

2023 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
October 2023

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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October 31, 2023

Greetings,

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs presents the 2023 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights. This annual report is mandated under our government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes (RCW 43.376). The following report summarizes the work that state agencies completed this past year to strengthen relations with Tribal governments and enhance Tribal communities. While this report showcases valuable collaboration and engagement, we know the future holds opportunities for us to do even more.

I encourage you to conduct thorough review of this report and contact the state agency contact listed if you have questions or interested in more information on policy and programs. Our Tribal-state collaboration is paramount in addressing the social, health, and climate impacts we collectively face today. Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Craig A. Bill
Executive Director

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Summary

The mission of the Attorney General's Office will provide excellent, independent, and ethical legal services to Washington and protect the rights of its people. Attorney General Bob Ferguson's vision is to actively consult with Tribes and engage with Tribal communities.

Highlights

Addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People crisis.

The state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People (MMIWP) Task Force successfully held its inaugural summit that the Puyallup Tribe hosted. The summit highlighted the initial findings from the task force, work from its five subcommittees, legislative recommendations, and an overview of the initial report. The second annual MMIWP summit will be hosted by the Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribes at Northern Quest Casino in November.

Created the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women People Cold Case Investigation Unit.

Attorney General Ferguson worked with the Legislature to introduce and pass legislation that created the country's first MMIWP Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU). Its purpose is to help local and Tribal law enforcement agencies solve cold cases that involve missing and murdered Indigenous women and people.

Established the Truth and Reconciliation Tribal Advisory Committee.

The office established the Truth and Reconciliation Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal Advisory Committee). It will conduct research and outreach to understand the operations of Indian boarding schools. The Tribal Advisory Committee will develop recommendations to acknowledge and heal the historical and intergenerational trauma that these boarding school policies caused.

Fighting the opioid epidemic.

We helped organize the first Tribal/State Opioid/Fentanyl Summit hosted by the Lummi Nation. The summit focused on challenges and opportunities to combat the opioid/fentanyl crisis in Tribal communities. The AGO also facilitated a breakout session on criminal justice and held a discussion with Tribes and state agencies on complex multijurisdictional issues.

Protecting the environment.

Our Environmental Protection Division successfully prosecuted a criminal case where the owner will pay \$745,000 to the Puyallup Tribal Fisheries program. These funds will directly preserve, restore, and enhance the Puyallup River.

Upholding Tribal self-determination.

We successfully defended Tribal sovereignty in a case where a federal judge dismissed Maverick Gaming's lawsuit. This lawsuit challenged state law that allows sports betting, but limits bets to those placed at casinos that Tribal Nations own.

Staff contact

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Department of Agriculture

Summary

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) serves Washingtonians by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection. The agency accomplishes its mandate through programs that ensure the safety of the state's food supply, provide food assistance, regulate the use and disposal of farm chemicals, halt the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases, verify agricultural product quality, and expand markets for Washington foods in the state and overseas.

The agency's primary interactions with Tribes fall into four categories:

- Support Tribal organizations that provide food assistance to their members experiencing food insecurity. We do this through a variety of efforts that increase the availability of nutritious foods, operational funding, and critical infrastructure investments.
- Manage food safety, animal health, and pesticide regulatory programs within and across Tribal reservation boundaries.
- Cooperatively manage and eliminate invasive species that threaten environmental quality, native species, and economic productivity.
- Support sustainable rural communities, agriculture, and natural resources through a variety of outreach, education, and technical assistance tools and projects.

Highlights

- The Food Assistance program granted Tribes \$2 million in federal relief and state funds. Thirty-one Tribes use program funds to distribute food through Tribal food pantries and issue food vouchers. This includes the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Quileute, and the American Indian Community Center in Spokane County. These groups were also served through the Farm to Food Pantry initiative, which provides food banks and pantries with funding to purchase produce directly from local small- and mid-sized farmers.
- The Food Safety program continues its partnership with Tribal communities to inspect, license, and provide technical assistance and outreach to food processing businesses. This includes seafood-processing facilities.

- The Natural Resources Assessment Section (NRAS) expanded to start a groundwater monitoring program. This works with rural underserved areas to test drinking water for pesticides and other contaminants. NRAS continued to monitor surface water in multiple watersheds, collaborating with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to do so.
- The Pest program has worked with numerous Tribal entities to survey and control invasive species. We established relations with Tribal media coordinators from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and collaborated with Tribal Wildlife Resource program staff to create a Memorandum of Understanding to perform Japanese beetle eradication and trapping activities on Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation land. Japanese beetles are aggressive defoliators that destroy plants and habitats. WSDA worked with Tribal biologists and pesticide experts to carry out treatment for Japanese beetle on 150 acres of turf grass area in Wapato. We also shared online maps and data to help Tribal biologists track our trapping progress on Tribal land. More than 500 Japanese beetle traps have been deployed on Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation land.
- The Spartina Eradication program worked collaboratively with the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes. Spartina is an invasive weed that displaces critical salmon habitat in saltwater estuaries. Through an interagency agreement, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community received \$5,000 to support their Spartina eradication efforts.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians requested help with flowering rush control. Invasive flowering rush destroys native freshwater habitats. The Aquatic Invasive Species staff partnered with the Tribes to help.
- The Knotweed Eradication program directly and indirectly assisted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Invasive knotweeds outcompete riparian trees and habitats fish need.
- The Invasive Moth Survey program works in cooperation with Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, and Spokane Tribe of Indians to

conduct a spongy moth detection survey on Tribal land. Spongy moths defoliate and destroy plants and habitats.

- WSDA partners with the WSU Integrated Weed Control Project to help fund biological control releases for noxious weed control. This benefits lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- The Emergency Management program provided organizational and leadership support during the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak spanning April 26, 2022, to April 29, 2023. During this outbreak, we contacted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes to increase awareness and coordinate how to detect infections or suspected infections.

Staff contact

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Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Summary

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the state's sole agency that preserves and protects Washington's cultural resources. We review federal, state, and local actions for impacts to cultural resources and we consider it a state responsibility to make sure federal consultation occurs and is conducted in an informed and meaningful way. We also solicit comments from affected Tribes before we make decisions on archaeological and Native American burial excavation permits.

Highlights

- Worked with the governor's staff to develop and pass HB 1216 and SB 5380. These laws will lead to more efficiencies in siting and permitting new clean energy projects in Washington and improve how DAHP and federally recognized Tribes collaborate on green energy projects.
- Received funding and support from the Legislature to add one full-time employee to implement these two new laws.
- Worked with the governor's staff to develop and pass SB 5126, the Climate Commitment Act, and ensured the department collaborates with Tribes to review projects for impacts to cultural resources and sacred sites.
- Actively reviewing 27 proposed solar energy projects.
- Received funding from the Legislature to identify cultural resources on state lands to determine areas available for energy facility siting.
- Received funding and support from the Legislature to continue maintaining and implementing the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD). Over 16,000 projects come through the WISAARD system a year to identify impacts to cultural resources.
- Received funding and support from the Legislature to update our statewide archaeological predictive model, which identifies areas of high probability that contain cultural resources.
- Hosted a summit with 16 Tribes, agencies, and alternative energy developers discussing clean energy project impacts on cultural resources and sacred sites.

- Served on the Society for American Archaeology Government Affairs Committee.
- Received funding from the Legislature to propose recommendations that improve protections for operating cemeteries, historic and abandoned cemeteries, and intentionally buried cremains. We will coordinate with the Funeral and Cemetery Board on this effort.
- Received funding from the Legislature to hire staff that will manage various laws and policies (State Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 21-02, and Federal Section 106 reviews).
- Opened 51 new human skeletal remains cases in 2022 and 48 so far in 2023. This brings the total number of cases that we have opened and investigated since August 2008 to 855 cases.
- Notified affected Tribes of 645 non-forensic human skeletal remains cases since August 2008.
- Notified affected Tribes about the state physical anthropologist's ancestry determination on 635 cases since August 2008.
- Repatriated or reburied in place, 415 human skeletal remains cases. We are temporarily holding 296 cases for repatriation, at Tribes' request, that require repatriation outside of Washington, that are non-Indian remains awaiting reburial, or are actively being investigated. Remaining cases are non-human, forensic and returned to respective coroners, or were handled by federal agencies under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Recorded a total of 3,064 cemeteries and burial sites in the state since August 2008.
- There are now 2,940 active data-sharing users on the archaeological and architectural website. All archaeological users signed confidentiality agreements.
- Issued 98 excavation permits in 2022 and issued 98% within the 60-day time frame.
- Shared data with 32 Tribal governments on a regular basis.
- Participated in multiagency and multitribal cultural work groups for the Columbia and Snake River Systems, the Upper Columbia Clean Up, Hanford Clean Up, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed reservoirs, and the Skagit Project relicensing.
- Participated in Tribal cultural resources group for the Seattle City Light Skagit Project relicensing.

- Participated in the Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) for oil spill response. Assessed impacts to archaeological and cultural resources across the state.
- Participated in a multiagency work group to address Washington’s unreinforced masonry historic structures.

Staff contact

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Department of Commerce

Summary

We are growing our internal capacity by establishing the Office of Tribal Relations as an independent unit. This office will focus on updating policy and best practices while establishing long-term goals and benchmarks with staff and Tribal input. Our goal is to create consistency while strengthening relationships that honor Tribal sovereignty so we move forward in partnership.

Highlights

Community Services Division

- Our Reentry Council conducted a focus group with members from several Tribes and received feedback on how to improve cultural access to incarcerated Tribal members.
- With a Tribal Government Initiative (TGI) grant, the Kalispel Tribe provides culturally-sustaining, trauma-informed care. It also provides a legal advocate who provides victim-centered resources, referrals, mobile advocacy, and emergency financial assistance.
- The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's TGI expanded wrap-around services that complement transitional housing. Healing Center culture groups show a significant increase in attendees and connects them to culture and others on similar healing paths.
- TGI helped Lummi Nation support an elder mentor who visits those in recovery and/or fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault to help reconnect to their culture as they heal.

Energy Division

- We issued 18 awards to Tribal nations for clean energy projects: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes.

Housing Division

- The Muckleshoot Tribal Housing Authority braided together Commerce housing funds to support a project that provides permanent supportive housing to vulnerable individuals.

Local Government Division

- Growth Management Services hired a Tribal planning liaison to lead Climate Commitment Act Tribal Climate Resiliency grant development and deployment.

Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness

- We are establishing a partnership with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians-Economic Development Corp.

Staff contact

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Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)

Summary

The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is to conserve natural resources in collaboration with conservation districts (Districts) and other partners. SCC and Districts empower people to take voluntary actions that keep natural resources and farmland healthy for all. Tribes are a critical partner in this work. Together, we achieve mutual natural resource goals for communities, the state, and Tribal Nations.

Highlights

- From 2022-23, the SCC awarded almost \$7.5 million to Districts. With this funding, they can engage in education and outreach on riparian restoration opportunities, and implement riparian and in-stream projects to improve salmon habitat through one-time Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF).
- The Okanogan Conservation District used SRF funding to install exclusion fencing and plant about 2,000 native trees and shrubs along a two-mile stretch of the Antione Creek. This will address resource concerns that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation identified.
- The Clallam Conservation District received SRF funding to engage with 24 landowners in the Elwha-Dungeness, Lyre-Hoko, and Sol Duc-Hoh watersheds who have expressed interest in riparian planting opportunities.
- The Snohomish Conservation District received SRF funding to plant riparian habitat along priority stream reaches in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish watersheds and in sub-basins of the Pilchuck River, French Creek, and Stillaguamish Confluence. This multi-project proposal was developed in collaboration with the Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Snohomish County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and other partners.
- The Pend Oreille Conservation District partnered with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and received funding through the SCC's new Riparian Plant Propagation program (RPPP). This helps expand the Tribe's native plant nursery located at the Indian Creek Community Forest to cultivate trees and shrubs for riparian restoration projects.
- SCC staff engaged with natural resources staff from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians through the Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI).

Staff contacts

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Department of Corrections (DOC)

Summary

We work to improve public safety by positively changing lives. As of June 30, we have 13,881 incarcerated individuals and 12,859 individuals under court-ordered community supervision and under DOC's jurisdiction. Seven percent of those incarcerated and 5% of those on supervision identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN). There is currently a 29% recidivism rate among the AI/AN population, which is a significant decrease from the previous three years of 45.3%. The percentage of staff that identify as AI/AN has increased over the last year from 1.2% to 2%.

Highlights

Meetings, Summits, Conferences

Secretary Cheryl Strange established the Corrections Indian Policy Advisory Committee (CIPAC) to recognize Washington's unique relationship with Tribal governments and honor Tribal sovereignty. CIPAC is the cornerstone of our government-to-government relationship. Since its inception, 22 Tribes have appointed delegates. During fiscal year 2023, we held four meetings and completed our first strategic planning session. CIPAC also developed the agency's first Tribal Consultation Policy. Additionally, we held one Tribal consultation with the Nisqually Indian Tribe this year.

DOC actively participated in the Washington State Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Summit and the National Tribal Opioid Summit. This collaborative multiagency work will continue to be a focus.

We also participate in the Governor's Tribal Leader Social Services Council.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandums of Agreement (MOA)

DOC has multiple MOUs and MOAs with Tribal governments:

A new law (2022 Senate Bill 5694) allows individuals subject to a Tribal court order to be placed in DOC's care and custody, and to have access to culturally appropriate healthcare, programming, religious and cultural services. We received our first Tribal court order in August.

Contracts

DOC contracts with Unkitawa, a nonprofit organization, to facilitate religious and cultural events such as powwows and other ceremonies for AI/AN individuals housed in DOC prisons.

Staff contacts

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Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Summary

As DCYF enters its sixth year as a cabinet-level agency, our guiding principles continue to be a focus on outcomes for children: a commitment to collaboration and transparency; a commitment to using data to inform and reform, leveraging and aligning services with desired child outcomes; and a focus on supporting our staff.

DCYF continues to collaborate with a Tribal/state work group to revise Indian Child Welfare (ICW) policy and procedures. Staff worked diligently with Tribal partners throughout the year to navigate updates and changes. On July 20, 2023, a formal consultation was held, and a consensus was reached regarding the new policies and procedures. The policies go live Jan. 2, 2024, and we will post them on our Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) website after technical edits are complete.

Tribal Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) meetings are held bi-annually, and we invite all Tribes and recognized American Indian Organizations. We also continue to hold monthly ICW Sub Committee meetings, where state and Tribal staff discuss child welfare policy, opportunities, and issues. DCYF schedules annual meetings with the Tribes to develop Tribal plans (under the 10.03 policy) if the Tribe requests it. The Indian Policy for Early Learning (IPEL) meets every other month and the Governor's Tribal Leader's Social Service Committee (GTLSSC) continues to meet twice a year. DCYF also continues to act as lead agency for the Justice Subcommittee of the GTLSSC.

Highlights

Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability

In 2023, DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability hired an ICW evaluator to report and evaluate the effectiveness of our ICW practice changes. Currently, the evaluator is drafting a literature review that summarizes and relies on existing evidence that supports the changes to DCYF's ICW policies and practices. The evaluator is also creating a logic model that details specific mechanisms and metrics of these changes to ICW policies and practices that will inform the upcoming evaluation work. In the upcoming year, the evaluator will meet with Tribal partners across the state to make sure the evaluation is culturally informed and meets the needs of Tribal partners.

These relationships and research will help us develop an evaluation plan and rigorously evaluate how our changes to ICW policies and the recent Washington State Supreme Court decisions impact child welfare system-involved Native children, families, and communities across the state. We anticipate releasing evaluation reports every two years, with the first one released in 2024.

Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)

As part of our policy, DCYF must offer each Tribe the opportunity to develop a plan that includes key issues that we identify together (Administrative 10.03 Consultation Policy—our government-to-government policy). We review these plans quarterly or when a Tribe requests a review.

- Work with Tribal partners to schedule site visits. These increase collaboration and share cultural information with DCYF.
- Provide Tribal partners updated information to our contracted services. This increases access to services.
- Share all state and local area training to increase participation, improve knowledge, and provide Tribes access to available training.
- Our managers, supervisors, and ICW workers will attend the government-to-government training and 10.03 training.
- Work with Tribal partners to offer DCYF staff additional Tribal training. This will increase staff's understanding of disproportionality as it relates to the individual history and culture of Tribal partners.
- Providing read-only FamLink access to the identified Tribal staff so the Tribe can have access to accurate information about their families in our FamLink database.
- Collaborate with Tribal partners to expand opportunities for culturally responsive services that Tribal families can access.
- Collaborate with Tribal partners to increase diversity within DCYF and invite them to the hiring and recruiting process.
- Incorporate more early learning services for Tribal families into 10.03 plans.

Program or rule change, and benefits

We amended language in the law (WAC 110-110-0010 Definition of Indian Child) that removed the requirement that a person needs to be the “The biological child of a member of Indian Tribe” to meet the definition of Indian Child, and we added “As determined by the Indian Child’s Tribe.” This new language will make it easier to determine membership and makes it clear that the Tribe decides who their members are.

Staffing updates

We added several positions to our OTR team this year to keep supporting DCYF and our Tribal Nations. Positions include an operations manager, a qualified expert witness (QEW) coordinator, a Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (LICWAC) coordinator, Tribal training specialist, Tribal prevention services specialist, and an OTR contract position.

Tribal Early Learning Fund (TELF)

OTR received \$7.5 million from the Legislature through the advocacy efforts of Tribal early learning advocates, directors, and parents. TELF will provide resources to ensure early learning programs can best serve Tribal children in an inclusive, culturally appropriate manner. These include early childhood education and assistance (ECEAP), Early ECEAP, child care, Head Start, Early Head Start and home visiting programs. Tribes could use grants to provide culturally appropriate mental health supports, incorporate Indigenous foods, provide culturally responsive books and materials, offer staff professional development, explore curriculum adaptations and supplements, and offer tribal language education. OTR will collaborate with the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, and other Tribally affiliated and urban Indian populations to best meet the needs of our earliest learners.

Cultural Services Landscape Analysis project

We contracted with Kauffman and Associates (KAI), an American Indian and woman owned small business with headquarters in Spokane, WA, for this project, which started April 2023. We will complete the analysis by April 30, 2024. The purpose is to understand the strengths, resources, and needs of specified children, youth, and families that our Child Welfare Services support.

KAI will conduct the landscape analysis to understand the strengths, resources, and needs of specified populations of children, youth, and families that we serve including: 1) American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN); 2) Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI), 3) Black and African American, 4) Hispanic and Latino, 5) immigrants and refugees, as well as 6)

non-English primary language/American Sign Language (ASL)/Sign language/limited English proficiency (LEP)/families using interpretive services. Additionally, it will help us understand the current reality of services we provide and how these meet legislative requirements for cultural alignment.

Child Welfare Program

Child welfare staff collaborated with OTR to redraft ICW policies following court opinions concerning Indian children and families. This work included active efforts needed to prevent Indian children from being placed outside the home, provision of culturally relevant services, and termination of parental rights. Given anticipated increases to the number of cases that will be considered ICW cases — at least in the beginning of the life of a case — the legislature has approved funding for additional regional staff to be dedicated to active efforts requirements.

Training is also being developed in collaboration with the University of Washington's Alliance for Professional Development, Training, and Caregiver Excellence. This training will be delivered in the fall with a current anticipated date of Oct. 2 for policy rollout.

