



# 2023 Annual Government-to- Government Report on Tribal Relations

Submitted to:  
Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services  
Oregon Environmental Quality Commission

By: Leah Feldon, Director

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## Non-discrimination statement

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# Executive summary

This Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Annual Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations provides an update on DEQ efforts and actions during the past year to consult, coordinate, collaborate and enhance relations with tribal nations. DEQ's work centers on protecting human health and the environment, and its partnerships with tribes are an important priority for the agency. Ongoing activities include work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect communities from air toxics, cleanup of contaminated lands, modernization of Oregon's recycling system, protection of rivers and streams, watershed restoration projects, consultation on the development of rules, policies and procedures, technical assistance and more.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality



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# 1. Agency contacts for 2024

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## 2. Agency interest areas

As the State of Oregon's environmental protection agency, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality partners with the nine federally recognized tribal governments in the state on issues related to air, land and water quality. DEQ's work is linked to the work of tribal governments through natural and cultural resources, as well as community and economic development programs. Programs that DEQ administers and implements often affect federally recognized tribes. In recognition of this, every year DEQ develops a comprehensive report regarding the program and policy changes (including rulemakings) that are expected to be considered by the agency's policy-making body - the Environmental Quality Commission. DEQ's tribal liaison reaches out to the key contacts from each tribal nation regarding how best to communicate relevant information, and DEQ uses this feedback to inform the agency's work. In addition, DEQ's tribal liaison regularly updates the primary contacts for each tribe on key topics including:

- upcoming cleanup projects
- information about permits scheduled for issuance in the upcoming year and details about specific permits, when requested
- DEQ's regulatory authority, timelines and processes for proposed new projects or policies that may be of tribal interest
- development of air, land and water monitoring plans
- presentations on monitoring results from the previous year
- emergency/spill response activities
- any other topic as requested by tribal staff

### 3. Agency statement

DEQ developed a Tribal Government-to-Government Relations Program in 1996 following the signing of Executive Order 96-30. In 2002, DEQ adopted a “Statement of Intent” to implement the order and to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 770 (ORS 182.162-168), which directs state agencies to promote government-to-government relations with the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon.

DEQ’s most recent Tribal Relations Policy was published in 2010, and updates to the policy are currently in progress. The 2010 policy states that DEQ is committed to building and maintaining strong government-to-government relations with tribes. DEQ consults and coordinates with tribal nations on air, land and water quality issues that affect tribal interests, resources and lands. DEQ strives to build positive relationships with tribal leaders, managers, staff and representatives to understand tribal interests, explore opportunities for greater partnership and collaboration, and address tribal interests in DEQ actions. These partnerships increase our collective ability to protect and enhance public health and the environment.

DEQ implements the 2010 [Tribal Relations Policy](#) through regular meetings with tribal representatives at the staff, manager and leadership levels, and by seeking opportunities to collaborate with tribes on issues important to tribal governments.

## 4. Participation in the government-to-government process

In 2023, DEQ engaged in the following government-to-government activities:

- On April 3, 2023, DEQ's annual letter from the agency Director was sent to the nine tribal councils, introducing themselves as the agency's new Director and an invitation to meet with any or all who were interested in having a meeting. The letter also confirmed that DEQ would resume its quarterly check-ins with tribal staff.
- On May 4, DEQ's tribal liaison met with and provided updates to the Oregon Tribes Council.
- On June 13, DEQ's Director and staff had a consultation meeting with the Tribal Council of the Coquille Indian Tribe regarding the Powers Wastewater Treatment Plant and seafood processing water quality standards.
- On June 26, DEQ sent a letter to the Oregon Tribes Council with responses to questions asked during the May meeting.
- On July 14 DEQ's Director and staff met with the Tribal Council and staff of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- On July 14 DEQ's Materials Management program sent a letter to the nine tribal councils describing the upcoming changes to the recycling system in Oregon. The letter included an invitation to meet with DEQ staff to discuss currently recycling services and to discuss what opportunities and needs exist in tribal communities.
- As the co-lead agency in the development of Oregon's state-level Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant, the precursor to pursuing a variety of US EPA funds made available by the Inflation Reduction Act, DEQ has been collaborating with interested tribes in planning efforts. DEQ sent a letter to all nine the tribes on Oct. 17 with an update and an invitation to engage in the project.
- Participation in a tour offered by the Grand Ronde at Willamette Falls.
- Attended and provided agency updates at the Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum.
- Throughout the year DEQ's tribal liaison and other technical staff attended and presented at the tribal-state natural resources cluster meetings, cultural resources cluster meetings, cluster meetings held in 2023 as an important part of government-to-government relations. DEQ followed up with tribal representatives in a number of ways regarding topics and issues raised at those meetings.
- DEQ continued to host standing meetings throughout the year with tribal staff to have open discussion with DEQ's tribal liaison and other DEQ representatives.
- DEQ's Director continues to work with partners, including the Klamath, Yurok and Karuk tribes, concerning water quality issues and dam removal in the Klamath Basin.
- Throughout the year, DEQ connected with each of the nine federally recognized tribes on various topics and agency actions, including draft air and water permits that were proposed or in the process of being renewed, cleanup sites, enforcement actions, DEQ

programs and restoration projects. Many of these interactions are highlighted in the following sections.

DEQ greatly appreciates the leadership and partnership of tribal governments working with the state to protect the environment, human health, as well as natural and cultural resources.

## 5. Internal tribal relations action and training

DEQ's internal tribal relations activities are focused on improving consultation and communication between agency and tribal leadership and staff, as well as providing training to DEQ employees on tribal government, sovereignty and issues of interest to tribal nations.

