OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

State/Tribal Government-to-Government Report: 2025

Message from the Director

Dear Governor Kotek and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services,

I am pleased to submit the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) annual Government-to-Government report. When I first returned to the Department as Director in 2023, I worked to design and operationalize our department's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. At the heart of that planning effort was the question: "How do we eliminate barriers so all people in Oregon can thrive?" This question continues to shape and inspire our every action at ODA.

Recognizing that tribal consultation and engagement are critical in ODA's rule and policy-making operations, I made an important administrative change this year by embedding our Tribal Liaison within my office. This adjustment ensures a more direct line of communication between our peers at each of the Tribes in Oregon and the decision-making staff at ODA. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the Tribes and collaborating to improve access to ODA's programs and resources for their communities.

A highlight from this year was being able to help fund the construction of a grain mill on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) - a joint project between Cairnspring Mills and CTUIR. Funding came from the USDA's Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant Program. After the devastating loss of Pendleton Mill to fire in 2022, this project will help restore vital granary and milling infrastructure in the region. It will also provide marketing options for producers farming lands through CTUIR's Farm Enterprise program and create 20 jobs on the Reservation. This type of collaboration serves as a model for us at ODA to apply to future collaboration efforts.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are committed to improving our service delivery for all of Oregon's farmers and ranchers. Together, we can build a more resilient future for generations to come.

If you have questions, please direct them to our new Tribal Liaison, John Boyes, at (971) 719-1418 or John.Boyes@oda.oregon.gov.

Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
Director

Honoring ODA's Relationships with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon

Burns Paiute Tribe

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Klamath Tribes

Cow Creek Band of Umpua Tribe of Indians

Coquille Indian Tribe

Introduction

There are nine federally recognized sovereign nations that have called present-day Oregon home for time immemorial. We at ODA are committed to ensuring their voices have a place to be heard and meaningfully integrated into all of our functions.

In our Strategic Plan (2024-2027), we identified that continuous improvement of our customer service was a key area for our development as an agency. This includes our tribal consultation processes, and we welcome feedback on how to better serve Oregon's tribal communities.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is pleased to present the 2025 Government-to-Government Report to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services as required by Senate Bill 770 (ORS 182.162-168). In this report, we hope to demonstrate ODA's commitment to working with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon in protecting, promoting, and prospering Oregon's agriculture industry.

As required, this report includes:

- The policy ODA adopted under ORS 182.164
- The contact information for those responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect Oregon's Tribes
- Our process we use to determine which programs affect Oregon's Tribes
- Our efforts to promote government-to-government communications and relationships with each Tribe
- An overview of staff training
- How we inform staff of the provisions in ORS 182.162-168

Vision & Mission

VISION

A resilient tomorrow for generations to come.

MISSION

Protect. Promote. Prosper.

We safeguard Oregon's agriculture, natural resources, working lands, economies, and communities through assistance, compliance, and market support.

Our Values

We are proud to be AGGIES, embodying our mission and values to achieve our vision.

A

Approachable
Accessible and friendly, fostering a welcoming environment

G

Genuine
Sincere in interactions, emphasizing honesty and integrity

G

Growth-Oriented
Committed to continuous improvement and development

I

Inclusive
A culture that ensures the dignity of every individual is honored, heard, valued, and respected

E

Experts
Driven by professional and scientific competency

S

Sustainable
Building strong relationships and continuity for a resilient tomorrow

Agency Overview

The Oregon Department of Agriculture oversees 38+ individual programs and employs over 500 staff members. From the apple on your counter to the flour in your favorite homemade cookies, our agency helps bring the bounty of Oregon's harvest to households worldwide. We are proud to serve over 35,000 farms across the state, 96% of which are family-owned and contribute $16 billion to our economy.

Administration

The Administration and Support Services Program Area manages the executive functions of ODA through the Director's Office, Communications Office, and the Administrative Services Office.

Plant Protection and Conservation

This division consists of five programs: Noxious Weed Control, Insect Pest and Prevention Management (IPPM), Nursery and Christmas Tree, Native Plant Conservation, and Hemp.