Licensing Division

The Licensing Division continues to collaborate with Tribal childcare throughout the certification process for interlocal government-to-government agreements, and the Outdoor Nature-Based (ONB) childcare certification outreach continues. The ONB team partners with Tribes and Tribal support stakeholders to certify ONB programs while honoring the pedagogy of nature being the first teacher of our children. Many of the lessons learned from ONB Tribal programs are being honored in traditional childcare settings.

In 2023, Senate Bill 5683 authorized the agency to issue a child specific license to an Indian child's family who opts to become licensed to place a specific Indian child(ren) in the custody of an Indian Tribe or Indian Tribe's child placing agency. Child specific licenses remove barriers for kinship caregivers, provide needed financial support, and promote relational and cultural permanency for children placed in out of home care. Along with OTR, this division is actively working with Tribal nations including Tribal Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) to address barriers to families getting licensed through Tribal CPAs or DCYF. We will arrange a series of in-person meetings between DCYF licensing and Tribal CPAs to improve working partnerships between DCYF licensing and Tribal nations.

Administrative Services

In response to the *In re Dependency of Z.J.G* decision and the efforts of the Tribal State work group, we worked closely with our Tribal partners for the past two years to revise forms and guides.

In policy, we placed special emphasis on providing active efforts to cases where there is “reason to know” children are, or may be, Indian children. Once we determine if the situation needs agency involvement, we act quickly to prevent the children’s removal or to promote the timely reunification of Indian families if children are removed. As a result of this close collaboration, 26 ICW chapters were developed.

We also created a new ICW Legal Unit to help caseworkers navigate the ICWA Notice process and partner with the Office of the Assistant Attorney General.

To inform staff of these changes, we gave them access to an e-Learning training on the topic in July 2023. The training also highlighted important ICW history and 40 years of collaborative highlights between Washington and Washington Tribes. We will develop further mandatory training for staff on the ICW policies beginning September 2023. We will implement the ICW policies Jan. 2, 2024.

Early Learning

In March, we welcomed over 35 Tribal early learning staff participants in British Columbia to attend The LOVIT (Learning to Observe, Value, Inspire and Transform) Way facilitator training. The LOVIT Way is a culturally sensitive program evaluation process (PEP) and planning tool, created by the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia. Facilitators can implement this training in their early learning program.

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program’s (ECEAP) worked on creating the definition of an Indian Child throughout the year. Activities included Dear Tribal Leader Letters, Tribal ECEAP work group monthly meetings, Indian Policy Early Learning Committee (IPEL) feedback, surveys, and four roundtable meetings with early learning Tribal staff. ECEAP held monthly community learning gatherings with Tribal family support staff to share updates and learn from each other.

Program/rule change and benefits

- We established a dual language/language revitalization designation ([RCW 43.216.592](#)), which recognizes the ongoing effort and incredible work of Tribal early learning programs across the state to preserve and revitalize Native language, starting with their youngest learners. DCYF prioritized the funding award to provide all eligible Tribal providers with \$4,100 per classroom, totaling more than \$254,000 to Tribal early learning programs.
- Added language to the ECEAP performance standards that includes Tribal holidays and government closures as valid reasons to temporarily close ECEAP.
- Updated the ECEAP Early Learning Management System (ELMS) to recognize dual language/language preservation work in ECEAP Tribal classrooms. This includes:
 - Adding a language teacher and a culture teacher roll to recognize when teachers with specific skills are working in the classroom.
 - Adding the Tribal language from every Tribe in Washington, with a space to type in additional Tribal languages, to identify when a child or teacher speaks their Tribal language as their first or second language.
- Updating Tribal school information to correctly identify if a child will attend kindergarten at a Tribal school. From July 2022 through June 2023, approximately 5,300 children identified as Native American were eligible for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC). WCCC paid 28 unique Tribal certified providers during this time frame for a total of 302 children.

Number of new contracts/grants

- Early Learning distributed over \$250,000 to support culturally appropriate infant and early childhood mental health principles and methodology in Tribal programs. Programs used this funding to provide training and professional development for their staff, and to purchase resources and materials that support social emotional learning in young children.
- DCYF distributed the following amounts in grants to Tribal providers:
 - \$1,000 in Early Achievers Needs Based grants
 - \$536,500 in Stabilization grants
 - \$54,600 in Workforce Retention grants
 - \$230,478 in Complex Needs funds

- 16 Tribal providers requested dual language designation funding, for a total of 62 classrooms supporting eight Tribal languages. \$254,200 was awarded to these programs in the summer.

ECEAP received private funding to support curriculum supports, and used some unanticipated state funding to support Tribal culture and language supports at Tribal ECEAP locations. With this one-time funding, six Tribes received \$456,703 overall. This funding will support Tribes as they develop language and cultural activities for their programs and children. Examples of activities include purchasing materials for the classroom, developing Tribal language programs, increasing outdoor learning spaces, establishing traditional food gardens, expanding trails, maintaining playground buildings and equipment, and supporting other family culture and language activities.

Partnership, Prevention, and Services Division

Strengthening Families Washington

Cash grants and concrete goods: \$5.5 million of federal funds provided one-time \$250 per child grants to families. This went to 22,000 children who may be at risk of child welfare system involvement and have experienced economic impacts of COVID-19. In the end, 7,393 families across the state benefited. Of these families, 564 (7.66%) identified as Native American or Alaska Native. The number jumps to 756 (10.27%) when we include those who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

We contracted with nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations to purchase and deliver concrete goods to low-income families. We allocated \$27,146 to Tribal nonprofits. They used the funds to serve over 300 families through grocery gift cards, baby supplies, clothes, hygiene supplies, and short-term rental assistance.

Workforce incentives: We allocated \$500,000 and a state supplement of \$700,000 (\$1.2 million total) to acknowledge and honor home visiting staff who stayed in their job during the pandemic. This hazard pay incentive went to the Home Visiting Service Account (HVSA) funded home visiting programs. This included 14 staff from four Tribal organizations: United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Lummi Indian Business Council, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes.

Home visiting: We significantly expanded our voluntary, early childhood home visiting program, with dedicated funds of at least \$480,000. In the end, \$567,114 were invested to Tribal communities, and 57 Indigenous families were added. This brings the total annual allocation from DCYF home visiting to more than \$1.6 million and this program served 124 families from Tribal communities. We accomplished this through six contracts: four contracts directly with Tribes (Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes) and two contracts with Tribal organizations (United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and Hummingbird Indigenous Services).

This program also hosted a statewide Family Spirit training in May, bringing trainers to the state to support 17 participants from state and Tribal staff. Attendees gained skills in administering this evidence-based practice designed by and for use within Tribal communities. Several state and program staff participated in the first National Indigenous Home Visiting Conference in Washington D.C. in June.

Child abuse and neglect prevention: A Request for Application (RFA) was released for Tribal Fatherhood supports and we successfully executed three contracts with Tribes (Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, and United Indians of All Tribes) using American Rescue Act

funding. These contracts support strength-based parenting programs for AI/AN fathers and father figures to help increase family strengths and enhance child development.

The Child Welfare Early Learning Navigator (CWELN) project continued its momentum and growth. We had a Tribal navigator working out of Region 6 (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Gray's Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum County) with the support and oversight of OTR, and plan to add a second Tribal navigator as we expand this project.

Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT)

Early intervention services support families as they meet the needs of their child, which makes a big difference in a child's life. The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program provides services to children from birth to age 3 who have disabilities or developmental delays. In partnership with families, services can help children be more active and successful during their early childhood years and in a variety of settings. ESIT has continued to identify needs, provide support, and build relationships with Tribal partners to promote this service.

Highlights

- ESIT entered interlocal government agreements with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Lummi Nation. This will increase funding for early intervention services.
- The program's Tribal program consultant supports the ESIT team, and internal and external partners with specialized training/presentations. The weekly ESIT publication includes Tribal Terms of the Week to support learning in the early intervention community.
- The program coordinated with two Tribal representatives who are now members of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). These members provide insights, advice, and assistance in their roles as representatives of Washington Tribes.

Help Me Grow Washington

In 2022, Help Me Grow Washington contracted with Kauffman & Associates, Inc. to lead a planning and engagement process with Tribes and urban Indian organizations (UIOs). It explored the relevance of HMG and potential ways Tribal partners could adapt the model for their communities.

Tribal Independent Living program (IL)

We work with Tribes to help them provide their own IL services to Tribal youth and young adults. The contract provides an overall structure of what the Tribe can provide for this demographic. DCYF works closely with each Tribe as they create their own culturally responsive program, which is designed to support a successful transition to adulthood. Activities and programs include help with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and stronger connections to caring adults.

DCYF to expand Native Culturally Responsive Prevention Services

We will expand culturally specific and responsive programs and services that support families, which will safely reduce the number of Native children and youth that experience out-of-home placement. A Request for Application (RFA) was posted in May to contract with Tribal nations and Native-serving organizations to deliver these services. We initially received three responses and have extended the submission deadline.

Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)

Meetings, summits, conferences, etc.

- Five 10.03 meetings with Tribes across the state.
- Green Hill School in Chehalis hosted a powwow April 2023.
- Echo Glen hosted an Indigenous People's Celebration November 2022 that consisted of a ceremonial dancing event. Echo Glen Youth made traditional soup and bread and distributed it to attendees.
- JR staff attended a Resiliency and Suicide Prevention Summit that the Suquamish Tribe hosted.

Program or rule change, and benefits

- Reorganizing JR operations and adding key positions and supports for safety, education, vocation/employment, training, homelessness prevention, and youth without aftercare.
- Implementing a 'back-to-basics' approach and modernizing JR security structure while using data to address challenges.
- Focusing on a trauma-informed care approach as well as safe and secure facilities.
- Developing the Community Transition Services (CTS) program where young people can serve 18 months of their sentence living with family or on electric monitoring.

- Establishing a specialist to provide a peer support program using Peer Bridger Reentry Support.
- Revising the Crisis Management Intervention Systems (CMIS) and implementing Advanced Crisis Intervention Training (ACIT). This will reduce physical interventions and help staff promote safety and a trauma-informed approach to intervention and de-escalation events.

Number of new contracts/grants

- 10 Community Juvenile Accountability Act (CJAA) Tribal agreements
- 15 Residential Custody service agreements (RCSA)

As of June 30, 2022, there were 16 AI/AN self-identified young people in JR residential facilities. During fiscal year 2023, 20 Tribal youth were admitted to secure facilities, and nine youth were transferred to community facilities from secure facilities.

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Department of Ecology

Summary

The Department of Ecology partners with Tribes to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's land, air, water, and climate for current and future generations. Ecology and Tribes frequently consult and coordinate on projects throughout the state in connection with water quality permits, water cleanup plans, water right actions, shoreline management, spill response, toxic cleanup, environmental impact assessments, and more. Ecology's 14 environmental programs and offices had many significant government-to-government interactions with Tribes in this past year.

Highlights

Water resources and water quality

- **Water rights adjudication:** Ecology's Water Resources program conducted pre-adjudication work for the Nooksack Watershed and Lake Roosevelt in response to petitions that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation, and Nooksack Indian Tribe filed. Ecology supported Tribal requests to the Secretary of Interior to assign federal assessment and negotiation teams in anticipation of adjudication filings in the 2023-2025 biennium.
- **Certification for Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee:** The Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee hydropower projects now have National Pollution Discharge Elimination System water quality permits. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested that Ecology and the Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation certify that the permits meet state and Tribal water quality standards under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. Both governments coordinated conditional water quality certifications to make sure temperature standards are met.

Hazardous waste and toxics reduction

- **Finding solutions to tire dust 6PPD-Quinone impacting salmon mortality:** Ecology is partnering with the Hoh Indian Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to find solutions to 6PPD-quinone. This is a chemical used in vehicle tires linked to salmon mortality. Tribes have joined the Ecology-led [Interstate](#)

[Technology and Regulatory Council's Tire Anti-Degradant \(6PPD\) Team](#), a federal-state-Tribal task force that is proactively developing plans to mitigate 6PPD-quinone.

Air Quality

- **Overburdened communities in air quality:** Ecology had a government-to-government consultation with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in December 2022. The Air Quality program identified seven potentially overburdened Tribal governments and communities, which included Yakama Nation communities, highly impacted by criteria air pollutants under Section 3 of the state Climate Commitment Act (CCA). We encourage further consultations with the other six identified Tribes to discuss ways to expand air quality monitoring and strategies to reduce criteria air pollutants.

Spills Response and Prevention program

- In August 2022, Ecology's Spills program responded to the sunken fishing vessel Aleutian Isle off the west side of San Juan Island with the U.S. Coast Guard, San Juan County, Lummi Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. The coordinated effort raised and removed the sunken vessel.

Toxic Cleanup program

- **Bellingham Bay habitat restoration projects:** The Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Indian Tribe are members of the Bellingham Bay Action Team. Ecology contributed over \$2 million to restore a 2.4-acre estuary within Little Squalicum Creek and a beach near the mouth of Little Squalicum Creek.

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance program

- **Restoring Samish Island wetland habitat:** The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve received \$2.3 million in federal funding and partnered with Samish Indian Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to acquire approximately 74 acres of wetlands near Samish Island that will restore access to the site and its historical resources.

Grants and loans

- **Climate Commitment Act Tribal capacity grants and carbon offset grants:** Ecology opened a noncompetitive capacity grant of \$4 million to support consultations on spending decisions from the CCA. Ecology also awarded approximately \$2.5 million of the \$5 million to six Tribes through a competitive bid process in the 2022-23 biennium. This will help Tribes participate in the carbon offset program.

- **Streamflow restoration grants:** Ecology awarded \$7.2 million to Tribes for water rights and land acquisitions and for fish habitat restoration. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation received \$3.96 million, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation received \$2.86 million, and the Tulalip Tribes received \$351,000.
- **Spangle Tributary and Upper Hangman Water quality improvement:** Ecology awarded a \$76,500 grant to the Spokane Tribe of Indians for projects to install livestock exclusion fencing and riparian buffers to enhance wildlife habitat.
- **Gooseberry Point wastewater treatment upgrades:** Ecology provided \$22 million in grant and loan funding to Lummi Nation to upgrade the Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water treatment facility.
- **Floodplains by Design:** Ecology awarded the Quileute Tribe a \$10.1 million Floodplains by Design grant to reduce flood risks and restore natural riverine processes throughout the Quillayute River basin.
- **Chehalis Basin habitat restoration projects:** Ecology partnered with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and Quinault Indian Nation by contributing \$13.4 million toward 11 construction projects designed to reduce flood-related damage and restore aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis River basin.

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Employment Security Department

Summary

The Employment Security Department manages Unemployment Insurance, Paid Family and Medical Leave, and co-manages the state's long-term care program called WA Cares. The department analyzes and disseminates labor market information and is an active partner in the statewide career service known as WorkSource. Tribal governments elect to participate in these various services and we often partner with Tribal Nations to deliver workforce solutions.

Highlights

We support career development opportunities through [WorkSource](#), which includes assistance to job seekers and recruitment and retention services for employers. Here are some examples:

- We employ a dedicated Tribal veterans' representative in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Through this partnership, Yakama Tribal Radio and Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) promoted a job fair at WorkSource in June where 144 Yakama Nation members applied for and filled the 40 available positions.
- WorkSource Central Basin and WorkSource Wenatchee Valley conducted job and resource fairs with the Colville Tribal Government Center. At the July event, 50% of employer and community resource participants were Tribal entities.

We partner in the state's strategy to engage young people in employment pathways, called [Career Connect Washington](#). Programs working with Tribal Nations include:

- San Juan Conservation District is developing a program called The Salish Sea Guardians. This combines credits through Northwest Indian College/Coast Salish Institute with paid internships in natural resources management and management planning to foster the next generation of Indigenous land managers.
- Northwest Maritime Center runs a Real-World Readiness program. In the most recent cohort, Northwest Maritime Center welcomed two students from area Tribes who are on track to complete their current program and move on to the next. The center seeks further Tribal partnership as this program grows.

- Western Washington University (WWU) is developing a new pathway to promote career opportunities in the green economy. WWU is collaborating with the Tribal sovereignty community of practice and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to align programs and employment pathways.

We partnered with Tribes and legislators during the 2023 legislative session to pass a bill explicitly stating that Tribes may, but are not required to, report job classification information when they submit quarterly unemployment tax reports. In 2020, the Legislature enacted a law requiring employers to include [Standard Occupational Classification](#) (SOC) code information. The data will increase the availability of labor market and job placement information to students, job seekers and economic development organizations. The original bill did not specify how this change applies to Tribal employers. As a result, there is clarity for Tribal employers in the law.

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Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Summary

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) provides a “one-stop” siting process for major energy facilities in Washington. EFSEC seeks to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on Tribal resources and rights. We aim to implement methods that increase protection for Tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites, and sacred sites during the energy facility siting process.

Highlights

Since becoming a newly independent state agency on June 30, 2022, EFSEC has worked to build infrastructure and processes that deepen engagement with Tribal nations and best capture the impacts of energy facilities on affected Tribes. Highlights of this work include:

- Received funding in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget for Tribal assistance grants to reimburse Tribes for expenses they incurred identifying and addressing environmental and cultural concerns related to energy project application review.
- Received funding through Substitute Senate Bill 5165 to complete a non-project environmental review for electrical transmission facilities. This review requires us to analyze impacts elements of the environment relevant to Tribal rights, interests, and resources including Tribal cultural resources, and fish, wildlife, and their habitat.
- Expanded staffing levels to enable hiring an EFSEC designated Tribal liaison as well as a Tribal liaison for climate and energy projects through collaboration with the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).
- Developed a Tribal engagement summary as a component of the EFSEC report to the governor. It explored the siting of the High Top and Ostrea projects, which Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1812 requires.
- Engaged in government-to-government consultations with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
- Engaged in ongoing staff-level collaboration with Tribal Historic Preservation officers and environmental and cultural resource staff.

- Reviewed internal policy and processes to develop Tribe-specific communications and strengthen participation throughout the course of project pre-application, application, construction, and ongoing compliance.
- Attended the 33rd Annual Centennial Accord Meeting.
- Presented at the Tribal Summit that DAHP hosted.

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Department of Enterprise Services

Summary

We manage many business and operational services that Tribes and other government entities may use, which helps them focus on their core missions. This is how we strengthen the business of government. DES brings the policy, planning, and oversight of central services together, and constantly works to improve value and effectiveness. We are committed to the Centennial Accord principles and to achieving the following goals:

1. Recognize and respect each Tribe as a sovereign government with a distinct culture and governmental structure that serves their Tribal citizens and others.
2. Constantly improve the value and effectiveness of the services we provide to Tribal governments. Strive to constantly improve our understanding of Tribal government needs. Identify and seek remedies for any barriers to accessing these services.
3. Identify matters of mutual concern to offer early discussion, collaboration, and consultation.

