

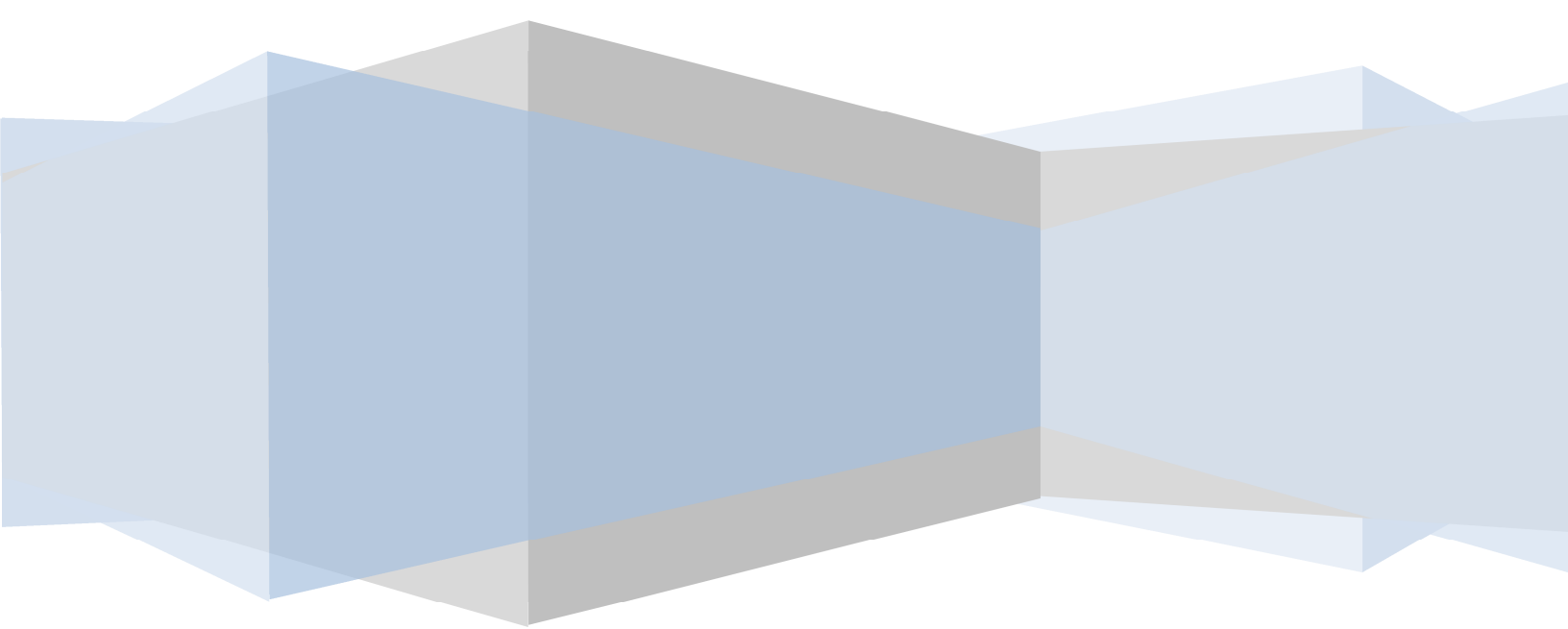
Oregon Department of Corrections



# 2013 Annual Government to Government

Report on Tribal Relations

Dennis Holmes, Administrator



## **2013 Annual Government-to-Government**

### **Report on Tribal Relations**

#### **Executive Summary**

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to work with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and tribal members toward identifying opportunities for partnership. Dennis Holmes, Religious Services Administrator, is the tribal contact for the DOC as well as chairman of the Public Safety Cluster Meetings. All of the department's institutions maintained contact with tribal representatives and tribal volunteers to develop and present special cultural ceremonies, promote inmate participation in cultural events and affiliations, and recruit volunteers.

This report will highlight the activities, ceremonies and events which took place in 2013 in our prisons throughout the State of Oregon. These activities will be broken down by institution to give the reader a clear and comprehensive understanding of all that is currently offered to our Native American inmate population. In addition, information will be presented showing newly added Native American religious programming as the DOC moves forward in expanding services and exploring new and traditionally honoring ways to serve this population, such as a new and growing emphasis on outside family involvement and participation in Native American events.