Marketing and Economic Development

This program area assists producers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors reach their market goals, whether at local or international levels.

Ag Services

These programs aim to improve the marketability of Oregon agriculture, food, and beverages through inspection and licensure services.

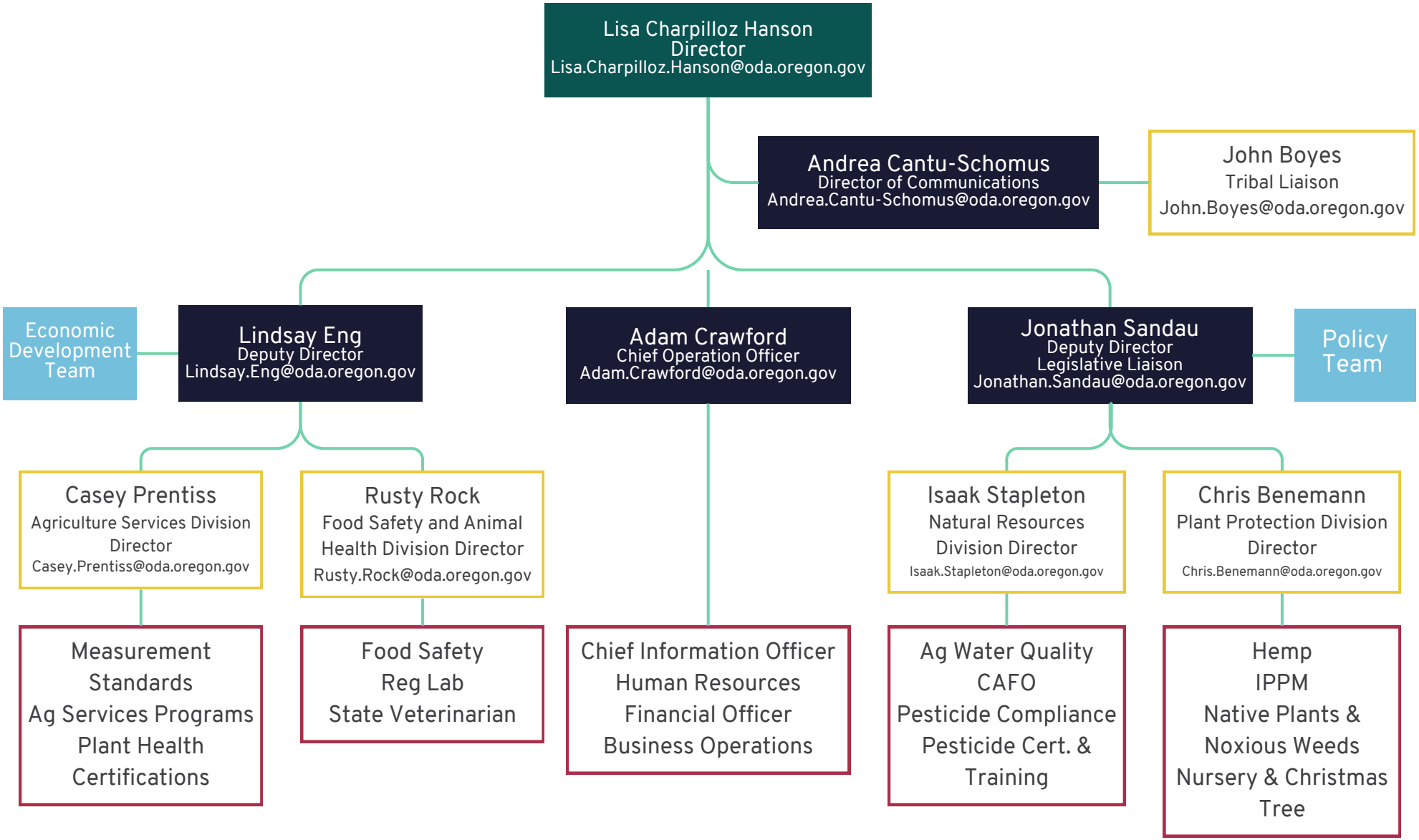
Natural Resources

This program area's mission is to conserve, protect, and develop natural resources on public and private lands to ensure agriculture will continue to be productive and economically viable in Oregon.