Highlights

Statewide contracts: Tribal governments are eligible to purchase goods and services from our statewide contracts. This can save time and money and help Tribes comply with federal grant requirements by using competitively awarded contracts. Participating Tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Hoh Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

Supplier diversity: We are committed to dismantling barriers to inclusion and equity in state procurement practices. DES established the Procurement, Inclusion, and Equity (PIE) program to create a sustainable increase in how we procure goods and services from small and diverse businesses. This creates a culture of procurement inclusion and creates a pipeline of small and diverse businesses to meet the state's needs. The PIE program attends the Affiliated Tribes of

Northwest Indians, the Reservation Economic Summit, and the Native Americans in Philanthropy and also presents on several Tribal economic development panels. It also partnered with organizations such as Native PTAC, Native Chamber of Commerce, and Sister Sky to support Tribal-owned businesses.

Energy performance contracting: Our Energy program is in the design phase of an energy efficiency project that starts construction soon for Chief Leschi Schools (a Tribal compact school with the Puyallup Tribe). This will reduce the energy consumption of the facilities and improve the learning environment. We recently completed construction on a project at the Omak School District East Elementary School on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This is now in the measurement and verification phase to confirm that we have reduced the energy at the facility.

Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS): For Tribes who conduct their own procurement activities, the WEBS platform provides a way for them to reach potential bidders. Tribal entities can post solicitations to the state's bid notification system to reach over 20,000 goods and services vendors who are registered in WEBS. The following organizations are registered to post to WEBS at no cost to the Tribe: The American Indian Chamber Education Fund Procurement Technical Assistance Program, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Standing Rock Public Transit and Tulalip Tribes.

Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary: Through a long-term lease agreement with the state Department of Natural Resources, DES manages the artificial, 260-acre Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary. The surrounding area holds cultural and spiritual significance for the Steh-Chass Band of Indigenous people of the Squaxin Island Tribe who have stewarded this land since time immemorial.

In October 2022, after completing a multidisciplinary review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and building on several decades of active planning with key stakeholders, DES issued an Environmental Impact Statement that recommended restoration of the Deschutes Estuary. The decision was made with the support and guidance of the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Thurston County. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature appropriated funding through the Climate Commitment Act to begin design and permitting of the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.

State/federal surplus: The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing, and Quileute Tribal School are registered to acquire state and federal surplus property. This helps them save on items they need and supports environmental sustainability by keeping items out of landfills.

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Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education and Outreach)

Summary

An important part of our mission is to work with Washington Tribal communities to expand information and education related to financial products and services. This work is accomplished through financial education grants, outreach, and community listening sessions.

Highlights

- Collaborated with the Makah Tribe to provide financial education to elementary, middle school, and high students attending the 2023 Makah College and Career Fair.
- Working with the Makah Tribe to provide financial education for youth enrolled in the summer youth program.
- Partnered with Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tribal Technology Training (T3), and the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition to host a community event. This event provides financial education and technical assistance to native community members.
- DFI hosted a community and industry event — “Narrowing the Racial Wealth Gap: Financial Industry Models” — with Tribal Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) invited and in attendance.
- Working with Chief Seattle Club and American Financial Solutions to provide financial education and support for justice-involved clients preparing to re-enter their communities.
- Increased financial education outreach (in-person and virtual) for youth and adults throughout the Yakima Valley with a financial education grant from Heritage University. This event included some members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- Brought financial education curriculum to 23 Tribal communities through a contract with Money Savvy Generation. This reached more than 2,200 pre-K, elementary and middle school students.

- Continued strengthening the framework and support for the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition through financial education grant funding for T3. This grant also provides financial education, training, and services to Tribal members throughout the state.
- Providing financial education and services to youth and adults within the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation through a grant with the Yakama Nation Housing Authority.

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Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary

The mission of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

We implement this mission by managing conservation and fishing and hunting activities with the Northwest Tribes through a cooperative, government-to-government relationship. Federal case law (*U.S. v. Washington* and *U.S. v. Oregon*) and executive orders provide the foundation for this relationship. We also work closely with the Tribes to restore and protect habitat needed to support healthy fish and wildlife populations in Washington.

Director Kelly Susewind holds the primary responsibility to sustain WDFW's partnerships with Tribes and upholds this agency's role in successful state-Tribal government-to-government relationships. The director delegates authority to senior staff to represent him in many state-Tribal management forums. WDFW Director of Tribal Affairs Jim Woods is the senior Tribal liaison within the Director's Office.

Highlights

Director's efforts

The director continues to focus on conservation, support responsible resource management decisions, and promote the importance of intergovernmental relations with Tribal governments. He strives to align and coordinate resource management with Tribal partners.

Implemented policy

The agency continued to implement and train staff on Tribal policy (Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments policy No. 5007). The policy facilitates and helps staff communicate and coordinate with federally recognized Tribes, provides a refined uniform approach to consultation, promotes transparency, enhances communication and coordination, promotes early engagement, and helps us improve state-Tribal relations. It also serves as a curriculum to train WDFW staff on how to work with Tribal governments appropriately and effectively.

Cultural Resources Division

We now have a designated cultural resource division within the Capital and Asset Management program. This program provides the agency with training, resources, and cultural reviews for WDFW construction, maintenance, acquisition, and restoration projects. This division will improve processes and best practices internally, and improve coordination and communication with Tribes. It's made up of six permanent staff, two current vacancies, two project positions, and two internships. We also developed an agency Cultural Resource Policy to guide our process development, make sure the agency complies with state and federal law, and help us build relationships with Tribal and other state archaeologists.

Recreational land use

WDFW participated in a panel discussion on how recreation impacts public land, tribal interests, and treaty rights at the 2022 Centennial Accord meeting. Earlier this year, Director Susewind co-hosted a meeting with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Commissioner of Public Lands, and the Washington State Parks director to create an Interagency-Tribal Recreation Impacts Work Group April 27. We worked with Parks, DNR and the Governor's Office to secure state appropriations. We also led the submission of a federal America the Beautiful Challenge Grant proposal. This supported Tribal capacity to engage in work group efforts.

Capital Asset Management program through the 2023-25 biennium

We actively manage over 270 facility and infrastructure improvement projects with a capital budget of \$170 million. Significant new and ongoing projects include hatchery improvements at Beaver Creek, Wallace River Hatchery, Soos Creek Hatchery, Minter Creek Hatchery, Naselle Hatchery, Toutle River Fish Collection Facility, Forks Creek Hatchery, and a new hatchery in the Deschutes River watershed. There are also several projects at statewide wildlife areas, more than two dozen boating access sites, and several habitat restoration projects including at the Skagit and Chehalis Basin areas. We've started planning and design activities for hatchery improvements to support the Southern Resident Killer Whale initiative at Sol Duc Hatchery, Voights Creek Hatchery, Kendall Creek Hatchery and Palmer Ponds. We also received some pass-through Tribal hatchery funding for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Suquamish Tribe.

Pinniped management and coordination

We continue to cooperate extensively with Columbia River Treaty Tribes on pinniped removal at Bonneville Dam to implement the Marine Mammal Protection Act permit. We worked with

the 20 Western Washington Treaty Tribes in 2022 to submit pinniped science and management questions to the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS). The WSAS report was completed in fall 2022 and WDFW coordinated with Western Washington Treaty Tribes on potential next steps to implement the report recommendations.

State/Tribal hunting coordination

There are 24 Tribes with off-reservation hunting rights in Washington. We regularly meet with Tribal wildlife staff to coordinate wildlife research, conduct population surveys, and establish population management objectives. In the 2022-2023 hunting season, six of the 24 Tribes shared their hunting regulations with the department. The NWIFC compiles a report of the 20 western Washington Treaty Tribes' harvest data, which they then share with us. We have negotiated or maintained [numerous hunting agreements](#) with Tribes. This past year, we entered a new hunting agreement with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

At the request of Treaty Tribes, we updated our draft procedural guidelines for evaluating a Treaty Tribes' asserted traditional hunting area in spring 2019. Many Tribes provided comments, and a common theme was that we should develop the guidelines collaboratively with the Tribes. We hosted summits on the traditional hunting area guidelines in fall 2019, 2020, and 2021. We continue to share these guidelines for the upcoming hunting season and hope to develop a process that does three things. One, has broad Tribal participation. Two, would establish agreed-upon criteria that applies to treaty hunting disputes on traditional hunting areas consistent with the state Supreme Court case *State v. Buchanan*. And, three, meets Tribes' ceremonial and subsistence needs.

Tribes continue to express a desire to establish an intertribal forum that resolves geographic scope disputes. WDFW sees the value here and recognizes that Tribes must initiate this.

Fish management and science

- In February 2022, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* Tribes completed and submitted a 10-year management plan for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Chinook salmon to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The co-managers worked with NMFS in 2023 as they assess the plan to potentially get approved in 2024.
- In April, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* Tribes completed their annual salmon fishery planning process (North of Falcon) using the objectives outlined in the 10-year management plan submitted in 2022. The Puget Sound co-managers received a one-year ESA authorization in May from the NMFS for fisheries planned in 2023 and early 2024.

- In December 2022, we signed on to the updated Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan for the Columbia River. The plan is a product of the [Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative](#), a collaboration of Native American Tribes, federal, state, municipal and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations. We are all working to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey, their habitats, and support their traditional Tribal use throughout their historical range spanning the West Coast of North America.
- Over the past year, we participated in the Columbia Basin Collaborative, alongside other states, Tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders to develop recommendations for achieving abundant and harvestable salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.
- State and Tribal co-managers have been interested in modernizing recreational catch reporting to get real-time harvest data to support in-season management for many years. In 2022, the Legislature funded a mobile fish harvest reporting tool at WDFW. We will build an electronic licensing application that will allow recreational hunters and anglers to carry and display their licenses on their mobile device, submit catch record cards and harvest reports, and access their licensing and harvest information. In addition to providing a more convenient and improved customer experience for license holders, this tool will also let the agency collect real-time harvest data. Once it launches, anglers can choose to report through traditional paper catch record cards or the mobile application. Given the demand for a mobile reporting system, we anticipate many anglers will migrate to mobile. Our fisheries managers and science division will develop a more rigorous catch estimation approach, which will take advantage of mobile harvest data and provide more frequent and precise estimates. WDFW plans to engage the Tribes in the coming year to ensure a common understanding in the new application.
- Co-managers on the Washington coast worked in close coordination with the agency to respond to a petition. This petition asked the federal government to list steelhead in coastal streams under the federal Endangered Species Act. Co-managers also prepared to complete similar work associated with a separate petition to list coastal Chinook salmon.
- In the Elwha River, WDFW, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and the National Park Service worked together to implement experimental and ceremonial and subsistence fisheries for the first time since the Elwha River dams were removed. Sport and commercial fishery closures were extended for at least one additional year.

Fish passage

- WDFW staff continue to engage the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to plan upgrades for the Toutle River Fish Collection Facility as design work continues for this joint U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/WDFW project.
- We continue to participate in the Lewis River Aquatic Coordination Committee with representatives of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. This year, the committee developed a document with PacifiCorp and Cowlitz Public Utility District to guide fish passage implementations through the Lewis River hydropower system. This was in response to the final decisions the state received from National Marine Fisheries Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services in late 2021 stating fish passage in the system remains appropriate.

Hatcheries

- WDFW and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation collaborated on two significant issues affecting the Klickitat Hatchery, which has been leased by the Yakama Nation since 2005. First, we coordinated on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process related to upcoming BPA-funded infrastructure upgrades to enable the Yakama Nation to operate an integrated spring Chinook program at the facility. Second, WDFW and the Yakama Nation jointly presented to the WDFW Commission and the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners on transferring the hatchery property to the Yakama Nation.
- Working with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, we worked through a fourth challenging year of mass marking and tagging due to COVID-19, SRKW increased production, and a lack of labor force. We mass-marked and code-wire tagged nearly all the salmon released into state waters. This collaborative approach was critical to successfully completing these obligations for Tribal and state salmon hatchery releases.
- Our technical and policy staff are working with Puget Sound, Coastal and Columbia River Tribes to develop a co-manager hatchery policy. A technical writing team recently completed a draft for policy staff to review. The WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission received several briefings on the policy and will vote on the policy by the end of 2023.
- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and WDFW initiated the Ballard Locks Adult Sockeye Transport program (BLAST) to counter rapidly declining sockeye returns to the Lake Washington Basin. This joint effort relied on Muckleshoot staff's knowledge and history of sockeye movement through the Ballard Locks to trap and transport sockeye to a loading area. From there, our staff hauled the sockeye to Seattle Public Utilities Landsburg Hatchery. The fish experienced minimal mortality and survived significantly

better than adult sockeye trapped at the Cedar River adult collection weir. Based on the BLAST's 2021 and 2022 success, we expanded the program and transported 1,664 sockeye this June and July – the most successful year to date. Several different experiments in place at the Cedar River Hatchery will determine the most effective holding vessel and water supply options for adult sockeye. Fish are being held in both circular ponds and raceways, as well as river water and spring water to determine survival differences, and to help answer questions about the best path forward for adult holding facilities.

- The following hatchery production received ongoing funding from the Legislature in 2021-2023. These production increases will provide additional prey for SRKW:
 - **Puget Sound**
 - Chinook salmon proposed increase: 3.275 million
 - Coho salmon proposed increase: 800,000
 - Chum salmon proposed increase: 2.5 million
 - **Coastal**
 - Chinook salmon proposed increase: 570,000
 - Coho salmon proposed increase: 400,000
- WDFW, along with our co-managers, completed the following Endangered Species Act consultations for hatchery operations in 2022:
 - Dungeness (Chinook) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
 - Skagit River (chum) Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

European Green Crab emergency management

- Long-term European green crab (EGC) management will not be successful without strong collaborative actions by state co-managers and Tribes. Strong collaboration with other state and federal agencies, shellfish growers, and other partners is also critical to share this burden. The governor issued an emergency proclamation to emphasize this issue as a state priority (EP 22-02). This year, the Legislature appropriated over \$6 million per year in ongoing funding, of which \$4.5 million (70%) is pass-through funding for collaborative management. This includes \$1.46 million for Lummi Nation and \$475,000 per year for the Makah Tribe. The agency encouraged other Tribes to submit proposals to the Recreation and Conservation Office as part of the \$1.5 million rapid response funding program.

- WDFW and Washington State Congressional members unanimously support additional federal funding and EGC management support. This would be for co-managers, Tribes, and partners. We want Congress to:
 - Fund the reestablishment of the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species at NOAA headquarters so we can better support state, Tribal, and federal European green crab management programs.
 - Appropriate \$5 million in fiscal year 2024 and future years to the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant program.
 - Provide funding for European green crab prevention, management, and data stewardship to:
 - \$300,000 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
 - \$750,000 to U.S. Geological Survey’s Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for its Western Fisheries Research Center and Alaska Science Center
 - \$8 million to Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Invasive Species Program for its Northwest Region
- Funding to U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for Washington’s coastal shellfish growers who have been impacted by European green crabs.
- In addition to funding, we provided equipment, training, coordination, planning, and field support to co-managers and Tribes. This includes Makah Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, and Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe. We are working to solidify future collaboration efforts with the Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. WDFW remains ready to continue its support of co-managers and Tribes in end of season/winter trapping.

Wildlife management

Our formal process for proposed land acquisition is known as Lands 20/20, and the department continued Tribal consultation to engage Tribes early in that process. We held a Tribal briefing of 15 Lands 20/20 projects Oct. 26, 2022, with consultation Nov. 2, 2022, and a Tribal briefing of two expedited Lands 20/20 projects March 13 with a consultation on March 14. WDFW consulted on 12 land acquisitions before closing.

- Our director signed the 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands in July 2022. The strategy articulates our commitment to coordinate and consult with Washington’s federally recognized Tribes in its implementation. A priority is to develop data and a framework so we can measure and monitor outdoor recreation impacts on natural, cultural, and Tribal resources, recreation facilities, and recreation experiences. We will collaborate with Tribes and state land managers to design and deploy an impact monitoring system across state-managed recreation lands. It will track changes to the environment associated with specific recreation facilities and activities. Early in the design process, we will seek to understand and respond to Tribes’ greatest impact concerns.
- In response to Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5452, WDFW and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) held an interagency public process. This helped us collect input from Tribal governments and stakeholders on where electric-assist bicycles (e-bikes) can be on DNR- and WDFW- managed lands. This includes non-motorized trails and roads closed to motorized use. We invited federally recognized Tribes in Washington to participate in two roundtable discussions on this topic. WDFW and DNR submitted a report to the Legislature in September 2022 that summarizes the findings (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02340>).
- In December 2022, the director enacted a new law to reduce disease transmission to bighorn sheep via contact with domestic goats and sheep on wildlife areas that WDFW manage (WAC 220-500-045). The rule prohibits visitors from bringing domestic goats or sheep onto 31 wildlife area units spread across 12 wildlife areas.
- Management planning continued in the Skagit and L.T. Murray wildlife areas. At the onset of the Skagit process, we sent Tribal consultation letters Lummi, Muckleshoot, Nooksack, Sauk-Suiattle, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, and Upper Skagit Tribes. The Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation provided a representative to the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and provided input to early drafts of the plan and its core elements.
- WDFW continued planning processes for the Methow Wildlife Area. This process includes an expanded focus on recreation management. Before the kickoff, we sent consultation letters to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Both Tribes are members of the Methow Wildlife Area Advisory Committee and are active in advisory committee meetings and field trips.

- In spring, we initiated a management planning process for the Cowlitz Wildlife Area. We sent 10 letters inviting plan consultation to the following Tribes: the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis, the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe, and the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- We published Statewide Sign Standards and Guidelines to implement across WDFW-managed lands. An early priority of the 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands, new signage will improve use management at wildlife areas and water access areas by promoting safety, supporting enforcement, educating visitors about an area's natural and cultural history, and encouraging responsible recreation.

Habitat

- We continued the rulemaking process to develop a new rule section to implement Chapter 77.57 RCW Entitled Fishways, Flows and Screening. The main goals are to codify standards that WDFW uses for instream structures, fish screening and diversions, and climate adaptive water crossing structures. We completed the required steps, developed draft rule language, and conducted two iterations of outreach briefings to Tribal Nations statewide. The rulemaking will address compliance issues for instream structures and screening, steps to bring owners into compliance, and actions for non-compliance. We published the new rules in late July and the Fish and Wildlife Commission held a public hearing in August.
- We continued to chair the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) collaborating with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This board helps restore healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead statewide through strategically removing fish passage barriers. The board received \$48.4 million in capital grants for 31 fish passage projects statewide. The board also chose fish passage projects that WSDOT local programs could repair with \$25 million of fiscal year 2022 PROTECT funding. This funding will help remove 10 additional fish passage barriers. The board anticipates publishing its next request for proposals in November for project funding nominations in the 2025-27 budget.
- WDFW continued to develop a comprehensive statewide fish passage barrier removal strategy. This helps focus the efforts of all culvert correction programs into a single strategic approach to maximize the salmon and orca recovery benefits from the public investment. The strategy will also guide the FBRB's funding recommendations, as well as other state fish passage barrier correction programs. We hired a strategist, Jane Atha

from Triangle Associates and Cramer Fish Sciences consulting agency, to lead this effort. We will continue to develop the strategy with Tribes.

