

2025 ODFW and Tribal Partnerships Annual Report

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Tribal Government Relations Policy (DO_100_04) promotes government-to-government relations between ODFW and Oregon's federally recognized Indian Tribes. This policy directs ODFW to include consideration of Tribal interests in the development and implementation of agency 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.

ODFW continues to expand its working relationships with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon specifically, the Burns Paiute Tribe; Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation; Coquille Indian Tribe; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and Klamath Tribes. Additionally, ODFW works with several other tribes in a variety of capacities.

The following provides information about ODFW 2025 activities in support of these partnerships, including a variety of activities, agreements, contracts, and shared commitments with Tribes within the State of Oregon.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES COORDINATION

ODFW participates in the government-to-government Cultural Resources Cluster and Natural Resources Workgroup. These groups function as powerful communication vehicles for tribal-state collaboration and cooperation in carrying out the respective responsibilities for cultural and natural resource protection. Chris Vogel (Wildlife Division) continued to serve as the ODFW Key Contact/Tribal Liaison for these workgroups. Daniel Pettit (ODFW Archeologist and Cultural Resources Items Liaison) continues to assist with coverage on the Cultural Resources Cluster as needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP

ODFW has two full-time Cultural Resource Specialists (Archaeologists) within the Wildlife Division who consult closely with Tribes regarding agency undertakings and the protection of cultural resources on ODFW owned and managed lands. Cultural resources staff also provide trainings, guidance, and other resources to staff throughout ODFW as a means of fostering cultural stewardship and raising awareness of legal responsibilities within the agency.

ODFW continues to ensure that cultural resources surveys are performed, as needed, on projects throughout the state. Tribal consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is conducted on all federally funded projects by ODFW and/or federal project partners. Ground disturbing activities without a federal nexus are consulted with the Oregon State historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribes under Oregon Revised Statutes. ODFW has also continued to work with Tribes to complete inventories of archaeological resources and historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian Tribes on ODFW owned and managed lands.

A Programmatic Agreement (PA) amongst the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), ODFW, and Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding Implementation of Section 106 for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) in Oregon was executed on February 24, 2023. The PA was the culmination of a three-year consultation effort between USFWS, SHPO, ODFW, and fifteen federally recognized Tribes. It clearly defines Consultation processes with Tribes and partially delegates Tribal and SHPO consultation to ODFW Cultural Resource Specialists. It also creates an Area of Potential Effect (APE) consultation process with Tribes through annual reports of all Wildlife Division and USFWS funded projects. The annual reports are in addition to normal consultation letters and are intended to involve Tribes as early as possible in project consultation.

ODFW also participated as a consulting party for the development of a new PA being developed amongst the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding implementation of Section 106 activities funded by Pacific Coastal Salmonid Recovery Federal Grant Funds (PCSRF) administered by NMFS in Oregon. This agreement was signed in August 2025 and provides programmatic Section 106 compliance for many activities using PCSRF funds, in particular fish passage and screening activities throughout the state and within waters where anadromous salmonids reside. While OWEB is the grantee of PCSRF funds in Oregon, ODFW is a major sub-grantee of funds for salmonid recovery projects in Oregon. ODFW's Screens and Passage Program is developing PA standard operating procedures to ensure Section 106 alignment for future fish screening and passage activities using PCSRF funds.

CEREMONIAL SUPPORT

Upon request, ODFW provides fish and wildlife for use in various Tribal ceremonies and celebrations. ODFW provides big game hunting tags to some Tribes; some of the animals taken are used for ceremonial purposes. ODFW also provides Tribes with hides, antlers, teeth, claws, horns, and feathers of culturally important wildlife collected during normal ODFW activities. In addition, ODFW provides salmon and steelhead from several hatcheries in support of Tribal ceremonial and subsistence needs when available. ODFW has continued to facilitate the transfer of bald eagles that have been found dead in the state, but where no unlawful taking was evident, to the USFWS's National Eagle Repository at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Denver, Colorado. The eagles are shipped to Native Americans and Alaska Natives enrolled in federally recognized Tribes for use in religious ceremonies.

COMMUNICATION

ODFW continues to provide and maintain a publicly accessible website [Tribal Relations page](#). Information and links for recent agreements, government to government reports and the websites for Tribes and the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) are available to the public. Additionally, links to ODFW's Tribal Government Relations Policy and Senate Bill 770 are also made available.

MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ODFW continues to work in collaboration with several Oregon coastal Tribes on natural resource management issues in the marine and estuarine environments. Coastal Tribes have provided meaningful leadership on marine policy issues including issues addressed collaboratively by the Oregon Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Coordination Council and the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (e.g., marine reserve evaluation). ODFW continues to participate as a member of the Technical and Policy Advisory Committees for the Elakha

Alliance and USFWS feasibility studies, both of which are evaluating reintroduction of sea otters along the Oregon Coast. (USFWS 2022. Feasibility Assessment: Sea Otter Reintroduction to the Pacific Coast. Report to Congress prepared by USFWS, Region 9, Portland Oregon; and Region 10, Sacramento, California.).

COLUMBIA RIVER SEA LION MANAGEMENT

ODFW has long worked with tribal partners in the Columbia River Basin to study and manage sea lions preying on threatened and endangered salmonids as well as other species of conservation and cultural concern (e.g., Pacific lamprey and white sturgeon). On August 14, 2020, NMFS, under Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Section 120(f), granted ODFW and its state (Washington, Idaho) and tribal partners the authority to remove (i.e., place in permanent captivity or euthanize) California sea lions and Steller sea lions in select areas of the Columbia River Basin that are preying on these fish resources. ODFW's tribal co-managers under this authorization include the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, in addition to an ongoing partnership with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde continues to provide an office and workshop for ODFW staff to conduct sea lion management on the Willamette River.

COLUMBIA RIVER MANAGEMENT

ODFW works with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, state fish and wildlife agencies in Washington and Idaho, USFWS, and NMFS on a variety of fisheries management, fish production, and research, monitoring and evaluation issues in the Columbia River Basin under the auspices of “2018 - 2027 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.” This plan, developed and implemented under the supervision of the U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon, was updated, ratified, and entered as an order of the Court in 2018. The parties to U.S. v. Oregon are actively engaged in drafting of the “2028 – 2037 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement” with assistance from a mediator.

The Columbia River Compact, made up of representatives from Oregon and Washington, actively manages fisheries covered by the Agreement. Tribal and governmental agencies listed above actively and regularly participate in the Compact process.

COLUMBIA RIVER FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

ODFW works with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation), Upper Snake River Tribes (Burns Paiute Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock), Upper Columbia United Tribes (Coeur d’Alene, Colville Reservation, Kalispell, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Spokane Tribe of Indians), Salish Kootenai Tribe, Cowlitz Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as well as the USFWS, NMFS, and the fish and wildlife agencies from Washington, Montana, and Idaho to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin affected by hydropower development. Working with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Columbia Basin fish and wildlife managers identify, implement, monitor, and evaluate numerous projects funded under the Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program to benefit fish and wildlife.

The Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program is in the process of being amended, and ODFW staff

have submitted proposed amendments. ODFW staff have also been working with other regional tribal and state co-managers as well as Council staff on the amendment process during the ongoing amendment process, which should conclude in 2026.

COLUMBIA BASIN COLLABORATIVE

Organized by the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, the Columbia River Collaborative (“Collaborative”) had its inaugural meeting in November 2021. Since then, the states have secured funding for facilitation and have continued to meet since. In 2025, the Collaborative was unable to meet in person due to budgetary constraints, though the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho were able to secure funding through the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund in late 2025 and anticipate a reduced meeting schedule beginning again in 2026. The Collaborative’s primary focus continues to help the region identify and address issues impacting the salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin that were identified by the Columbia Basin Taskforce’s Phase II report. The Collaborative is comprised of representatives from the same Tribal and non-Tribal sovereigns previously listed in the Fish and Wildlife Program section along with representatives from the federal services and action agencies as well as a diverse group of non-sovereign stakeholders. The Collaborative formed several workgroups made up of state, Tribal, federal and stakeholder experts to help prioritize necessary actions. Currently all CBC facilitated workgroups are on hold due to funding constraints. A prior Collaborative facilitated Avian Predation workgroup has since developed outside the Collaborative and continues to work on regional Avian Predation issues.

COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE/RESILIENT COLUMBIA BASIN AGREEMENT

For years the states of Oregon, and Washington along with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation), collectively the “Six Sovereigns” have each advocated for a comprehensive approach to addressing Columbia Basin salmon restoration and related energy, water, and development-related issues. During mediation sessions beginning in the fall of 2021 and lasting through 2023 that looked to see if there was a pathway out of the long-running and acrimonious court battles that had occurred, and building on their shared perspectives, the Six Sovereigns developed and advanced recommendations to the U.S. Government (USG) on what a comprehensive strategy should include. This strategy, the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI), represents the collaborative effort of the Six Sovereigns to develop a comprehensive solution for shared and complex challenges. The CBRI is informed by the Six Sovereigns’ significant technical expertise as fisheries co-managers, and by their sovereign obligations to their constituents. The CBRI is intended as a roadmap to help the USG work in partnership with the region to restore Columbia Basin fisheries to healthy and abundant levels, honor commitments to Tribal Nations, and deliver affordable and reliable clean power while meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders in the Columbia River Basin and the Pacific Northwest.

