



Oregon Department of Agriculture Government-to-Government 2015 Annual Report¹



The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) mission is three fold:

- Ensure food safety and provide consumer protection,
- Protect the natural resource base for present and future generations of farmers and ranchers, and
- Promote economic development and expand market opportunities for Oregon agricultural products.

ODA's Government-to-Government Relations Policy is:

The ODA recognizes the value of Oregon's Tribal contributions to agriculture and the rich heritage they bring to all Oregonians. It is important that Tribal interests are reviewed and considered in the ODA policy development process. To ensure Tribal input and communication, ODA will:

- Appoint an agency representative(s) who will maintain Tribal relationships and be responsible for ensuring Tribal input with the planning, development and implementation of programs that directly affect Tribes.
- Appoint an agency representative(s) who will participate as a member of the State Agency-Tribal Natural Resources Working Group, while promoting positive communication between Tribes and the agency program areas that may affect Tribes.
- Routinely review government-to-government policy at agency staff meetings to ensure that agency personnel are familiar with and understand ODA's policy regarding Tribal relationships.
- Enter into agreements with Tribes, when applicable, in the development and implementation of policies and programs that affect Tribes.

Executive Committee Member:

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¹ Activities reported from December 1, 2014-November 23, 2015

Kathryn Walker serves as ODA's representative for both the Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Cluster. Kathryn disseminates information from these meetings to ODA staff. Kathryn also coordinates the Tribal requests received to ensure that information requested by the Tribes is received. For example:

- In December 2014, Dr. Helmuth Rogg, Plant Protection and Conservation Program Area Director, attended the Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Resources Cluster Joint Meeting held at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community Center. As follow up to this meeting, Dr. Rogg attended the Cultural Cluster in March to provide a brief overview of the Plant Protection and Conservation Program Area.
- In June, Clinton Burfitt, Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program Manager, provided an overview of the Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program to the Natural Resources Workgroup.

In October, three ODA staff attended the *Tribal Relations and Legal Status of Indian Tribes* presentation at the Attorney General's Public Law Conference. Stephanie Striffler, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Native American Affairs Coordinator, and Howie Arnett, Karnopp Petersen LLP, covered the legal status of Indian Tribes, discussed the history of federal Indian law, and reviewed the state's government-to-government relations law.

Programs administered by ODA that provided assistance to Oregon Tribes in 2015 are as follows:

Internal Service & Consumer Protection

The Internal Service & Consumer Protection Programs include Weights and Measures, Motor Fuel Quality, Wolf Compensation, Egg-Laying Hen Cage Program, and ODA's regulatory laboratory. These programs provide consumer protection and fair competition among businesses while facilitating interstate commerce and international trade by ensuring the accuracy and uniformity of Oregon's Commercial Weighing System and the quality of motor fuels sold in Oregon.

Although measurement devices on Tribal lands are not subject to state weights and measures laws, Oregon Tribes and some Tribal members have requested that the Weights and Measures license and test their gas pumps at specific locations on Tribal lands.

These Tribes and businesses owned by Tribal members include:

- The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
 - Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge
 - Warm Springs Market
 - Warm Springs Forest Products
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
 - Seven Feathers Truck and Travel
 - K-Bar Ranches
 - Livestock scale (Myrtle Creek)

- The Coquille Indian Tribe
 - Mill Casino RV Park

Natural Resources Programs

Natural Resource Programs include Agricultural Water Quality, Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Shellfish Plat Leasing, Land Use, Smoke Management, Fertilizer, Pesticide Compliance Monitoring, Pesticide Licensing and Certification, Pesticide Product Registration, and the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center.

The Agricultural Water Quality Program regulates agricultural activities to protect water quality throughout Oregon. With assistance from Local Advisory Committees (LAC), basin-level water quality management plans were developed across the state. The LACs also review and update these plans as necessary. A member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz serves as a member of the Mid-Coast LAC and a member of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation serves as a member of the Umatilla LAC. Both of these LACs met in 2015.

Chris Anderson, Livestock Water Quality Specialist for the CAFO Program, worked with Rogue River Ranch, a permitted beef ranch owned and operated by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Mr. Anderson conducted facility inspections, assisted with the Animal Waste Management Plan development and implementation, and responded to CAFO permit questions from the Tribal CAFO operator.

Plant Protection and Conservation Programs

ODA Plant Protection and Conservation Programs included Insect Pest Prevention and Management, Native Plant Conservation, Weed Control, and Nursery and Christmas Trees. These programs protect Oregon's agricultural industries and the natural environment from harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds, enhance the value and marketability of exported nursery stock, Christmas trees, seeds, and other agricultural products, and conserve threatened and endangered plants.

Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program

In 2015, the Insect Pest Prevention and Management conducted grasshopper (Mormon cricket) assessments. These assessments were conducted at the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Burns Paiute Tribe. Invasive inspect traps were also set for Apple Maggot, Japanese Beetle, and Gypsy Moth at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

ODA detected Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) and European Gypsy Moth (EGM) this summer in traps located in the Portland area and near Grants Pass. In response to these detections, ODA, in conjunction with other government agencies, hosted a phone call for Tribes to inform them of these detections, discuss potential impacts from AGM and EGM, and review potential response plans. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde both participated on the phone call.

Noxious Weed Control Program

Burns Paiute Tribe: African Rue, *Peganum harmala*, a state A-listed noxious weed was detected in the fall of 2008 by Bureau of Indian Affairs contractor on Burns Paiute Tribe grazing allotments in the Harney Basin southeast of Burns. ODA surveyed the area and determined that the infestation was on both Tribal lands and adjacent private lands. Since that time, an African Rue Cooperative Weed Management Plan was developed and is being implemented by ODA, Harney County, the Burn Paiute Tribes and private landowners in the area. In 2015, the weed infestation is continuing to be reduced within the treatment area and prevented from spreading to other areas through this cooperative effort.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (CTUIR): ODA continues to work with Umatilla County to assist CTUIR in the control of the invasive Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*, a state B-listed noxious weed and is located on or adjacent to Tribal lands. ODA also worked with CTUIR and the Umatilla National Forest on the eradication of an isolated site of common bugloss, *Anchusa officianalis*, a state B-listed weed, in a cooperative river restoration project on Meacham Creek. Common bugloss was detected on this site in 2014. The likely source of the bugloss was rock and gravel brought in from the Walla Walla area to be used as fill in the restoration project, this site will continue to be monitored during 2016.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua: ODA has continued to work during the 2015 season with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua in control of all known sites of Paterson's curse, *Echium plantagineum*, a state A-listed noxious weed. This noxious weed is present on Tribal and adjacent lands in Douglas County and could have major impacts on grazing and oak woodlands if it was to spread. The Paterson's curse control project is a cooperative effort between the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua, ODA Noxious Weed Control Program and the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation: During the 2015 season, ODA lead an effort with United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel to collect biological control agents, a gall midge and a new gall wasp for the target noxious weed, Russian knapweed, *Acroptilon repens*, a state B-listed noxious weed. Releases of these biological control agents were made on Warm Springs reservation in 2015.

Food Safety and Animal Health and Identification Program Area

The Food Safety Programs include Food Safety Licensing, Shellfish, Animal Health, Animal Identification, Predator Control, Commercial Feeds, and the State Veterinarian's Office. These programs inspect all facets of Oregon's food distribution system (except restaurants) to ensure food is safe for consumption, protects and maintains animal health, and ensures animal feeds meet nutritional and labeling standards.

Food Safety Program staff fielded questions from Tribal members regarding domestic food processors and domestic bakeries licenses. In addition, Food Safety staff provided on-site consultation, per request, to market owners.

Derald McCall, Brand Inspector, provided assistance to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Spring Reservation with identification of brand ownership and branded cattle.

In late January, early February 2015, ODA's State Veterinarian Office received a call from a concerned poultry owner located in Cayuse, OR. The owner was worried that their birds may have High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) because two chickens recently died and several more were sick. Since the property was located on the reservation, ODA contacted the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation who arranged for a Tribal official to meet ODA staff at the owner's property and assisted in collecting samples from the birds for laboratory testing. This help was greatly appreciated. The test results were negative for HPAI and no other follow-up was required.

Market Access & Certification Programs

The Market Access and Certification Programs include Agricultural Development and Marketing, Certification Programs, Commodity Commissions, Commodity Inspection and Plant Health Program. These programs help Oregon's agricultural producers successfully add value, sell, and ship products to local, national, and international markets by promoting and creating demand for products through marketing activities, inspection, and certification.

Amy Gilroy, Farm to School Manager, spoke with staff from the Coquille Indian Tribe regarding opportunities to produce dulse and followed up on any interest the Tribe had with selling cranberries, grown on reservation land, to schools or into wholesale markets.

ODA also has FoodCorps service member serving at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland. This FoodCorps service member has been working with school staff to help develop a school garden.