- WDFW staff joined the state’s leadership team on several Columbia Basin salmon recovery and dam management issues involving collaboration with Columbia Basin Tribes. This included:
 - The Upper Columbia United Tribes’ (UCUT) effort to reintroduce salmon and steelhead above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, where we passed through state funding to support reintroduction efforts.
 - The Columbia Basin Collaborative where WDFW staff collaborates closely with Columbia Basin Tribes on recommendations. These efforts help us meet NOAA Columbia Basin Partnership salmon abundance goals.
 - Intensive coordination with the UCUT and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Tribes on a possible federally-led, long-term, comprehensive framework to restore healthy, abundant Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead populations.
- We worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Quinault Indian Nation to implement the Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan and identify flood risk reduction projects that will improve the condition of salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin. WDFW is working with the Chehalis Board, the Quinault Nation and Chehalis Tribes to investigate ways to improve fish passage and flows at Skookumchuck Dam on the Skookumchuck River or remove the dam. The Skookumchuck is an important spring Chinook-bearing tributary of the Chehalis River. We are also working with the Chehalis and Quinault Tribes and the other members of the Chehalis Basin Board to identify a long-term strategy for the Chehalis Basin to restore salmon and other aquatic species while reducing reduce flood damage.
- Our staff plays an integral role in several integrated water management efforts that include close collaboration with Columbia Basin Tribes through Ecology’s Office of the Columbia River projects. Highlights include:
 - The Icicle Strategy, where we worked with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to improve instream flows and hatchery and irrigation water supplies.
 - Completed a project to open new steelhead habitat and install fish screens at an irrigation diversion.

- Worked on the Walla Walla 2050 strategy. We are in the early phases of working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and others to improve flows for fish and farms.
- Worked closely with Yakama Nation and others on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. This plan will improve fish passage, instream flows, habitat, and agricultural water supplies.
- Several staff in our Ecosystem Services Division participated in the government-to-government training. This improves their understanding and appreciation for the diversity of Tribal cultures and teaches effective ways to engage with Tribal partners.
- The Land Use Conservation and Policy (LUCP) section:
 - Proactively engaged local jurisdictions on growth management and shoreline management updates.
 - Created a new riparian management zone checklist for critical areas ordinances.
 - Led the Tribal engagement process with Dept. of Commerce, WDFW liaison, and sister agencies before briefing Tribal representatives on the Climate Proviso process and products (i.e., resiliency and mitigation elements included in comprehensive plans).
- The Forest Habitats section (FHS) continued to collaborate with Tribal partners in the Timber, Fish, and Wildlife (TFW) Adapted Management program (AMP). This will secure more protective riparian buffers and benefit water quality, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat.
- WFW's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) section packaged and delivered Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) data to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in May 2023. This group also published shrubsteppe land use data layer for Washington with technical guidance on how to use it, and took the lead at WDFW on habitat connectivity efforts.
- WDFW implemented the Habitat Recovery Pilot program (HRPP), established in June 2021, to introduce permit streamlining for restoration projects that directly benefit freshwater, estuarine, or marine fish, or the habitat they rely on. With 12 projects under the program, four were sponsored by federally recognized Tribes, including wetland and floodplain restoration and hatchery improvement projects.

Conserving Pacific Lamprey

- WDFW updated its Lamprey report by adding a habitat-suitability focus and sent it to the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI webinars) and Tribal co-managers. The update noted that recent genetic results showed that western river lampreys are anadromous morphs of the smaller-bodied, western brook lamprey. The decline of upriver Pacific lamprey in the Columbia River basin was addressed in the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society paper on Snake River dams.
- WDFW continued to participate in the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat program (YTAHP) with the Yakama Nation, Conservation Districts, and other partners. This program will help prioritize, design and implement fish passage, fish screening, and salmonid habitat restoration projects in tributaries of the upper Yakima River Basin. It uses Bonneville Power Administration funding as well as other funding sources. Over the past year, we implemented five projects that contribute to YTAHP's accomplishments. Since 2003, we partnered with the Yakama Nation and other YTAHP partners to restore fish passage to 251 miles of Yakima River tributary habitat.
- The Teanaway Community Forest in Kittitas County is the site of collaborative habitat restoration projects between the Yakama Nation and WDFW. This joint effort was motivated by the universal desire to restore habitat and native salmonid and bull trout populations. After implementing large wood structures and floodplain restoration work in the North Fork Teanaway River, restoration efforts transitioned to large-scale projects in the Middle Fork Teanaway River and West Fork Teanaway River. These will significantly benefit salmon and steelhead runs.
- Our Habitat program staff worked collaboratively with the Yakama Nation on bull trout recovery in the upper Yakima River Basin. We used the best available science for bull trout fry rescue and transferred them to an artificial rearing facility to rear them for a year and then release them back to their natal waters. We also collected data on bull trout in Kachess Reservoir that were reared and returned to their natal streams. The Yakama Nation and WDFW are collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Bull Trout Reintroduction Plan into tributaries streams.
- WDFW is collaborating with the Yakama Nation to plan, design, and implement a stream/floodplain restoration project on the Brain Ranch property on Taneum Creek. This is a tributary of the Yakima River west of Ellensburg that WDFW recently acquired. The project will reconnect a previously channelized stream to the floodplain, increase channel diversity and rearing habitat, and restore the riparian ecosystem.

- **The Estuary and Salmon Restoration program (ESRP)** that WDFW leads in partnership with the Recreation and Conservation Office funds multiple individual nearshore restoration and protection grants. These directly support Tribes during the current (2021-23) and upcoming (2023-25) biennia. The program awarded funding to:
 - Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC)
 - Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
 - Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
 - Tulalip Tribes

In addition, ESRP worked with local organizations in the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish watersheds to secure \$24 million in NOAA Transformational Habitat funding. This contributed over \$9.7 million for restoration projects led by the Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes and SRSC.

- **The Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (HSIL)** invested \$14 million in 25 projects from the fall 2022 funding round. This will contribute to Puget Sound habitat recovery and access to Tribal Treaty rights. Of those projects, HSIL funded four proposals directly led by Puget Sound area Tribes or tribal consortia (a group of Tribal organizations). One or more Tribes received funds as partners on five proposals. HSIL also implemented a new cultural resources process to fulfill commitments under Executive Order 21-02.
- **Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Projects (PSNERP)** completed a consultant-led effort in 2022 to evaluate existing and future challenges to public and Tribal tideland access in Hood Canal. This assessment includes ways to provide tideland access for current and future generations. This project got input from Tribes and other organizations involved with public and tribal tideland access. The result will guide our near-term actions and provide a blueprint to identify longer-term actions.

Tribal coordination on the Duckabush Estuary Restoration project design is ongoing to ensure estuary restoration meets the shared goals of the tribes Tribes and state. We've continued monthly cultural resources coordination meetings including Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). We will include Tribes' approved Tribal-inspired artwork on the new Highway 101 bridge over the Duckabush Estuary.

- WDFW continued to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe to implement the Tucannon Programmatic. The goal is to restore habitat function as well as channel and floodplain processes within the spring Chinook priority restoration reaches of the Tucannon River. This leads to improved spawning and rearing habitats for naturally produced spring Chinook. We

partnered with both Tribes in all aspects of enhancement projects. We regularly consult with Tribes on funding, design, and project implementation. Currently WDFW is cooperating on assessing a portion of the Tucannon that flows through the Wooten Wildlife Area. This will clarify the river restoration that benefits spring Chinook, steelhead, and Bull trout.

Enforcement

- We continue to implement an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for enforcement and cooperative patrols of recreational fisheries within the Rufus Woods Reservoir of the upper Columbia River. As a part of that agreement, we provided \$3 million in pass-through funding to create fishing access sites on the reservoir. This benefits state and Tribal citizens, and funds two Colville Tribal fish and wildlife officer positions.
- WDFW enforcement works with our local Yakama Nation officers on joint enforcement concerns. It also coordinates investigations of non-Tribal members that participate in Tribal hunts within ceded areas or within the reservation boundaries.
- WDFW enforcement works with the coastal Tribes to address special management areas (SMAs) to ensure state harvesters are not fishing within designated SMAs. WDFW police respond to reports of gear conflict between Tribal and non-Tribal fishers.
- WDFW enforcement patrolled Tribal waterways and were granted access to fuel at Tribal ports. There have been many personnel changes within enforcement (both Tribal and at WDFW) throughout the pandemic and we look forward to building new relationships with our Tribal enforcement counterparts.
- WDFW enforcement meets in partnership on the Stillaguamish Integrated Conservation and Rebuilding Project to build and maintain a stronger co-management relationship with the Stillaguamish Tribe. The goals are to:
 - Advance salmon recovery.
 - Share a clear and consistent understanding of our vision for the Stillaguamish River basin.
 - Understand how habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and predators affect Stillaguamish River salmon and steelhead.
 - Understand how management actions contribute to conservation and recovery.
 - Know what additional actions we need to achieve the expected contribution of each sector.

- WDFW enforcement officers continue to work jointly on patrols with Tribal enforcement officers to address Puget sound fisheries.
- Five WDFW new hire officers attended in-house training from the Attorney General's office. It focused on Tribal case law, policies, and procedures. This helps staff understand the varying level of agreements WDFW has with Tribal governments.
- We meet weekly with the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/P) Task Force to assess systemic causes behind this issue. The task force includes Tribes, Tribal organizations, and state/local policymakers.
- We held joint annual coordination meetings with Tribal law enforcement to discuss current issues and network with staff to enhance cooperative efforts.

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Washington State Gambling Commission

Summary

Our mission is to protect the public by ensuring that gambling is legal and honest, and to foster full cooperation between Tribes and the state, based upon equality and a shared concern for the welfare of all the citizens of the state and Tribes.

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, 29 have compacts for Class III gaming and 22 of the Tribes operate 28 casinos. 15 Tribes offer sports wagering with three offering on-premises mobile.

Highlights

We worked with our Tribal regulatory partners to address sports wagering issues. This includes integrity concerns with the International Tennis League and website applications illegally re-selling sports wagering tickets online.

We continue to work with our regulatory partners to license sports wagering vendors so that each Tribe's sports wagering operation can open on schedule. We added four new major vendors for a total of 13; eight new mid-level vendors for a total of 21; and 15 new ancillary sport wagering vendors for a total of 23.

In September 2022, we met with 40 co-regulatory licensing staff representing 17 Tribes. This all-day meeting was our first since 2019 and covered topics such as:

- Sports wagering vendor licensing.
- Differences between certification, eligibility, and registration.
- Roundtable discussions.

Our Electronic Gambling Lab sent out a monthly newsletter to our Tribal regulatory and gaming operational partners. This newsletter gave status updates for new and ongoing equipment submissions we received, information on active investigations of equipment malfunctions at Tribal casinos, news or updates related to the agency, and answers to commonly asked questions from Tribal representatives. This newsletter provided our Tribal partners with a more convenient way to stay current on information related to electronic gambling equipment, our lab, and the agency.

Our Intelligence Unit sent 10 information bulletins to inform and share information with our Tribal partners on various crimes and suspicious activity. We sent 14 requests for information to ask for assistance on pending investigations, which was beneficial to fighting crime. Additionally, a monthly intelligence summary was sent out to each Tribe's gambling regulatory director. We also invited our regulatory partners to participate in the annual bank outreach training from the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

As part of our co-regulatory relationship with the Tribes, and to improve operational efficiency and technology use, we jointly agreed to 13 clarifications of compact appendices, and we concurred with 277 internal control and game rule submissions.

We worked with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to update and change their memorandum of understanding with us regarding how to submit eligibility determinations; the changes make the process more effective and builds on our positive working relationship.

Our New Agent Training was held in partnership with the Kalispel Tribal Gaming Agency. We conducted a new online class along with our weeklong, new agent training course for over 30 students from our agency and 12 Tribes. The students were regulatory staff who work at the Tribal casinos. The feedback we received was very encouraging, with an average rating of 4.74 out of 5. Topics included history, licensing, mock casino, and regulation of Class III gaming in Washington. We also provided technical gaming equipment or vendor licensing training for individual Tribal regulators at their request.

We provided training to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Suquamish Tribe for submitting their gaming employee applications online. We now have 18 Tribes using online processes to submit their new, renewal, add/change, and name change applications.

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Department of Health

Summary

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is committed to honoring our government-to-government relationship with Tribes in all the work we do. Our work is grounded in our [value of Seven Generations](#), inspired by Native American cultures. We seek wisdom from those who came before us to ensure our current work protects those who will come after us. We invite collaboration with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations as we develop policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Tribes and Tribal people.

Highlights

The DOH [Transformational Plan: A Vision for Health in Washington](#) is framed by our cornerstone values of equity, innovation, and engagement (EIE), and highlights the importance of working with Tribes to improve the health and well-being of all Washingtonians. It has five priority areas:

- Health and wellness
- Health systems and workforce transformation
- Environmental health
- Emergency response and resilience
- Global and one health

Tribal-focused organizational improvements

- The agency created the Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR) in June. The OTPHR affirms not only our commitment to Tribal public health, but also the investments we need to support Tribal relations. The OTPHR will coordinate related activities across the agency while also focusing its attention on policy, partnerships, communications, and data. We held a listening session with Tribes and Tribal organizations to offer input and priority areas for the OTPHR. We plan to recruit and appoint an executive director soon.
- We are recruiting a Tribal epidemiologist to support data collection, monitoring, and evaluation best practices in collaboration with Tribal partners. This position will allow us to work closely with Tribes on a variety of data-related issues.

- The Department’s Office of Resiliency, Health, and Security (ORHS) re-established the Tribal program contracts manager position to support the successful contract-related among between ORHS, Tribal governments, and Tribal organizations. Tribes can use this dedicated contact person for technical assistance on emergency preparedness-related matters. Attendance at the Quileute Health Fair and other Tribal community events exemplify how DOH teams engage with Tribal members around public health preparedness and resiliency.

Health and wellness

- In partnership with Tribes, American Indian Health Commission, Volunteers of America, and the Washington State Health Care Authority, our agency supported the launch of the [Native and Strong Lifeline](#) in November 2022, the nation’s first suicide prevention line serving the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives during times of crisis. We also hosted the first Tribal Wellness Gathering, bringing Tribal communities and leaders together to engage the Washington State Suicide Prevention Plan.
- Our agency provided support and actively participated in the Tribal and State Leaders Opioid Fentanyl Summit at Lummi Nation and the National Opioid Summit in Tulalip. We are ensuring our internal work addressing the opioid and fentanyl public health crisis is proactive and focused on communities most impacted through our Fentanyl & Opioid Crisis Unification of Strategies (FOCUS) Task Force.
- We are working with Tribes and the Health Equity Zone Advisory Council to select a Tribal health equity zone, which stems from a legislative initiative that helps us support the zone’s self-selected public health priority.
- We held Tribal listening sessions to support the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant needs assessment.

Foundational public health services

- We consulted with Tribes on how to allocate \$5 million in public health system funding from the Legislature to Tribes and Tribal organizations. With this amount, Tribes and Tribal organizations have received more than \$13.4 million per biennium to support culturally relevant Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)
- The FPHS Steering Committee approved our request to fund several positions within DOH that support Tribal data sovereignty work.

Consultation and collaboration

We conducted consultation and collaboration on a range of public health initiatives including:

- Tribal data sovereignty.
- Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act.
- The Environmental Health Disparities map (we are continuing to update the map based on the Tribal consultation agreement).
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. This includes Tribal listening sessions to guide the agency as it creates rules for 988 hubs and will include Tribal workshops to refine these rules.

Environmental health

We are standing up three new environmental justice grants. This includes a grant available for Tribes and Tribal organizations to increase their capacity to engage with environmental health disparities map updates, HEAL Act agencies, and the Environmental Justice Council.

Emergency response

During this past year, DOH engaged in emergency response and resilience activities including:

- Helped plan and host the annual Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Conference in conjunction with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The conference provided basic and advanced emergency management training, shared best practices in Tribal public health preparedness, and included a fireside chat with Secretary of Health Umair A. Shah for Tribes to connect directly with state health officials.
- Hosted the first two FEMA Tribal trainings on the west coast of Washington in collaboration with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Washington State Emergency Management Division.
- Supported the National Tribal Emergency Management Council in staffing the Tribal Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center. The agency also conducted a real-time logistics drill to distribute seven tons of N95 respirators ahead of wildfire smoke season, as part of the Thunderbird and Whale Exercise.
- Increased the number of Tribal governments contracting with us for U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PHEP funding, from six Tribes in fiscal year 2022-

2023 to 20 Tribes in fiscal year 2023-2024. This means more PHEP funding will go to Tribal communities so they can complete projects supporting their response to public health hazards.

- Piloted a project with Tulalip community health nurses and their teams to produce a culturally-specific seasonal hazards risk communications toolkit. This will support elder health and safety during heat and smoke events. The project also entails translating all seasonal hazards risk communications materials into Lushootseed and providing hard copies of the materials to each enrolled elder in both English and Lushootseed.
- Supported the American Indian Health Commission as it developed a COVID-19 Outbreak Quick Reference Guide for Tribes. This included information on ordering personal protective equipment, testing supplies, and therapeutics directly from the DOH Medical Logistics Center.

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Health Care Authority

Summary

HCA provides health care and support services to Washington residents through a variety of innovative policies, programs, and purchasing strategies. These strategies involve the Apple Health (Medicaid) program, various behavioral health block grants and state provisos, and the Public Employees Benefits Board and School Employees Benefits Board programs.

Through the Office of Tribal Affairs, HCA seeks to ensure that American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) can access equitable health care. To achieve this goal, we partner with Tribes to address existing health disparities and increase access to quality care and services.

Highlights

Office of Tribal Affairs staffing

The Office of Tribal Affairs onboarded new leadership, Aren Sparck, Chevak Native Village Qissunamiut Tribal member, as the administrator. We also hired Christine Winn, Quinault Indian Nation citizen, as the deputy administrator.

Apple Health coverage and payments

In calendar year 2022, Apple Health provided health care coverage to more than 87,500 AI/AN citizens statewide. Tribes received over \$329 million for health care, transportation, and administration services, a 34% increase from 2021. This indicates that behavioral health services are recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders.

Apple Health innovations for Indian Health

Since June 1, 2022, we continued or implemented these projects in consultation with Tribes.

- Paid \$2 million to support Indian health care provider (IHCP) specific projects under the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). This includes integrating physical and behavioral health care.
- Received Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval for the Medicaid Transformation Project Renewal (MTP 2.0), which includes:

- Reinstated Medicaid coverage for individuals in incarcerated settings 90 days before they get released. This will support their transition back into the community.
- Pilot funding and provider reimbursement for contingency management.
- Implement health-related social need services and a community-based care coordination hub, specifically for the Indian health care delivery system (called the Native Hub).
- HCA presented at the Tribal State Leaders Health Summit on our Electronic Health Record (EHR) as a service project.