- Throughout the year, DEQ's tribal liaison advised and assisted DEQ managers and staff on issues of interest to tribal nations, providing guidance for consulting and coordinating with tribal governments on many environmental activities.
- DEQ maintains a [Tribal Government Relations webpage](#) to provide information about the government-to-government process, federally recognized tribes, and DEQ's tribal relations activities. DEQ employees use this site to learn about tribal nations and our government-to-government responsibilities.
- DEQ's tribal liaison is working with Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Government to bring formal training to the agency. That training is expected to occur in early 2024.

## **6. Summary of program related issues and activities**

DEQ works to protect air, land and water quality across the state and interacts regularly with tribal leaders and staff on a broad range of activities and issues. Primary areas of collaboration and discussion between tribal nations and DEQ staff over the past year are summarized below.

### **6.1. Improving water quality**

#### **2024 Integrated Report**

Oregon statute requires that DEQ publish the Integrated Report assessment methodology prior to the start of drafting the Integrated Report. The Draft Assessment Methodology for Oregon's 2024 Integrated Report describes how data will be evaluated at the assessment unit level and how DEQ will develop the 2024 Integrated Report to comply with Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Efforts to develop the 2024 Integrated Report began in 2022, when DEQ initiated priority assessment methodology updates. The largest update for this reporting cycle, included DEQ collaborating with a technical workgroup to develop draft assessment methodologies to assess the impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia on marine aquatic life. DEQ's Water Quality Assessment Program held two public processes for the Draft 2024 Assessment Methodology. The inland and estuaries draft Assessment Methodologies for Oregon's 2024 Integrated Report were posted for public comment Jan. 5, 2023, and accepted comments on the methodologies through Feb. 21, 2023. The draft 2024 Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Assessment Methodologies for marine water were posted separately on May 31, 2023, and comments accepted through July 7, 2023. DEQ hosted informational webinars at the beginning of the comment periods to explain the updates and provide rationales for decisions made. In total, DEQ received 15 unique comments from five entities on the 2024 draft Assessment Methodology update. Additionally, DEQ requested its 2024 Integrated Report statewide call for data for inland and estuarine waters from Feb. 6, 2023, through April 7, 2023, and for marine waters from June 15, 2023, through Aug. 14, 2023. Notifications for these public processes were shared with tribal staff and DEQ received data from one tribe.

Only those waters that are under the state of Oregon's jurisdiction are subject to the State's 303(d) and 305(b) assessment and reporting requirements. Tribal waters do not fall under DEQ's jurisdiction, and are not assessed for water quality or developing the 303(d) list for the Integrated Report. DEQ does not develop TMDLs for tribal waters unless a specific government-to-government collaboration is requested by a tribe. When a water body lies partially within tribal reservation boundaries, DEQ only assesses the segments that are within Oregon's jurisdiction to prepare Oregon's 303(d) list. Waters that form the boundary between tribal reservations and state lands are assessed for Oregon's Integrated Report.

DEQ plans to release the 2024 Integrated Report in early 2024 and will broadly solicit input via a public comment opportunity as well as specific outreach to tribal staff. For now, the [2022 Integrated Report](#), represents the most up to date water quality assessment, with 303(d) list of impaired waters approved by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 1, 2022 effective for regulatory purposes. The reporting includes an interactive 305(b) [story map](#) which provides an overview of the water quality assessment process, displays assessment results and presents an overview of how DEQ's water quality programs are connected through monitoring, assessment and watershed protection. Additionally, an interactive [web map](#) displays the Integrated Report results by overall status of an assessment unit. An [online searchable database](#) also provides access to raw data and parameter specific categorical conclusions for all assessed units.

## **Triennial Review**

DEQ plans to begin the next water quality standards Triennial Review in July 2024. During this process, DEQ will request input from interested parties, including Tribes, about which Oregon water quality standards should be revised and which standards need new or improved application procedures.

## **Monitoring toxic pollutants**

In 2019, DEQ's statewide toxics monitoring program established a trend network of approximately 60 locations based on a risk assessment using previously collected data through the toxics monitoring program. The goal is to sample sites three times annually to establish a trending network for toxics. The first sampling event was completed in fall of 2019. Initial analysis includes priority metals and will expand to organics in the near future. Toxics monitoring supports the evaluation of toxics impacts on tribal First Foods and ecological integrity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DEQ's toxics monitoring work was limited. In summer 2023, the DEQ laboratory resumed statewide toxics monitoring including an expanded list of analytes. In 2024, DEQ is planning to analyze for toxics in water, sediment and fish tissue samples. DEQ will collaborate and communicate with the tribes as this work continues.

## **Groundwater Management Areas**

Oregon revised statute (ORS) 468B.180 requires DEQ to declare a GWMA when DEQ groundwater assessments reveal area-wide groundwater contamination problems at consistently high levels. A GWMA declaration requires DEQ, Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Department, Oregon Health Authority and other state agencies to focus efforts to restore the groundwater quality through adopting rules necessary to carry out the agencies' duties under ORS 468B.187 (2), establishing best practicable management programs for groundwater protection under ORS 468B.160 (4), requiring amendments to affected city or county comprehensive plans and land use regulations to address identified groundwater protection under ORS 468B.184 (1)(f), and other actions. DEQ leads the effort by convening a local groundwater management area committee comprised of affected and interested parties. This committee works with state agencies to develop and implement an action plan to reduce groundwater contamination originating from point and non-point source activities in the area.

Oregon currently has three groundwater management areas (Figure 2): Northern Malheur County, Lower Umatilla Basin, and Southern Willamette Valley. All three areas were designated for widespread nitrate contamination.

The Lower Umatilla Basin Committee was convened in 1996 and finalized the first Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area Action Plan in December 1997; a second action plan was approved by DEQ in November 2020. In September 2022, DEQ restructured the [LUBGWMA Committee](#) into 10 membership categories to better ensure broad representation of various interests on the committee, including tribal government. Two members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation currently serve on the committee and have been engaged in LUBGWMA Committee work over the past year. The tribes offer expertise in land use planning and cultural and natural resources, including water quality standards development, implementation, and monitoring.

