

# 2021 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
October 2021

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

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October 27, 2021

Greetings,

On behalf of Washington, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs presents the 2021 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 commitment, we know the future holds opportunities for us to do even more.

We are collectively experiencing unprecedented challenges during this pandemic. More than ever, that's why this tribal-state collaboration is pivotal to the health, safety and protection of tribal communities — and the state — as a whole.

Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Bill". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Craig A. Bill  
Executive Director

# Washington State Attorney General's Office

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## Summary

Under the state constitution and state statutes, the attorney general has a dual role. While the Office of the Attorney General serves as the law firm representing Washington and its agencies, the attorney general has the power to bring affirmative cases as “the people’s lawyer” to represent the public interest.

## Highlights

Attorney General Bob Ferguson’s vision to actively consult and engage with tribes, tribal communities, and tribal entities continued through the year on various topics. Our office worked with the Legislature to establish the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People State Task Force and hired Annie Forsman-Adams (Suquamish) as a policy analyst to support it full time. The task force will meet this fall.

- The AGO and a coalition of tribes, tribal organizations and tribal entities from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska, stopped the expedited sale of the National Archives in Seattle. The successful lawsuit prevented us from losing access to critical archival records that help tribes apply for federal recognition or restoration, establish tribal membership, and demonstrate and enforce tribal fishing rights.
- We coordinated with the National Congress of American Indians in a letter-writing campaign to request that Amazon stops selling racist, mascot merchandise.
- Our legislative team identified policy changes that would improve tribal/state relations. One policy recommendation is to repeal RCW 77.110, which is legally insufficient based on current federal law. Another recommendation is to establish the AGO’s Free, Prior, and Informed Consent policy into state law.
- The AGO and Gonzaga Law School convened a symposium to discuss environmental justice issues and how we can address them. Panelists who discussed air, land and water issues were made up of tribal leaders, programs and organizations.
- The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Washington Health Care Authority joined us to reverse the Trump administration decision to deny Medicaid funding for dental health aide therapists.
- More than half of our lawsuits against the Trump administration involve the environment. As of September, we have successfully defended the environment 20 times in these cases.

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# Department of Agriculture

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## Summary

We serve the people of Washington by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection. We accomplish this through programs that ensure the safety of the state's food supply, provide food assistance, regulate farm chemicals, halt the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases, verify the quality of agricultural products and expand markets for Washington foods in the state and overseas.

Under Director Derek Sandison, we work to increase our availability to tribal officials to establish government-to-government relationships on agricultural issues and their effect on tribal lands and economies.

Our main interactions with tribes fall into five categories:

- Offer food assistance programs that help local and tribal organizations provide emergency food to low-income and vulnerable individuals.
- Help small and medium-sized agricultural businesses develop domestic and international markets for farm products.
- Manage food safety, animal health, pesticide, and dairy nutrient 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

- Our food assistance programs support critical hunger relief services in tribal communities across the state. Thirty-one tribes use program funds to distribute food through their tribal food pantries and issue food vouchers to lower-income and vulnerable individuals. Thanks to increased support from the Legislature and the federal government, we responded to COVID-19 by providing additional operational funding, storage and equipment grants and fresh produce boxes. In fiscal year 2021, funding and food that we passed to tribes almost quadrupled. Food assistance granted tribes \$1.5 million in federal relief and state funds. Using these funds, tribal food pantries distributed more than 1.3 million pounds of food to families. In that same period, tribes provided food and vouchers valued at \$1.8 million.
- Regional markets, thanks to the support of a USDA Farm to School Grant, organized three Farm to School and Scratch Cooking Institutes in August. These trainings supported child nutrition programs at schools and child care centers by using more local, Washington-grown foods cooked from scratch. We contracted with tribal leaders and health organizations (including Cedar Circle Consultation, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the Garden Raised Urban Bounty nonprofit) to co-develop and offer a training on Tribal and Traditional School Food. This would help tribally-run child nutrition programs and those serving Native American populations feature a number of first (traditional) foods. Eight child nutrition programs (including those from Colville, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Quileute, Samish and Suquamish tribal communities) attended to

learn about specific traditional foods and ingredients, sourcing and incorporating them into meals and recipes, and teaching methods to educate students about traditional foods.