Behavioral health funding and innovations for Indian Health

- As requested at the 2022 Centennial Accord Meeting, HCA partnered with Tribal leaders, AIHC, NPAIHB, Governor’s Office, and state agency partners to hold the first Tribal-State Fentanyl and Opioid Summit hosted by the Lummi Nation. This was followed by these partners’ work to establish an Opioid Task Force.
- Following the 2022 Centennial Accord Meeting, Tribal elected leaders, the Governor’s Office, and state agency partners sent a delegation to review the Icelandic Prevention Model and began working on the Tribal Prevention Model.
- In state fiscal year 2022, funding grants to Tribes increased to more than \$7 million dollars. This will help fund Tribal behavioral health projects that support prevention, treatment, opioid overdose, recovery, and mental health services.
- The State Opioid and Overdose Response work group, AIHC, and Tribal partners established a 20% Tribal ‘set aside’ for the Opioid Abatement Settlement dollars. This was up to \$15.4 million dollars for the biennium.
- In partnership with Tribal representatives, we launched new materials, renamed the Tribal Opioid Solutions Campaign, and launched the For Our Lives campaign April 1.
- HCA received two grants to partner with Tribes and support two pilot sites for Tribal mobile crisis response teams. Additionally, Tribes were allocated 10% of the 30% Suicide Prevention Lifeline sales tax, for endorsed Tribal mobile crisis teams. HCA will administer these teams. HCA partnered with the Tribes, AIHC and the Tribal 988 Subcommittee and TCBHAB to establish a Tribal Mobile Crisis Response work group.
- HCA received funds from the Legislature to increase behavioral health service rates for individuals without a managed care program (Fee For Service – FFS) by 22%.

- Several behavioral health programs launched in partnerships with Tribes. This includes the first Tribal Wrap Around with Intensive Services (WISe) program, first Tribal WISe training, first New Journeys (First Episode Psychosis) program, mobile medication units (two Tribes awarded), Tribal Certified Peer Counseling training in partnership with the NPAIHB, Tribal contingency management program, and a Tribal community health worker program.
- Negotiated through Tribal consultation, HCA included recommended language in the Rehabilitative Services Section (BH 13d) State Plan Amendment. This new language acknowledges and complies with federal law by stating IHCPs can employ health professionals licensed in any state.

Staff contact

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Washington State Historical Society

Summary

The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all. We are committed to continue implementing the Centennial Accord and Millennium Agreement. Since 2019, the WSHS team has included a half-time Tribal liaison to help us fulfill this commitment. We continue to honor the government-to-government policy and relationship building with northwest Tribal Nations.

Highlights

- In 2023, the Washington State History Museum hosted its 18th annual In the Spirit Contemporary Native Art exhibition from July 22 through September 24, featuring 36 works by 26 Native American artists. We hosted the free IN THE SPIRIT Arts Market and Northwest Native Festival Aug. 12, in partnership with the Tacoma Art Museum and Museum of Glass. The festival featured 25 art vendors, three musical performers, and opportunities to explore the native arts exhibition.
- We continue to provide the “Treaty Trail: U.S.-Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest” curriculum, free to educators across the state. This is available at washingtonhistory.org under the Education tab.
- We’ve been renovating the Great Hall, the core of the Washington State History Museum’s permanent exhibition space. This space will be filled with a new presentation of Indigenous Native history called This Is Native Land. We hope to complete this by June 2025.
- We provide grant opportunities through Heritage Capital projects and the Diversity in Local History grant programs. Information about these programs is available at washingtonhistory.org under the Across Washington tab.
- We continue to make progress on the “Dialogue in Place” initiative, a statewide project. As part of our Statement of Commitment, we review monuments that WSHS placed for historical accuracy, structural integrity, language, and interpretive sensitivity. We have begun a Tribal consultation and community engagement process to determine the future of these monuments.

- The Washington State Historical Society partnered with George Washington’s Mount Vernon on May 20, to host a professional development workshop for K-12 educators that explored the theme of “Civic Education.” The workshop featured a session on Civic Engagement in Tribal Communities.
- The WSHS continues to offer support and programming for museums and cultural centers across the state through our Common Concerns series and other free trainings. We welcome Tribal museum and cultural center partners to attend and participate, and to suggest topics for future programming based on their concerns or initiatives.

Staff contact

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Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Summary

The Insurance Commissioner is a statewide-elected official. Under their direction, agency staff regulate insurance business in Washington under state insurance laws. Our mission is to protect our state's consumers, the public interest, and our economy through fair and efficient regulation of the insurance industry.

Our Consumer Protection Division provides insurance expertise directly to consumers. Our Consumer Advocacy program focuses on helping Washingtonians with a variety of insurance questions about life, health, auto, and homeowner coverage, just to name a few. We accept complaints against insurance companies to make sure they comply with state laws. Our Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program provides free, unbiased Medicare assistance.

By working in partnership with Washington Tribes, we hope to better understand and respect the sovereign rights and interests of Tribal members and maintain long-term relationships. We work with American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) through state-Tribal partnerships to reduce health care disparities and make quality health care more accessible. To facilitate this effort, we collaborate with the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) for Washington.

Consumer assistance is available at www.insurance.wa.gov, or by phone at 800-562-6900.

Highlights

Meetings, summits, conferences and outreach events

- **Indian health care provider contracting and network access requirements:** The OIC executive team met with AIHC board members to discuss how companies must comply with state and federal laws relating to health plan benefits. We continue to educate health insurers on their requirement to ensure that AI/AN enrollees get access to covered medical and behavioral health services from Indian health care providers.
- **American Indian Health Commission:** The OIC Tribal liaison and other OIC leaders consulted with AIHC board members twice about a non-approved health insurer in our state. They also briefed AIHC board members about agency updates on relevant policies, programs, and legislation during regular meetings.

- **Outreach events and counseling:** Our Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors program and its affiliated sponsors participated in 278 virtual outreach events and 266 one-on-one Medicare counseling sessions that included AI/AN.

Staff contact

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Department of Labor & Industries

Summary

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) mission is to keep Washington safe and working. L&I's staff collaborates with Tribal governments, medical providers, employers, and workers to support that mission. We recognize the inherent authority of Tribal Nations and seek to maintain the highest respect for Tribal governance. The agency provides workers' compensation insurance coverage, oversees workplace safety and health, handles wage compliance matters, and provides the trade industries with licensing, inspections, and apprenticeships.

Highlights

L&I continues its commitment to work closely with Tribal governments, ensuring that individuals have the information they need and are aware of their rights. In our work to fulfill that commitment, we have created the L&I Tribal Advisory Committee. The committee includes contacts from:

- Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Division
- Apprenticeship Division
- Employer Services Division
- Office of Human Resources
- The agency Tribal liaison
- A point of contact for regional offices

These programs help guide committee decision-making on agency policies and guidelines. A few committee members have worked directly with Tribes in positions outside the agency.

Activities

- L&I updated its internal policy for Tribal interactions.
- L&I continues to educate its employees with government-to-government training.
- From June 2022 to June 2023, L&I received 211 electrical permit inspection requests for Tribal-related projects.

- L&I continues to work with Tribes to streamline the permitting process. It also established a Memoranda of Understanding to provide better services to Tribal businesses.
- L&I supports apprenticeship programs for Tribal members. Apprentices earn a wage while learning specific, high-value skills in the trade or profession of their choice. These graduates receive nationally recognized certifications that verify they have the knowledge and skills required for their chosen career. These opportunities are available all over Washington.
- The Tribal apprentice subcommittee is part of the Washington State Apprentice Training Council. L&I works closely with the council, which created a subcommittee that recognized Tribes can participate in. The committee reports to the council quarterly.
- In the last year, staff attended the Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention, and participated in the state agency-Tribal liaisons meetings.
- In the last year, L&I met with several Tribes to discuss services, provide presentations, and discuss collaboration opportunities.

Staff contact

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Department of Licensing

Summary

The Department of Licensing's (DOL) mission: Helping every Washington resident live, work, drive, and thrive.

We serve Washington residents by licensing drivers, vehicles, vessels, and over 40 different professions. The agency also collects more than \$2.7 billion in fuel taxes and licensing fees each year that fund the state's transportation network.

Highlights

Fuel Tax Compacts: DOL may start a motor vehicle fuel tax compact with any federally recognized Indian Tribe located on a reservation in Washington. DOL is party to 25 fuel tax compacts with Tribal governments. We continue to work with Tribes regarding their questions and concerns on fuel compacts. During the 2022 calendar year, we provided \$54.9 million in fuel tax refunds to Tribes because of fuel tax compacts.

Tribal license plate compacts: Since 2020, DOL can start compacts with federally-recognized Washington Tribes to create Tribal license plates for Tribal member-owned vehicles and Tribal government vehicles. Currently, DOL has license plate compacts with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes and Muckleshoot Tribe.

Reporting vessel information: DOL continues to work with Tribes and the U.S. Coast Guard to increase Tribal vessel reporting. A 1994 Consent Decree requires 21 Tribes to issue vessel decals (supplied by DOL) to their members so they can use them to register their vessels and submit the information to DOL. For 2022, we provided 3,000 decals to the Tribal Fisheries Commission and received 447 Tribal vessel registrations.

Combative sports regulation: DOL functions as the State Boxing Commission and regulates combative sports throughout Washington. Some Tribes invite DOL to regulate combative sports occurring in their Indian Country, such as boxing and mixed martial arts (MMA) events. In 2022, we regulated three events in Indian Country at the invitation of Tribes over summer and fall.

Staff contact

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Liquor and Cannabis Board

Summary

The Liquor and Cannabis Board's (LCB) Centennial Accord mission includes promoting public safety across the state and in Indian Country with respect to liquor, cannabis, tobacco and vapor product production, distribution, sale, and use. We work to support Tribal government revenues and Tribal economic development through partnerships and collaboration. These collaborative efforts with Tribes focus on agreements that the Tribes operate their businesses under that involve alcohol and cannabis sales.

Highlights

This past year's focus with the Tribes included completing cannabis compacts, as well as updating and amending cannabis compacts and liquor Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) to adjust to the changes that Tribes experienced. Cannabis remains a significant source of tax revenue for the state and Tribes. Tribes use this cannabis revenue to support Tribal services. The governor has designated the LCB to negotiate agreements with Tribes that are interested in establishing cannabis programs and /or incorporating liquor privileges into their new or existing establishments that meet state requirements.

In 2022 the Legislature clarified the LCB's cannabis compacting authority when it passed SSHB 1210. Specifically, this provided clarity on what transactions may be exempted from Tribal cannabis taxes when compacting with the state. LCB continues to work with Tribes to adopt cannabis compacts and has completed 22 Tribal cannabis compacts. Two of those were completed this past year with the Spokane and Hoh Tribes.

- During 2022, we worked on Tribal cannabis compact amendments with Cowlitz, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Quileute, Samish, Shoalwater Bay, and Squaxin Island. This typically involved adding new elements and locations.
- State and Tribal governments are negotiating two proposed cannabis compacts.

During the past year, we sought Tribal feedback on our Tribal relations approach. After receiving feedback on multiple interest points, we redesigned our internal program and hired a dedicated Tribal liaison. The LCB recognized how the previous non-centralized approach to Tribal relations created confusion for Tribal Nations. One goal of the newly designed approach is to gain broader Tribal engagement. This includes overall policy interests and understanding how laws and rules impact Tribes, exploring health implications of state policy on Tribal

communities, and establishing education to prevent youth purchases of age-restricted products. This approach also requires the Tribal liaison to manage alcohol MOAs and cannabis compacts negotiations.

Staff contact

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Washington's Lottery

Summary

Washington's Lottery (WSL) is a state agency mandated to generate funds that support state programs. We sell tickets for games of chance to the public. Revenue from those sales pays for the costs of running the lottery business, including producing, marketing and selling lottery products. All WSL profits support the public good.

The Legislature decides how the government spends this generated revenue. Recipients of WSL's proceeds include the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, Economic Development Account, Problem Gambling Account, and General Fund Account. WSL has contributed more than \$4 billion to various state programs since its inception in 1982. In addition, we are committed to maximizing opportunities for qualified veteran-, minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and require all contractors to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal and state nondiscrimination laws.

WSL is proud to have Tribal retailers as partners in support of our mission to benefit Washingtonians.

Highlights

Fiscal year 2023 Tribal sales

- Fifty-four licensed Tribal retail locations sold tickets totaling more than \$19.9 million (\$19,992,564).
- Ticket sales at Tribal locations provided \$999,628 in sales commissions to those retailers.
- Tribal locations received \$89,750 in retailer selling bonuses.

Staff contacts

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Washington Military Department

Summary

Our mission is to minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters on people, property, the environment, and the economy of Washington and the region; provide trained and ready forces for state and federal missions; and provide at-risk youth the values, self-discipline, education, and life skills they need to succeed as productive adults. The department includes the Emergency Management Division, Washington National Guard and Washington Youth ChalleNGe Academy. EMD's 24-hour Alert and Warning Center provides timely notification to Tribes impacted by natural or human-made emergencies, and regularly tests and activates systems we use to alert Tribal communities.

Highlights

Construction and facility maintenance

- Conducted survey at WMD sites to improve our understanding of site history. This will improve consultation with the Tribes and improve the overall process.

Joint Operations Center

- Supporting engineering construction from the 176th Engineering Company to the Makah Tribe as part of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.
- Honoring Tribal veterans' knowledge, skills, and abilities for cultural communications within the Washington State Guard by recruiting those experts to join the Guard and serve as Tribal liaisons.
- Conducted initial planning to support the Colville Confederated Tribes for their hazardous material response exercise scheduled for November.

Response and logistics

- Expanded Tribal access and use of WebEOC, which provides emergency operations information to the user. It includes training, updates, and basic communications for emergency management. Conducted training and provided technical support to nine Tribes who can now access and use the program.

Hazards and Outreach program

- Held one-on-one meetings with the Quinault Indian Nation and the Tulalip Tribes to discuss outreach efforts, support, and to provide outreach materials.
- Hosted the Emergency Management Division Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Tribal Forum to provide outreach/preparedness materials to attendees.
- EMD's Tsunami program staffed an educational booth and provided NOAA weather radios at the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's 2022 Yellow Brick Road event. They provided evacuation education at the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's new vertical evacuation structure on the day of the tower's dedication ceremony.
- EMD's Tsunami program provided tsunami evacuation route and hazard zone signs to the Suquamish Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation. Completed evacuation route wayfinding analysis for Tribal lands under the jurisdictions of the Hoh Indian Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe.
- EMD's Tsunami program provided funding for tsunami inundation and current velocity maps for coastal areas. This included lands under the jurisdictions of the Hoh Indian Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Suquamish Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- Facilitated a kick-off meeting and tsunami response workshop to start developing Washington's first Tribal Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy, specifically for the Makah Tribe and the Port of Neah Bay.

Assessment and Exercise program

- We completed the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review 2022. This took place with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation. We helped determine their respective capabilities and capability gaps for the threats and hazards that affect their jurisdiction.
- Conducted the Cascadia Rising 2022 Critical Transportation, Mass Care Services, and Operational Communications exercise series. We also finalized the Cascadia Rising 2022 Summary of Conclusions (after-action report). This will help improve preparedness and address resilience strategies and communication with 14 Tribes across Washington, the American Indian Health Commission, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Recovery and human services

- Developed EMD Tribal liaison program guidelines, road map, and objectives.
- The Human Services recovery team established, funded, and provided statewide Tribal Emergency Management (EM) forums (biannual in-person meetings) for training, networking, and collaboration.
- Our division's Tribal liaison visited 30 Tribes and coordinated and supported Tribal Government Emergency Management training so that local trainers can deliver these training in Washington.

Mitigation

- The Mitigation team supported the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe as the Tribe applied for grant funding to update their Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan. We expect their application to get submitted for FEMA consideration.
- The Mitigation team provided grant program support and technical assistance to the Lummi Nation as they developed a flood mitigation project grant proposal. Mitigation team members recently toured the flood-prone areas of the Lummi Nation and met with Tribal staff to learn more about the proposed mitigation project, discuss application strategies and benefit-cost analysis considerations, and provide guidance on current and future FEMA grant opportunities.

Preparedness Grants program

- \$248,886 in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding was awarded to the Makah Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Tulalip Tribes.
- \$313,852 in Operation Stonegarden awards were provided to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to increase border security and situation awareness.
- The Puyallup Tribe and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe continued to participate as Tribal representatives under the Urban Area Security Initiative Seattle Urban Area working group.
- We provided potential Tribal applicants with outreach on grant qualifications and application specifics for funding under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program.

Emergency Management Council

- Tribes representing eastern and western Washington serve on the state's Emergency Management Council. The council advises the governor and the director of the Washington Military Department on state and local emergency management by promoting, assessing, and reporting on statewide emergency readiness. Current members represent the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Suquamish Tribe, and Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Staff contacts

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The Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE)

Summary

The Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises' (OMWBE) mission is to increase equity and participation in public contracting and procurement for small businesses owned by minorities, women, and other socially and economically disadvantaged people. This includes Tribal members and Tribally-owned small businesses.

Our guiding principles are diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recognize that inequalities and privileges exist and are caused by differences in race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, ability, religion, region, veteran status, citizenship status, and nationality. We intentionally recognize, represent, and respect these differences. These values guide every interaction we have at OMWBE.

Highlights

OMWBE is actively working to increase the number of certified businesses. We do this by engaging with Tribes, identifying ways we can assist in the certification process, and addressing barriers in application processes. By increasing the number of certified businesses, we can offer Tribal-owned businesses the opportunity to participate in public spending and contracting. As of March, out of OMWBE's 3,102 certified businesses, 141 were native owned. In fiscal year 2022, the amount Washington spent with certified businesses was 2.96% of the overall public contracting and procurement dollars, a 0.18% increase from fiscal year 2021. Of that 2.96%, 0.32% or \$19,360,976 went to Tribal/Tribal member-owned certified businesses.

In September 2022, we welcomed Executive Director Lekha Fernandes. Director Fernandes hit the ground running, looking for new ways to assist small, diverse businesses. In winter 2022, we established a new Business Development unit to support businesses after getting certified. This means we can aid Tribes and their businesses more effectively, especially with our new statewide Outreach Team. We also identified key internal staff who will help Tribes and Tribal members get certified.

In June, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) joined the Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity. The subcabinet formed in 2015 to identify barriers that minority- and women-owned businesses face doing business with the state, and to guide Washington on its path toward contracting equity. Throughout 2022, this group worked on implementing

Executive Order (EO) 22-01 for Equity in Public Contracting. We developed and distributed an EO 22-01 Implementation Guide to agencies so they could adopt the Tools for Equity in Public Spending and implement the Access Equity system. Tribes are a key contributor in this space and we look forward to reporting on subcabinet deliverables next year.

Staff contact

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Department of Natural Resources

Summary

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a Tribal Relations department to interface and facilitate communication between DNR staff and Tribal government representatives and their staff. Currently, the Tribal Relations department of a director and deputy director with the support of a parttime executive assistant. This team advocates for the Tribal voice at the state agency table, when applicable, and after appropriate consultation.

Highlights

Outdoor access and responsible recreation: We are hearing Tribal concerns regarding increased recreation. The agency will develop a comprehensive Outdoor Access and Recreation strategic plan to help protect Tribal rights and resources, while ensuring everyone has equitable access to the outdoors.

Kelp and eelgrass conservation plan: Staff have consulted with and engaged Tribal partners to help conserve 10,000 acres of kelp forest and eelgrass meadows in the state. We will have a draft plan for review in the coming weeks.

Tree equity collaborative: This group ensures that cities and towns have the right number of trees, so all people experience the environmental, social, health, and economic benefits that trees provide. We encourage Tribal representatives to join the Steering Committee and the TEC.

First Foods program: At the 2022 DNR Tribal Summit, Tribes highlighted their concern that increased recreational use of forests, state lands, and state aquatic lands prevents access to culturally important foods for Tribes. To help identify and select pilot projects to promote first foods, we received funding to establish a new First Foods program.