Food Safety, Animal Health, and Laboratory Services

This division consists of nine distinct areas with 150 employees across the state, providing key technical expertise and services to ensure Oregon's food is safe. They inspect food establishments, enforce sanitation and animal health laws, and monitor Oregon's food industry.

ODA Leadership and Contact Information



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Equity Statement

ODA promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our work. While recognizing historical disparities of the past, we make it our responsibility to:

- Create an environment where every staff member feels recognized, valued, and empowered to contribute to our agency's mission.
- Provide culturally responsive services to the people of Oregon, fostering collaborative partnerships.
- Implement policies and actions prioritizing equity for all people in Oregon, support robust agricultural and food economies, and promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.

To demonstrate our dedication to equity, we commit to:

- Provide equity in the allotment and use of ODA resources.
- Regularly review and transform our policies, procedures, systems, and practices to reflect our faithfulness to diversity and inclusion.
- Align our core values with our commitment to cultivating a workplace culture rooted in equity and belonging.

In 2019, ODA formed its own Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee comprised of representative management and staff. It oversees and assesses ODA's DEIB initiatives and recommends meaningful actions.

ODA Staff Training

Formal training in the government-to-government consultation process is delivered on an ongoing basis at ODA. The Department's Tribal Liaison provides guidance, oversight, and coordination support for all formal consultation efforts.

Tribal Engagement Policy

We recognize the value and significant contributions that the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon make to agriculture and our shared natural resources. To foster a collaborative environment, ODA has adopted tribal engagement policies under ORS 182.164 which include:

- Designating a Tribal Liaison who shall:
  - Engage in interagency cultural resource and natural resource working groups
  - Facilitate issue resolution between the Tribes and ODA
  - Work closely with ODA's Executive Leadership to facilitate issue resolution
  - Proactively communicate with Oregon's Tribes and solicit tribal participation in ODA advisory committees
- Providing training to ODA staff improving awareness about how ODA's programs intersect with the Tribes.
- Notifying Tribes prior to the destruction of records.
- Issuing an annual "Dear Tribal Leader" letter to each Tribe outlining proposed policy making and rule development.
- Submitting this report on an annual basis by December 15th.

Tribal Cultural Items Survey Work

Related to Executive Order 24-06

ODA completed its inventory work in 2020 and submitted a report to the Tribal Cultural Items Task Force.

Each of ODA's program areas surveyed and inventoried their belongings. That survey was shared with the Task Force, and it also included any applicable records retention guidelines and planned destruction dates according to ODA's records retention policy.

Annually, ODA provides each of the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon with a list of planned records destruction activities for the upcoming year, allowing Tribes the opportunity to request and retrieve those records prior to destruction.

John Boyes, Tribal Liaison, serves as ODA's point of contact for the Cultural Items work.

Tribal Engagement with the Board of Agriculture

The Board of Agriculture is a 10-member, Governor-appointed body that provides general policy direction for ODA. Seven members are actively engaged in farming or ranching, and two members represent public interests; the tenth Board Member serves in ex-officio capacity and is the Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The Director of ODA and the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University serve on the Board as ex-officio, non-voting members.

First Foods at CTUIR

At the June 2025 Board of Agriculture meeting in La Grande, OR, Eric Quaempts shared details about the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) First Foods Policy Program. Quaempts serves as the Natural Resources Director for CTUIR. This culturally grounded program serves as a cornerstone of the Tribe's natural resource stewardship, built around the protection and sustained availability of the First Foods traditionally served in the tribal Longhouse: water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberries.

"Reciprocity is necessary for sustainability," was a powerful reminder that Eric shared with the Board. Our interconnectedness to the land and its resources is something that can help guide the Board's policy development efforts.

Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council

At the December 2025 Board of Agriculture meeting, Elaine Harvey, Watershed Program Manager, shared ongoing projects at the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council (CRITFC). She shared details about the Tribal Energy Vision published in 2022, their efforts to support tribal fishermen on the Columbia, and provided a history of the treaty rights that are still held by the four Tribes along the Columbia River.