#### **Overview**

The Department of Corrections has been a long-standing member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety Cluster. The agency actively participated in the cluster meetings again this year with Dennis Holmes chairing the quarterly meetings.

Our participation provides the DOC with current information on public safety activities and concerns among the various tribes, as well as those of other state agencies. Our participation also provides an avenue for building on-going relationships with tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as we implement strategies and develop statewide procedures that may affect tribal members. We also believe that DOC participation has helped tribes and other state agencies better understand our agency mission and operations, and that our advice and participation in the cluster has been helpful and beneficial to Oregon's tribes.

#### **Native American Events and Religious Services**

A wide range of Native American services and events were provided during the year at all 14 of Oregon's prisons. DOC's Religious Services Unit continued to develop and deliver Native American spirituality and healing programs. Hundreds of male and female inmates attended Native American ceremonies and services.

Spiritual events and ceremonies that were provided include: sweat lodges, drumming circles, Pow Wows, talking circles, spirit runs, smudging, pipe ceremonies, language development, counseling and other cultural and spiritual development. An extensive series of educational videos and seminars are available to help people understand and heal from historical trauma and to further develop healthy self and tribal identities.

Religious Services has developed healing ceremonies at multiple facilities and plans to expand the offering during the coming year. Religious Services staff works with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of eagle feathers for inmates. Each prison provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American Sweat Lodge and outdoor worship areas.

The DOC is moving toward a goal of enhancing family involvement in offender's lives. This shift in the DOC's approach to events includes Native American activities as seen in the increase of family attendance at several Native American celebrations this year.

### **Native American Volunteers**

DOC relies on Native American volunteers around the state. Volunteers conduct Native American ceremonies in the prisons and provide spiritual guidance for hundreds of inmates. The agency, as well as the inmates who benefit and participate in these programs, are very grateful to have such dedicated volunteers. Many of the services and programs might not be available without their service. We cannot thank these volunteers enough for giving their time and energy.

### **Individual Institution Programs and Activities**

#### ***Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville***

<i>Chaplain Medium: Emily Brault</i>	<i>(503) 570-6785</i>	<a href="mailto:Emily.R.Brault@doc.state.or.us">Emily.R.Brault@doc.state.or.us</a>
<i>Chaplain Minimum: Claudia Al-Amin</i>	<i>(503) 570-6604</i>	<a href="mailto:Claudia.T.Al-Amin@doc.state.or.us">Claudia.T.Al-Amin@doc.state.or.us</a>

This facility holds a sweat lodge once a month. A talking circle is held once a month in the medium facility and two times a month in the minimum facility. A Spring Ceremony was held again this year for both the medium and minimum facilities. The medium facility also has a weekly class called "Healing the Sacred Hoop," led by volunteers to provide culturally appropriate skills and education.

***Santiam Correctional Institution, Salem***

Dick Roy (503) 378-2144 ex. 423 [Richard.D.Roy@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Richard.D.Roy@doc.state.or.us)

In addition to the weekly song and drum and the monthly Sweat Lodge, we also held our annual Powwow on June 8th (including the beading/crafts program leading up to it) and the Spirit Run in October. Additionally, the Native Americans sponsored a series of fund-raising events for the entire institution from January through May to raise monies for the Native American religious activities fund at SCI. We also welcomed John Sanchez as our new lead Native American volunteer at SCI and have initiated monthly talking circles as well.

***Columbia River Correctional Institution/South Fork Forest Camp, Portland***

Phil Holbrook (503) 280-6646 ex. 248 [Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.state.or.us)

Both CRCI and SFFC have monthly sweat lodge ceremonies. In addition CRCI has a talking circle once a month. On Thursday afternoons they have beading in the chapel area. At SFFC, we have a smudge and then do beading/crafts every Wednesday evening.

We had a combined Pow Wow Sept. 07, 2013 at CRCI. The SFFC inmates were brought to CRCI for the Pow Wow. The Pow Wow combined inmates, outside community volunteers and family including parents, spouses, significant others and children of the Native American inmates. It was an all-day event running from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and included lunch, games, gifts and Native American ceremonies.