## **Statewide groundwater monitoring**

In 2023, DEQ's statewide groundwater program conducted sampling in the Lower Deschutes area that included sampling of 60 wells in the spring and 20 wells in the fall. DEQ also intends to sample approximately 40 wells in the spring of 2024. DEQ staff have shared information about this work with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe. As the Statewide Groundwater Program moves into new areas, DEQ will continue to engage with tribal representatives in the sampling areas and provide the monitoring results to all interested parties.

## **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund**

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program continues to provide below-market rate loans for planning, design and construction of projects that enhance or protect water quality. Federally recognized tribal governments are eligible to apply to the loan program. The program offers loans for wastewater treatment, as well as stormwater and nonpoint source watershed protection projects. The program awards principal forgiveness to eligible borrowers based on affordability, as well as for projects addressing water efficiency and energy efficiency, incorporating green infrastructure or that qualify as environmentally innovative. In 2023, DEQ provided information about new opportunities for CWSRF nonpoint source funding and principal forgiveness to tribal councils and have shared program information at this year's Natural Resource Working Group and Cultural Resources Cluster meetings. The Program also met with a representative of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and other interested parties concerning the Tenmile Lakes. Additionally, staff from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board serve on the CWSRF standing advisory committee.

## **Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program**

Decentralized wastewater, or septic systems, are an important method of residential wastewater treatment in rural parts of the state. The Onsite Septic Financial Assistance Program provides financial assistance to communities throughout the state and is made possible as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act. In 2023, DEQ is working in partnership with the Central

Oregon Intergovernmental Council to make funding available to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs for septic system repair and replacement.

## **Developing and Implementing Water Quality Improvement Plans (TMDLs)**

When rivers and streams exceed water quality standards set to protect people and aquatic life, DEQ develops a pollution reduction plan called a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL. Many tribal governments have worked collaboratively with DEQ over the past year to develop and implement plans to reduce pollution in waters across the state that currently do not meet water quality standards. Progress made on TMDLs is summarized below.

### **Temperature Replacement TMDLs**

In October 2019, the U.S. District Court of Oregon, Portland Division, issued its final order and judgment for NWEA v. USEPA, commonly referred to as the Temperature TMDL litigation. This case was originally filed in 2012 by Northwest Environmental Advocates to challenge EPA's action on numerous temperature TMDLs. The final order requires DEQ and EPA to develop replacement TMDLs by the end of 2028 for 15 areas (see [DEQ's Temperature replacement TMDLs website](#)).

Throughout 2023, DEQ finalized project plans for all 15 areas and continued the technical work and outreach to affected entities, other interested parties and tribes on the plans due in 2024 and 2025. These include the Willamette Subbasins and Mainstem, the Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin and the North and South Umpqua Subbasins. Tribal input is being sought to offer basin-specific knowledge for these temperature TMDL, and DEQ has extended invitations to participate on the Rulemaking Advisory Committees where members are asked to provide input on fiscal impacts, racial equity and environmental justice considerations. No tribes opted to participate on the 2023 Willamette Subbasins or Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin temperature TMDL Rules Advisory Committees. By the end of 2023, DEQ plans to request participation on the North and South Umpqua temperature replacement TMDL by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Tribal input will continue to be sought for all temperature replacement TMDLs through the 2028 court deadlines.

### **Mid-Coast Basin – Upper Yaquina River Watershed TMDLs**

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participated with DEQ and other interested parties as members of the local advisory committee on topics related to temperature, dissolved oxygen, sedimentation, drinking water protection and aquatic habitat throughout the Mid-Coast Basin. For TMDL development, DEQ used water monitoring data collected in the Siuslaw Subbasin by the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians to characterize estuarine conditions and assist in protection of beneficial uses like recreational shellfish collection. These tribal governments periodically provide water quality and other technical

assistance to local organizations, including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and municipalities, all of which are DEQ partners. In 2023, DEQ concluded the Rulemaking Advisory Committee process for the Upper Yaquina River Watershed bacteria and dissolved oxygen TMDLs to advise on aspects of the TMDLs that could have fiscal impacts or racial equity and environmental justice considerations. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participated as a RAC member. Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission adopted the Upper Yaquina bacteria and dissolved oxygen TMDLs into rule on September 15, 2023.

### **Coquille River Subbasin TMDLs**

DEQ continues to work with the Coquille Indian Tribe and provide outreach opportunities to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde during development of the Coquille River TMDLs to address dissolved oxygen, temperature, bacteria, chlorophyll-a and pH. DEQ also engaged with representatives from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians staff and received their input on the South Fork Coquille River TMDL for Camas Valley. DEQ anticipates tribal input will continue to be informative in the ongoing efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat conditions on the Oregon south coast. In early 2023, DEQ invited tribal participation on the Coquille Subbasins TMDLs Rulemaking Advisory Committee and the Coquille Indian Tribe has agreed to participate.

### **Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDLs**

Consistent with the terms of a 2021 Settlement agreement, DEQ is developing a TMDL for methylmercury in reaches of the Snake River that include the Hells Canyon Dam Complex. In 2023, DEQ initiated technical advisory group meetings and invited the Nez Perce Tribe and conservation petitioners to participate. DEQ also began holding regular meetings with the Nez Perce Tribe to collaborate on TMDL development. As the TMDL progresses, DEQ will update the Tribes and petitioners on progress and invite their participation in additional TMDL advisory groups. As part of the court-ordered temperature TMDL replacement projects discussed above, DEQ will also be revising the 2004 Snake River- Hells Canyon temperature TMDL. Due in 2027, only initial work on modeling is underway. DEQ plans to seek input and participation on the RAC from the Nez Perce Tribe, once the public participation process begins.