Notable Events of 2025

2025 Government-to-Government Summit

"In times designed to divide us, we gather."

Deputy Director Lindsay Eng and Tribal Liaison John Boyes participated in the annual Government-to-Government Summit co-hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe at their Ko-Kwel Casino Resort in North Bend, OR. Governor Tina Kotek shared her expectations of state agencies regarding tribal consultation and reaffirmed Oregon's commitment to honoring tribal sovereignty. While there, Eng and Boyes were able to meet representatives from the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon and participated in co-development workshops that will be used to inform the work of the Tribal Consultation Task Force.

ATNI Tribal Land and Water Summit

Hosted by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts at Tryon Creek State Natural Area

ODA's Tribal Liaison, John Boyes, participated in the annual Tribal Land and Water Summit. This year, the event took place at Tryon Creek State Natural Area's newly constructed educational pavilion and was co-hosted by Changing Currents and Friends of Tryon Creek. Tribal members throughout the Pacific Northwest gathered to share current issues related to land, water, and energy. Tribal Treaty Rights, fish habitat improvement, and the importance of collaboration were all key topics of discussion.

Restoring Roots: Tribal Partnerships in the Native Seed Strategy

ODA published its **Native Seed Strategy,** outlining clear objectives to improve native seed availability for ecological restoration and cultural use. Native plants are more than just ecological tools; they carry stories, traditions, and vital connections to cultural heritage for the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. The Strategy embodies these deep-rooted connections and was developed through meaningful collaboration with the federally recognized Tribal Nations in Oregon and other federal, state, and community partners. All Tribes were invited to participate at the start of the strategy development efforts in 2023, and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians served on the committee that created the Native Seed Strategy.

Together, we are planting more than seeds - we are restoring connections to land, lineage, and legacy. In 2025, ODA provided $125,000 in funding to tribal native seed nursery projects through its Working Lands Fund. Landscape-scale restoration is no easy feat, but partnerships like those created through the Oregon Native Seed Strategy provide a strong foundation to collectively work to heal ecosystems.

Tribal Engagement and Outreach by Program

ODA administers 38+ individual programs that influence nearly every phase of our food supply chain. We recognize that all of our programs intersect in some way with our shared natural resources. When an agency action is identified - either internally or externally by our tribal partners - as potentially having an impact on a tribe, that may initiate government-to-government consultation.

This report also showcases the less formal coordination, planning, co-creation and collaboration work performed by our department to support tribal agriculture and food systems. We acknowledge that meaningful relationships require regular support and communication.

John's Contact Information :
Phone: 971.719.1418
Email: John.Boyes@oda.oregon.gov

Meet our New Tribal Liaison

ODA welcomed John Boyes to the team this year after he spent six years working for USDA's Farm Service Agency. No stranger to the ways of ranching, John grew up on commercial cow/calf operations and showed livestock competitively throughout high school. After earning his B.S. in Agriculture Science, he went on to apply his degree in federal service, working as a noxious weeds specialist for the Bureau of Land Management and eventually leading national program improvement initiatives for the Farm Service Agency. He brings a wealth of knowledge and a dedication to ensuring tribal communities have access to the resources they need.

Ag Economic and Trade Development

Our domestic and international trade assistance programs provide help to Oregon ranchers, farmers, fishermen, and companies with market development, product development, and marketing. Additionally, this team also oversees grant funding opportunities to assist with marketing crops and expanding production infrastructure.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

ODA administers this program through grant agreements with the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide reimbursement for expenses associated with obtaining and maintaining organic certification through the National Organic Program. Tribally-owned farming operations that certify as Organic are eligible for OCCSP funds. ODA distributes informal notification correspondence to all certified organic operations.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

ODA receives grant funding from USDA to enhance competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crops and accepts competitive applications annually. Eligible crops include: Fruits, Vegetables, Tree nuts, Dried fruits, Christmas trees, Turf-type grasses, & Nursery crops (including floriculture & horticulture).

ODA's Tribal Liaison serves on the advisory board for this program to ensure frequent and accurate communications with Oregon's Tribes.