- During 2020 and 2021, the Food Safety program continued to inspect, license and provide technical assistance and outreach to food processing businesses, including seafood-handling facilities. These consist of tribal-owned businesses and businesses operated on tribal land for those foods that enter commerce off tribal land.
- Our Dairy Nutrient Management program (DNMP) regulates dairy-generated nutrients to protect water resources, fish habitat and shellfish harvests. The program collaborates on water quality issues with the Lummi, Muckleshoot, Nooksack, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish and Tulalip tribal communities. DNMP collaborated with The British Columbia/Washington Environmental Cooperation Council (ECC) members and was an active partner in the Nooksack River Transboundary Technical Collaboration Group. It also coordinated water sampling and data sharing with the Lummi and Nooksack tribes, partners in British Columbia, and federal, state and local government agencies. The formal ECC partnership expired June 30. However, DNMP will continue to coordinate with our BC and Nooksack watershed partners. An Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program grant helps DNMP coordinate multiagency Pollution Identification and Correction meetings, data sharing, and water sampling to help reduce bacterial inputs to the Nooksack, Samish, and Stillaguamish watersheds and the Salish Sea.
- During 2020-21, our Pest program worked collaboratively with numerous tribes to survey and control various invasive species that threaten state and tribal lands and resources. Pest program staff participate in ongoing survey, control and coordination activities on reservation, tribally-owned and “usual and accustomed” lands. This program also provides grant funds directly to tribal entities for invasive species work.

Knotweed Eradication Program staff provided direct and indirect assistance to the Colville, Hoh, Makah, Nisqually, Quileute, Quinault, Samish, Sauk-Suiattle, S’Klallam, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip and Yakama tribal communities. The program also provided field supplies, survey equipment, and herbicide in 2020 and 2021 through interagency agreements to county noxious weed control boards, conservation districts and fisheries enhancement groups. This helped us control and eradicate knotweed on tribal lands across the state.

During 2020 and 2021, the Spartina Eradication program worked with several partnering tribal entities to further environmental stewardship through Spartina control and eradication. As part of this statewide effort, staff assisted the Lummi, Makah, Puyallup, Shoalwater, Suquamish and Tulalip tribal communities. The Pest program provided \$2,500 in 2020 and \$5,000 in 2021, through interagency agreements, to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to support their effort to control and eradicate Spartina.

The Vespa Mandarinina (giant hornet) Eradication program worked directly with the Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Samish and Swinomish tribal communities by providing them with giant hornet bottle trap supplies and instruction on how to participate in the citizen scientist-trapping program. The program worked with the Tulalip Tribes and other partners to develop educational posters to display on tribal lands. And, the Japanese Beetle program conducted outreach and provided educational materials to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation regarding a Japanese beetle outbreak near tribal lands.

- During 2020 and 2021 the Pesticide Management program continued to provide certification and licensing, registration, and compliance technical assistance related to fertilizer or pesticide issues to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The division



maintains a strong working relationship with the Yakama Nation and the FIFRA inspector working on the Colville, Nez Perce and other tribal lands in Northeastern Washington. The Pesticide Management Division also provides technical expertise for pesticide and/or fertilizer use on cannabis crops grown throughout Washington, including on tribal lands. In addition, the program provides updates on requests for emergency exemptions for using pesticides on tribal lands, copies of emergency exemptions and approved labels granted by the Environmental Protection Agency and special, local need registrations.

- During 2020 and 2021, through interaction with national pesticide regulatory organizations, Natural Resources Assessment Section (NRAS) leadership coordinated with tribal partners on pesticide programs throughout the Pacific Northwest. NRAS also continued to work with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to collect surface water samples on reservation land and analyze those for pesticide residues that may harm aquatic life. This partnership has existed since 2003. Many of our partners helped coordinate additional pesticide program work this last year. The goal was to increase collaboration among the various groups to promote consistency across different pesticide program areas and authorities at the national level.
- Our Rapid Response and Emergency Management program (RREMP) routinely offers all-hazards emergency preparedness training for tribal partners. RREMP coordinated with tribal partners to anticipate and respond to gaps in resources and staffing caused by food supply chain disruption an unprecedented demand for the hunger relief network. For wildfire disasters, RREMP coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to track resource requests to agriculture infrastructure damages and livestock losses. This addressed specific livestock feed needs and anticipated gaps in resources due to lost grazing acres.

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# Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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## Summary

We are the state's sole agency that preserves and protects Washington's cultural resources. All federal agencies are required to consult with DAHP and the tribes on any directly or indirectly funded project, or on any federal license or permit. We review between 4,500-6,000 federal reviews a year. However, we consider it a state responsibility make sure this consultation happens in an informed and meaningful way. We are required to solicit comments from affected tribes before we make a decision on archaeological and Native American burial excavation permits.

