

Oregon Department of Agriculture Government-to-Government 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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Major Areas of Work with Oregon Tribes in 2012

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 2012, are summarized below by division.

Measurement Standards Division

The Measurement Standards Division has changed their name. Their new moniker is The Weights and Measures Program (WMP). WMP assures consumers that the weight or measure of food and non-food products, services, or commodities purchased in Oregon, is accurate. WMP checks the quantity labeling on packaged products, investigates complaints, and annually inspects 54,000 scales, gas pumps, and meters statewide.

Weights and measures program

Although the Tribes "measurement" devices are not inspected by WMP, Oregon tribes have requested that WMP 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.
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Natural Resources Division

In 2012, The Natural Resources Division (NRD) completed an internal operational adjustment. Previously, NRD consisted of the Water Quality, Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Smoke Management Programs. In 2012, NRD merged with the ODA Pesticides Division. This merger will assist in streamlining operations and provide better customer service to clients. In addition to the programs mentioned above, the NRD also provides pesticide user licensing and recertification, pesticide registrations, pesticide compliance monitoring and fertilizers, Pesticide Analytical and Response Center.

NRD is also 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.

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 has been assisting CTUIR in the development of an Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan. He has also received tribal input regarding the Upper Grand Ronde watershed Agricultural Water Quality Biennial Review process.

Mr. Straughan has also worked with CTWS on water quality improvement projects on the Middle Fork of the John Day River.

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.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Inspector Chris Anderson has been assisting the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians on rangeland health projects.

Pesticides Certification/Registration Specialist Laurie Gordon has approved a class for “pesticide recertification credits” to be held on the CTWS reservation.

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

Trees. 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.

In 2012, 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. As part of the ongoing wetland restoration being completed, 2000 plants were planted along side channels of Lake Creek. Tribal biologist Jason Kesling provided input on plot locations and assisted with transplanting. Archeologist Kurt Perkins (Bonneville Power Administration) provided cultural clearance. Prior to September's planting, all previous plantings were monitored by ODA staff. Oregon semaphore grass has established well in this site, and additional plantings are scheduled for next year.

A Bureau of Indian Affairs contractor noted an infestation of African Rue on Tribal allotments (Burns Paiute Tribe) in the Harney Basin southeast of Burns, OR. ODA has determined that the infestation appears on both tribal and lands adjacent. An African Rue Cooperative Weed Management Plan is currently ongoing.

The ODA Plant Division continues to assist CTUIR in the eradication of the invasive Garlic Mustard plant on or adjacent to tribal lands.

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.