***Powder River Correctional Facility, Baker City***

Roger Haefer (541) 523-9560 [Roger.L.Haefer@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Roger.L.Haefer@doc.state.or.us)

We have a Native American Sweat the first Saturday of each month at 11:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. We have Native American Movie viewing every Sunday at 2:00pm to 3:45pm. There are 45 different Native American movies/documentaries; some of these are longer series with two running over 12 hours. Every Sunday we hold Native American Drumming from noon till 2 p.m. and on Saturdays, we have beading all day, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In our 2013 Spirit Run we had 42 participants who ran a combined total of 475 miles. This year several non-natives ran in support of the Native Americans, so the Spirit Run resulted in building harmony between the races and religions at PRCF. The Spirit Run occurred between 5:30pm and 8:30pm every night, Tuesday through Friday, May 28-31.

The 2013 PRCF Pow Wow turned out very well. Eighty-eight people attended the Pow Wow, guests from the inmate's visiting list donated \$382 of food that morning, and the Umatilla Tribe donated five large salmon.

During 2013 over \$200 of craft supplies were donated from outside sources, and the inmates donated \$377 from their accounts for Pow Wow crafts and food. During the last year the Native American inmates made 136 gifts for the Pow Wow, which were given to guests by means of a drawing for gift selection order. Those attending the Pow Wow included NARA Volunteer Jubal Perkins from Portland, EOCI Native American Volunteer Dan Trapp from Washington State, and five Aztec Dancers from Idaho. This year's Pow Wow occurred on September 7th.

### ***Two Rivers Correctional Facility, Umatilla***

*Don Hodney* (541) 922-2087 [Don.E.Hodney@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Don.E.Hodney@doc.state.or.us)

*Jaime Cardona* (541) 922-2086 [Jaime.A.Cardona@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Jaime.A.Cardona@doc.state.or.us)

TRCI has held Spirit Runs for the past 8 years. We continue to hold Change of Seasons 2-day sweats (4 times annually). We have done this practice for 6 years. TRCI provides Drum Circle on the 1st Sunday of each month. Additionally, TRCI provides drumming, pipe and smudge for men who are in special housing on a monthly basis. We continue to provide pipe ceremony for those inmates who are notified that a loved one has passed away. We are working with a new prospect volunteer from Spokane area Mr. Grant Louis.

### ***Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview***

*Ken Ball* (541) 947-8217 [Ken.W.Ball@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Ken.W.Ball@doc.state.or.us)

This facility holds Native American talking circles on Fridays. The circles include discussion of current concerns, prayer, singing accompanied by a drum, and of course, smudging for purification and prayers for the individual. Volunteers led a monthly Sweat on the fourth Friday of each month. Native American inmates maintain the outdoor worship grounds. Warner Creek's greenhouse is used by Native American inmates for beading and craft sessions. There are occasional drumming circles that are held both indoors and outdoors. These circles teach new songs to all the participants. The facility has Native American books, CDs, and DVDs in its Chapel Library. Inmates at this facility grow and harvest white sage and sweet grass in the greenhouse. The white sage and sweet grass is used for on-site smudges and sweats and also sent to other institutions.

WCCF has seen a few changes for 2013: Our beading and craft class is now held weekly. The drum circle has expanded to be observed weekly. We held our biggest Pow Wow ever with 115 in attendance on 9/28/13.

***Eastern Oregon Correctional Facility, Pendleton***

Lorinda Schwarz (541) 278-3641 [Lorinda.L.Schwarz@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Lorinda.L.Schwarz@doc.state.or.us)

Harry Walles (541) 278-3642 [Harry.A.Walles@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Harry.A.Walles@doc.state.or.us)

EOCI holds sweat lodges regularly. EOCI Religious Services established a spiritual seminar that has been requested by inmates. The facility Enrichment Committee established a Native American cultural seminar. We held another very successful Pow Wow this year. We also allowed the men to use the craft center to make giveaways and had weekly drum practice for two months prior to the Pow Wow. We were also given through donation ribbon shirts that the men could wear during the Pow Wow.

***Oregon State Correctional Institution, Salem***

Ron Borden (503) 373-0147 [Ron.D.Borden@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Ron.D.Borden@doc.state.or.us)

Native American events and activities that operate through Recreation as a Club Event include an annual Social, an annual Spirit Run (3-5 day event) and a bimonthly Club Night. Those events which operate through Religious Services include: an annual POW WOW, a monthly Sweat Ceremony, a weekly drumming and a Cultural Video Lending Library.

***Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras***

Tim Woods (541) 325-5617 [Tim.N.Woods@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Tim.N.Woods@doc.state.or.us)

DRCI holds a sweat lodge once a month which includes a pipe ceremony. A drum circle is held once per month with a smudge preceding drumming. Talking circle with a smudge is held on a monthly basis. DRCI also held its third powwow this year. A smudge ceremony is accommodated for any inmate who requests one because a family member has passed away. Beading and craft work is accommodated 4 days per week beginning 5 months prior to the Pow Wow. Native American videos, music CD's and books are available in the Chapel Library. DRCI held its first Spirit Run this year.

***Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem***

Karuna Thompson      (503) 373-1350      [Karuna.r.thompson@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Karuna.r.thompson@doc.state.or.us)

Through OSP's Activities Section the Native community has a club called Lakota Oyate-Ki. The club meets every fourth Thursday of the month. All Club activities are coordinated by the Activities Section staff. These include monthly meetings, banquets and the annual Pow Wow. The Pow Wow is coordinated and run by the club members and Activities staff advisors. Club members do most of the fundraising for their annual Pow Wow. Currently the institution is considering the possibility of allowing family members to attend the Pow Wow. These events require intensive staff and security support to make them happen in this environment for which Activities carries a great load. Religious services such as weekly sweat lodge, sweat lodge maintenance, pipe ceremony and learning/talking circles are coordinated and facilitated by chaplains and volunteers from the community who are recognized as spiritual advisors. Religious Services are provided for men in the general population of the prison as well as in special housing units. There are also two cultural television channels in the institution that rotate between Native American, Hispanic and Asian programming.

***Shutter Creek Correctional Institution, North Bend***

Chris VonLobedan      (541) 756-6666 Ext 264      [Christopher.E.VonLobedan@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Christopher.E.VonLobedan@doc.state.or.us)

The Native American volunteers offer sweat lodge ceremonies on a monthly basis. We have a Drum Line on weeks without a Sweat Lodge and crafting/beading supplies available. The volunteers have been available for Talking Circle and Pipe Ceremony once a month. We have a Change of Seasons Ceremony on the day of the Fall Equinox. We rebuild and dedicate the Sweat Lodge annually in the spring. We offer a four day Spirit Run and Sundance Sweat, and will be collaborating with a local tribes for an Annual Pow Wow.

***Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario***

Steve Brabb	(541) 881-4625	<a href="mailto:Steve.Brabb@doc.state.or.us">Steve.Brabb@doc.state.or.us</a>
Tom Armstrong	(541) 881-4624	<a href="mailto:Tom.Armstrong@doc.state.or.us">Tom.Armstrong@doc.state.or.us</a>
Trime Persinger	(541) 684-2616	<a href="mailto:Trime.N.Persinger@doc.state.or.us">Trime.N.Persinger@doc.state.or.us</a>
Steve Toth	(541) 881-4626	<a href="mailto:Steve.M.Toth@doc.state.or.us">Steve.M.Toth@doc.state.or.us</a>

Sweat Lodges are provided four times a month, with one sweat for each of our four housing units each month. There was a Sundance sweat, a New Year's sweat, and a powwow held at the institution. We also have a weekly beading class, weekly drumming class, weekly Native art class, and periodic work details to care for the sweat lodge area. We have hundreds of Native American related books, CDs, and DVDs which are available to inmates. There is a television channel in the institution that offers various religious programming including Native American movies, documentaries and educational programs.

### **Conclusion**

The department has continued to work with tribal representatives throughout the state to maintain cooperative relationships. We will work to maintain and enhance those relationships in 2014. We look forward to more opportunities to involve the Native American community in our rehabilitative programs and the transition of inmates to communities. We also appreciate our Native American volunteers and look forward to working with them again in the coming year.

### **Agency Contact**

**Dennis Holmes, Tribal Liaison**

**Department of Corrections, Religious Services Administrator**

**Phone: (503) 932-9116**

**[Dennis.r.holmes@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Dennis.r.holmes@doc.state.or.us)**