

**OREGON DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Major Areas of Work with Oregon Tribes FY 2008-2009

John Byers, Operations and Program Manager for the Natural Resources Division, represents the agency 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 FY 2010 are broken down by division below.

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.

The Klamath Tribe has requested that MSD test and certify gas pumps at a new Travel Center on Tribal Lands. MSD has tested 23 gas pumps and is working with Tribal leadership to identify other pumps or devices that they may want to have certified.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians have also requested device testing from MSD.

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 2010, ODA worked alongside members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the Water Standards Rule Advisory Committee. The Tribe, along with ODA and other natural resource state and federal agencies, were the primary partners in initiating the rule revision for earth metals and other toxics to meet the proposed Fish Consumption Rate.

ODA Water Quality Specialist, Tom Straughan, interacts with tribal members from the CTUIR on the following projects or programs:

Mr. Straughan continues to participate in meetings of the Tiicham Conservation District and interacts with CTUIR staff regarding natural resource issues affecting the Umatilla and Grande Ronde Basins. These include the OWEB Small Grant Team, the Umatilla Technical Team that coordinates the basin-wide water quality-monitoring project, Watershed Field Days, Umatilla and Upper Grande Ronde Agricultural Water Quality Management Local Advisory Committees, and OWEB project review.

Through the Grant, Gilliam County, and Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Mr. Straughan interacts with staff from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) on natural resource issues in the John Day Basin including, restoration project development. The CTWS participated, along side ODA personnel and the Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District, in the Hood River Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan Biennial Review.

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 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, these programs further the conservation of threatened and endangered plants.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), consulted with Plant Division personnel regarding a proposal by Portland Gas and Electric (PGE) to grow Giant Reed (*Arundo Donax*) as a biofuel for the Boardman, Oregon power plant. CTUIR is opposed to the idea, citing issues with the plant along waterways. Because of the comments to PGE and concerns regarding Giant Reed, ODA is reviewing and updating the Agency's "risk assessment" for Giant Reed cultivation for commercial purposes.

In 2010, the Native Plant Conservation Program at ODA continued its statewide efforts to restore native habitats in eastern Oregon. A significant portion of this work took place over the

summer in Grant County's Logan Valley. The focus was on wetland sites administered by the Burns Paiute Tribe, where nearly 2,000 greenhouse-grown starts of Oregon's semaphore-grass (*Pleuropogon oregonus*), an extremely rare, native species on the verge of extinction, were planted. In addition to tribal participation and assistance, the work was financially supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as Measure 66 Lottery Funds. The four transplant sites for 2010 were selected with the help of Teresa Peck, the Tribe's cultural observer, and the Tribe's biologist, Jason Kesling. This restoration effort is part of an ongoing project to incorporate native semaphore-grass into the habitat improvement work being undertaken by the Tribe to benefit bull trout. Success of ODA's previous plantings here has been good, and this year's transplants are expected to establish well. Monitoring will be completed next spring, and we anticipate continuing with the project into 2011 and beyond.

The Oregon State Weed Board has grant funding available for noxious weed control. Four tribes have received funding and/or assistance in conducting weed control activities. These included the CTUIR, CTWS, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

As part of the Plant Division's cooperative grasshopper survey and suppression program, the ODA was pleased to be able check for grasshopper outbreaks on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservations in 2010.