On December 14, 2023, the Six Sovereigns signed an agreement with the USG to stay the long running litigation over the Columbia River hydrosystem for potentially up to 10-years. This agreement, which contained a suite of sixty-three federal commitments in support of the CBRI has become known as the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA). The Six Sovereigns worked diligently with the USG during 2024 and the first half of 2025 to complete as many of these commitments as possible in time and resources allotted to advance the goals of the CBRI.

In addition to the CBRI and the RCBA, Governor Kotek issued Executive Order 24-28 in

2024, which directed Oregon’s natural resource agencies to work in a coordinated and transparent manner to implement the CBRI and RCBA, to identify the actions it can take to implement them and to identify the gaps in authorities and resources needed to implement them. Furthermore, it directs the natural resource agencies to coordinate annually with the Six Sovereigns, including the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, on the implementation of the Executive Order. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife completed its reporting requirements associated with Executive Order 24-28 in 2025 and has been coordinating with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes on its implementation.

On June 12, 2025, President Trump issued a Presidential memo, “Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Generate Power for the Columbia River Basin,” which, among other things, directed the secretaries of Energy, Interior, and Commerce, as well as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to withdraw from the RCBA. On June 27, 2025, the Six-Sovereigns received notice from the USG that the federal parties had, in fact, withdrawn from the MOU, ultimately leading to the end of the long-term stay of litigation. Although the RCBA and associated commitments by the USG in furtherance of the CBRI are no longer in effect, the Six-Sovereigns commitment to CBRI remains strong, as does the State of Oregon’s and ODFW’s through Governor Kotek’s Executive Order 24-28.

COLUMBIA BASIN HATCHERY INFRASTRUCTURE

Through ODFW’s working relationships with Tribes and other partners in both the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and *U.S. v Oregon* processes, ODFW has been participating in regional review and planning processes intended to address long-standing needs for maintenance and infrastructure improvements in Columbia Basin hatchery programs. Many of the basin’s hatchery facilities were constructed several decades ago and suffer from outdated technology, deferred capital replacements, and long-term shortages of funding for maintenance needs. Basin fishery management partners, including ODFW and the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, have convened a coordination forum to create action plans for how to address these significant long-term needs. In 2023, the US v. OR Production Advisory Committee (PAC) met and prioritized \$60 million in funding made available through the Inflation Reduction Act for Mitchell Act hatchery infrastructure needs. In 2024, as part of a ten-year, \$200 million commitment from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) associated with the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement, staff from ODFW worked with staff from the Lower River Treaty Tribes, the State of Washington, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and the USFWS to prioritize hatchery infrastructure needs for the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatcheries. This prioritization was necessary to make sure those funds, once secured can be used as efficiently as possible to address the long-standing backlog of hatchery infrastructure needs in the Snake River Basin. Unfortunately, with the withdrawal of the USG from the RCBA, Oregon and the rest of the Six-Sovereigns were notified via a July 8, 2025 memo from BPA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the \$200-Million commitment would not be honored in part or in full.

THE OKANAGAN WORK GROUP

The Okanagan Work Group (OWG) was established in January 2019 by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) as an ad hoc effort to explore issues related to Okanagan Chinook salmon and as part of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Agreement. The membership of the OWG includes one PSC Commissioner from the U.S. and Canada each, as well as representatives from the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission representing the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, the OWG has engaged biologists and scientists from across the salmon spectrum in the U.S. and

Canada including scientists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Colville Confederated Tribes, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in addition to its official membership. The OWG is focused on Chinook population dynamics and limiting factors and how they impact interjurisdictional fisheries.

COLUMBIA RIVER DATA MANAGEMENT

ODFW is a partner in StreamNet, a cooperative information management and data dissemination project focused on fisheries and aquatic related data and data related services in the Columbia River basin and the Pacific Northwest. Other partners include the Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, state fish and wildlife agencies in Montana, Washington and Idaho, NMFS, and USFWS. This partnership supports the compilation, management, and sharing of fish and aquatic habitat information. The current primary focus is on providing status and trend data to address the Viable Salmon Population (VSP) high-level indicator data needs of NMFS for five-year status reviews, but also includes hatchery, distribution, and barrier data.

PACIFIC LAMPREY AND OTHER LAMPREYS

ODFW opened liberalized harvest of adult Pacific Lamprey at Willamette Falls from four to seven days a week during the harvest period. ODFW reviews and authorizes lamprey harvest for the Coquille Indian Tribe, which also conducts lamprey redd and fish counts annually, and shares these index counts with ODFW. ODFW works with Tribes throughout the state to design and conduct lamprey population assessments and to develop and implement programs to protect and enhance lamprey populations.

Klamath Tribes staff assisted the Statewide Lamprey Coordinator and ODFW district staff with collections of freshwater resident lampreys in the upper Klamath basin again in 2025. The collections are being used to contribute to a baseline of morphological and genetic data with which to compare populations after Pacific lamprey recolonize the upper basin (following dam removal). The study is designed to ascertain the rapidity and extent to which Pacific lamprey may interbreed with these freshwater resident populations of lamprey.

Klamath Tribes joined the Miller Lake Lamprey Technical Management Team again in 2025, assisting with surveys for the species in the Miller Lake watershed, along with ODFW and other federal and independent contractor partners.

ODFW's Statewide Lamprey Coordinator completed his second term as the state/federal co-chair in December 2025. In this role, he is serving along with Tribal co-chair, Laurie Porter (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission) for the Conservation Team of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative.

ODFW's Statewide Lamprey Coordinator is facilitating a technical group of biologists from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and other partners. This group is considering way to extend the distribution of Pacific Lamprey into historical distribution areas in the Willamette Basin via translocation, trap-and-haul (more local), and providing passage. In 2025, tribal partners conducted translocations of about 250 adult Pacific Lamprey from Willamette Falls to upstream locations. ODFW's Statewide Lamprey

Coordinator and Willamette recreational fishery staff coordinated with the tribes to allow them to access the Willamette Falls fish ladder to collect lamprey for these translocations. These lamprey were released above five impoundments, including Detroit Dam, Green Peter Dam, Cougar Dam, Hills Creek Dam, and Fern Ridge Dam. The Statewide Lamprey Coordinator facilitated connections and communications with watershed councils in the subbasins receiving lamprey, to foster communication and outreach with local stakeholders. The Statewide Lamprey Coordinator also assisted communications between tribal staff and watershed councils that resulted in a proposal to facilitate lamprey translocations, along with engagement of local Tribal youth, as well as outreach and community engagement.

Tribal biologists (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) have assisted with water sample collection for eDNA analysis for understanding the distribution of lampreys of the genus, *Occidentis* (formerly *Lampetra*) again in 2025, as part of work led by ODFW's Statewide Lamprey Coordinator and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) partners (as part of a project funded by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund).

The Statewide Lamprey Coordinator recruited and collaborated with a multi-organizational team that included staff from Yakama Nation, NOAA Fisheries, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Michigan State University to test and calibrate electronic sensor panels designed to detect the oral sucker attachment pressures of individual adult Pacific Lamprey at laboratory and ODFW fish hatchery facilities at Bonneville Dam. The purpose of this research is to develop sensor technology to detect the relative abundance of adult Pacific Lamprey in fishways as a means to automate monitoring of their relative abundance. This technology may prove useful to monitor the relative abundance of the species at dams that do not otherwise monitor lamprey passage.

HUNTER EDUCATION

ODFW continues to educate hunters about state and federal laws protecting cultural sites and sacred objects. An overview of this issue is included in the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Regulations as well as in Hunter Education courses. The information was developed in 1998 through an agreement between ODFW and representatives of the Burns Paiute Tribe and Klamath Tribes. The information was included in the 2025 Big Game Regulations and Game Bird Regulations, including a link to additional material on the internet. The material addresses statutes dealing with protection of sites of sacred and cultural significance and protection of Tribal relics on both private and public lands.

HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

ODFW works with Tribes throughout Oregon to coordinate hunting opportunities for Tribal members on ceded lands, set species tag numbers and harvest limits for game on ceded lands where appropriate, and discuss road closures and other access and usage actions needed to balance Tribal treaty rights and cultural requirements with public recreation opportunities. Issuance of Tribal tags provides an opportunity to take animals for cultural and ceremonial purposes.

ODFW coordinates Tribal and non-Tribal big game hunting with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

ODFW continues to incorporate the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians participation in a very successful hunting access area. The Coos Mountain

Access Area provides year-round hunting access to over 60,000 acres of private timber company, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Tribal lands.

Management objectives for mule deer, Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk based on winter populations and buck/bull ratios across the state provide a balance for sustainable herd health. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted Management Objectives that recognize harvest by Tribal and non-Tribal hunters, land ownership, and related social factors such as private land damage. A revision of Oregon's Mule Deer Management Plan was completed in 2024 and included many discussions to receive Tribal input.