In addition to these specific TMDL examples, many tribal governments work on projects throughout Oregon that support TMDL implementation and nonpoint source pollution management, such as channel reconstruction, fencing and flow restoration, levee elimination and riparian planting to improve water quality.

### **Drinking water protection for public water systems**

In Oregon, EPA directly implements the Safe Drinking Water Act for tribal public water systems to improve access to safe drinking water. DEQ's drinking water protection program has been working with EPA to ensure that tribal drinking water utilities are aware of potential risks to their water supply from areas outside of their jurisdiction. In 2023, DEQ DWP coordinated with EPA to ensure that the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs received timely notification of a

cyanobacteria harmful algal bloom advisory in Lake Billy Chinook that may impact their downstream water system intake on the Deschutes River. Coastal tribal water systems were also invited and attended drinking water protection informational workshops that were hosted by DEQ in October 2023.

## **Relicensing Hydroelectric Projects**

Tribal governments and DEQ have worked together on the following hydroelectric relicensing projects over the past year.

### **Hells Canyon Hydroelectric Project**

The federal licensure for the Hells Canyon hydroelectric project remains in progress, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's draft Environmental Impact Statement expected in early 2024. DEQ will continue to work with tribal staff through the remainder of the federal process.

DEQ will also ensure that the Nez Perce and the conservation petitioners are aware of developments in implementation of the 401 certification conditions once the license is issued by FERC.

### **Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project**

DEQ and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are working with other interested parties to implement the hydroelectric license for this project on the Deschutes River. Among other items, reintroduction of anadromous fish above the Pelton Round Butte project is required. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have important roles as a regulatory entity, 401 water quality certification authority, Fish Committee member, and co-owner and co-licensee with Portland General Electric for the project.

DEQ began modification of the Pelton Round Butte 401 Certification in 2021, which is a coordinated process between DEQ, PGE, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The modification remains on hold as the DEQ water quality standards staff complete the required updates to the Aquatic Life Use Rule. More work is anticipated in 2024.

### **Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project**

DEQ has collaborated with more than 40 stakeholders to develop and implement the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. This historic agreement, amended in 2016, established the framework for the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River. The project represents the largest dam removal project in U.S. history and will restore access to more than 350 miles of salmon habitat in the upper basin for the first time in a century. In June 2021, FERC transferred the license of the Lower Klamath Project to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation and the states of Oregon and California. On Nov. 17, 2022 FERC approved the surrender of the Lower Klamath Project license and removal of the four project developments. Dam removal is scheduled to begin in Jan. 2024. The KRRC and their contractors will oversee dam removal and the ecological restoration activities. DEQ issued a 401 water quality

certification in September 2018 for the proposed removal of the J.C. Boyle Dam, the only dam of the four located in Oregon. on.

## **Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships**

Since 1999, DEQ has been using a voluntary, collaborative approach called Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships to identify problems and improve water quality associated with pesticide use. The partnership approach uses local expertise in combination with water quality and pesticide expertise of state agencies and Oregon State University to encourage and support voluntary changes that result in measurable environmental improvements.

From 2014 to 2020, the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe participated in a pilot pesticide monitoring activity in the South Umpqua basin, offering insights and assistance to inform monitoring plans. Due to the low frequency of detections and the low concentrations of pesticides (all of the pesticide detections were at or below 50 percent of the aquatic life benchmark) when they were detected in the watershed, this pilot PSP project was completed in 2020.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs contributed time and financial resources to the first PSP, the Hood River Basin PSP, in the early 2000s. Through their participation on the board of the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is now involved in the Middle Deschutes PSP project. The Middle Deschutes PSP project is a long-term partnership lead by the soil and water conservation district with the goal of reducing pesticide concentrations in tributaries such as Campbell Creek that discharge into the river above the tribe's drinking water intake.

In 2018 and 2019, the inter-agency team overseeing the project initiated a renewed strategic planning approach with local watershed partners to ensure consistent and effective implementation of activities at the local level. One objective is to ensure all potentially interested partners are invited to participate in the project. Tribal government presence in each of the watersheds will be assessed, with the goal of gaining increased participation of tribal partners.

Beginning in late 2019, stakeholder advisory groups provided input on all elements of the PSP program. A representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation served on the group. The group met multiple times through June 2021 and gave feedback on a number of issues, including feedback on an evaluation of how the PSP program and individual watershed projects will most effectively incorporate environmental justice principles into on-going and future activities.

## **Integrated Water Resources Strategy**

DEQ participates in the statewide work to implement the water quality recommendations in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. One of the initiatives is place-based planning, which provides a framework for communities to understand and meet their water needs now and in the future. DEQ participates in the development of four collaborative water plans throughout Oregon and provides technical assistance as needed. Thus far, planning efforts have involved the Mid-Coast Region, Lower John Day Subbasin, Upper Grande Ronde Subbasin, and the Malheur Lake Basin. Tribal representatives participate in the planning efforts.

Another initiative is Oregon Water Resources Department's Water Project Grant and Loan Program. This program provides grants and loans for projects that increase water supply to meet instream or out-of-stream needs. DEQ works with the technical review team to review the economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits of each grant application. As part of that work, DEQ reaches out to involved tribes before making funding recommendations.

In 2023, DEQ has been involved in the statewide effort to update the IWRS, last published in 2017. The update involves multiple state natural resource agencies and has various outreach and engagement processes aimed at soliciting input from a breadth of interested parties. Specifically, DEQ has worked with the lead agency, WRD, and other agencies to support both formal and informal tribal engagement opportunities throughout the process. The update is seeking to incorporate key elements and findings associated with recent efforts, including the 100 Year Water Vision and the Tribal Water Task Force, and aims to release a draft for tribal and public input by Jan. 2024 with the goal of finalizing the new strategy in March 2024.

