




OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

DIRECTORS OFFICE

Title:	Tribal Government Relations	DO_100_04
Supersedes:	N/A	
Applicability:	All employees	
Reference:	ORS 182.162-166 [SB 770 (2001)]	
Effective Date:	December 15, 2014	Approved: 

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote government-to-government relations between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon's Indian tribes. The Oregon Legislature adopted Senate Bill 770 in the 2001 Legislative session. This law directs state agencies to promote government-to-government relations with Oregon's federally recognized Indian tribes, and to develop and implement policies that include the consideration of tribal interests in the development and implementation of state programs that may affect tribes. ODFW recognizes and respects the sovereign status of Oregon's federally recognized tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands. In addition, ODFW works with federally recognized tribes from other states that have interests in fish and wildlife resources in Oregon.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Programs** include the Fish and Wildlife programs that implement the Oregon Administrative Rules promulgated by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Oregon Revised Statutes Promulgated by the Oregon Legislature for the management of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.
- B. **Authorities** are Oregon Administrative Rules and Regulations, and Oregon Revised Statutes that govern the actions and responsibilities of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- C. **Cultural Resources Cluster** is the Tribal-State workgroup established by Senate Bill 770 to address cultural resources issues, including historic buildings, archaeological sites, and elements of natural landscape that have cultural significance. The workgroup consists of key state agency contacts and a representative from each of Oregon's federally recognized tribes.
- D. **Natural Resources Workgroup** is the Tribal-State workgroup established by Senate Bill 770 to improve communication between the State and tribes regarding natural resources protection and management. The workgroup consists of key state agency contacts, a representative from each of Oregon's federally recognized tribes, and a representative from the Governor's Office.
- E. **Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)** was created by statute in 1975 to improve services to Indians in Oregon. The LCIS serves as a mechanism in state government to consider Indian concerns directly. It serves as a conduit through which concerns are channeled to the appropriate entity; it serves as a point of access for finding out about state government programs and Indian communities; and it serves as a catalyst for bringing about change where change is needed.

III. POLICY

- A. ODFW will maintain an agency liaison (Tribal Liaison) to Oregon's federally recognized tribes.
- B. ODFW's Director, appropriate division, or regional leadership will meet regularly with each of Oregon's federally recognized tribes to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to explore opportunities for greater state-tribal partnership and collaboration.
- C. ODFW will support and participate in cooperative efforts between tribal governments and federal, state, and/or local governments on fish, wildlife, and habitat concerns that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- D. ODFW will seek tribal representation on ODFW advisory committees that are of interest to tribes.
- E. ODFW will support the exchange of data collected by ODFW staff or by tribal governments.
- F. ODFW promotes strong government-to-government relationships at the leadership, manager, and staff levels with Oregon's federally recognized tribes.
- G. ODFW's Tribal Liaison will participate in the Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Resources Cluster.
- H. ODFW will utilize advice and guidance when appropriate from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and staff on tribal government matters.
- I. ODFW will ensure its employees are aware of the sovereign authority of federally recognized tribes. ODFW will notify all agency staff of this policy, maintain it on internal and external internet/web pages, and include it as part of new employee orientation training.
- J. ODFW will submit annual reports by December 15th every year to the Governor and LCIS highlighting its government-to-government activities.