Forest conservation: We received funding from the Legislature to acquire working forest lands at risk of conversion, and to conserve up to 2,000 acres of older, mature, structurally complex forests by transferring them out of trust status. We welcome Tribal consultation and engagement.

Tribal summit: We hosted the DNR Tribal Summit June 2022 and covered government-to-government topics such as salmon recovery, access concerns, recreation, resources, restoration, resiliency, and first foods.

Other accomplishments

- Adopted DNR's first government-to-government consultation policy.
- Hired a cultural resources specialist.

Staff contact

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Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Summary

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for more than 120 state parks and many undeveloped public properties that total approximately 138,000 acres throughout the state. A seven-member volunteer commission that the governor appointed provides a forum for public comment and helps set policy for the park system. The agency collaborates and consults with sovereign Tribal governments to protect and preserve a diverse array of culturally significant lands and archeological resources.

State Parks is committed to maintaining government-to-government agreements with all Tribal Nations as outlined in the Centennial Accord, RCW 43.376, Executive Order 21-02, and the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). We are working to audit our entire approach to Tribal relations by engaging collaboratively with each Tribe on best practices for Tribal engagement, outreach, and consultation.

Highlights

- We created our first Tribal relations director position as a new member of the Executive Management Team. Based on values from Tribal leaders, the agency prioritized hiring an enrolled Tribal member from Tribes with Indigenous rights in Washington. We hired Jenna Bowman, an enrolled citizen of the Tulalip Tribes, in January and she is working to establish and improve relationships between State Parks and Tribal governments.
- We responded to concerns raised at Centennial Accord meetings related to increased public use of recreational lands and the effect on Tribal reserved rights. State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife secured state funding and began meetings with Tribal leaders to co-create a system. This system helps us cooperatively manage recreation impacts on natural and cultural resources. We established a state-Tribal steering committee to oversee this effort, and the committee will co-develop tools to assess and adaptively manage recreation-related impacts across state lands.
- In early 2023, we began partnership with the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy and the Spokane Tribe of Indians on a property acquisition on the Little Spokane River adjacent to Riverside State Park. We secured initial funding in the state capital budget and the acquisition will conserve about 1,100 acres in the greater Spokane area. Spokane Tribal Fisheries intends to build a fish hatchery and a historical and ecological

interpretive center to educate the community about their Tribal history on the Little Spokane River and actively support statewide salmon reintroduction efforts.

- We continue to collaborate on the development and stewardship of the Nisqually State Park with the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Over the past year, we worked cooperatively with the Tribe to develop the final designs for the park and staffing and operation plans. We secured funding in the state capital budget to build the park and a Village Center that will feature the art, culture, and history of the Nisqually people. The Tribe's input and guidance will be strongly reflected throughout the park when it opens. We are extremely honored and proud of this partnership with the Tribe and we look forward to exploring similar partnerships with Tribal governments throughout the park system.
- The agency continued work with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe on the design and development of new exhibits for the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Seaquest State Park that will tell the Tribe's story of their history and ongoing relationship with the mountain. Our Interpretive program hosted the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and their Spiritual Leader, Tanna Endahl, at Mount St. Helens Visitor Center for a presentation. It covered the tribe's history and sovereignty. Approximately 70 State Parks staff who work in parks that lie within the Tribe's traditional territory had the chance to attend.
- State Parks, in partnership with the Recreation and Conservation Office, awarded No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grants to all five Tribal applicants for the 2023-25 grant cycle. The NCLI grants help organizations that provide programming for youth to experience the outdoors and learn about their environment.
 - Cowlitz Indian Tribe: Funding will support Cowlitz Youth Horse Camp to help youth reconnect and strengthen their cultural bond to the land and horses the Tribe once had.
 - Lummi Nation: The grant will support Lummi youth and protect the Lummi way of life, known as "Schelangen." Tribal youth will engage with culturally relevant environmental science activities and hands-on education on traditional lands.
 - Puyallup Tribe: Chief Leschi Schools will support a traditional canoe journey and Tribal students will learn about Indigenous plants, waterways, navigation, and how to cook and live outdoors.
 - Squaxin Island Tribe: Stepping Stones Outdoor Education program engages teens in Squaxin cultural practices to help Tribal youth become grounded in their culture and community by defining themselves through their environment, friends, and mentors.

- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community: High school students will learn from Tribal role models about Indigenous science, environmental stewardship, and careers in technology, engineering, and math. This takes place through the Supporting Swinomish Youth program: *Between Two Worlds*.

Staff contacts

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Puget Sound Partnership

Summary

The Puget Sound Partnership's (the Partnership) mission is to accelerate the collective effort to recover and sustain Puget Sound. Working with our partners, we generate the Puget Sound Action Agenda, which charts the course to recovery. We also manage and report on shared measurements of recovery.

We support our partners through:

- Mobilizing funding
- Removing barriers to recovery work
- Educating key decision-makers

State law also charges the Partnership's Leadership Council with creating, enacting, and tracking a recovery plan to restore salmon populations in Puget Sound.

Highlights

Ongoing collaboration with Tribal Nations and Tribal consortia is central to our collective effort. Tribal Nations lead and take part in forums that guide salmon and Puget Sound recovery and help create and apply the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

- Tribal representatives hold seats on our three boards (created by state law):
 - Leadership Council (Russell Hepfer, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe)
 - Ecosystem Coordination Board (Dave Herrera, Skokomish Indian Tribe, vice-chair; Paul Cline, Lummi Nation; and David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe)
 - Science Panel (Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)).
- They also hold multiple seats on our two advisory boards:
 - Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe, chair, and Dave Herrera, Skokomish Indian Tribe, vice-chair)
 - Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee

- Tribal Nations lead and take part in Partnership-supported Lead Entities (LEs) and Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs), established at the watershed scale. These develop and carry out priorities for salmon and ecosystem recovery.
- We collaborate with Tribal representatives through the Partnership Tribal Co-management Council (PTCC). PTCC facilitates communications and coordination between the Partnership and sovereign Tribal Nations. PTCC promotes ongoing state-Tribal government-to-government priority setting and information sharing. The Partnership’s Tribal Affairs Manager Lea Anne Burke, and NWIFC’s Puget Sound Policy Analyst Randy Lumper, coordinate PTCC and Dave Herrera (Skokomish Indian Tribe and NWIFC Commissioner). Dennis McLerran (Partnership Leadership Council) co-chair the council. PTCC meets virtually monthly. Its members include:
 - Tribal leadership and staff members
 - NWIFC staff
 - Partnership board members, leadership, and staff
- Tribal representatives take part in our internal Equity Advisory Group. This group develops recommendations to integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice considerations into each Partnership board, working group, and committee.

Partnership staff work with Tribal Nations and Tribal consortia on important salmon and Puget Sound recovery issues.

- In summer 2022, the Partnership’s Pro-Equity Anti-Racism Strategic Action Plan prioritized the engagement with Tribal governments in a manner that is separate and distinct from stakeholder engagement practices. This aligns with state-Tribal government-to-government policies and protocols.
- In summer and fall 2022, the Partnership participated in roundtable discussions on ways to protect and restore riparian habitat. Tribes were key leaders in this group, which included:
 - Governor’s Office
 - Other state agencies
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural and timber representatives
 - Nonprofit organizations

- In fall 2022, the Partnership took part in the Tribal briefing and listening session on the Department of Health’s Environmental Health Disparities Map.
- In October 2022, the Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission co-hosted Puget Sound Day on the Sound. At the event, Rep. Derek Kilmer and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, co-chairs of the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, shared their priorities for Puget Sound and salmon recovery. This event was hosted at the Nisqually Cultural Center.
- In May 2023, the Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission co-hosted Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. During this event, we met with our Congressional delegation and senior administration officials to discuss how the federal government could enhance its role in salmon and watershed recovery. Our Congressional delegation credits this event with providing the support they need to increase funding for crucial salmon and Puget Sound recovery work.
- In May 2023, the Partnership took part in the inaugural Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force. This task force will help coordinate federal agencies to protect treaty rights and implement the Action Agenda. The Tribal Management Conference also participates in the task force. The Partnership’s Leadership Council Chair, Dennis McLerran, chairs the State Advisory Committee of the task force.
- The Partnership continues to provide a financial match for Tribal implementation and capacity grants awarded as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Puget Sound Geographic program.

The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act mandates us to expand our external work on treaty rights, Tribal sovereignty, and environmental justice efforts.

- In February 2022, the Partnership’s Tribal Liaison’s title was changed to Tribal Affairs Manager to reflect the elevated role and responsibilities of the position. Lea Anne Burke (Lumbee) continues in this position as part of Executive Director Laura Blackmore’s office and the Equity and Environmental Justice program.
- In June 2023, the Partnership published its list of significant agency actions, which will require environmental justice assessments. These assessments include increased ongoing engagement and formal invitations for government-to-government consultations to the federally recognized Tribal Nations of Puget Sound.

- In June 2023, the Partnership published our budget and funding policy. This will require incorporating criteria into funding and proposal requests to recognize Tribal rights and interests. We will continue to refine our processes, and we expect these criteria will evolve.
- Partnership staff must attend the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs’ day-long government-to-government training. During this reporting period, 100% of our staff (outside of Fiscal and Human Resources) have completed this training. The Partnership offers this training to its board members and working groups.

Staff contact

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Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) manages grant programs, councils and boards, and policy offices. These organizations help Tribes, state, and local governments, and non-governmental entities recover salmon and orca, create places for outdoor recreation, and protect wildlife habitat and working lands.

Grants

For fiscal years 2022-23, RCO awarded more than \$12 million in grants to 15 tribes for 39 projects. These projects helped restore and protect salmon habitat, develop athletic and boating facilities, create water access sites, and protect critical riparian habitats. Funding for these grants came from seven salmon-related and seven recreation-related grant programs.

Since 1972, when the agency first funded a tribal project, RCO administered 688 grants to 28 tribes. Totaling more than \$251 million, these projects helped tribes with recreation and athletic facilities, salmon habitat restoration, fish hatchery improvements, and outdoor education.

Highlights

Salmon recovery projects

RCO is working with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians to restore the Stillaguamish River estuary. The project targets 230 acres of tidal wetlands and restores estuary rearing habit for salmon. In another project, we are working with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group to reconnect nearly 10 miles of side channels along the Yakima River and restore natural floodplain processes on more than 946 acres of riparian habitat.

Recreation and conservation projects

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is using an RCO grant to develop design plans that will update equipment and restrooms at a playground next to the Susan Wilbur Early Education Center.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Spokane's Parks and Recreation Division will use an RCO grant to develop designs to renovate Snwx mene (Salmon People) Island, formally known as Canada Island, in Riverfront Park.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is using a grant to buy and permanently conserve 1,042 acres of commercial timberlands and salmon stream to expand the Nisqually Community Forest.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

GSRO collaborates with Tribes through Governor's Office initiatives, the governor's Statewide Salmon Strategy Update, a biennial State of Salmon in Watersheds report, Southern Resident orca recovery, federal priorities, salmon recovery boards, and watershed lead entity groups.

Highlights

- GSRO is working with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to establish a lead entity to support salmon reintroduction above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. This effort includes close coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and other Tribes through Upper Columbia United Tribes.
- GSRO is working with the Governor's Office and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and Nez Perce Tribe on the Columbia-Snake River System Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service process.

Washington Invasive Species Council

The council regularly collaborates with Tribes to monitor invasive species, promote a statewide awareness week, and host technical and working groups, workshops, and trainings. Tribes appoint two council members.

Highlights

- The council collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Washington State University to offer a series of workshops that brought 280 Tribal attendees together and focused on invasive species.
- The council completed the Washington Spotted Lanternfly State Action Plan, which addressed the cultural impacts of a plant health emergency on Tribes.

RCO's cultural resource consultation

RCO recognizes protecting archeological and historic resources is an issue of mutual concern. Consulting with Tribes on projects before awarding grants is crucial. RCO-funded projects are reviewed under several different state and federal regulations. This includes Executive Order 21-02, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Revised Code of Washington 27.53, and these written accords. The goal is to minimize harm to cultural resources. RCO also facilitates cultural resources trainings for grant recipients, participates in the annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit, and frequently meets with Tribal staff.

Staff contact

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Results Washington (Office of the Governor)

Summary

Results Washington, founded in 2013 within the Office of the Governor, integrates performance management, continuous improvement, and cross-agency collaboration to achieve key goals and improve government effectiveness. Our vision is to be a collaborative partner championing the best results for the great state of Washington. We support the governor's five goals to achieve:

- World-class education
- A prosperous economy
- Sustainable energy and a clean environment
- Healthy and safe communities
- Efficient, effective, and accountable government

Highlights

- Virtually hosted the [11th Annual Lean Transformation Conference](#), which provided free continuous improvement-focused learning opportunities to over 4,300 participants, comprised primarily of state government employees. We also welcomed participants from across the country.
- Hosted Gov. Jay Inslee's Public Performance Reviews. We intentionally widened our focus to address inequities that exist in state government by engaging with agencies who work closely with communities that are impacted by state policies.
- Completed Results Washington strategic planning work in partnership with small and large agencies to develop a performance management platform for Washington that integrates continuous improvement, including Lean, and performance management. Cabinet agencies' strategic plans are posted on our website.
- Results Washington also works with executive branch agencies and the State Auditor's Office to encourage performance management and continuous improvement principles throughout the performance audit process. Individual agency action plans can be found on our website.

- In November, we re-established the enterprisewide Continuous Improvement Community of Practice (CI CoP) in alignment with [Gov. Inslee's Executive Order 13-04](#). This community serves as a platform for CI practitioners to share expertise, strategies, and resources. That way, the attendees can continue fostering CI efforts in their agencies and help us reduce inefficiencies and provide quality services for Washingtonians.

Staff contact

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Department of Revenue

Summary

The Department of Revenue remains committed to strengthening our government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations by dedicating staff and resources to work with Tribes, Tribal citizens, Tribal businesses, and others doing business in Indian Country. We continue to strive for timely responses and rulings to inquiries from Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and the businesses working in Indian Country. To continue direct engagement with Tribal leaders, the next Tribal Tax Advisory Group meeting takes place Sept. 27, 2023.

Highlights

In addition to this work, a few other highlights over the last fiscal year include:

- Continued to educate and share information with businesses regarding the fishing, hunting, and gathering exemption (an extension of the Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Consultation that concluded in 2022). This included responding to several Tribes' requests for education in specific areas and creating materials customized for retailers. In certain cases, the department visited retailers to educate and answer questions.
- Met with Tribal leaders and staff of the Quinault Indian Nation to discuss implementing SHB 1711 (2023), which provides a state sales and use tax exemption for internet and telecommunications infrastructure projects that involve a federally-recognized Tribe. Additionally, we created educational materials for contractors working on the project.
- Worked with several Tribes to update our tax rate lookup tool with the boundaries of their respective federal trust properties. As a result, businesses should know that purchases with delivery to these properties do not owe tax.
- Received and processed property tax exemption applications from Tribes for more than 300 parcels, which is over a 200% increase from previous years. Assisted some Tribes to connect with county officials to understand and educate them on Tribal exemptions.
- Continued cigarette compact meetings with Tribes.
- Processed and issued an increased number of Tribal refund requests.
- Compacted with two additional Tribes for retail taxes compacts.

Staff contact

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Office of the Secretary of State

Summary

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and the Secretary of State's Office continue to work closely with Tribal communities to expand knowledge of their unique histories, ensure their right to vote and participate in the electoral process, and maintain historical and literary documents related to Washington's Tribes.

Highlights

Washington State Library

The Washington Center for the Book (an affiliate of The Library of Congress Center for the Book, administered by Washington State Library) chose *Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk* by Sasha taq^wšəblu LaPointe to represent Washington state (along with *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera) at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 3, 2022. On Jan. 17, the Washington Center for the Book co-sponsored the Indigenous Voices: An Evening of Poetry & Conversation event held at s'g^{wi} g^{wi} ? altx^w: House of Welcome at The Evergreen State College.

In 2022, Sara Peté, director of the Washington Center for the Book, wrote a letter supporting Rena Priest's grant proposal for her wonderful "I Sing the Salmon Home: Poems from Washington State" project. When the project was complete, and the book was published, the Washington State Library mailed copies of this book to libraries across the state.

The Washington State Library contracted with Tribal Technology Training (T3) to produce six live-recorded trainings. These focused on adapting a Northstar digital skills platform (this is a digital learning program for libraries and schools) for learners through a lens of cultural humility and cultural competency. These trainings are available to libraries and community-based organizations statewide to support those teaching and learning foundational digital skills.

In the fall 2022, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded basic grants of up to \$10,000 each to 11 Tribes: Samish Indian Nation, Quinault Indian Nation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Makah Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, and Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The Makah Indian Tribe was awarded an IMLS Enhancement Grant for \$149,516.

The Makah Indian Tribe will support the Makah Cultural and Research Center's (MCRC) efforts to expand and enhance access to the Robert E. Johnson and Diamond/Miller collections (a catalog of native Makah language). MCRC archives and library staff will follow best practices to digitize collections, including field notes, index cards, audio recordings, and transcripts. They will use the newly processed and digitized resources in MCRC's Makah Language program for four bilingual language workshops with new visual aids, word lists, and video assets to reinvigorate Makah culture, history, and language learners at every level.

Legacy Washington

This division of the Secretary of State has started on our current project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Boldt Decision. The finished product will include a biography of Judge Boldt and profiles of people involved in the fishing rights movement, the trial, and implementing the new policies.

Our student contest, [What's in a Place Name?](#) will return this fall, asking students to research local places to discover how their name fits into Washington's history and their community's values. Resources include efforts to rename places originally given names considered offensive to Indigenous people. On Legacy Washington's social media channels, we spotlight previous material relating to Tribal history. This includes ["We're Still Here.": The Survival of Washington Indians](#). Both [Browsing the Stacks](#) and [Grand Coulee to Grunge: Eight Stories That Changed the World](#) highlight the Columbia Basin Project, including the devastating effects on the Colville Tribes. We also continue to promote exhibits and standalone profiles about noteworthy Native Americans, including Billy Frank, Jr., Hank Adams, Joann Kauffman, Fawn Sharp, Janet McCloud, and Stan Jones. See the [Legacy Washington Information website](#) for more information.

Elections Division

The Secretary of State's office has dedicated Elections staff responsible for outreach to tribal communities. This team works with Washington Tribes to promote education and outreach tools for Tribal voters. We assist Tribal-led voter registration drives by providing voter registration training forms, buttons, stickers, posters, and pens – free upon request. An outreach team attended the 2023 Canoe Journey Protocol, hosted by the Muckleshoot, with 8,000 to 10,000 people attending. We continue to meet with Tribal governments to provide online voter registration using Tribal ID card data. [VoteWA.gov](#) uses a GPS that allows nontraditional addresses for voter registration purposes. We partner with Tribal governments to establish ballot mailing sites on Tribal land so that voters who might not have a mailing address can use the Tribal government buildings' mailing addresses to receive and send their ballots. We coordinated the installation of thirty-five ballot drop boxes on Tribal land, a 106%

increase from 2018. Another 105 drop boxes are within five miles of Tribal land. Visit our [Voter Information](#) website for more information.

Washington State Archives

The Washington State Archives scans and publishes hundreds of government documents and photographs from various Tribal communities. These documents include marriage licenses, land records, historic maps, reservation censuses, oral histories, and court papers from state and local courts. Readers can search and view these items at the [Digital Archives website](#).