## **6.2. Improving Air Quality**

### **Oregon Climate Protection Program**

The Climate Protection Program, adopted by the EQC on Dec. 16, 2021, went into effect Jan. 1, 2022. CPP will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon over the next 30 years. The program sets a declining limit, or cap, on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels used throughout Oregon, including diesel, gasoline, natural gas and propane, used in transportation, residential, commercial and industrial settings. In Jan. 2023, DEQ staff presented at the Cultural Resources Cluster meeting on the program's planned activities for 2023.

The program aims to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to address the worsening effects of climate change,
- achieve co-benefits from reductions in other air contaminants;
- enhance public welfare for Oregon communities, particularly environmental justice communities including communities of color, tribal communities, communities experiencing lower incomes, rural communities, and coastal communities;
- accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to lower carbon energy sources.

To support an equitable transition and engagement with communities, including tribal communities, the program established an Equity Advisory Committee. The committee is a key program partner, particularly for the community climate investments component of the CPP. Community climate investments may include projects on tribal lands or directly benefit tribal members. The committee plays an important role in determining what types of emission reduction projects are supported and where the projects are located. Currently the committee has representation from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The committee has met six times over the course of 2023 and will continue to meet every other month in 2024. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. DEQ

intends to reach out to the tribal governments as there are openings to serve on the committee in the future.

## **Oregon's Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant**

In March 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency announced their Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grants, a \$5B Inflation Reduction Act funded program. The State of Oregon, with Department of Environmental Quality DEQ in lead and Oregon Department of Energy in a supporting role, applied to receive a non-competitive CPRG planning grant. This four-year grant requires the State of Oregon to deliver to EPA a Priority Climate Action Plan by March 1, 2024, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in the fall of 2025.

These plans will identify priority actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state in a variety of sectors including transportation, buildings, industrial, power, natural and working lands, and waste. On Oct. 19, 2023, DEQ's Director Leah Feldon sent a letter to Tribal Chairs and natural resource department staff providing information about the CPRG program and an open invitation to participate in the planning process to ensure that individual priorities for actions to reduction greenhouse gas emissions from tribes are incorporated into the state's planning process.

State Participation in the planning grant, opens the door to the second phase of national CPRG funding, the \$4.3B general grant competition and the \$300M tribal grant competition. EPA released the notice of funding opportunity for the competitive grants at the end of Sept. 2023 and the applications are due April 1, 2024, and May 1, 2024, respectively.

DEQ Office of Greenhouse Gas Programs' staff presented to the Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on Oct. 17, 2023, on the CPRG program with an invitation to participate, answer questions, and collaborate.

Interest in engaging in these efforts has sparked additional meetings and opportunities for listening sessions and engagement with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Coquille Indian Tribe.

To improve DEQ's ability to effectively and meaningfully engage with tribes, a staff member from the Office of Greenhouse Gas Programs completed the Certificate in Tribal Relations program in 2023 through the Institute for Tribal Governance at Portland State University. DEQ will continue to seek opportunities for engagement with all tribes on the many programs and efforts being led by the Office of Greenhouse Gas Programs.

## Cleaner Air Oregon

DEQ continues to implement [Cleaner Air Oregon](#),<sup>1</sup> a program for assessing and regulating the public health risks associated with air toxics emissions from industrial facilities. The regulations apply to all new facilities seeking permits, and existing facilities based on a prioritization framework developed in 2019.

In 2023, DEQ conducted tribal engagement related to key facilities undergoing health risk assessments that are situated near tribal lands or are otherwise of interest to any of the federally recognized tribes. This includes continuing engagement on:

- Chemical Waste Management of the Northwest. This facility is a hazardous waste landfill located in Arlington, Oregon. DEQ has approved most of the technical documents required under the CAO program and Chemical Waste Management will submit the final risk assessment to DEQ for review and approval in November. After DEQ approves the risk assessment, any permit conditions will be developed and included in a Toxics Air Contaminant Permit Addendum to ensure health-protective risk levels are maintained.
- NEXT Renewable Fuels Oregon. This is proposed renewable diesel, naphtha, and jet fuel manufacturing facility in Clatskanie, Oregon. The Cleaner Air Oregon risk assessment was approved in December 2021 and the Air Quality permit was issued in 2022. The risk from this source was below the “de minimis” levels for the program.
- Calico Grassy Mountain Mine. This is a proposed chemical process gold mine to be located in Malheur County. Although DEQ has not issued an air quality permit, the facility did complete a Risk Assessment as part of its statewide consolidated permit application indicating low potential health risks because the source is isolated from most locations where people may be exposed.

DEQ staff also continue to provide interested tribal staff with updates on program implementation through reports to cluster meetings and DEQ’s regular, standing calls.

## Responding to open burning complaints and asbestos issues

DEQ works closely with tribal governments to respond to complaints about open burning and the safe handling of asbestos, particularly when complaints occur near tribal lands. DEQ, tribal governments and tribal police departments work quickly and collaboratively to address complaints when they arise.

## Wildfire smoke

The 2023 wildfire season was mild compared to many recent years with 1,909 fires across all lands for a total of approximately 190,507 acres. Year to date, there have been 975 fires on Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands resulting in 17,968 acres burned. Three ODF Type 1 Incident Management Teams were deployed this season: one to the Golden Fire in the Klamath-Lake District, and two to the Tye Ridge Complex in the Douglas Forest Protective Association district. Despite this being a relatively small footprint compared to other years, there

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<sup>1</sup> Program information available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/cao/Pages/default.aspx>

have been significant smoke impacts especially to parts of Central and Southern Oregon. DEQ's smoke management team worked with partnering state agencies, local public health and tribal public health partners to ensure Oregonians were protected from smoke.