WILLAMETTE WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROGRAM

Through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), ODFW works closely with the three Tribes named in the 2010 Memorandum of Agreement between Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the State of Oregon to permanently settle wildlife habitat impacts resulting from the federal Willamette Hydroelectric and Flood Control Project. This settlement agreement included provisions for coordinating with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. ODFW has coordinated with these Tribes in development and refinement of project selection criteria, which include specific criteria for cultural significance developed and ranked by the Tribes. Although the WWMP did not conduct a project solicitation in 2025, Tribal staff from each of these Tribes serve as representatives on the WWMP's Technical Review Team and policy-level Wildlife Advisory Group, assisting in scoring and ranking potential projects, as well as providing overall Program direction. In years when solicitations are conducted, ODFW coordinates with Tribal staff to improve the project review process, supports capacity of the Tribes as partners in the program and helps build partnerships between the Tribes and conservation organizations in the Willamette Basin. ODFW also works collaboratively with the Tribes to develop and implement management plans for the protected properties and has coordinated with the Tribes in development of the WWMP's monitoring plan.

During the 2025 calendar year, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde closed on a 55-acre project recommended for FY2024 funds in 2022. They are expected to close soon on another 75-acre project, leaving three Fiscal Year-2026 funded projects going through the realty process (~450 acres total).

In September 2025, ODFW coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Willamette Riverkeeper, North Santiam Watershed Council, and the cities of Salem and Eugene to collect wapato tubers from ODFW's Gail Achterman Wildlife Area for outplanting and propagation. This cultural harvest provides opportunities to expand the range and knowledge of this traditional food.

The Oregon Climate Action Commission approved ODFW's proposal for Natural and Working Lands funds in early 2024. The request included \$583,270 for restoration projects on WWMP-funded properties owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. Both projects are making progress and are on-going.

In early 2025, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation approved an award of \$4,500,000.00 to ODFW to support the Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes project which focuses on restoring oak and prairie habitat on Tribal, private, and public lands. The project includes funds for restoration of 585 acres of Tribal land on WWMP-funded properties owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

ODFW continued to work with several Tribes through the Oregon Invasive Species Council and 100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team to alert the public to the impacts posed by invasive species and inform the public on how to minimize those impacts. Examples included working with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) on the Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan in preparation for potential zebra, quagga, and golden mussel invasions into Oregon.

In response to the growing threat of invasive mussels in the Columbia River Basin, the states of Oregon and Washington formed the Invasive Mussel Near-Term Action Working Group. This collaborative effort brought together state agencies, federal partners, tribal nations, and other stakeholders to develop coordinated strategies for prevention, early detection, and rapid response.

A key component of the working group's findings was the recognition that tribal nations were among the most heavily impacted stakeholders. Invasive mussels posed significant risks to tribal fisheries, cultural resources, and water infrastructure. As such, the working group explicitly recommended building new partnerships with tribal governments and investing in tribal capacity to support early detection monitoring and response efforts.

Oregon House Bill 2170, enacted in 2025, enhanced the state's efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by expanding the authority to operate watercraft inspection stations. A key feature of the bill was its formal inclusion of tribal governments as eligible partners in AIS prevention. Specifically, the legislation authorized the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the State Marine Board, and the Department of Agriculture to enter into intergovernmental agreements with tribal governments, as well as local governments and service districts. These agreements allowed tribal entities to operate AIS check stations, inspect both recreational and commercial watercraft, and carry out or order decontamination procedures when necessary.

ODFW has been working cooperatively with the Coquille Indian Tribe to reduce the number of smallmouth bass and striped bass in the Coquille Basin via boat electrofishing. These invasive, predacious fish are a major part of a list of limiting factors contributing to a recent severe decline in the return of fall Chinook salmon to the basin.

SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCA STATE LISTING

In February 2024, the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) listed Southern Resident orcas as Endangered under Oregon's ESA law (OESA) after receiving a petition to list them from the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation in February 2023. In preparation for this listing, ODFW updated Oregon's Federally recognized tribes (FRT) on the process and consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. In 2025, ODFW staff updated coastal Oregon FRTs on adoption of state Endangered Species Management Plans and Conservation Memorandum.

LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN

ODFW is part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan program (LSRCP), which involves ODFW, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Idaho Department

of Fish and Game (IDFG), USFWS, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe for artificial production of Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha river sub-basins. During 2025, ODFW collaboratively completed the steelhead review process and developed Annual Operational Plans for all Oregon LSRCF facilities in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe.

CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY PLANNING

ODFW has worked with numerous Tribes to develop state conservation and federal recovery plans and coordinates with Tribes as needed to implement approved conservation (state) and recovery (federal) plans. ODFW also participates along with Tribes when NMFS leads the development of federal recovery plans.

The following conservation and/or recovery plans, or similar efforts, have been developed and approved with Tribal involvement, and numerous aspects of plan implementation in 2025 included Tribal coordination, cooperation, or involvement (details can be found in the sections below):

- Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan (2007, with participation of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians)
- Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (2010)
- Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead (2010)
- Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead (2011)
- Range-wide Conservation Agreement for the Conservation and Management of Interior Redband Trout (2014)
- Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (2014)
- Coastal, Columbia, and Snake Conservation Plan for Lampreys in Oregon (2019)
- Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin (2021)
- Rogue–South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (2021)

ODFW also participated in the Coast Coho Partnership Plan strategic action planning process for independent Coho salmon populations, which includes participation from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Two partnerships, the Coos Basin Coho Partnership and the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, have received a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) award from OWEB for implementation of their strategic action plan for coho restoration over three biennia. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Coquille Indian Tribe are core implementing partners in the Coos Basin Coho Partnership. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are core implementing partners in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership.

ODFW staff served on the NMFS-facilitated Middle Columbia River Steelhead (Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Steering Committee along with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Yakama Nation, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. ODFW, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation staff participate on the John Day Basin Partnership, an Oregon OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Steering Committee and technical

workgroups. The John Day Basin Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Warm Springs Tribe initiated the Partnership's formation in 2014. ODFW, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe participated in the Grande Ronde, Catherine Creek, and Willowa River Atlas Prioritization Tools. ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation participated in the Clackamas Partnership including development of biennium work plans. The Clackamas Partnership is a collaboration supported by an OWEB FIP grant.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY MANAGEMENT

ODFW participated as a member of the Tribal Water Task Force established by Governor Brown in response to a request by all nine of Oregon's federally recognized Tribes. The Task Force met multiple times during the summer and fall of 2022 with the intention to produce a report with key meeting themes and recommendations to advance the goals identified in establishing the Tribal Water Task Force. In 2023, ODFW continued to work with Oregon Water Resources Department and Task Force members to finalize the report. The final report was completed in June 2023 and identifies many areas where the Tribes and State agencies (including ODFW) can improve coordination and collaboration on water-related issues moving forward. In the fall of 2025 ODFW participated in a Tribal Water Policy forum focused on state-agency engagement with tribes related to all things water.

ODFW sends notifications to Oregon's federally recognized Tribes alerting them of upcoming instream water right application filings and to offer additional conversation and partnership with the Tribes on the topic of instream flows and watershed protection. During the summer of 2025 ODFW contacted the following tribes to discuss 44 new instream water right applications on the Mid and North Coast: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw. ODFW continues to meet with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation concerning a water rights settlement proposal.

As fish and wildlife co-managers in the Deschutes basin, ODFW continues to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation regarding potential impacts of a proposed central Oregon development project. At the most recent hearing, ODFW ceded allotted verbal testimony time to Warm Springs representatives.

ODFW continues to work with Tribal and federal trustees on addressing the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup and corresponding Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). Originally, the trustees included six Tribal governments. Currently there are five: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe. The Yakama Tribe withdrew from the trustee council in June 2009. Other trustees are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, NMFS, and USFWS. Further information on the NRDA activities for Portland Harbor can be found at this web address: <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Contaminants/PortlandHarbor/>.

ODFW works with various Tribes and other interested parties to review hydropower projects regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). When a hydropower project is licensed, ODFW works with the Tribes, the project operator, and other parties to implement the conditions of the license and any settlement agreements. ODFW's current efforts with FERC include relicensing the Hells Canyon Complex and post-dam removal related processes in the Klamath Basin.

ODFW works to implement the FERC Pelton Round Butte license and settlement measures with

both the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and Portland General Electric who are co-licensees on the project. ODFW participates with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in several settlement agreements including Opal Springs, Willamette Falls, Clackamas River, and Carmen Smith hydroelectric projects.

The ODFW Water Program continues to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on two projects: a multi-year instream flow study on Catherine Creek in the Grande Ronde Basin and a program to monitor Walla Walla River instream water rights in real-time in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department.

PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD GRANT PROGRAM

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) Grant Program was established as a result of the 2022 Legislative Session (SB 1501, 1502; HB 4055) as an outcome of an agreement between timber and conservation groups designed to enhance aquatic resource protections while providing long term regulatory assurances for the timber industry. With these changes, the parties agreed that Oregon Department of Forestry should develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and acquire a federal Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to address a suite of aquatic species potentially impacted by timber harvest and forest practices. Administered by ODFW, the PFA Grant Program's purpose is to support projects that provide conservation benefit to certain fish and aquatic wildlife species and habitats covered by the anticipated [PFA HCP](#). Over the course of 2023, ODFW established the PFA Advisory Committee, and worked with the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt administrative rules for the PFA Grant Program ([OAR 635-97-0000 through -0110](#)). ODFW launched the first PFA Grant Program solicitation in November 2023 and a second solicitation in Fall 2024, resulting in more than \$20 million in funded projects to date. The Department opened a third solicitation on November 14, 2025, with up to \$10 million in anticipated awards. Applications for the current cycle are due Friday, January 9, 2026. The Commission makes funding decisions each spring, and approved projects typically start shortly thereafter to align with in-water work windows. Following the 2025 legislative session, the PFA Grant Program now has permanent funding allocations and will offer annual solicitations moving forward. Projects do not have to take place on forestland, as long as they provide conservation benefit to at least one of the PFA HCP Covered Species. Tribes are encouraged to apply to the program and ODFW has included Tribal natural resource contacts in its outreach to potential applicants. For more information, visit www.PFAGrants.com.