Ag Economic and Trade Development

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Program

About RFSI Grants

USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grants build resilience across the middle of the food supply chain, which includes processing, aggregating, storing, wholesaling, and distributing food products. Funding for this program was made available from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, allowing AMS to enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture, food processing, seafood, or food system and distribution activities.

Photo Credit: Andrew Snyder, Cairnspring Mills

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation - Coyote Business Park Investments

$755,077.75 for grain milling infrastructure to be built on CTUIR's Coyote Business Park (Blue Mountain Mill)

- Creates 20 on-Reservation jobs.
- Replaces vital regional grain milling infrastructure that was lost to fire.
- Will provide local marketing opportunities for farmers who operate CTUIR lands through their Farming Enterprise Program.

Manitou Farms on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

$118,815.77 for construction of processing and storage infrastructure for a vegetable farm on CTWS

- Provides expansion opportunities for a farm currently growing vegetables and culturally-relevant shelf-stable foods for vulnerable populations on Warm Springs.
- Shared-use equipment to facilitate mentorship opportunities.

Ag Economic and Trade Development

Farm-to-School Program

The Farm-to-School Program works to connect Oregon farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters, and food processors with school cafeterias, early child care centers, and summer meal sites. It also helps connect youth to food production through school gardens, field trips to farms and ranches, and grower visits to the classroom.

Connecting Indigenous Growers to Oregon's Schools

ODA's Farm-to-School Program helped connect Tutuilla True Fish to the David Douglas School District, where their salmon was served in celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Month in November 2025. Tutuilla True Fish is a Native American- owned commercial fishery that follows traditional fishing methods on the Columbia River. Lamar Fairly Minthorn, owner of Tutuilla True Fish, is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and previously worked for the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council.

Providing Cross-Program Technical Assistance

The Farm-to-School Program assists participants of other program areas to expand market access and reach institutional buyers. This year, they provided support to Resilient Food System Infrastructure (RFSI) grantee Manitou Farms from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and helped them participate in the Seafood to Schools Working Group.

Food Safety and Animal Health Division

The Animal Health Program is responsible for protecting the health of Oregon livestock. There are four primary statutory responsibility areas: Livestock Disease Control and Traceability, Animal Emergency Planning and Response, and providing veterinary oversight to the State Meat Inspection Program. This program area also oversees the Animal Health Laboratory, Commercial Feed Licensing, and Animal Rescue Entity Licensing.

Animal Health Program

ODA's Animal Health Program invited Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes to engage in the following activities:

- Participating in monthly One-Health Coalition calls that gather interagency animal and human health professionals to coordinate animal disease response.
- Rule-making activities including:
  - Implementing civil penalty rules authorized by 2025 Senate Bill 832 for animal health related violations.
  - Permanently filing rules to mitigate the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and rabbit hemorrhagic disease at livestock exhibitions.
  - Amending rules to clarify the definitions of Feed and Food for ODA certification programs.

Natural Resources Division

The mission of ODA's Natural Resources Division is to ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection, certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)

Notifications, as required by SB 85, were sent to all nine Tribes for the following permit applications and renewals:

- 2 Large Tier-2 CAFOs - Madras, OR & Culver, OR
- General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) renewal.

Ag Water Quality (AgWQ) Program

Recognizing the importance of water to the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, AgWQ commits to notifying tribes early and often about proposed rule changes. This year, invitations to tribes were sent to collaborate on the following rule changes:

- In partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, setting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for mercury in the Willamette Basin.
- Setting TMDLs for temperature in the Lower Sandy and Upper Willamette Basins.
- Updating rule language for the following Ag Water Management Areas:
    - Lower John Day
    - Wallowa