During 2023, Oregon's wildfire smoke response efforts included outreach to all tribal health or environmental contacts for statewide smoke response coordination efforts and various Incident Management structures established in response to the fires. These are part of DEQ's standard Oregon Wildfire Severe Smoke Response Protocol. Tribal representatives were invited to approximately 26 smoke coordination calls and participated in development of air quality advisories. During these meetings, state agencies provided information that focused on the concentration of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), the associated health rating, and the expected impacts or conditions for weather and smoke in the upcoming days. When warranted, the team would discuss indoor clean air spaces and how to avoid or best manage smoke indoors.

Throughout the 2023 wildfire season, DEQ and partners issued smoke advisories for 79 days due to smoke from wildfires in Oregon (including the Flat Fire, Simnasho Fire, Bedrock Fire, Lookout Fire, Camp Creek Fire, Tye Ridge Complex Fire, and Anvil Fire) and California (the Smith River Fire). Smoke doesn't know boundaries and doesn't pause for weekends or holidays; seven of the 26 smoke coordination calls occurred over the weekend or on an observed holiday. For more information about the wildfire smoke response work and to review the 2023 smoke advisories please visit the Oregon Smoke Information Blog.

### **Tribal smoke preparedness projects**

DEQ values our partnerships with Oregon's Tribal Nations. With funding provided to DEQ from SB 762 (2021), we worked with eight of Oregon's federally recognized tribes to provide smoke preparedness support that was flexible and met the unique needs of each tribal community. The Burns Paiute Tribe used funding to purchase 133 HEPA air filtration units. They were able to provide one for every member household and for their staff office buildings. As part of the distribution process, they were able to connect with members and assist with setup of all units.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians created an application process to identify those most impacted by poor air quality and would benefit from having an air purifier in their homes. Fire safety and air quality are now ongoing opportunities for Tribal education and outreach. Funding was used to purchase 230 HEPA air filtration units for vulnerable community members and fire extinguishers. Providing fire extinguishers which gave an opportunity to educate members about fire safety and the importance of defensible space.

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians used grant money to develop and implement a smoke notification system and to create and distribute outreach materials. The development of the smoke notification system was successful because the grant provided for a dedicated taskforce team who met regularly. Outreach materials were designed to provide smoke and air quality related information to tribal members through multiple platforms, including pamphlets, newsletter articles, a smartphone app, and a survey. Additionally, the Tribe purchased and distributed 48 HEPA air filtration units to vulnerable populations who were selected using a survey and Elders Program recommendations.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde used the funding to purchase and distribute 220 portable HEPA filtration units and 220 single replacement air filters to tribal members whose health was deemed “at risk” during wildfire smoke events. The members who received a filtration unit and replacement filter expressed feeling more prepared for smoke this upcoming wildfire season.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs purchased PurpleAir monitors, a form of low-cost air quality sensor, to track air quality and communicate risk to households and offices of vulnerable tribal members. The monitors were installed in previously unmonitored locations and provide critical air quality data to the tribe. Educational materials were developed to communicate the health impacts of smoke and that messaging was shared, along with current air quality, on the local radio station.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation sought to enhance their ability to provide air quality notification to their community. Cay-Uma-Wa Camp Crier is a mobile application licensed for use by the tribe to provide targeted and timely information to its tribal members. They used grant funds to enhance the app, pulling data from the PurpleAir monitoring system to provide air quality notifications to tribal members when poor air quality occurs.

The Coquille Indian Tribe identified smoke-vulnerable tribal members and methods for sending alerts during smoke events. As a result of analyzing the best methods of communication, the tribe is utilizing Nixle for emergency notifications. The tribe also conducted outreach to ensure they have accurate contact information for tribal members. Additionally, the tribe purchased 99 portable HEPA filtration units and 156 replacement filters to distribute to vulnerable tribal members.

The Cow Creek Tribe used grant funding to distribute 212 HEPA filtration units to qualifying tribal members. They announced the opportunity to make members’ homes a cleaner air space in newsletters, on social media, and via post card mailing. Using several messaging tools, the tribe was able to determine the most effective means of communication with their members. They found this project to be very popular and helpful to tribal members. Their administration has recommended providing this support annually or semi-annually to ensure that their tribal members have access to HEPA filtration units during poor air quality events

The grants funded through SB 762 were completed by May 31, 2023.

## **Oregon Zero Emission Fund Grants**

The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors of human caused greenhouse gas emissions; in Oregon, it is the largest source accounting for 35 percent of all GHG emissions. DEQ is reducing transportation-related emissions through a variety of actions including the recent adoption of the Clean Trucks Rule (Advanced Clean Trucks and Low NO<sub>x</sub> Omnibus regulations) and the administration of several grants (Diesel Emissions Mitigation grants, Diesel Emission Reduction Act grants, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grants).

More recently, the 2022 Oregon Legislature (HB 5202 and HB 4139) established a pilot grant program for supporting medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure projects. The grants to public or private entities can be used for capital improvements and technical assistance to support the installation of charging infrastructure for zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

In 2023, DEQ awarded \$241,000 in technical assistance funding to the Umpqua Indian Development Corporation (UIDC). This grant provides planning funds to conduct a site assessment with utilities and vendors to determine the needs and system requirements for a large scale MHD charging site on the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians land.

## **6.3. Improving land quality and sustainable management of materials**

### **Emergency Response**

DEQ's Emergency Response Program contacts tribes regularly regarding significant incidents throughout the state. Between Nov. 1, 2022, and Nov. 1, 2023, DEQ contacted tribes 228 times, representing 86 unique incidents, to ensure cleanup actions were undertaken in a manner to protect cultural and natural resources. Most of these incidents were regarding oil spills to soil that required in-ground disturbance work associated with the necessary cleanup actions. DEQ also provides contact information for each tribe to cleanup contractors to ensure contact is made with the appropriate tribes before any ground disturbance activities occur.

