mr. Milton Hummingbird has also volunteered to assist with sweat ceremonies. In addition, Trish Jordan and Mable Jackson come two or three times each year to assist with Talking Circle or powwow preparation. TRCI very much appreciates the support of these valued volunteers, but its Native American activities and programs would also benefit from more support from other Tribal organizations across the state to help the members of the circle learn and preserve their Native American culture and practices



TRCI Powwow



TRCI Powwow



Chaplain Cardona
and Native
American Elder
and Storyteller
Ed Edmo



Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF), Lakeview

Chaplain - Vacant

(541) 927-8217

In 2025, the Native American Circle at WCCF maintained a steady participation rate, ranging between 13 and 19 adults in custody (AICs). Despite being a releasing facility, the circle remained vibrant and active, with members engaging in a wide array of cultural and spiritual activities throughout the year.

Programming included:

- Monthly sweats and fire starters
- Bimonthly AIC water pourers
- Weekly smudging ceremonies
- Multiple weekly callouts for beading and drumming
- Cultural videos
- Pipe ceremonies

The group also dedicated countless hours to beautifying their area in the Outdoor Chapel, an important spiritual space. Their work included eight members becoming certified to use the lawn mowers and weed whackers, laying new sod, weeding, cleaning, and harvesting sage for use in smudging ceremonies, demonstrating their commitment not only to cultural practices, but to creating and maintaining a sacred, respectful environment.

The circle continues to be supported by long-time volunteer Devery Saluskin, who alternated monthly sweat lodge ceremonies with Chaplain Abston before she left DOC – partnering to ensure consistency in spiritual support and ceremony facilitation.

The culminating event of the year was the annual powwow, held September 14, 2025, celebrating Native heritage and the strength of community. A special contribution came from Ms. Mable Jackson of the [IMPACTS](#) Program – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Ms. Mable Jackson played a crucial role in powwow planning, led talking circles with AICs, and provided generous donations of beading supplies gathered from the nine Tribes of Oregon. The 2025 powwow was supported by other dedicated volunteers and representatives from across the state, including:

- The Klamath Tribes
- Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services Outreach
- Painted Horse Recovery
- Lines for Life
- Red Lodge Transition Services

In total, nearly 50 individuals participated in the powwow celebration including AICs, volunteers, staff, and guests.

As a gesture of gratitude, the Native Circle created and gifted to volunteers and guests 56 original pieces of art ranging from dream catchers, bead work, and drawings to honor their ongoing dedication and support. The powwow program featured a special highlight: original artwork by AIC Campagna, created specifically for the event and proudly displayed throughout the celebration.

WCCF Powwow







5 Table of DOC 2025 Native American Programs

Institution	Native American Programs															
	Beading	Change of Seasons	Crafts	Cultural Study	Drumming Circle/Song	Fire Starters	Medicine Harvest	NA DVDs	Pipe Ceremony	Powwow	Smudge	Spirit Run	Spring Celebration	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle	Wellbriety
CCCF (med)	X								X		X		X	X	X	
CCCM (min)	X						X		X		X		X	X	X	
CRCI	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
DRCI	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
EOCI					X				X	X	X			X		
OSCI					X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X
OSP					X	X			X	X	X	X		X		
PRCF	X	X				X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
SCI	X				X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
SFFC	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
SRCI	X		X	X	X				X	X	X			X	X	
TRCI					X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	
WCCF	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	

6 Conclusion

DOC is committed to continuing its efforts to strengthen relationships with Oregon's federally recognized Tribes, community-based organizations, and individual volunteers providing Native American spiritual and cultural services and activities. Doing so will not only facilitate individual expressions of spiritual beliefs and traditions, but promote positive changes during incarceration, and support a successful transition back into their communities upon release.

DOC would like to express its gratitude to the Native American community for their volunteer support, grants, donations, and interest in DOC's efforts to provide Native American AICs with resources to express their spiritual beliefs and traditions. With more Native American volunteers and improved relationships, several new or rebuilt sweat lodges, and powwow ceremonies for 2025 having gone well, DOC is looking forward to 2026 and the advancements it will bring in our working relationships, religious programming, and overall support for Native American adults in custody.

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