INTER-TRIBAL ACTIVITIES

Many ODFW activities involve issues affecting large areas of Oregon that involve more than one Tribe.

On an ongoing basis, ODFW staff:

- Consult on post fire hatchery rebuild projects:
 - Rock Creek Hatchery - Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.
 - Klamath Hatchery – Klamath Tribes
- Consult with Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated tribes of Umatilla Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Klamath tribes on a review

of the state hatchery system.

- Coordinated with Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to implement legislatively directed salmonid research, monitoring, and evaluation associated with Rock Creek Hatchery.
- Collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe to develop and implement monitoring programs for adult steelhead, juvenile salmonids, and the habitats that support them in the Deschutes, Hood, John Day, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Grande Ronde River basins. The program utilizes the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program framework along with the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating Chinook salmon hatchery programs in the Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Umatilla, and Walla Walla basins with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe.
- Coordinate with the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation on advising BPA, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and NMFS on habitat recovery strategies.
- Coordinate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe to implement sport and tribal spring Chinook fisheries on the Imnaha River, Lookingglass Creek, and Umatilla River.
- Work with the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource and Management and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to collect data on the distribution, abundance, and hybridization rates for Bull Trout and Brook Trout in the Wallowa, Minam, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Bull Trout Core Area.
- Work jointly with CRITFC to develop a Northwest Power and Conservation Council white sturgeon framework plan that identifies mitigation needs to address reduced productivity, survival, and abundance resulting from Columbia Basin hydro system development and operation.
- Collaborate with CRITFC in review and development of white sturgeon Tribal hatchery master plan for impounded reaches of the lower Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam.
- Continue to collaborate with CRITFC to develop and evaluate avian management programs intended to improve survival of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Basin.
- Collaborate with CRITFC scientists in developing a document outlining a comprehensive approach for habitat restoration actions in the Columbia River Basin.
- Met quarterly with the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Board, established through Oregon Revised Statute 498.827, and which includes an endorsed representative of Oregon Indian Tribes.
- Coordinated with coastal Tribes periodically to conduct stream habitat and juvenile fish inventory surveys on Tribal lands for the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*. The habitat and fish information from the surveys are shared with the relevant Tribes. In 2018, sites were located on lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- Continued to coordinate regularly with Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe and other Tribes as needed, to issue Oregon scientific take permits, Oregon rescue/salvage authorizations, and joint ODFW and NMFS 4d research permits.
- Provided CRITFC with census stream habitat survey data in multiple Hydrologic Units.
- Continued to coordinate with Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation and

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation on sheep harvest for the lower John Day River as well as establishing replacement opportunities for the loss of bighorn sheep harvest opportunities in Potamus Canyon on the NF John Day River.

- Conducted outreach to all federally recognized tribes to inform and invite participation in the revision of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Coordinate and consult with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon for all USFWS Sport Fish Restoration pass through funds that ODFW used to fund projects with ground disturbance including all fishing access and recreational boating access maintenance and construction projects statewide. Boating access projects completed during 2025 after multiyear planning were Port of Bandon, Mayer State Park and Cook Park (Tualatin River).

INDIVIDUAL TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the activities listed above, ODFW works with individual Tribes on many issues and activities. A list of partnerships with individual Tribes follows.

BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE

Burns, Oregon

- A Memorandum of Agreement between the Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT) and ODFW was signed in October 2022. The agreement serves to formalize ongoing cooperation between BPT and ODFW on fish and wildlife measures such as native fisheries enhancement, salmonid reintroduction to the Malheur River basin, improved tribal fishing and hunting opportunity on and off tribal lands, efforts to reduce transportation-related wildlife mortality, and improved government-to-government relations. The agreement and additional information can be found on ODFW website's [Tribal Relations page](#).
- Developed a cooperative program with BPT biologists to obtain tissue samples from tribal deer and elk harvest for Chronic Wasting Disease testing.
- BPT and Hines Office Fisheries staff continue to work towards implementation of Bull Trout recovery in the upper Malheur watershed at High Lake and Lake Creek. Recovery efforts will remove non-native Brook Trout using rotenone in waters located within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness managed by the USFS.
- ODFW provided salvaged mule deer and elk for ceremonial use and/or distribution to Tribal members.
- ODFW staff continue to work with BPT on development of mitigation measures to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions along Highway 20 between Harper and Juntura. This effort was designated as an Oregon Solutions project and a collaborative is underway to identify solutions with strong community engagement. This effort was designated as an Oregon Solutions project and a collaborative is underway to identify solutions with strong community engagement.
- ODFW and the BPT continued the annual release of Chinook salmon into the upper Malheur River. The fishery is meant for Tribal and non-Tribal anglers and usually attracts nearly 60 attendees, primarily BPT members.
- ODFW continued to be an active participant in the Bull Trout Technical Advisory Committee of the Malheur River Bull Trout Working Group with the BPT.
- ODFW, BPT, and the USFS conducted annual bull trout spawning ground surveys in the North Fork Malheur River to track trends in spawner abundance.
- ODFW coordinated with BPT on sage-grouse inventory and research efforts.
- ODFW coordinated with BPT wildlife staff on the issuance of Landowner Preference (LOP) tags for Tribal members on BPT owned properties in Harney County.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA, AND SIUSLAW INDIANS

Coos Bay, Oregon

- In June 2023, ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a cooperative partnership to collaborate, share resources, and work as partners to develop and implement plans to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat. The MOA also established a framework for CTCLUSI members to participate in subsistence and ceremonial harvest of fish and wildlife resources, to be licensed and managed by tribal government in partnership with ODFW.
- ODFW coordinated with CTCLUSI on regulations for fall salmon fisheries in coastal rivers.
- ODFW provided approximately 130 adult (1,636 pounds) of spring Chinook to the CTCLUSI from Cole Rivers Hatchery.
- ODFW participated in planning and development meetings with CTCLUSI and the Siuslaw Watershed Council to develop an OWEB FIP grant application to implement a Strategic Action Plan for restoration of high- priority habitat improvement projects for coho salmon in the Siuslaw watershed.
- ODFW and CTCLUSI are two of 15+ partners of the Coos Basin Coho Partnership which was awarded an OWEB FIP grant for implementation of the Coho Strategic Action Plan high-priority habitat restoration projects for coho salmon in the Coos watershed over the next three biennia.
- ODFW continues to coordinate with the CTCLUSI to distribute a variety of harvested wildlife species to many of the Tribal members.
- ODFW has invited CTCLUSI staff into discussions surrounding hatchery management with other Tribal partners and the Gardiner/Reedsport/Winchester Bay STEP group.

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

Grand Ronde, Oregon

- In August 2023, ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a cooperative partnership to collaborate, share resources, and work as partners to develop and implement plans to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat. The MOA also established a framework for CTGR members to participate in subsistence and ceremonial harvest of fish and wildlife resources, to be licensed and managed by tribal government in partnership with ODFW. Under the MOA, a new ceremonial fishery on tribal property on the N Santiam was established. ODFW, OSP, and CTGR Natural Resources and Law Enforcement staff continue to meet annually to coordinate implementation of the MOA.
- ODFW coordinated with CTGR on regulations for fall salmon fisheries in coastal rivers.
- ODFW permitted take of fish under Scientific Take Permit during 2025 for Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde ‘Cultural First Fish Ceremony’.
- ODFW issued Ceremonial Harvest Permit and Ceremonial Harvest Tags to the CTGR authorizing the ceremonial harvest of up to 15 hatchery spring Chinook salmon or hatchery summer steelhead from a platform at Willamette Falls using traditional methods.
- ODFW reauthorized 100 tags for the harvest of coho salmon on the CTGR reservation/trust lands.
- District wildlife staff met with CTGR biologists to review and discuss general hunting seasons

and controlled hunt proposals involving the Trask WMU.