Major incidents in 2023 included:

- Crater Lake National Park, Crater Lodge: Roughly 5,000 gallons of diesel was released from an above ground storage tank a sensor failure inside the vault. The product impacted the soil nearby the facility in the National Park. Notifications were made to the Klamath Tribes and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- Space Age Fuel tanker crash, Sister: Roughly 400 gallons of gasoline and 800 gallons of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) with per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) were released to pavement and the roadside when a tanker crashed and caught fire. Notifications were sent to the Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

DEQ continues to work closely with tribal partners to ensure that their interests are prioritized and addressed. As part of this effort, we have a rapid notification email system. Once enrolled, tribal contacts will immediately receive Oregon Emergency Response System reports for oil and hazardous material spills, in counties they have selected to receive. To enroll in this rapid notification, please contact Sr. Emergency Response Coordinator Kimberlee Van Patten at [Kimberlee.van-patten@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Kimberlee.van-patten@deq.oregon.gov).

In addition to Oregon's Emergency Response Program's work, DEQ staff participate on the Tribal Engagement Subcommittee of the EPA's Region 10 Regional Response Team of the Northwest Area Committee. As part of this work, DEQ staff collaborate with federal, other state, tribal and private partners to maintain and update the Northwest Area Contingency Plan. The

subcommittee's main purpose is to ensure outreach and tribal inclusion in maintaining the plan, and to be sure that tribes are involved in the planning, preparedness and response for oil and hazmat response. Specifically, establishing a relationship with tribes in the area so that they can inform us about their priorities in a response, barriers to engagement, data or other information needs and engagement preferences. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have also participated with this subcommittee in the past.

To further understanding of tribal relations, one program staff from the High Hazard Rail program is enrolled in the Certificate in Tribal Relations course which is offered by the Institute for Tribal Government and Center for Public Service in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at PSU.

## **High Hazard Rail contingency planning**

DEQ has approved contingency plans, observed, and evaluated successful drills for both High Hazard Rail Operators in Oregon: Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. In a first for the HHR program, DEQ conducted a Worst-Case Discharge exercise in conjunction with WA Dept. of Ecology. The joint exercise was a resounding success, with an abundance of connections and lessons learned coming out of the experience. The exercise further solidified the shared interest and collaborative approach to emergency response that both states share across the Columbia River. High Hazard Rail staff continue to work with local leaders and their communities in the geographic response strategy design and development to ensure an inclusive process for meaningful community engagement.

Socio economic GIS layers continue to be integrated into the GRP design process. Tribal outreach and engagement are being prioritized in the planning, design and exercise phases of the process, as well as an increased effort to get tribal participation in drill end exercises throughout the state. DEQ is also moving forward in geographic response planning to cover other high hazard rail corridor including the Cascades Crossing from Eugene to Klamath Falls, NE Oregon, and the Willamette Valley. Rulemaking is moving forward to ensure DEQ compliance with OR statute. Rulemaking is anticipated to be complete in early 2024.

## **Environmental Cleanup**

DEQ and tribal governments collaborate on a number of projects to investigate and clean up contaminated lands across the state. During 2023, major projects included the following:

### **Scappoose Bay/Multnomah Channel, St. Helens**

Scappoose Bay enters the Multnomah Channel by the town of St. Helens in Columbia County. Industrial use of this area primarily consisted of the manufacturing of wood products including paper, plywood, fiberboard and treated lumber. Significant levels of hazardous substances have been identified at three former industrial sites: the Armstrong World Industries fiberboard plant, Pope & Talbot creosote treating facility, and Boise Cascade paper mill.

DEQ initiated feasibility studies in 2020 for the contaminated sediments at all three sites, stemming from more than 15 years of investigations into the nature and extent of

contamination and assessment of risks to human health and ecological receptors. Based on review of the feasibility study for the former Boise mill site, DEQ selected a preferred remedy for sediments in Multnomah Channel. Records of Decision are expected for Armstrong in 2025, Pope & Talbot in early 2023 and Boise in December 2022. DEQ will continue to engage with interested tribes on cultural resources and remedy selection. DEQ has also engaged interested tribes at the Armstrong World Industries site to support an ongoing cultural resources assessment and data gaps investigation.

### **Astoria Marine Construction Company, Astoria**

The Astoria Marine Construction Company manufactured and repaired wooden-hulled fishing and ferryboats, tugboats and yachts beginning in 1924. During World War II, the shipyard expanded operations for construction of military vessels which continued through the Korean War. During the peak production period from 1940 to 1960, the facility employed more than 400 full-time workers. In the 1960s, work for the U.S. Navy decreased and operations transitioned to fishing and tugboat repair. After 1985, business primarily involved repairs of fishing boats.

EPA conducted environmental investigations in the early 2000s on and around the AMCCO site. Investigations found contamination in soil and nearby riverbed sediment in the Lewis and Clark River near the mouth of the Columbia River. Based on those findings, EPA initiated efforts to place the facility on the National Priorities List to guide cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. In 2012, an agreement deferred the site listing and EPA transferred site management to DEQ.

In coordination with AMCCO, tribal governments, and a community advisory group, DEQ selected the cleanup remedy in 2017. A natural resource restoration plan was also agreed upon to satisfy conditions of EPA's deferral agreement. AMCCO completed all major remedy construction activities during the spring and summer of 2020. These included preparation activities such as demolition of onsite buildings and structures followed by excavation of contaminated sediments in marine ways and upland soil hot spot removal for offsite landfill disposal. The property was winterized and work resumed in the summer of 2021, including restoration of the levee, construction of a stormwater system and capping of the upland area. Construction was completed in 2022. DEQ will be seeking engagement with interested tribes on AMCCO's construction completion report and inspection plans.