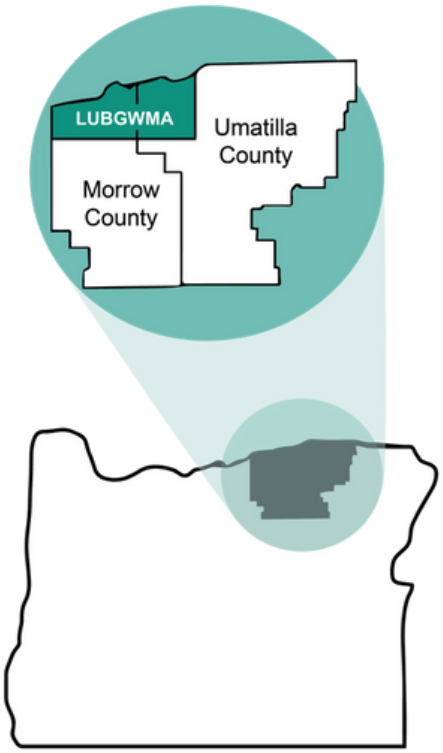
Natural Resources Division

Ag Water Quality (AgWQ) Program

Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA)

Brief LUBGWMA History

The Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) was officially designated in 1990 by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) after groundwater testing revealed high levels of nitrate contamination. The area covers 550 square miles in northern Morrow and northwestern Umatilla Counties and has faced groundwater contamination for several decades. In 2024, Oregon developed a Nitrate Reduction Plan which renewed interagency efforts to implement stronger cleanup measures and expand support for residents and water users within the LUBGWMA.



Consultation for LUBGWMA Rulemaking

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were invited to participate in ODA's rule-making activities for the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area, which began in March of 2025. Both Tribes were invited to consult before rulemaking began as well as serve on the formal Rule Advisory Committee.

These rules focus on managing nitrogen inputs from farming practices, a key factor in the region's nitrate contamination problem. Nitrogen, when applied in excess of crop needs, can accumulate in the soil and leach into groundwater.

Plant Protection and Conservation Division

Noxious Weed Control Program

The Noxious Weed Control Program works to protect Oregon's environment and economy by identifying, preventing, and managing invasive and harmful plant species. Through education, regulation, and on-the-ground management efforts, it aims to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

Weed Partners Reading Group

The Noxious Weed Control Program hosted a reading group for Invasive Weed Partners to collectively read and discuss books related to weed management. The group includes tribal partners and other agencies engaged in noxious weed control. This year, the group read "Medicine Wheel for the Planet" by Jennifer Grenz. The discussion focused on how the teachings of that text can support the collective work to address invasive weeds in Oregon across communities.

Rangeland Health Initiatives

In 2024, a large-scale rangeland resilience project began utilizing funds from the Natural and Working Lands Fund and federal funding sources. Two new Rangeland Health Specialist positions were created, and the first was onboarded in December of 2024. Our Rangeland Health Specialist has been working to connect with Oregon's Tribes to measure the impacts of noxious weed control treatments on First Foods and Culturally Significant Species.

Plant Protection and Conservation Division

Native Plant Conservation Program

ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program oversees the conservation and management of Oregon's listed plant species. They assist land managers with managing State- protected plant populations, issue permits for scientific research and habitat restoration projects, conduct research to enhance protected species recovery efforts, and review listed and candidate species for potential reclassification, removal, or addition to the State's list of threatened and endangered plants.

Tribal Natural & Working Lands Grant Program

ODA's Native Plant team regularly interacts and engages with tribal partners to collaborate on native plant species protection and regeneration. Work continues, and we are excited to report more next year when final progress reporting is complete.

State Listed Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

ODA conducts periodic reviews of the State List of Threatened & Endangered Species. Each year, each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon is invited to engage in this review process. ODA recognizes that Tribes have a vested interest in the conservation and survival of native and culturally important plants.

Agriculture Services Division

This Division plays a central role in supporting Oregon's diverse agriculture industry through market development, inspection, and certification services. Dedicated to service, ODA works with producers, commodity groups, and agribusinesses to provide critical inspection and certification programs that verify product quality and compliance with trade and regulatory standards.

Livestock Brand Inspections

ODA's livestock identification program works collaboratively with Tribal Nations in Oregon to support their livestock identification needs.

Weights and Measures

ODA inspects and certifies 10 scales for Tribal Nations each year. Though tribal measurement devices are not subject to state laws, some Tribes and tribal members have requested device certification through ODA's Weights and Measures program, including CTUIR's Cascade Locks and fish markets as well as the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians at several locations.