## Highlights

- Implemented Executive Order 21-02 to improve how we protect cultural resources and sacred sites, with an increased focus on meaningful tribal consultations.
- Finalized the State Historic Preservation Plan for the 2021-2026 plan cycle, including an updated Historic Preservation and Native American Values statement. The plan has been approved by the National Park Service (NPS) and adopted by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).
- Opened 42 human skeletal remains cases in 2020, and 22 so far in 2021. This brings the total number of cases (opened and investigated since August 2008) to 669.
- Notified affected tribes of 507 nonforensic human skeletal remains cases since August 2008.
- Notified affected tribes about our state physical anthropologist's ancestry determination on 496 cases since August 2008.
- Repatriated or reburied, in place, 353 human skeletal remains cases. We are temporarily holding 175 cases for one of the following reasons:
  - The tribes requested it.
  - The case requires repatriation outside of Washington.
  - The case is non-American-Indian.
- Remaining cases are nonhuman, forensic and returned to respective coroners, or were handled by federal agencies under Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- The United States Congress designated the Washington coastline, from the Canadian border to the Grays Harbor-Pacific County line, as a Washington Maritime National Heritage Area. Congress helped develop the management plan for the heritage area. The same legislation also designated the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area.
- At the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) invitation, we participated with tribes and other state and federal agencies to develop the San Juan Islands National Monument management plan.
- Recorded 3,039 cemeteries and burial sites in the state since August 2008.
- There are now 2,242 active data-sharing users on the archaeological and architectural website. All archaeological users signed confidentiality agreements.

- Issued 69 excavation permits in 2020, and 93% of those were issued within the 60-day time frame.
- Shared data with 30 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 the Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) for Oil Spill Response. Also assessed impacts to archaeological and cultural resources across the state and the Northwest region.

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# Department of Commerce

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## Summary

Our mission is to help strengthen all communities in Washington. As part of that work, we engage with tribes in government-to-government partnerships on a broad range of programs and services, including infrastructure, clean energy, economic development, community development, housing and social services.

## Highlights

### Director's Office

- Held government-to-government meetings between Commerce Director Lisa Brown and elected leadership from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- Filled vacant tribal representative positions to state lead sector development efforts, including:
  - State Energy Strategy – Jason Campbell (Spokane Tribe)
  - Washington Tourism Management Authority – David Whitener (Squaxin Island Tribe)
  - Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council – Tell Hamilton (Kalispel Tribe)
- Partnered with state higher education institutions to expand capacity to support tribal communities (University of Washington School of Informatics project to serve Native American small businesses and Eastern Washington University Urban and Regional Planning project to assess Native American communities' broadband readiness).
- Presented to state municipalities and regional organizations on the value of effective government-to-government relations.
- Presented to nonprofit and foundation organizations on the Native American impacts on community and economic development.
- Offered strategic design options for effective partnerships among tribes and philanthropic and other service-oriented organizations.
- Formed the Philanthropy Northwest Tribal Broadband Learning to support peer learning among tribal communities seeking broadband solutions.
- Seated Commerce's tribal liaison on the Philanthropy Northwest Board of Directors (executive committee; Equity Design Workgroup committee chair).
- Launched Commerce's Tribal Resource Group to support internal tribal members and descendants as well as educate and partner with the internal community on its equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.

### Local Government Division

- Facilitated government-to-government engagements as directed by Executive Orders 05-05 and 21-02 (Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and city of Snoqualmie; numerous tribes, including the Samish, Squaxin Island, Quinault Indian Nation, Nisqually, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and the town of Pe Ell).

- Facilitated government-to-government engagements to support the clean energy siting assessment tool that the U.S. Department of Defense funds.
- Facilitated government-to-government engagements in support of the Growth Management Act's Washington Advisory Code update.
- Supported the creation of a tribal representative position on the Cusick Town Council to increase the town's capacity for engagement (Kalispel Tribe).
- Partnered with the town of Nespelem (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) to restore the community's incapacitated water system.
- Facilitated intergovernmental partnership between the Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation and city of Okanogan to plan and coordinate grant development efforts.
- Consulted to support tribal-related legislative efforts, including regarding the Growth Management Act.

### **Energy Division**

- Awarded Clean Energy Fund grants to the:
  - Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (\$500,000 for grid modernization and integration of solar and other renewables, along with workforce training).
  - Spokane Tribe of Indians (\$240,000 in partnership with Avista Utilities for the design and engineering of a solar and energy storage microgrid project, which increased resilience during wildfires, energy independence and energy billing benefits).
- Developed grant eligibility access for tribes related to electrifying transportation systems, solar programs, and Clean Energy Fund research development and demonstration.