Address Confidentiality program

The Address Confidentiality program (ACP) serves Tribal survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking by issuing a substitute address to use instead of the survivor's actual address in the public record. In addition, ACP protects two public records: voting and marriage. ACP partners with advocates within Tribal communities so that survivors may gain access to ACP services through trusted Tribal resources. Visit our [Address Confidentiality program](#) website to learn more.

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) provides comprehensive statewide library services at the library and by mail for Washington Tribal residents who can't read standard print material due to blindness, visual impairment, deafblindness, physical disability (cannot hold a book or turn pages), or a reading disability. Services include books and magazines in audio or Braille, sent free by mail or downloaded from our website or mobile device for reading convenience. WTBBL produces books with a northwest focus on audio and Braille at the library and provides readers advisory, training and instruction, and youth services. Programming includes a virtual patron book club, memory kits, summer reading, early literacy, accessible gaming lab, and multisensory story times. Visit the [WTBBL](#) page to learn more.

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Department of Social and Health Services

Summary

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services is the largest state agency, with over 18,000 full-time employees serving approximately 3 million clients annually. Our services include aging and long-term care, behavioral health, development disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, Medicaid pathways based on age and disability, and other public benefits in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services (such as supplemental nutrition assistance for families).

We have accomplished much in a short time with the talents and creativity of many. Our staff lead with passion and dedication as they serve in locations around the state. The agency is focused on becoming a pro-equity and anti-racist agency, building strength, belonging and justice for our staff and clients. We are also focused on ensuring a stable and supported workforce. Whether we hire a 24/7 direct caregiver, a public benefits specialist, or a home care aide, we strive to offer these high demand positions a competitive salary. DSHS is committed to this work as one agency, with one voice. Now is the time for new ideas of doing business.

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA)

Summary

DSHS' Aging and Long-Term Support Administration promotes choice, independence, and safety through innovative services and partnerships. We serve our clients with honesty and integrity, commitment to service, diversity and inclusion, and open communication. Our vision is to see people healthy, safe, and supported.

Highlights

- **Tribal Affairs Office:** Increased the Tribal Affairs office staff to focus on new initiatives such as the Tribal Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports functional determination contract (used when someone needs support to perform their daily living activities).
- **Adult Protective Services:** Revamped and expanded access for Tribal representatives to attend our Adult Protective Service Academy.

- **State unit on aging:** Continues to work with Tribes and Tribal area agency on aging to provide and rebuild elder services. Area Agencies on Aging (long-term care organizations) provide local, community-based, state, and Medicaid-related services.
- **Lifespan respite:** This grant will increase respite (rest or break) service options tailored to the needs of Tribal communities, family caregivers, and providers.
- **Tribal Kinship Navigator program:** Navigators served Tribes in supporting services related to kinship care, community resources, and state programs.
- **Health Home program:** This program promotes person-centered health action planning and encourages individuals to take charge of their own health care.
- **Nutrition services:** Expanded existing home-delivered meal programs and provided meals to elders who may be homebound.
- **Medicaid Transformation Project waiver:** We extended the Medicaid Alternative Care and Tailored Supports for Older Adults program, which has served 9,900 people. This crucial service helps older participants get quicker access to Medicaid-funded home and community-based services when they use the 1115 waiver (which is called Medicaid Transformation Project).
- **High School Home Care Aide course:** AL TSA and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction created a High School Home Care Aide course for high school students.
- **WA Cares:** Employees started to contribute to this long-term care program through their paycheck in 2023. We created new coverage options in 2022 to broaden the program's reach.

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Behavioral Health Administration

Summary

DSHS' Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) provides long-term inpatient treatment to people with intensive behavioral health needs. DSHS operates Eastern and Western state hospitals and the Child Study and Treatment Center. BHA provides forensic behavioral health services through the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services. BHA also operates the Special

Commitment Center, which provides services for individuals who are civilly committed for sex offenses after they complete their prison sentence.

As the demand for behavioral health services rises, our dedicated staff continue to care for the state's most complex patients. Over the past nine fiscal years, requests for DSHS to provide inpatient evaluations and competency restoration services have increased by roughly 145%. These large and unpredicted increases in the number of county criminal court orders exceeded the many beds already added to the forensic system. We are working as quickly and efficiently as possible to open treatment beds for civil conversion patients. This includes establishing a new Tukwila location called Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health.

We are grateful for the more than \$2 billion in funding the Legislature approved to construct the new forensic hospital and other facilities scheduled to open in the next few years. Several new wards and facilities will bring 783 new beds. We will continue to push forward with multiple new facilities, but the demand for beds is only increasing.

Highlights

- Opened a 16-bed residential treatment facility at the Maple Lane campus in April. This is an addition to 58 beds at Western State Hospital that opened in May for Trueblood class members. In addition, 30 'not guilty by reason of insanity' beds will open at Maple Lane (creating 30 inpatient competency beds at Western) in late fall. BHA also plans to open a 48-bed civil center with all beds operated by DSHS in 2025. We are also building a civil facility on Tulalip Tribal grounds.
- Completed implementation requirements in the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement for Phase 1 (June 2021) and Phase 2 (June 2023). This work brought the forensic navigator, outpatient competency restoration, Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services and Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness programs to 11 counties across four regions. As of July, Phase 3 implementation is in its initial process. Phase 3 includes Thurston, Mason, Salish Region (Kitsap/Jefferson/Clallam). We hope to establish the same services offered in Phase 1 and Phase 2 during spring 2024.
- BHA continues to partner to pass new legislation. The Legislature recently passed [SB 5440](#), which helps patients with behavioral health disorders receive timely competency evaluations, restoration, and services.
- Tribal Affairs: Each facility (Eastern State Hospital, Western State Hospital, Special Commitment Center, Office of Forensic Mental Health Services and the Child Study and

Treatment Center) is working with outreach and advocacy for Native American patients. This includes visits with the Tribal affairs administrator.

- BHA is exploring ways to partner with Tribes/organizations/agencies to provide cultural services in the facilities, which follow recent changes to state law (10.77).

Staff contact

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Developmental Disabilities Administration

- DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration serves 495 clients across the state who have a self-identified affiliation to a federally recognized Tribe. This is an increase of 22 clients in the last 12 months.
- In March, Tonik Joseph was appointed DSHS' interim assistant secretary, and their priorities include:
 - Revised strategic measures that require DDA employees in certain positions to complete DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 instructor-led training.
 - Continue developing an American Indian/Alaska Native cultural awareness policy to ensure we deliver services in a way that respects Tribal sovereignty and cultural traditions.
 - Continue in-person visits with Tribal governments to build relationships.
 - Increase opportunities for Tribes and Tribal members to become contracted providers with DDA.
 - Improve DDA programs and services accessibility for Tribal members.
- DDA continues to engage in a government-to-government approach with Tribes related to the following legislative items:
 - [HB 1188](#) – Concerning individuals with developmental disabilities who have also received child welfare services.
 - [HB 1694](#) – Addressing home care workforce shortages.

- DDA Tribal Affairs supports Executive Order 22-04: Implementing the Washington State Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism Playbook by participating in the Raise Every Voice Campaign. The campaign is an ongoing series of events that lets DDA employees connect by sharing their lived experiences.
- In May, DDA participated in the statewide Tribal Opioid Summit to hear the impacts of the ongoing opioid epidemic. DDA supports the cultural healing identified by Tribes and participated in the July Region 10 Opioid Summit and the National Tribal Opioid Summit in August.

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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Summary

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) helps individuals with disabilities participate fully in their communities and become employed. We provide individualized vocational rehabilitation services and counseling to people with disabilities, and provide technical assistance and training to employers about employing people with disabilities. We continue cooperative working relationships and service delivery commitments with all federally recognized Tribes in Washington, including those who do not operate federally-funded Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs. We actively maintain a strong partnership at the state and local levels with all American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services programs to ensure AI/AN with disabilities receive the services they need to ensure their independence and inclusion in the workforce.

Highlights

- We hired our first statewide Tribal relations administrator October 2022 to manage the administration's government-to-government relationship with the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington.
- DVR, the Department of Services for the Blind, and AIVRS programs updated the Statewide Cooperative Agreement October 2022. This agreement commits all parties to work cooperatively and facilitate access to vocational rehabilitation services.

- DVR hosted three virtual culturally relevant presentations with Native American speakers during Native American Heritage Month in November 2022 to raise staff's awareness of Tribal experiences.

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Economic Services Administration

Summary

Our future is a Washington without poverty and injustice, while DSHS works to become an anti-racist agency without barriers to employment, services and access for our colleagues, customers, and clients. DSHS' Economic Service Administration (ESA) connects children, adults, and families to the resources and opportunities that help them reach their full potential. Nearly one of every five Washington residents receives cash, food, child support, disability determination, and supports for transitioning employment and other services. Each day, 2 million customers receive services from more than 3,900 ESA employees who help diverse individuals and families across Washington. ESA can best reduce the number of individuals and families living in poverty by developing, expanding, and nurturing strategic relationships with state, federal, Tribal, local, and community partners.

DSHS continues to collaborate with sister agencies (WaTech, Health Care Authority, Health Benefit Exchange, Department of Children, Youth and Families) to develop an integrated eligibility system. This will allow Washingtonians the ability to access public benefits more effectively. Public benefits include SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Highlights

Gov. Jay Inslee's Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG)

In January 2021, Inslee's PRWG released the [Blueprint for a Just and Equitable Future: The 10-year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington State](#). This was powered by a steering committee of people experiencing poverty, and in collaboration with agencies, legislators, Tribal and urban Indian representatives (Nickolaus Lewis and Colleen Echohawk), community organizations and employers. The plan contains eight strategies and 60 recommendations to guide Washington toward a just and equitable future.

Highlights since 2021 include:

- Over **100 policy actions** taken by the governor and Legislature.
- Over \$3 billion invested in employment and education opportunities, human services, behavioral health, affordable housing, services for people experiencing homelessness, early learning and childcare, and health care.
- Washington state poverty reduction efforts recognized as a **national best practice**:
 - **April 2021:** The **American Public Human Service Association** highlights the 10-year Plan in [Policy & Practice Magazine](#).
 - **June 2021:** Ascend @ **The Aspen Institute** highlights the 10-year Plan in [State of the Field: Two-Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being](#).
 - **November 2021:** Harvard University's **Leadership for a Networked World** does a [case study](#) on how agencies can build capacity to reduce intergenerational poverty.
 - **October 2023:** **Jennifer Bereskin**, member of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska – Unangan presented with the DSHS Economic Justice Team at the [National Academies of Science population health roundtable](#) to showcase the 10-year Plan as a model for the nation.
- Creation of a five-agency **Subcabinet on Intergenerational Poverty** to implement the 10-year Plan.

All major poverty indicators are improving. However, a lot remains to achieve equity and economic justice. State agencies are continuing to use the 10-year Plan to build their budget and policy priorities and the Economic Justice Team in DSHS is working to:

- Align state efforts to achieve joy, belonging, and well-being for all Washingtonians.
- Build a sustainable collaboration with partners and people with lived experience to ensure the work continues.
- Make measurable progress toward poverty reduction and economic justice now.

Community Services Division

- Staff from CSD and 11 Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs work closely together to coordinate services. CSD is also working with two additional Tribes who are pursuing federal approval to operate Tribal TANF programs, and intend on providing services to Tribal members soon.

- A CSD work group developed an implementation plan to expand the Tribal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Eligibility Determination Demonstration Project to other Tribes. We submitted this to USDA Food and Nutrition Service in 2020. The plan was approved effective July 1, to expand to five additional Tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians. CSD will work with these Tribes to evaluate their needs and determine next project steps.
- We use SNAP employment and training dollars to match local Tribal funding (a 75/25 reimbursement). These funds help DSHS develop and operate culturally relevant employment and training programs for SNAP-eligible residents. Current partnerships include Northwest Indian College, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Division of Child Support

- Eight Tribal child support programs operate in Washington. DCS and Tribes partner to share services that benefit kids and families. Those partnerships also contributed to DCS's child support collections last year that totaled over \$669 million.
- **Significant changes for child support resulting from foster care referrals:** In July 2022, the federal Administration for Children and Families issued a letter notifying child welfare and child support agencies of policy changes that support family reunification. In response, DCYF stopped sending referrals to DCS on foster care cases. DCS closed nearly 20,000 existing foster care support cases and wrote off outstanding child support payments accrued during foster-care periods. For cases that do not meet the criteria to close, DCS is evaluating options to help achieve family reunification, debt write-off, and closure. We continue to work with other jurisdictions (including Tribal IV-D programs) responding to these changes.
- **Behavioral interventions and human-centered design:** Using human-centered design, we incorporated customers' ideas into our work and saw increased engagement and communication from parents. Based on feedback, DCS developed an informational video about completing required documentation and simplified other paperwork to make sure customers have clear contact information and understand next steps. A project work group is also reviewing our automated phone system (the KIDS Line) and using human behavior as a guide for improvements.
- **Project to engage ABD/HEN customers:** Parents who qualify for benefits from the Aged, Blind and Disabled or Housing and Essential Needs programs may need to have their child support obligation(s) modified to match their circumstances. A DCS/CSD work

group delivered recommendations to better connect with parents who receive these benefits. DCS' Alternative Solutions staff are the first points of contact and will proactively work with parents on child support issues.

- **Legislative updates:** Several new laws passed in 2022 and 2023:
 - **Compensate individuals:** Effective June 9, 2022. [2SSB 5793](#) lets agencies compensate individuals who participate in certain meetings, and who have lived experience or who are lower income. This helps promote more equitable policy development and decision-making. Agencies can offer a stipend to those who aren't receiving similar compensation (i.e., salary from an employer).
 - **Establish a payment reporting obligation:** Effective July 23. [HB 1262/SB 5255](#) requires businesses to report bonuses and lump-sum payments. Expanding this requirement to all employers ensures DCS can intercept money from these payments more equitably. (Tribal businesses and enterprises do not need to do this).

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Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration

- FFA helps manage Tribal-consolidated contracts through intergovernmental agreements. This includes preparing, negotiating, and maintaining agreements with General Terms and Conditions (GTC) that get developed for DSHS. These recently updated agreements are in effect from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2029.
- FFA consults with Tribal governments concerning proposed construction activities on DSHS' state-owned lands.
- FFA collaborates with Tribal Nations on mass care, emergency assistance, temporary housing, and human services. This provides life-sustaining resources and services.

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Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education

Summary

The Office of Native Education (ONE) serves under Washington State’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We are a liaison among school districts, Tribal governments, state-Tribal education compact schools (STECs), Tribal schools, Native communities, parents and guardians of Native children and other groups and individuals. The primary goal is to help school districts meet the educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students. To meet this goal, we:

- Facilitate the development and implementation of curricula and instructional materials in Native languages, culture and history, and the concept of Tribal sovereignty.
- Help districts acquire funding to develop curricula and instructional materials with Native language practitioners and Tribal elders.
- Coordinate the implementation of state-Tribal education compact schools.
- Coordinate technical assistance for public schools that serve AI/AN students.
- Implement support services to increase AI/AN teachers and principals, and provide professional development for educational assistants, teachers, and principals who serve AI/AN students.
- Facilitate the instruction of Native language programs in districts.
- Work with relevant agencies and committees to highlight the need for accurate, useful data that is appropriately disaggregated to provide a more accurate picture of AI/AN students.
- Serve on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Advisory Committee to develop statewide support to expand and promote SEL.
- Provide opportunities for AI/AN student and families listening sessions.
- Collaborate with partners to develop programs and grant reviews to ensure equity in topics such as wellness, outdoor learning, and science technology and engineering.
- Annually report to the governor, the Legislature, and the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) on the status of Native education in Washington.

- Continue to collaborate with and provide support to school districts, Tribes, and state, regional, and national Native and other organizations.

Highlights

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funded programs

ONE continued leading projects that serve Native learners, families, and communities by using state-allocated federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)/American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We used these federal relief funds for:

- **Tribal language grants:** Each Tribe in Washington is working to preserve, restore, and grow their Tribal language. Funds were used for seed grants to build capacity for, implement, and expand P–12 Tribal language programs. OSPI/ONE issued 28 ESSER funded grants ranging from \$60,000–\$240,000, for a total of \$2 million. We also used funds for a temporary ONE position to lead Tribal language program development and professional learning. This position is now permanent and funded in collaboration with OSPI Multilingual Education to support, expand, and strengthen Tribal language opportunities in state school districts.
- **American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) learner identification and data training:** Under identifying and misidentifying AI/AN learners is an ongoing systemic issue in our school systems. We continue to develop media and written training resources to raise awareness about the impacts of this issue. We also educate learners with district personnel and Tribal families to improve registration and reporting processes across the state.
- **Since Time Immemorial (STI) Tribal-developed curriculum:** Educators can use resources that help develop Tribal specific resources for Pre–K through 12th grade classroom lessons. Nine of the 29 federally recognized Tribes developed Tribal specific lessons, videos, and/or projects to support the STI curriculum.
- **Native American Educator Cultivation program:** This ESSER funded capacity-building project helps develop systemic change to identify, support, recruit, and retain Native American educators in Washington. To do this work effectively, we hired a program supervisor to identify cultivation pathways to increase Native educators. We also hired a data specialist to provide educator data to the program. The program awarded six grants totaling \$470,888. These grants increase Native educators across the state and establish connections with all 29 federally recognized Tribes, school districts, ESDs (educational service districts), and community-based organizations. Building

relationships is the foundation of this program and we will continue to cultivate this concept. Monthly community connection sessions are held every month on the second Thursday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. through Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89136342206>).

- **Mitigate effects of intergenerational trauma and strengthen social-emotional learning:** We developed and delivered trainings on intergenerational trauma and colonization experienced by AI/AN students and families. These trainings continue to impact well-being and educational outcomes.
- **Attendance and re-engagement project:** Six State-Tribal education compact schools participate in this project to meet the needs of AI/AN learners and families. This project provides unique supports and services for this demographic to connect and re-engage with schools.

Tribal coordination

In response to COVID-19, ONE continued to collaborate with the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC), STEC school leaders, Tribal leaders Congress on Education, Region 16 Comprehensive Centers (in partnership with Alaska, Oregon, and Washington), and all state Native education organizations to elevate and respond to the needs of more than 64,000 Native learners and their families.

ONE participated in the Tribal Leaders and White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities Summit on Indian Education Policy. The purpose was to unify the federally recognized Tribes of the northwest region so they could engage with state and federal officials and seek solutions that support Native American students.

District-Tribal consultation guidance

In consultation with Tribes and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education (TLC), ONE developed a Tribal consultation protocol. The protocols are based upon the 1989 Centennial Accord, which created [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 43.376](#) that describes government-to-government relations. The intention is to sustain quality and healthy relations between the state and Tribes.

ONE's Tribal Consultation program supervisor continues to collaborate with OSPI Consolidated Program Review staff to support implementing the ESSA Strengthen Tribal Consultation processes and ensure federal program application and review processes are completed accurately. We also continue to collaborate with the Washington State School Directors'

Association (WSSDA) to assess and strengthen government-to-government relationship building protocols between Tribes and school districts throughout the state.