- ODFW provided CTGR big game harvest tags per the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Fish and Wildlife Management Plan and ceremonial big game harvest permits for use by Tribal members.
- ODFW staff communicated with CTGR Natural Resources Program staff to discuss big game management issues, including coordinating enforcement actions with ODFW, Oregon State Police, and CTGR, and distributed big game tags for tribal use in the Trask WMU. ODFW again provided ceremonial big game harvest permits for use by Tribal members in the same area.
- ODFW is working cooperatively with CTGR Natural Resources Program staff to collect biological samples (tail and wing) from forest grouse harvested on and adjacent to Tribal lands and is coordinating with Tribal biologists on chronic wasting disease (CWD) monitoring. These cooperative sampling efforts support both ODFW species management and CTGR Fish and Wildlife Management Plan objectives.
- CTGR Natural Resources staff met with District wildlife staff to discuss the use of trail cameras as a black-tailed deer monitoring tool.
- ODFW provided approximately 1,186 adult spring Chinook salmon with 31 jacks (10,056 pounds) and approximately 317 summer steelhead (2,221 pounds) from Clackamas and Sandy Hatcheries as well as Minto Ponds Fish Facility. 196 Fall Chinook with 4 jacks (2,287 pounds) from Salmon River and Bonneville Hatcheries; 1,204 adult coho salmon and 45 jacks (8,390 pounds) from Sandy and Bonneville Hatcheries were provided to the CTGRCO for Tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- ODFW coordinated with the CTGR and other fish management agencies on issues associated with implementation of the Willamette Project Biological Opinion.
- ODFW provided approximately 1000 pounds of bear meat from the South Willamette Watershed District.
- ODFW Wildlife Health Lab and the South Willamette Watershed District partnered with CTGR to run a CWD Check Station along Hwy 18 during the last 3 days of the General Any Legal Weapon Western Oregon Deer season.
- Provided salmon forecasts and offered the opportunity to comment on development of fall Chinook and wild coho fisheries on the north coast.
- ODFW coordinated with CTGR on a Tillamook Estuary Partnership grant application to OWEB for a fish passage project at Tuffy Dam (SF Wilson River). CTGR provided a letter of support for the project.
- ODFW assisted the USFS in hosting an angling event for CTGR youth at Hebo Lake in June. ODFW stocked the lake with approximately 1,870 legal and 100 trophy trout, and provided gear and instruction for anglers.
- ODFW and CTGR are partners (along with the Confederated Tribes Siletz Indians and other entities) on the steering committee for the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative.
- Denman Wildlife Area staff met with CTGR regarding ways to integrate Tribal values and history into a self-guided trail.
- ODFW met with CTGR to discuss the wildlife habitat tax incentive program and provide guidance on enrollment criteria.
- ODFW coordinated with CTGR on comments related to a proposed solar project in Polk County.
- ODFW Newport provided CTGR with a road-struck cougar, which was reported to be used

for ceremonial drums.

- Cultural Resources staff from ODFW and CTGR met in October 2025 to discuss ongoing and upcoming 25-26 projects with potential to effect historic properties.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS

Siletz, Oregon

- In June 2023, ODFW and the Confederated Tribes Siletz Indians (CTSI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a cooperative partnership to collaborate, share resources, and work as partners to develop and implement plans to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat. The MOA also established a framework for CTSI members to participate in subsistence and ceremonial harvest of fish and wildlife resources, to be licensed and managed by tribal government in partnership with ODFW.
- ODFW coordinated with CTSI on regulations for fall salmon fisheries in coastal rivers.
- ODFW participated in the annual meeting with the CTSI to discuss current fish and wildlife and management issues, hunting seasons, Tribal fishing site on Drift Creek, shellfish gathering, and future cooperative efforts.
- ODFW provided 391 adult and 1 jack (3,993 pounds) of spring Chinook from the South Santiam and Clackamas Hatcheries, and 49 summer steelhead (324 pounds) from South Santiam Hatchery, and 24 coho (168 pounds) from Sandy Hatchery to CTSI for tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- ODFW continues to work with the CTSI and USFWS on the 2001 Blue Line oil spill in the Yaquina River. A settlement with Blue Line Transportation has been reached and settlement funds are available once a restoration project has been agreed upon. The CTSI, USFWS and ODFW are tentatively looking to utilize the funds for the restoration of Boone and Nute Sloughs on the Yaquina.
- ODFW continues to partner with the CTSI at the Dundas Pond youth trout fishing location on Tribal property in the town of Siletz. Two stockings of 500 rainbow trout were conducted to support this youth angling opportunity.
- ODFW continues to work with the CTSI on their winter steelhead hatchery program (~5,000 smolts) to provide increased angling opportunity and to utilize the Tribes hatchery facility on Rock Creek, tributary to the Siletz River. The Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) propagation proposal was approved in late 2019. Approximately 6,500 eyed eggs are transferred annually to the CTSI for hatching and rearing juveniles to the smolt stage. The first release was conducted in spring of 2021.
- The Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program is working with the CTSI fisheries biologist to develop additional instream and riparian projects.
- ODFW provided game meat from 10 wild turkeys killed due to damage or nuisance issues in the South Willamette Watershed District.
- ODFW provided bear parts from 5 bears taken due to damage in the South Willamette Watershed District to CTSI to be used for ceremonial purposes.
- ODFW provided a human-safety killed cougar to the tribe for use in ceremonial purposes.
- ODFW participated in planning meetings with CTSI and the Mid-Coast Watershed Council in project review of proposed implementation of high priority habitat restoration actions in the Siletz that were identified during the Coho Strategic Action Plan development.
- ODFW wildlife Staff participated at family science night at Siletz Charter School, a large number of Siletz residents attended. We also provided a separate presentation at the school on general

wildlife management.

- ODFW worked with the CTSI to maintain multiple thermistors on Tribal land. The Siletz basin was chosen as ODFW's first intensively monitored watershed for stream temperature.
- ODFW coordinated with CTSI on a Tillamook Estuary Partnership grant application to OWEB for a fish passage project at Tuffy Dam (SF Wilson River).
- ODFW and CTSI are partners (along with CTGR and other entities) on the steering committee for the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative.
- Denman Wildlife Area staff met with CTSI regarding ways to integrate Tribal values and history into a self-guided trail.
- ODFW District Fish staff worked with CTSI to conduct a winter steelhead pHOS study in the Siletz Basin during the 2024-2025 spawning seasons. The tribe collected Spawning Ground Survey data and recapture data from the Tribe's hatchery facility on Rock Creek to be used on the analysis and report.
- ODFW staff shared background information on Salmon River Hatchery and the Oregon Hatchery Research Center with CTSI staff and leadership. CTSI, ODFW, and others jointly toured OHRC in July.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

Pendleton, Oregon

- ODFW, CTUIR and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation worked collaboratively on a 11,000+ acre land acquisition that would establish a new ODFW Wildlife Area, that would be managed collaboratively with CTUIR.
- ODFW continued to operate Umatilla Hatchery with funding provided by BPA to produce salmon and steelhead smolts for release into the Umatilla River in 2025.
- ODFW provided facilities and technical support at Lookingglass Hatchery to Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) fisheries personnel conducting steelhead and bull trout counts.
- ODFW staff worked with CTUIR representatives to develop an annual operation plan for Lookingglass, Irrigon and Wallowa hatcheries, and Big Canyon, Little Sheep, Imnaha, Catherine Creek, Lostine River, and upper Grande Ronde satellite facilities. ODFW worked with Tribal representatives to handle, spawn and transport of Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead as outlined in the annual operation plans.
- ODFW staff coordinated with CTUIR (and the Nez Perce Tribe) on the continued reintroduction of coho salmon into the Lostine River (Wallowa/Grande Ronde). This effort began in 2017, 2025 was the ninth consecutive year of smolt releases for the program.
- ODFW staff participated in weekly coordination calls between CTUIR personnel and other managing entities within the Snake River Basin. These calls have effectively increased communication regarding Chinook salmon and steelhead run projections, hatchery trapping, harvest updates and disposition of trapped fish at hatchery facilities.
- Worked with CTUIR personnel through the Snake River Harvest Forum to develop salmon harvest management options for northeast Oregon. In 2025, ODFW staff worked with tribal fisheries, hatchery, and OSP/tribal enforcement staff to ensure tribal harvest occurred during construction of a new intake facility at Lookingglass Hatchery.
- ODFW continues to coordinate with CTUIR cultural resources staff, Oregon State Police, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers regarding protection and management of culturally sensitive areas at Irrigon Wildlife Area.
- ODFW staff conducted numerous coordination efforts including:
 - with CTUIR biologists at monthly Umatilla Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Oversight Committee meetings.
- with CTUIR fisheries staff on operations of the Threemile dam fish collection facility.
- with CTUIR habitat biologists through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in the prioritization, planning, and implementation of fish habitat restoration projects in the Grande Ronde River Basin.
- with CTUIR fisheries biologists to implement spring Chinook spawning surveys in the Grande Ronde River Basin.
- with CTUIR staff on the development and initiation of operations of ?Imtwaha Hatchery.
- daily coordination between ODFW and CTUIR staff to implement the Umatilla and Walla Walla fish passage operations project. Tribal and ODFW staff work jointly to ensure fish passage facilities are operated to criteria providing the best fish passage conditions.
- with CTUIR on the implementation of fisheries in the Umatilla basin for steelhead, fall and spring Chinook, and coho salmon as per ongoing fisheries management agreements.
- with CTUIR fisheries staff to conduct spring and fall Chinook, steelhead, coho and bull trout redd counts in the Umatilla and Walla Walla Rivers.
- with CTUIR fisheries staff to conduct spring Chinook and steelhead redd counts on the North Fork John Day River and coordinated with CTUIR regarding the spring Chinook fishery on the North Fork John Day River.
- with CTUIR First Foods Coordinator to organize and harvest camas, bull rush, current and other first foods at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.
- monthly coordination meetings between CTUIR personnel, ODFW district, and hatchery staff. These calls have effectively increased communication regarding spring and fall Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead run projections, hatchery trapping, harvest updates, and disposition of trapped fish at hatchery facilities.
- with CTUIR Wildlife staff and the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission on wildlife research activities and how Tribal and ODFW staff can cooperate on future projects.
- with CTUIR staff on priority areas for Blue Mountains Elk Initiative/Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation project funding.
- with the CTUIR regarding hunts at Starkey Experimental Forest and range.
- with CTUIR wildlife staff on recovery of fawn mule deer, doe mule deer, and cow elk collars within the Umatilla Indian Reservation (UIR) boundary as well as recovery of and testing deceased animals.
- with CTUIR wildlife staff on support for implementing the Umatilla National Forest Good Neighbor Authority Mt. Emily BGMU Effective Road Closure project.
- with CTUIR staff on wildlife late winter elk hazing within the UIR.
- with CTUIR Wildlife staff in expanded monitoring of bighorn sheep movements in the North Fork John Day River canyon to assess disease transmission risks.
- with CTUIR Wildlife staff on monitoring California bighorn sheep on ODFW's Bridge Creek Wildlife Area as well as collar recovery on deceased animals.
- ODFW coordinated and commented on the development of the CTUIR Geologic Assessment Action Plan (GAAP) assembled for fish habitat restoration prioritization on Desolation Creek.
- Lookingglass Hatchery distributed 52 jack spring Chinook (156 pounds) for tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- ODFW staff jointly developed the Annual Operating Plans for Umatilla, Irrigon, and ?Imtwaha Hatcheries as well as Thornhollow and Impeques satellite facilities to outline annual operations/fish production for fish released into the Umatilla and Walla Walla Rivers.
- ODFW Monitoring and Evaluation staff coordinate activities and provide information to