### **Community Services and Housing Division**

- Began deploying \$30 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds and Disaster Relief Funds to all 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington.

### **Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness**

- Developed a policy to require that pump storage energy projects consult with tribal representatives before considering designations of statewide significance.
- Guided resources to tribal governments' areas of need, including the:
  - Hoh Tribe (\$66,000 from the National Development Council for deployment of 2.5 GHz broadband/telecommunications license).
  - Spokane Tribe (\$30,000 from the National Development Council for the professional production of marketing materials in support of community and economic development projects, such as the Wellpinit Trading Post, and continued efforts to connect this project with financing mechanisms, including the new market tax credit, opportunity zones, philanthropic opportunities, and state and federal grant funding).
  - Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (\$30,000 from the National Development Council for the professional production of marketing materials and website development).

## **Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO)**

- Launched the WSBO's Digital Equity Unit and hired a tribal member as division manager.
- Partnered with 12 Washington tribes on the development of National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity program grants, resulting in \$129.5 million in proposed funding.
- Partnered with the Swinomish Indian tribal community to complete a rapid design study of broadband feasibility.
- Created communications to support tribal applications for the FCC 2.5 GHz broadband/telecommunications spectrum.

## **Public Works Board**

- Awarded funding to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians (\$5 million for broadband expansion) and Makah Tribe (\$382,796 for communication access).

## **Community Economic Revitalization Board**

- Seated a tribal member on the Board of Directors (Nisqually Indian Tribe).
- Awarded Rural Broadband Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund grants to the:
  - Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (\$2 million for the Chehalis Reservation Broadband project).
  - Nisqually Indian Tribe (\$2 million for the Nisqually 2021 Open Access Network Broadband project, Phase I).
- Gained support of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) to codify the rural broadband program (Senate Bill 5175).

## **Staff contact**

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# Washington State Conservation Commission

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## Summary

Our mission is to conserve natural resources in collaboration with conservation districts and other partners. The SCC and districts empower people to voluntarily take actions that keep natural resources and farmland healthy. Tribes are a critical partner in this work. Together, we achieve mutual, natural resource goals for communities, the state and tribal nations.

## Highlights

- Stevens and Ferry Conservation Districts received an SCC Food System Support Grant to provide canning safety and education workshops to two counties and the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Colville Confederated Tribes.
- About 650 people participated in a monthlong Orca Recovery EcoChallenge organized by conservation districts. Participants completed 7,831 orca-friendly actions, such as installing rain gardens and planting trees.
- We administered the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which remains the largest riparian restoration program for salmon in the state. Whatcom Conservation District worked with Whatcom Family Farmers to share a video story of CREP and how it helped landowners along Kamm Creek restore vital habitat for Coho, chum, Chinook and steelhead. [Watch the video online.](#)
- In the Dungeness River basin, Clallam Conservation District partnered with two irrigation water purveyors to pipe nearly 20,000 feet of open irrigation ditches. Projects will preserve two cubic feet per second of water in salmon streams — enough to fill two Olympic-size swimming pools a day.
- King Conservation District contributed to a multipartner water quality improvement effort that resulted in 116 acres of shellfish beds reopening for harvest along the east shoreline of Vashon and Maury islands. This area has been a shellfish harvesting site for the Puyallup Tribe for thousands of years.
- Kitsap Conservation District worked with landowners to administer a \$600,000 salmon habitat restoration project along Dickerson Creek. They removed debris, replaced noxious weeds with native plants and provided new places for salmon to spawn.
- Snohomish Conservation District used our shellfish program to provide funding and technical expertise to help a livestock and grain operation with projects that more safely convey, store and treat manure. Once complete, the projects will prevent nutrients and bacteria from reaching shellfish growing areas in Possession Sound.

## Staff contact

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# Department of Corrections

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## Summary

There are approximately 33,000 individuals under our jurisdiction. As of June, 5.7% of those incarcerated and 4.3% of those on supervision identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN). There is currently a 45.3% recidivism rate within 36 months among the AI/AN population. Currently, 1.5% of staff identify as AI/AN.

## Highlights

### Meetings, summits, conferences, etc.

- We met with Shoalwater Bay tribal chair and administrator on tribal lands.
- Our Office of Tribal Relations met with the Clallam Bay Corrections Center Tribal Circle to discuss ceremonial practices and COVID-19 protocols.