State law directed ONE's Tribal Consultation program supervisor partner with WSSDA to conduct three Tribal leaders and school directors convenings across the state. Convenings were held in Swinomish, Yakima, and Spokane in April and May 2023. We will publish a report of the survey results in September. WSSDA's Government-to-Government Task Force is already planning for next year's events. As part of this collaboration, WSSDA developed [Tribal consultation resources](#) for school directors.

Tribal consultation training: The purpose of Tribal consultation is to make sure Tribal governments or representatives **and** state or federal education agencies can provide input, feedback, and recommendations on education policies, programs, and services that impact the success of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students. This includes curriculum development, teacher training, student assessment, special education, language, and cultural preservation. We are implementing required trainings, as well. They include the following.

School district consultation with local Tribes (Substitute Senate Bill 5252)

Legislature: Starting Sept. 1, 2024, school board directors, superintendents, and any other school district staff that must engage in Tribal consultation need to take Tribal consultation training. This training focuses on identifying Native students, sharing data, implementing Tribal history, culture, and government.

We completed the three-hour Strengthening Tribal Consultation for School Board Training Curriculum in April 2023. In-person trainings started May 11, at Nespalem, Washington. We held other trainings at Tulalip Museum and Yakima Valley Community College. Approximately 50 people are certified so far. Our most recent training took place Aug. 30, in Tumwater, with additional 50 people. We will hold additional trainings in Forks in September. Hybrid trainings will be scheduled through the winter months. The three curriculum workshop titles are:

- Sovereignty, Establishment of Tribes, and Tribal Government
- Data Sovereignty: Understanding Federal and State AI/AN Identification Policies
- School Board's Role in Enacting Government-to-Government Relationships

Continuing education requirements (House Bill 1426)

Legislature: Administrators must complete the government-to-government training when they renew their certificates. This requirement focuses on equity practices in schools and is effective June 30, 2024.

We completed the five-hour Administrator’s Government-to-Government Relationships Training Curriculum in January and vetted it in a meeting with the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs and Tribal Leaders Congress. In-person trainings with five subject matter experts as presenters started Aug. 8, at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Another hybrid training took place in Central Washington University, Ellensburg. As of August, approximately 300 out of 1,000 administrators have attended the trainings.

A hybrid training will happen in September and we will schedule a final training for April. This offers educators enough time to get their paperwork certified before the June 30, 2024, deadline. We hope to also complete and offer asynchronous classes (where you can learn on your own schedule) by the end of January 2024. The five curriculum workshops titles are:

- Sovereignty, Establishment of Tribes, Tribal Government
- Colonization and Intergenerational Trauma
- Data Sovereignty: Understanding Federal and State American Indian/Alaska Native Identification Policies
- Enacting Government-to-Government Relationships
- Administrator’s Role in the Government-to-Government Relationship

Implementing new legislation

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5187 (2023): \$525,000 in funding will establish a work group to serve American Indian and Alaska Native students who need additional literacy supports. OSPI has invited ONE to collaborate with literacy leaders within the agency.

Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee

The [Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee](#) (WSNAEAC) met with State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. Topics included the pandemic response and covering things beyond ESSER funding, funding for dual language, [Seal of Biliteracy](#), professional development for Native youth, Tribal languages, dual credit, transportation, meals, and other areas that need funding.

The WSNAEAC met with ONE nine times to discuss ensuring all AI/AN students can access online learning. They also discussed building relationships and strengthening Tribal consultation between school districts and local Tribes, dedicating resources to mitigate learning loss during from the pandemic, strengthening social emotional learning and development, school plans

regarding mental health and social emotional development and learning, addressing post-pandemic issues of graduation requirements, and raising awareness of issues regarding Title VI and ESSA schools. Work also continued in the newly revised WSNAEAC sub-committees:

- Bylaws
- Government-to-Government Relations
- Data Policy and Practices
- Social-Emotional Development and Learning
- Early Learning (STI, CTE, Curriculum and Assessment)
- K–12 Education (STI, CTE, Curriculum and Assessment)
- Post Secondary (STI, CTE, Curriculum and Assessment)

State-Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECS)

ONE met, virtually, every two weeks in the 2022-23 school year with STEC staff to provide technical support, guidance, educational and financial opportunities, and other supports. ONE hosts meetings to strengthen and sustain collaborations. Readers can find [additional details related to STEC schools on the OSPI website.](#)

Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Curriculum Project

We developed a model online curriculum for elementary, middle, and high schools in response to legislative requirements. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this included the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education, the Washington State School Directors' Association, the Washington State Board of Education, and OSPI. Native American history, culture, and civics were infused into curriculum content and resources that school districts most commonly use.

The goal is to imbed the history surrounding Tribal sovereignty and inter-governmental responsibilities into classrooms, in collaboration with the Tribe nearest the district. That way, all citizens understand the unique relationships of Tribes and Tribal citizens in Washington. Now, all lesson resources are aligned with state learning standards for social studies, English language arts, environmental and sustainability education, and social-emotional learning. The curriculum has also been translated into Spanish to increase accessibility. [The STI curriculum is available on the OSPI website.](#)

During this reporting period, ONE conducted STI introductory webinars and additional trainings took place through conference workshops and district/school coordinated staff trainings. Where possible, Tribal education and/or culture specialists helped plan and teach these trainings. Districts continue developing systemic districtwide plans, in collaboration with Tribal partners, to implement the curriculum. ONE also continues to collaborate with PESB and Tribal higher education representatives to integrate STI into teacher preparation programs. Many administrative preparation programs are also integrating STI into their courses.

Native Voices Arts Academy project

The Native Voices Arts Academy project enters its fifth year engaging middle school-aged AI/AN students who qualify for Title 1, Part C Migratory Education. Students who qualify do so by participating in traditional lifeways such as fishing, hunting, and gathering across district boundaries. This enables districts to identify these students and offer culturally relevant supports and learning that would otherwise not be available. Students and classroom educators from four school districts and one STECS meet quarterly to learn with Native artist teachers connecting with STI. This past year, many educators participated in mentorships with Native artist mentor teachers and local Tribal educators to co-design and co-facilitate classroom lessons on language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. This is a collaboration among schools, local Tribes, OSPI's Migrant Education, Arts Education, ONE, and Arts Impact (nonprofit). Funding for this project comes from the OSPI Migrant Education program.

Career Connect Learning Tribal engagement specialist

We have a Tribal liaison to facilitate access to, and support enrollment in, career-connected learning opportunities for Tribal students. This way, Tribal students can receive high school or college credit. The liaison works with the Career Connect Washington coalition as well as Career and Technical Education (CTE) leads to expand career-connected and work-based learning opportunities within the state's Tribal compact schools, and school districts serving Tribal youth. Through partnership and coordination, the liaison helps develop and expand Career Launch, Career Prep, and Career Explore programs that increase access and outcomes for Tribal youth.

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Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

Summary

The American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) traffic death rate is more than four times higher than all other races. In the previous 10 years, Washington lost 265 AI/AN people to traffic deaths. In 2021, Washington experienced 43 AI/AN traffic fatalities, which represented a 105% increase in fatalities from 2020. AI/AN traffic death rates per 100,000 population highlight the top risks that leads to traffic deaths, particularly impaired driving and not wearing seat belts. And, seat belt observation surveys consistently show that seat belt use is lower on Tribal lands than across the state.

Traffic death data indicates the following:

- One-third of AI/AN deaths came from occupants not wearing a seat belt (other races made up less than 20%).
- Nearly three of every four (72%) AI/AN traffic fatalities involved driving impairment (other races made up 57%).
- Almost half of AI/AN traffic fatalities were people ages 26-45 (other races made up 32% of these ages).
- More than one-third of AI/AN traffic deaths occurred in Yakima County

(only 5% of other races followed this trend).

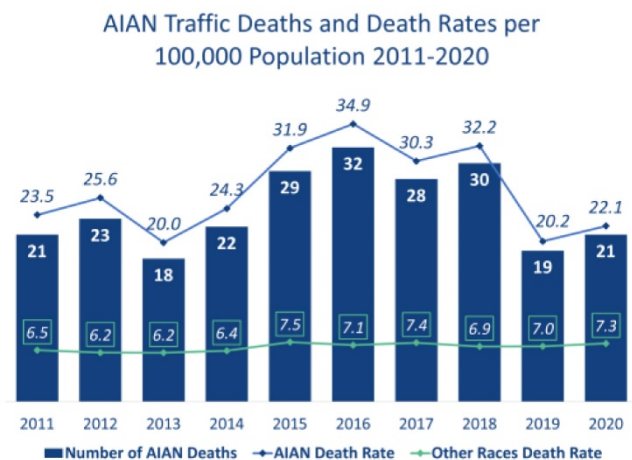


Figure 1: Chart of AI/AN Traffic Deaths and Death Rates per 100,000 Population 2012-2021. Data Source: Washington Codified Fatal Crash files, Washington Traffic Safety Commission (<https://bit.ly/47kZmE5>).

Highlights

- Our Tribal liaison is on the steering committee for the newly implemented Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program (NW TTAP), which provides free training, technical assistance, and technology transfer support to Tribal transportation programs.
- We participated in the Yakama Nation Tribal Traffic Safety Committee that improves traffic safety efforts for Yakama Nation citizens on and off Tribal land.

- We joined a stakeholder group that is developing a Guide for Increasing Seat Belt Use in Indian Country in response to Tribes' needs and is exploring culturally appropriate traffic safety strategies.
- A new law requires WTSC to prioritize its review of pedestrian, bicyclist, or non-motorist fatality and serious injuries when the victim is a federally recognized Tribe member (RCW 43.59.156).

We remain committed to collaborating and working with Washington's American Indian communities on traffic safety program efforts.

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Washington Department of Transportation

Summary

WSDOT provides safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation options to improve communities and economic vitality for people and businesses. Our vision is to provide a safe, sustainable, and integrated multimodal transportation system. WSDOT collaborates with Tribes on a variety of transportation issues, including project development and administration, safety, planning, and workforce development. A key element of this work is consulting with Tribes regarding the effects of WSDOT projects on natural resources, cultural resources, and other Tribal interests. These highlights are a small sample of the accomplishments and day-to-day coordination and collaboration between Tribes and WSDOT.

Highlights

- WSDOT has corrected 15 fish barriers over the past year, improving access to approximately 30 miles of habitat. 14 of these barriers were subject to the federal court injunction. Since the injunction was issued in 2013, WSDOT has corrected a total of 114 injunction fish barriers that improved access to 502 miles of habitat. WSDOT currently has 100 fish barriers within executed construction contracts and expects to have about 200 more fish barriers under contract for correction within the next 18 months. WSDOT continues to consult with Tribes on implementing our [2030 Fish Passage Delivery Plan](#). This plan is updated quarterly.
- WSDOT's East Fork Lewis River Bridge Replacement Project Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The MOA includes substantial Tribal participation in the archaeological data recovery and environmental restoration, which the Tribes requested.
- WSDOT's Olympic Region, in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, completed a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for I-5/Marvin Rd to Mounts Rd. After a detailed evaluation, a preferred alternative has been chosen to advance into NEPA.
- WSDOT's South Central Region partnered with the Yakama Nation and received a RAISE Grant for the Heritage Connectivity Trails Advancing Mobility and Communities Phase 1 (Planning Study). The Yakama Nation is developing the project to address pedestrian deaths and serious injuries along US 97 between Union Gap and Toppenish.
- The Active Transportation Division awarded over \$10 million in grants for improvements to pedestrian and bicyclist safety and connectivity. This goes either directly to a Tribe or

to the agency managing a roadway within Tribal lands. Tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, and Yakama Nation. These funds came through three programs: Safe Routes to School, Pedestrian/Bicyclist program, and the new Sandy Williams Connecting Communities program.

- WSDOT’s Olympic Region was a co-applicant on a successful 2023 RAISE grant application for the Puget Sound to Pacific trail planning effort, receiving a \$16.13 million federal award. The Suquamish Tribe and Quileute Tribe were co-applicants, and the application was also supported by the Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes.

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Utilities and Transportation Commission

Summary

We regulate investor-owned utilities that directly impact and serve Tribal communities, including electric, natural gas, water, and solid waste services. We also inspect the safety of pipelines and railroad crossings on Tribal lands.

We support the Centennial Accord through collaboration and information sharing. During the last year, we strengthened partnerships between Tribes and the commission to encourage understanding, cooperation, and trust.

Highlights

We presented at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Energy Summit. In June 2023, we presented information about the Clean Energy Transformation Act and opportunities for Tribal engagement at the energy summit at the Tulalip Resort Casino. UTC staff connected with Tribal leaders, interested persons, and community partners. During the summit, we participated in conversations about navigating the cultural, economic, and social challenges of implementing clean energy projects.

We completed a railroad crossing inspection in Colville. In September 2022, we issued a crossing surface defect to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation related to the Rodeo Trail Road/Eighth Avenue crossing. Colville Indian Power & Veneer has a private agreement with the railroad. In that agreement, Colville Indian Power & Veneer is responsible for all crossing maintenance. Colville Confederated Tribes' Real Estate Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs contacted the UTC to clarify their understanding of the defect notice and areas of responsibility. We worked with the parties and responded to questions. The Colville Confederated Tribes' Department of Transportation corrected the crossing surface defect in July.

We responded to a BNSF Railway train derailment in Anacortes. On March 16, we responded to a train derailment located directly behind the Swinomish Casino and Lodge. While on-site, we spoke with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community liaison and shared general information about the incident.

We met with Salish Networks (a Tulalip Tribal Corporation) to discuss broadband development on the reservation. On March 28 and April 4, we provided technical assistance and status updates regarding Salish Networks' eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC)

designation, ongoing annual certification, and current and future obstacles and opportunities for funding support to expand broadband development.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

Summary

We are committed to serving all veterans and their families in a culturally appropriate manner. This includes approximately 5,000 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans in the state. This group serves in the United States armed forces at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. They also have access to unique federal programs to better meet their needs. Our goal is to better serve native veterans by supporting program expansions and making sure they can access their earned benefits.

Highlights

- We sponsored the Veteran Service Officer Professional Development Conference that the Puyallup Tribe hosted. This training was available to all veteran service officers, and we provided 20 hours of education on topics such as veterans' disability benefits, survivors' benefits, health care benefits, burial benefits, and military discharge upgrades.
- We sponsored the Tribal Veterans Representative and Tribal Veteran Service Officer Conference hosted by the Suquamish Tribe. This event was also supported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and included 16 hours of education on veterans' benefits.
- We sponsored three digital navigator events hosted to support digital literacy, digital equity, and connectivity for veterans and their families. This event was hosted by the Makah Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Eligible veterans received a laptop computer, smart phone, and an unlimited data plan through February 2025.
- We sponsored a meeting between members of the governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Veterans Affairs program to discuss joint efforts with native veterans and their families.
- We participated in the 2023 Muckleshoot Veterans Summit to provide direct services to veterans and their families with veterans' disability benefits, survivors benefits, suicide prevention, health care, and other topics.
- We participated in the Yakama Warriors Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans annual event.

- We presented at the Veteran Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians and the VA Puget Sound Health Care System Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council meetings on various topics. They included Tribal veteran service officer memorandums of agreement for training and technical assistance, long-term care benefits, suicide prevention, mental health, the purple heart state highway sign campaign, and women veterans' outreach.

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Washington State Patrol

Summary

Our mission at the Washington State Patrol (WSP) is to make a difference every day, enhancing the safety and security of all people and communities by providing the best in public safety services. Our employees are committed to earning the trust and confidence of the public through strong leadership, effective partnerships, professional excellence, acting with integrity and accountability, respecting and protecting individual rights, and pursuing a culture of continuous improvement. We strive to achieve our goals while keeping in line with our motto, "Service with Humility." We also pursue our Target Zero Plan across the state with many Tribal partners and communities.

Highlights

- WSP Tribal liaisons attended the Opioid Summit in Tulalip with Chief John Batiste.
- Tribal liaisons improved data accuracy, cleaned and corrected racial identifiers, fixed inverted names, and clarified birthdates. They publish the list of known missing Indigenous persons on the WSP website biweekly and distribute the list to Tribal law enforcement agencies.
- Tribal liaisons help train the WSP Academy class before class members are fully commissioned state troopers. This training details the more accurate and often horrific historical account of U.S. history from the first time European explorers had first contact with Indigenous people, to cultural differences and exercises that promote empathy and understanding in policing.
- WSP participates with the Washington State Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force.
- In July 2022, the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit purchased new software to upgrade the alert system, which includes the Missing Indigenous Person Alert (MIPA).
- Tribal liaisons provided testimony to the Not Invisible Act Commission. They showed where the state has made progress and where we are continuing our efforts.
- We are successfully advocating with the FBI and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to reopen cold cases for investigation.

- Tribal liaisons work with interstate Tribal governments and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) programs to create a network of information sharing. This can help locate missing Indigenous individuals who cross state and international boundaries.
- We have regular communication with police chiefs from Tribal agencies and their representatives related to missing people, interagency discussions and information sharing. Tribal liaisons also work with advocacy and grassroots groups to support all tribal populations, within and outside community borders.
- Our ACCESS section is attending the online MMIWP taskforce meetings and actively finding solutions to barriers that prevent Tribal agencies from accessing necessary CJI.

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Consolidated Technology Services (WaTech)

Summary

Consolidated Technology Services, also known as WaTech, provides centralized information technology services to state, local and Tribal governments. WaTech provides uniform and scalable IT solutions for state agencies, county, city and Tribal governments, and public-benefit nonprofits. WaTech is committed to the principles of the Centennial Accord and will always make sure our services are accessible and beneficial to Tribes.

Highlights

Providing connectivity to the Intergovernmental Network (IGN)

WaTech maintains the technology network that connects state government. Local and Tribal governments can securely connect to state systems through the Intergovernmental Network (IGN). WaTech works with Tribes at their request to provide access to the IGN so Tribal governments can use technology services maintained by state government agencies. This includes law enforcement systems and emergency services. We are working with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians to connect to the IGN and continue to provide access to the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The IGN service is available to any Tribe once both parties determine there is a need.

Geospatial Program

WaTech's geospatial program supports statewide geographic information system (GIS) services such as land imaging and electronic mapping of the state. The geospatial program leads the Statewide Imagery Consortium, which houses these images. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission participates as a member of the consortium on behalf of its member Tribes. The consortium pools resources to buy statewide imaging at a significant discount. This imaging can then be used to things such as support wetland evaluations and updates and Tribal forestry management.

In addition, the geospatial program also co-chairs a workgroup for Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology use in the state. LIDAR technology can be used to make high quality maps and three-dimensional representations of the earth's surface. This is especially useful for hard-to-reach or remote places. The Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Tulalip Tribes participate in two meetings each year to provide their input on coordinating statewide activities regarding LIDAR collection, use, and planning. The Northwest Indian Fisheries

Commission also participate in these planning discussions. This program provides consultative and informational services to Tribes on request.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program (SLCGP)

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established a dedicated state and local cybersecurity grant program for government entities. While there is a specific Tribal Cybersecurity grant program (TCGP) available under federal law, Tribes are also eligible to apply for funds from the SLCGP. Working in partnership with Military Department, WaTech – through communications and meetings – informed Tribal governments about the grant program. This consistent stakeholder communication brought in nine Tribal applications, which we will detail in the 2024 report.

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