CTUIR fisheries staff to inform fish management activities in the Umatilla and Walla Walla Basins.

- ODFW staff worked with CTUIR habitat program managers on the development of Umatilla and Walla Walla River habitat assessment and implementation plans.
- Continue to work closely with CTUIR fish habitat restoration staff on all aspects of cooperative fish habitat projects including planning design, project implementation, monitoring and maintenance in the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Grande Ronde Basins.
- ODFW continues to make use of the CTUIR native plant nursery for instream restoration projects in the Umatilla and Walla Walla Basins.
- ODFW staff participated with CTUIR staff in the development of the Walla Walla flow study, which looks to restore flows to the Walla Walla River, while ensuring agriculture remains intact in the area and coordinated with CTUIR and other basin partners on the initiation of the Walla Walla Water 250 project that began initial operations in 2021.
- ODFW staff participated with CTUIR staff in developing the McKay Creek passage studies and multiple grants in conjunction to submit to funding agencies to initiate fish passage alternatives at McKay Creek Reservoir Dam.
- ODFW staff participated with CTUIR staff on the Walla Walla 20250 water planning effort to improve flows in the Walla Walla River basin and helped pass legislation that now protects water across the state lines between Oregon and Washington.
- ODFW staff helped spawn, monitor and take biodata at spawning events for fish from both the Umatilla and Walla Walla basins to continue to provide harvest opportunities for both CTUIR members and anglers fishing in Oregon.
- ODFW staff participated with the CTUIR staff on the Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee as part of a wider group of stakeholders focusing on water management and development in the Walla Walla Basin.
- ODFW staff work cooperatively with CTUIR staff on the removal of fish passage barriers on the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and John Day basins. This includes fish passage projects at Reynolds Creek, a series of projects in the Middle Fork John Day and Bates Pond.
- ODFW staff participated with CTUIR staff in the John Day OWEB FIP and Atlas prioritization process (BPA) and in the John Day Bull Trout Working Group, the Umatilla-Walla Walla and the Grande Ronde/Imnaha Bull Trout Working Groups.
- The ODFW fish habitat program continued to provide CTUIR North Fork John Day Fish Habitat Biologist with technical assistance on Hidaway Creek restoration project planning.
- ODFW staff met with CTUIR wildlife program staff to discuss bighorn sheep, mountain goat and moose seasons and tags.
- ODFW staff serve on the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) with CTUIR to discuss NE Oregon forest plan structure with the USFS and county governments within the footprint of the affected forests and with CTUIR as the governing board of the Blue Mountain Habitat Restoration Council which supplies funding for projects in specific portions of the Blue Mountains of Oregon.
- ODFW staff continued to provide materials and assistance for wildlife disease sampling through CTUIR collections of hunters harvested deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.
- ODFW staff cooperated with CTUIR Wildlife staff on wolf locations and management in Tribal ceded lands as well as adjacent to the reservation.
- ODFW continues to cooperate with CTUIR on implementation of the Blue Mountain Habitat Council mitigation funds. The fund was set up to mitigate for the construction of the railroad over the Blue Mountains.
- ODFW and CTUIR continue cooperation with the USFWS to re-establish elk hunting on Cold

Springs National Wildlife Refuge for both state and tribal hunters when feasible.

- ODFW met with CTUIR Wildlife staff no less than once every 2 months to discuss ongoing wildlife projects for both ODFW and the Tribes. Topics include cervid population management, research priorities and activities, cross-jurisdictional wildlife damage coordination, both state and Tribal season structures and aspirations, energy development and review approaches, habitat enhancement efforts and possible areas of coordination.
- ODFW staff assessed elk migratory patterns and winter habitat use in the Mt. Emily WMU. Assessed use of security cover by elk in the Mt. Emily and Sled Springs WMUs. Project was a cooperative effort between CTUIR, ODFW, and U.S. Forest Service biologists as part of a funding from the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Civil Rights Advisory Group, Research with Underserved Community Fund.
- ODFW wildlife staff continue to work with CTUIR biologists to implement a multi-year strategy to manage *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*) within the Lookout Mountain and Burnt River bighorn sheep herds.
- ODFW staff partnered with CTUIR to conduct bull trout spawning surveys on the South Fork of the Walla Walla River to collect redd density data and locations.
- ODFW staff partnered with CTUIR to implement a stream nutrient enhancement program in the Umatilla basin using spawned hatchery fish where both spring Chinook and summer steelhead carcasses were out planted into the stream. ODFW staff worked with CTUIR staff to conduct creel on the Umatilla River both inside and outside the reservation boundary.
- ODFW cooperated with CTUIR fisheries staff on the in-basin management of the Umatilla and Walla Walla River spring and fall Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and coho populations. Efforts include developing annual run size prediction, run reconstruction efforts, joint harvest sampling, and consistency with angling regulations.
- ODFW staff coordinated with Tribal staff considering the disposition of spring and fall Chinook salmon, summer steelhead and coho eggs, juvenile rearing, and release strategies for fish collected at Three Mile Falls Dam and then transferred to Umatilla, Irrigon, and Walla Walla Hatcheries.
- ODFW staff coordinated with CTUIR staff in monthly and quarterly Umatilla and Walla Monitoring Evaluation Operations and Committee pertaining to fisheries management, fish passage, hatchery management, and research.
- ODFW coordinated with CTUIR staff on possible future research regarding predation of juvenile salmonids by American white pelicans in the Umatilla River.
- ODFW staff presented to CTUIR biologists regarding the risk of chronic wasting disease, and trained CTUIR staff to take CWD samples.
- ODFW staff released the remains of wolves that were administratively removed to CTUIR staff for the purpose of education and ceremonial purposes.
- ODFW staff coordinated with CTUIR on the expenditure of funds received through the six sovereign / Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative process, to maximize the benefits of jointly funded projects. This effort is ongoing.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION

Warm Springs, Oregon

- ODFW collaborated with Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWSR) staff regarding input on several action committees of mutual interest. These include the Lower Deschutes Managers, Deschutes Resource Conservancy, Pelton Hydro Mitigation Fish and Wildlife Committees, Pelton Pacific Lamprey Research Fund, Governing Board for Pelton Mitigation Fund, OWEB, Habitat Conservation Plan Working Group, Crooked River and

Upper Deschutes Watershed Councils, Hood River Watershed Council, Hood River Focused Investment Partnerships, Clear Branch Dam Regulatory Stakeholders Group, and several other working groups and committees.

