



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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2010 Annual Government-to-Government Report For the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Under Executive Order 96-30

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1. AGENCY NAME Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

2. KEY CONTACT

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3. MAJOR AREAS

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) works with Oregon Indian Tribes through a grant program that funds projects related to watershed management, protection, and restoration. In addition, pursuant to Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order 96-30 and Senate Bill 770, the Agency works with Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis to address the watershed restoration interests of Oregon agencies and the tribes.

a. Grants for Watershed Restoration and Enhancement. OWEB works with Oregon's tribes to review and evaluate grant applications that result in the protection or restoration of Oregon's watersheds. Tribes are one of three specific entities eligible to participate in the OWEB small grant teams, which administer local restoration grant programs to fund and implement local and regional conservation priorities.

4. DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

The OWEB Board unanimously adopted a Tribal Policy in May of 2007.

5. PROGRAMS AND PROCESS FOR INVOLVING TRIBES

OWEB involves tribes at all levels of the organization. The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The tribal position on the Board has been extremely valuable in helping to identify opportunities for collaboration and making the OWEB Board and staff aware of its responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Mr. Quaempts has been an effective

voice for tribal interests, and has improved awareness by OWEB staff of the significance of tribal issues associated with the grants and programs managed by the agency.

At the program level, tribes have specific standing at three levels; as watershed council members, small grant team participants, and regular grant applicants. The statute that describes watershed councils, ORS 541.388, specifically identifies “federally recognized Indian tribes” as potential members of local watershed councils. Many of the tribes in Oregon are active members of local watershed councils.

In OWEB’s small grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are identified as an eligible member of each “small grant team.” In this role, the tribe is a member, along with the watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts in one of 28 small grant areas, of a group empowered to make decisions about grants of up to \$10,000 for watershed restoration purposes. Since 1999, OWEB has awarded four grants to tribal agencies under this program.

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes. While tribes have no unique standing in the grant program, they are equal to any other applicant [ORS 541.375(1)]. In 2010, Oregon Tribes were awarded two watershed enhancement grants through OWEB’s regular grant program.

OWEB sponsors a biennial watershed restoration conference in every even numbered year. This year the conference was held in Pendleton and featured a presentation by Eric Quaempts, OWEB Board Member and Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which related the Umatilla peoples “first foods” tradition to watershed processes and natural resource management priorities and processes. Following the presentation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation hosted a reception at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute. Following the reception, the Tribe hosted more than 300 conference attendees at a First Food Dinner at the Longhouse with docents from the tribe describing the cultural traditions of the tribes and bands of the Umatilla. The dinner was a highlight for all who attended and left a lasting impression about the connection between the people and the land of the Umatilla.

6. TRAINING

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services jointly sponsored a day-long training for state agencies in May of 2010. Tribal speakers covered a variety of topics related to tribal culture, history and organization. Three OWEB staff attended the training. The Agency plans to continue this cultural cross-training at future Salem and regional office staff meetings. In addition, the Agency’s key contact person has met internally with management staff to provide updates on the Government-to-Government activities.

7. EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION

Since OWEB is a small agency (approximately 30 employees) communication about tribal interests and issues occurs regularly on an agency wide basis. Issues that are identified at staff meetings involving tribal interests are discussed as they arise.