### **Portland Harbor**

DEQ has both lead- and support-agency responsibilities at the Portland Harbor Superfund site. DEQ works closely with six tribal governments on the site. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, and Nez Perce Tribe are partners in this project. DEQ, tribal partners, EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service representatives meet regularly to discuss technical issues on this regionally important cleanup project.

The site is located in the Lower Willamette River, stretching approximately 10 miles from River Mile 2 to River Mile 12. DEQ provides technical support and works to ensure Oregon state rules are applied to the project in support of EPA, which is the lead agency working on cleaning up pollution in the river. DEQ leads the work controlling contaminants in “upland” areas—the contaminated lands along the river—to prevent recontamination of the river following EPA’s in-water cleanup. Prior to making decisions on controlling sources of pollution, DEQ solicits input from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe. EPA’s Record of Decision, issued in January 2017, relies on the upland and upriver pollution control work DEQ is conducting as part of the overall strategy for addressing contamination at the site. During 2022, DEQ solicited input on two proposed source control decisions.

### **Blue Heron Mill site**

In August 2019, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and DEQ signed a Prospective Purchaser Agreement for the former Blue Heron Mill in Oregon City. The 23-acre now-closed paper mill is located at the base of the Willamette Falls, an area of immense cultural significance. Until the closure of Blue Heron in 2011, site operations included flour, saw, and woolen mills, tannery operations, foundries, city waterworks, and an electrical generation plant. Numerous environmental investigations performed on the property raised concerns about asbestos, lead-based paint, electrical and hydraulic fluids, mercury and petroleum.

The agreement identifies environmental cleanup tasks to be completed, and, in turn, limits the purchaser’s future liability upon completion of the work. It is an agreement between the two parties that says they will work together to develop a scope of work for cleanup, followed by specific work plans to complete the scope of work, and a schedule for the work to be completed with DEQ oversight.

The Confederated Tribes continue to conduct remedial activities required under the agreement with DEQ. These include a series of work plans for site investigation and building demolition. In 2022, the Tribes completed hazardous materials abatement and demolition of four site buildings. Work planned to be completed by late 2022 and early 2023 includes decommissioning of underground storage tanks, assessment of the production well, implementation of stormwater controls, and demolition of four additional structures.

### **Bradford Island**

DEQ continues to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Washington Department of Ecology, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate contamination levels at Bradford Island in the Columbia River.

The primary concern are PCBs from electrical components that were dumped into the river decades ago. Cleanup efforts in 2000 and 2002 to remove electrical components from the river and dredging of contaminated sediment in 2007 failed to reduce contamination levels in local populations of resident fish and fish tissue. Due to a lack of satisfactory progress at the Site,

Oregon, Washington and the Yakama Nation took the unusual step of asking for a Superfund listing in 2019 and 2021. The site was added to the National Priorities list in April of 2022 with a goal of more effective and rapid progress.

Currently, a Federal Facilities Agreement is under development. A site management plan is needed and required.

DEQ Director Feldon travelled to Washington D.C., along with the Yakama Nation, and the Washington Department of Ecology to meet with Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army, Civil Works in an attempt to improve the working relationship, and ultimately to gain progress at the site.

## **Fuel tank seismic stability rules**

In 2022 the Oregon Legislature passed [Senate Bill 1567](#) requiring many large fuel storage facilities, mainly located along Willamette and Columbia River shorelines to mitigate risk of fuel spill resulting from a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. A letter of support was sent by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation reflecting significant Tribal interest in this high priority effort. [DEQ is responsible for implementation](#) of this law and is coordinating with Tribal interests. DEQ's tribal liaison informed Tribal representatives of the advisory committee plans and invited input and participation. During rule development briefings were provided at meetings of groups with Tribal representatives, including the Portland Harbor Community Action Group (10/12/2022), the State/Tribal Natural Resources Work Group (1/17/23) and the Portland Harbor Technical Coordinating Team (03/30/2023). Rule development included a comprehensive [environmental justice review](#) conducted by Portland State University. DEQ program implementation rules, including provision for ongoing public involvement, were approved on Sept 14, 2023.

DEQ welcomes Tribal involvement in ongoing program implementation and will continue offering opportunities for Tribal input at key points. Risk mitigation plans developed by each fuel storage facility are expected to be available for review and public comment in 2024 and 2025.

## **Materials Management**

DEQ's Materials Management program oversees and implements several programs that address the environmental impacts of the full cycle of materials, from production, consumption to disposal. Through these programs the built environment, production and design, reuse and repair, waste prevention and solid waste and recovery are addressed.

In the past year the MM program has launched several new initiatives, rulemakings, and efforts to address the impacts of materials and consumption in Oregon. The program has reached out to tribal governments on multiple occasions with invitations to:

- Discuss and learn about extended producer responsibility programs, and the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act. The program is interested in learning more about current recycling services in tribal communities, challenges and needs, and to

learn about potential opportunities where DEQ may be able to provide assistance, and offered to meet with any tribe who was interested in discussing future EPR programs, and current waste management condition in tribal communities

- Participate in the [Built Environment](#) listening sessions.

The program received responses from the letter sent on July 14, 2023, several tribes who requested meetings to discuss recycling services and needs. DEQ staff met with:

- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs on Aug. 23, 2023
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on Sept. 5, 2023
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians on Oct. 3, 2023

## 7. Conclusion

DEQ is grateful for the partnership with federally recognized tribal governments. These partnerships are essential in our shared efforts to protect and enhance the health of Oregon's people and environment, and the agency remains committed to improving, building and maintaining strong government-to-government relations with tribes in the future.