- ODFW staff continued to coordinate with CTWSR on making flow management recommendations in the Crooked River relevant to the Crooked River Jobs and Securities Act.
- ODFW fish staff work closely with CTWSR staff, Portland General Electric (PGE) and hatchery staff during weekly Pelton Fish Trap Coordination meeting during the Chinook salmon and steelhead runs.
- ODFW fish staff had a comanagers meeting with CTWSR staff to discuss fish management issues.
- ODFW staff continued to work closely with CTWSR staff on multiple facets of the upper Deschutes River anadromous reintroduction effort, including a proposal to begin utilizing wild lower river steelhead as brood stock for reintroduction when the lower river population is sufficiently strong to support the take. Engaged in discussions regarding the risk/benefit of passing excess Round Butte Hatchery adult steelhead above the project in support of the reintroduction process.
- Another topic of discussion in 2025 was the disposition of steelhead kelts that enter the juvenile fish collector at Lake Billy Chinook.
- ODFW fish staff coordinated with the CTWSR on developing a pilot study and monitoring plan to pass a limited number of excess Round Butte hatchery brood summer steelhead into the Upper Deschutes Basin in 2023-24 to support reintroduction efforts. The first year of the pilot study did not have enough excess brood to provide meaningful results and year two was implemented in 2024-25 with support from CTWSR natural resource staff. Based on the results of the pilot study the co-managers developed guidance for PGE regarding the out planting of surplus hatchery steelhead in the upper basin for 2026-26 and 2026-27 while juvenile production data are collected and evaluated.
- ODFW continued to coordinate with the USFWS, USFS and CTWSR staff on the reintroduction of bull trout to the Clackamas River. The primary focus of the project in 2025 was continued monitoring of redd abundance.
- The CTWSR is an active participant in the Clackamas FIP effort to secure OWEB restoration project funding and still has at least one project (Austin Hot Springs) currently included in the list of projects proposed for funding via the FIP. CTWSR staff are in the process of designing a habitat restoration project at this location.
- ODFW continues to work with CTWSR staff to coordinate spring Chinook broodstock collection, necessary maintenance and repair at the Moving Falls fish ladder on the West Fork Hood River.
- ODFW cooperated with CTWSR fisheries staff on in-basin management of Deschutes River spring and fall Chinook salmon. Efforts include developing annual run size prediction, run reconstruction efforts, joint harvest sampling and consistency with angling regulations.
- ODFW staff coordinated with Tribal staff considering the disposition of spring Chinook salmon eggs, juvenile rearing, and release strategies for fish collected at Round Butte and Warm Springs Hatcheries.
- ODFW staff coordinated with CTWSR Staff to conduct Bull Trout spawning ground counts in Metolius River tributaries on national forest lands and Jefferson Creek and the Whitewater River on the Warm Springs Reservation.
- ODFW collaborated with CTWSR to implement the Hood River Production Program, a co-managed project and partnership providing harvest opportunity of spring Chinook for sport and tribal anglers, and monitoring steelhead. Implementation involved the operation

of fish trapping sites on the east, mainstem, and west fork Hood River to collect spring Chinook for brood and operate screw traps.

- ODFW coordinated with the CTWSR regarding management of fisheries and habitat in the Hood, Deschutes, and Fifteenmile Basins including regulations, planning, monitoring, restoration, and habitat protection.
- Participated with CTWSR staff on the Lower Deschutes River Wild and Scenic Managers group and Intergovernmental Technical Team.
- Coordinated with CTWSR staff on fall Chinook carcass recovery, carcass surveys, and aerial redd counting surveys on the Deschutes River.
- CTWSR staff assisted ODFW staff in field collection of juvenile steelhead as part of ongoing OWEB FIP monitoring in the Hood River basin.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on commenting and participating in the facilitated process to develop an Environmental Assessment by the USFS and NRCS for Clear Branch Dam on the upper Hood River.
- Coordinated with CTWSR staff on fall Chinook carcass recovery, carcass surveys, and aerial redd counting surveys on the Deschutes River.
- ODFW provided a combined 450 spring Chinook as well as 1,099 summer steelhead to the CTWSRO from Round Butte Hatchery for tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- ODFW, CTWSR, and CRTFIC Hagerman Fish Genetics Lab developed a cooperative project to estimate effective spawner abundance, historic and current, of steelhead and spring Chinook in the Hood River basin by analysis of genetic markers.
- ODFW staff worked with CTWSR staff on hunting and management of game animals on ceded lands.
- ODFW and CTWSR staff work to monitor the success of Rocky Mountain goat reintroductions on Mt. Jefferson. The current population estimate is 170 mountain goats in the central Oregon Cascades.
- ODFW and CTWSR staff coordinated the rollout of a hunting season for Rocky Mountain goats in the Central Oregon Cascades. ODFW and CTWSR hunt opportunities will alternate years starting in 2025, to provide opportunity while minimizing risk of overharvest on the goat population.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR regarding monitoring for adenovirus and CWD in deer and elk, and ODFW CWD Biologist provided training for sample collection to CTWSR biological staff.
- ODFW participated in the annual Pine Creek Conservation Area advisory group committee meeting to discuss long-term habitat management plans as well as Tribal and public hunting opportunities on the Conservation Area.
- ODFW has completed work with CTWSR to update the MOU to include additional fee access lands besides the Pine Creek area.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on monitoring the White River, and Warm Springs wolf packs, assisting with depredation investigations, conducting wolf necropsies, and investigating wolf reports received through ODFW online wolf submission system.
- ODFW has taken a more active role in assisting the CTWSR in wolf trapping efforts since USFWS is no longer taking the lead. Trapping/collaring efforts are occurring on two different groups of wolves.
- CTWSR wildlife biologists have participated in meetings with two different working groups in Central Oregon that ODFW plays a lead role in. One is a HWY 20 wildlife passage working group, and the other is a Metolius winter range preservation and enhancement working group.

CTWSR and ODFW biologists regularly attended meetings and field tours together for both efforts.

- The CTWSR has been coordinating on, and is supportive of, the expansion of the cooperative Travel Management Area in the Ochoco WMU.
- ODFW provided technical help to CTWSR biologists and staff on a reservation wide elk collaring project.
- ODFW is coordinating with CTWSR and the City of The Dalles to clarify access within The Dalles Watershed for future hunting seasons.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and bull trout redd counts in the John Day Basin.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on activities related to the John Day River Bull Trout Working Group, the Hood River Bull Trout Working Group, and the Lower Deschutes Bull Trout Working Group.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on forest management issues as a part of the Wasco County Forest Collaborative and the STEW crew out of Hood River Ranger District.
- ODFW collaborated with CTWSR to document the distribution of Bull Trout and Brook Trout and to estimate the abundance of Bull Trout in portions of the John Day basin.
- ODFW collaborated with CTWSR staff and the John Day Partnership in the ATLAS prioritization for fish habitat restoration work in the John Day basin.
- With assistance from CTWSR staff, ODFW pit tagged juvenile steelhead in Fox Creek during CTWSR restoration activities to develop a habitat restoration evaluation.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR for habitat monitoring on the Middle Fork John Day River.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR for abundance estimation and tagging of juvenile chinook on the Forrest Conservation Area.
- ODFW assisted with a large fish salvage effort on the Middle Fork Forrest Conservation Area related to a fish habitat restoration project.
- Continued partnership on NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) monies applied for by CTWSR staff. ODFW worked with CTWSR staff to identify project sites, which will be an opportunity to complete various cooperative fish enhancement projects on the upper mainstem John Day River.
- ODFW provided parts of bears, cougars, deer, wolves, and elk for use by CTWSR members for cultural and educational purposes.
- ODFW collaborated with CTWSR staff on deer herd composition surveys in the Santiam WMU.
- ODFW coordinated with CTWSR staff on the transition from Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) structure to new mule deer hunt areas
- Fish Division staff met with the CTWSR Natural Resources Board to discuss issues of mutual interest.

COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

North Bend, Oregon

- In 2023, ODFW and the Coquille Indian Tribe (CIT) met and updated the subsistence and ceremonial hunting and fishing regulation agreement per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2022.
- ODFW continues to coordinate recovery actions with CIT regarding the extremely low returns of fall Chinook salmon to the Coquille Basin since 2018. Actions are being taken to evaluate

the causes of low returns and to reverse this trend. The CIT contributed significantly to ongoing ODFW efforts in predatory, nonnative fish removal (primarily smallmouth bass) in 2025, under ODFW's take permit with NMFS. CIT also participated in a mark/recapture effort to estimate the smallmouth bass population size in the Coquille River. ODFW worked with CIT, the Port of Bandon, and STEP volunteers to collect hatchery fall Chinook broodstock for Bandon Hatchery.

- ODFW coordinated with CIT on regulations for fall salmon and winter steelhead fisheries in coastal rivers. ODFW worked closely with CIT to develop the first open Chinook fishery on the Coquille River in recent history as well as an increase in the hatchery bag limit on the Coos River.
- ODFW and CIT collaborated on hatchery program operations in the Coos and Coquille river basins.
- ODFW collaborated with CIT to develop a conservation hatchery program for Coquille Basin fall Chinook to help recover the severely depressed wild adult escapement. The conservation hatchery plan, adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, is designed to collect wild adult broodstock and raise smolts to a larger size at release from the upper basin, at a release time when river flows are higher and colder to reduce predation from invasive, predacious smallmouth and striped bass. ODFW, CIT, and Coquille STEP volunteers collaborated to collect conservation hatchery broodstock in 2025 via trapping and netting.
- ODFW and CIT are two of 15+ partners of the Coos Basin Coho Partnership which was awarded an OWEB FIP grant for implementation of the Coho Strategic Action Plan high-priority habitat restoration projects for coho salmon in the Coos watershed over the next three biennia.
- As a part of the Coos hatchery fall Chinook program, ODFW works with the CIT to acclimate up to 100,000 fall Chinook salmon pre-smolts. Fish are raised at the Bandon Hatchery, acclimated at CIT's Fourth Creek Reservoir, and released into Coos Bay. CIT staff operates a fish trap in the Fourth Creek fish ladder to monitor adult returns of wild and hatchery salmon.
- ODFW provided approximately 129 and 6 jack (1,683 pounds) spring Chinook to the CIT from Cole Rivers Hatchery, for tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- CIT Natural Resources Program staff are regularly invited attendees at ODFW District-hosted "Bio Breakfasts." These informal breakfast meetings are a good way for natural resource staff from agencies, Tribes, watershed councils, and other entities to network and share project updates, and find ways to partner toward common goals.
- ODFW continues to coordinate with the CIT to distribute a variety of harvested wildlife species (primarily deer and elk) to many of the Tribal members.
- ODFW continues to work with CIT staff to collect samples of deer and elk as part of a combined effort to monitor for Chronic Wasting Disease.
- ODFW continues to work with CIT staff to check-in black bears and cougars harvested by tribal members.
- Staff from ODFW's Fish Research, Evaluation, Data, and Decision Support program coordinated with the CIT Staff to report on efforts to remove smallmouth bass in the lower Coquille River.
- ODFW continues to work with CIT Natural Resources Program staff regarding wildlife harvest data organization and reporting.

COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS

Roseburg, Oregon

- In December 2022, ODFW and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

(CCBUTI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a cooperative partnership to collaborate, share resources, and work as partners to develop and implement plans to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat. The MOA also established a framework for CCBUTI members to participate in subsistence and ceremonial harvest of fish and wildlife resources, to be licensed and managed by tribal government in partnership with ODFW.

- ODFW coordinated with CCBUTI on regulations for fall salmon and winter steelhead fisheries in coastal rivers.
- ODFW and CCBUTI continued consultation regarding the future of Rock Creek Hatchery. Multiple meetings and site visits took place and ODFW plans to continue working closely with the Tribe as we move through the rebuild process. ODFW and CCBUTI have formed a workgroup to continue these discussions and to fulfill the requirements from a 2025 Legislative Budget Note regarding Rock Creek Hatchery and hatchery activities in the Umpqua River basin.
- ODFW and CCBUTI staff continue to work collaboratively to address low returns of spring Chinook in the South Umpqua River. CCBUTI has offered support to conduct monitoring and research efforts both through use of staff as well as through grant opportunities.
- ODFW provided 72 spring Chinook (1,080 pounds) from Rock Creek Hatchery, to the CCBUTI for tribal subsistence and ceremonial purposes.
- The CCBUTI continues to be an instrumental partner in the development and support of the Umpqua Basin Partnership in developing a Focus Investment Partnership using an OWEB Capacity building grant. ODFW and CCBUTI has been an active team member in the Umpqua Basin Partnership, which includes other state, federal and local non-profits including four local watershed councils. This partnership was created in the Umpqua basin by using OWEB funds to ultimately create a FIP. This effort has been going on over the past five years, and the goal has been to create a local level Umpqua Management Plan used to leverage funds to create and prioritize future restoration projects in the future. CCBUTI has supplied staff time, their Governmental Office for meetings, and GIS expertise.
- CCBUTI is a partner in the South Umpqua River Coho Recovery Team and has attended all four prior meetings and has provided monitoring information, GIS mapping information and staff expertise. The team continued to meet nearly monthly with the goal of improving coho habitat and coho population numbers on the entire South Umpqua River basin.
- CCBUTI provided information and access to the W.F. Cow Creek Beaver Implementation Area which was chosen by ODFW to concentrate surveys and resources for beaver recovery efforts.
- ODFW continued their partnership with the CCBUTI on the South Umpqua River winter steelhead acclimation program. ODFW worked with CCBUTI to acclimate and release winter steelhead into the South Umpqua River on CCBUTI lands at the Seven Feathers Casino. Personnel from the Casino maintenance and grounds department check on the fish, monitor fish health, and feed them as needed.
- Although not a signatory to the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement, the CCBUTI continues to provide input to various North Umpqua Working Groups on the Upper North Umpqua Hydro Project. CCBUTI also provided input on the Prospect 3 Hydro Project, which was recently relicensed.
- ODFW participated with the CCBUTI on the local watershed council along with other government and private individuals.
- CCBUTI participated with various federal agencies in the annual coordination meeting organized by ODFW Rogue Fish District.

- Rogue Fish District staff coordinated with CCBUTI and USACE on placing willow cuttings for a project on the Rogue River near lower Table Rock Road.
- Rogue Fish District staff coordinated with CCBUTI on a large woody debris habitat placement project in a tributary to Elk Creek and Deer Creek in the Illinois Valley.
- The CCBUTI assisted Umpqua Fish staff with the installation and removal of the lamprey ramp at Winchester Dam.
- A fisheries biologist from the CCBUTI participates on the Oregon Hatchery Research Center's Board. The OHRC Board meets quarterly to review and recommend research to be conducted at the OHRC and provides science-based management recommendations to ODFW.
- ODFW continues to work with CCBUTI regarding wildlife harvest data organization and reporting.

KLAMATH TRIBES

Chiloquin, Oregon

- Shared information on proposed land use actions and coordinated on evaluating the impacts to fish and wildlife from proposed development.
- Continued to support the collaborative program with tribal biologists and enforcement officers to obtain tissue samples from tribal deer and elk harvest for Chronic Wasting Disease testing.
- ODFW and the Klamath Tribes are working with Oregon State Marine Board and, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to better manage growing recreation on Spring Creek and Williamson River and the impact to natural on other cultural resources.
- ODFW and the Klamath Tribes routinely collaborate on monitoring fish populations and habitat throughout the Klamath Basin. Some highlights include:
 - Implementation of the Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin. With Ambodat staff leading the monitoring efforts above Link River Dam.
 - Redband trout spawning ground surveys on the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers.
 - temperature and water quality monitoring throughout the Upper Klamath Basin.
 - ODFW and Klamath Tribes continued to partner on all aspects of anadromous fish reintroduction monitoring and research projects.
 - Collaboration as part of the Klamath Basin Bull Trout Working Group.
- ODFW supplies wildlife parts recovered from or resulting from ODFW management actions to the Klamath Tribes Cultural Heritage Program.
- ODFW continued to communicate with Klamath Tribes Cultural Heritage Program on any ground disturbing activities related to maintenance of wildlife guzzlers in Klamath and Lake Counties.
- ODFW annually issues administrative parking permits to tribal members for the collecting of bullrush (Tules) on the Klamath Wildlife Area, Miller Island Unit.
- ODFW coordinated with Klamath Tribes on wolf observations.
- ODFW and Klamath Tribes leadership met multiple times to discuss shared goals including potential habitat restoration adjacent to upper Klamath Lake and ramping up hatchery production of spring chinook for restoration in the Klamath Basin.
- Collaborated on Keno Dam fish passage issues to identify and evaluate near term improvements to optimize passage and to collaborate with other partners on a feasibility analysis of alternatives that will bring that facility into compliance with state and federal fish

passage standards.

NEZ PERCE TRIBE

- ODFW is collaborating with NPT to evaluate the distribution and relative abundance of Bull Trout, Brook Trout, and their hybrids in Bear Creek, the Lostine River, and the Minam River.
- ODFW collaborated with NPT to conduct Bull Trout redd surveys in northeastern Oregon.
- Lookingglass Hatchery distributed 35 jack spring Chinook (105 pounds) for tribal subsistence and ceremonial use.
- ODFW raised sockeye salmon at lower Columbia River hatcheries as part of a cooperative effort with the NPT and Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG). The first release of sockeye occurred in May 2024.
- ODFW and NPT biologists partnered to continue brook trout suppression efforts in Bear Lake, with the goal of reducing brook and bull trout hybridization in Bear Creek, a tributary of the Wallowa River.
- ODFW and NPT biologists are finishing a review of coho reintroduction efforts in the Wallowa River and agreed on adaptive management changes to the program which began in 2025.
- ODFW staff worked with NPT representatives to develop an annual operation plan for Lookingglass, Irrigon and Wallowa hatcheries, and Big Canyon, Little Sheep, Imnaha, Catherine Creek, Lostine River, and upper Grande Ronde satellite facilities. ODFW worked with Tribal representatives to handle, spawn and transport of Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead as outlined in the annual operation plans.
- ODFW staff coordinated with NPT on the continued reintroduction of coho salmon into the Lostine River (Wallowa/Grande Ronde). This effort began in 2017, 2025 was the ninth consecutive year of smolt releases for the program.
- ODFW staff participated in weekly coordination calls between NPT personnel and other managing entities within the Snake River Basin. These calls have effectively increased communication regarding Chinook salmon and steelhead run projections, hatchery trapping, harvest updates and disposition of trapped fish at hatchery facilities.
- Worked with NPT personnel through the Snake River Harvest Forum to develop salmon harvest management options for northeast Oregon. In 2025, ODFW staff worked with tribal fisheries, hatchery, and OSP/tribal enforcement staff to ensure Treaty harvest occurred during construction of a new intake facility at Lookingglass Hatchery.
- ODFW staff conducted numerous coordination efforts including:
 - with NPT habitat biologists through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program in the prioritization, planning, and implementation of fish habitat restoration projects in the Grande Ronde River Basin.
 - with NPT fisheries biologists to implement spring Chinook spawning surveys in the Grande Ronde River Basin.
- ODFW wildlife staff continue to work with NPT biologists to manage *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M.ovi*) within Hells Canyon bighorn sheep herds.
- ODFW staff coordinated with NPT on the expenditure of funds received through the six sovereign/Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative process, to maximize the benefits of jointly funded projects. This effort is ongoing.