

Oregon Department of Agriculture Government-to-Government 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Agency: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

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Major Areas of Work with Oregon Tribes in 2011

John Byers, Program Manager for the Natural Resources Division, represents ODA in the Natural Resources Cluster of the Government-to-Government organization, a committee that includes representatives of natural resource agencies and Oregon's tribes.

The ODA divisions serving the needs of and providing assistance to Oregon tribes during 2011, are summarized below by division.

Measurement Standards Division

The Measurement Standards Division (MSD) assures consumers that the weight or measure of food and non-food products, services, or commodities purchased in Oregon, is accurate. MSD checks the quantity labeling on packaged products, investigates complaints, and annually inspects 54,000 scales, gas pumps, and meters statewide.

Although the Tribes "measurement" devices are not inspected by MSD, Oregon tribes have requested that MSD license and test their gas pumps at specific locations. These locations include:

- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,
- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and
- The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Natural Resources Division

The Natural Resources Division (NRD) is responsible for regulating agricultural practices for the protection of water quality throughout Oregon. NRD 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 advisory groups to ensure that tribal concerns about water quality and endangered species protection, are provided a forum among agricultural producers.

In 2011, Burns-Paiute Tribal members participated in the NRD Water Quality Program's Biennial Review process.

ODA Water Quality Specialist, Tom Straughan (based in Pendleton), interacts with tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS).

Mr. Straughan consulted with CTUIR membership on two proposed riparian area restoration sites located within Meacham Creek and the Wanaket Wildlife area. Additionally, as a member of the "Umatilla Technical Team" (a group of local natural resources agency representatives), Tom worked with the CTUIR in completing a long-term Umatilla basin water quality monitoring program.

Mr. Straughan also consulted with CTWS membership in their efforts to improve water quality and fish passage by dam diversion, improvement, or removal during 2011.

Plant Division

The Plant Division includes four programs. These programs are Insect Pest Prevention and Management, Native Plant Conservation, Weed Control, and Nursery and Christmas Tree. The Division's programs protect Oregon's agricultural industries and the natural environment from harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds. The Division also enhances the value and marketability of exported nursery stock, Christmas trees, seeds, and other agricultural products. In addition to these programs, the Division furthers the conservation of threatened and endangered plants.

Plant Division personnel (along with Pesticides Division staff), conducted "Plant Protection," and "New Fumigant Regulations" presentations at the Northwest Intertribal Agriculture Council Conference, sponsored by the CTUIR.

In 2011, ODA Plant Division personnel as part of the Native Plant and Conservation Program (NPCP), continued with the ongoing cooperative project to restore fish habitat, and recover the state-listed species *Pleuropogon oregonus* (Oregon Semaphoregrass), on Burns-Paiute Tribal land. In cooperation with tribal biologists, 1,000 plants of this rare semi-aquatic grass were planted along channels and in wetlands along two streams within the site. Monitoring of existing plantings documented the success of previous efforts, and additional plantings are planned for 2012.

ODA Plant Division personnel as part of the NPCP, cooperated with tribal, federal, and state agencies in monitoring a population of federally listed species *Silene Spaldingii* (Spaulding's Catchfly), in culturally sensitive areas within Wallowa County. Tribal, state, and federal agency staff surveyed the area to locate plants, record size, reproductive status, and level of herbivory for each plant. Due to the cultural sensitivity of the site, plant markers previously installed were removed at tribal request. In their place, plant locations were mapped using high quality GPS monitoring devices.

In 2011, the ODA Plant Division assisted four tribes with noxious weed control project activities. These projects include:

- CTUIR – Garlic Mustard Project,
- CTWS – Tansy Ragwort Project,
- Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe – Paterson's Curse Project, and
- Burns-Paiute Tribe – African Rue Project.

Also in 2011, the ODA Plant Division conducted grasshopper surveys (grasshopper suppression program) on Tribal lands. Surveys were conducted on CTUIR, CTWS, and Burns-Paiute Tribal lands.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Division

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Division (ADMD) 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 product industries.

ADMD personnel assisted the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe in their efforts to assess the viability of a meat processing facility. It is anticipated that ADMD will continue to assist the tribe with this activity.