### Memoranda of understanding with tribal governments

- We worked collaboratively with the Shoalwater Bay Tribe to create a memorandum of agreement for a work crew from the Cedar Creek Corrections Center to complete beach cleanup and forest cleaning on the newly acquired tribal lands.
- Twenty-two Washington-based tribal councils have appointed representatives to confer with the department on their justice-involved citizens.
- Issued a letter of support to the Puyallup Tribe on a reentry grant application.

### Program, policy and form change and benefits

- We successfully tripled the number of tribes contained within our data system so we could better communicate and collaborate with tribes not based in Washington on tribal members who are currently incarcerated within the state's correctional system.
- Our Office of Tribal Relations and Interstate Compact Unit worked collaboratively with the Nebraska correctional system to successfully transition a releasing individual back to their home tribe in Washington for supervision.
- Working with tribes, we produced a [resource directory for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#) to provide continuity of care for health and behavioral health service needs and better prepare individuals for reentry to the community.
- Worked with local tribes and nonprofits to install medicine gardens in three correctional facilities for religious/spiritual use by Indigenous incarcerated individuals.
- The department worked collaboratively with the Muckleshoot and Puyallup Tribes to vaccinate their incarcerated tribal citizens as well as members of other tribes.

## Staff contacts

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# Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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## Summary

We are in our third year as a cabinet-level agency focused on the well-being of children. Our vision is that Washington's children and youth grow up safe and healthy – thriving physically, emotionally and academically, nurtured by family and community. Through the leadership of Secretary Ross Hunter, our guiding principles include a relentless focus on outcomes for children; a commitment to collaborate and be transparent; using data to inform and evaluate reforms, leverage and align existing services with desired child outcomes; and supporting staff as they contribute to the agency's goals and outcomes.

We continue to have our Indian Child Welfare (ICW) subcommittee meetings, attended by state and tribal staff, to discuss child welfare policy and issues. This meeting occurs every other month. We also scheduled quarterly meetings with tribes to develop tribal 10.03 plans, which lays out how we can best work together. All tribes and recognized American Indian organizations are invited to our quarterly Tribal Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) meetings.

We created a tribal/state workgroup to revise our ICW policy and procedures. When the policy is complete, we will schedule a formal consultation with all Washington tribes. We last edited the current policies with tribes in 2016. DCYF will work with the University of Washington Alliance for Child Welfare to provide staff with training when the policy revision is complete.

## Early Learning Programs Division

The Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) works with 19 sovereign nations in Washington that receive federal funding to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services to children and families, prenatal through age 5. Through the 100 School Reach, Chief Leschi Schools and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe received funding to support their strategies to strengthen transitions for children in early childhood special education and from early learning to K-12.

The Preschool Development Grant: Birth through Five (PDG B-5) staff work to strengthen relationships with Washington's tribes and recognize these tribes as sovereign nations. Through the PDG B-5, tribal representatives participate on our Statewide Early Learning Strategic Plan Steering Committee. They also help us design tools and resources to implement the Statewide Early Learning Coordination Plan. We can use the grant funds to hire a tribal-specific child welfare early learning navigator to start this fall.

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) works with eight sovereign nations to provide comprehensive pre-kindergarten programming and family partnerships. ECEAP also subcontracts with the Salish School of Spokane, which is a nonprofit tribal language immersion school. The Tribal Pathway Workgroup meets regularly to make recommendations to ECEAP standards and helps make changes to fit tribal needs. These changes help clarify how we can use this funding to support tribal cultural and language preservation. We also made changes to the ECEAP enrollment policy so that tribes can enroll more children from their communities who would benefit from the program. We added the following to the list of factors that makes a child eligible:

- Tribal services for child abuse, neglect or sexual assault. These services are comparable to Child Protective Service, Indian Child Welfare, Family Assessment Response, or law enforcement/court system.
- Migrant or seasonal worker clarifications.
- A child who has a family member who attended an American Indian boarding school.

## Family support

The Family Support Division has funding sources and initiatives focused on child abuse and neglect prevention, including community-based initiatives and public awareness activities. We established a new contract with Tulalip Tribes to implement a voluntary visiting home program that provides specific supports and resources to parents who have newborns (called Family Spirit home program). This expands the existing home visiting partnerships with Lummi, Suquamish, United Indians of All Tribes and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (in partnership with the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital).

Our Help Me Grow Washington system is in the exploratory stages of adapting the Help Me Grow model for tribal partners. Help Me Grow is a community-driven, resource and referral system that connects young children and their families to appropriate services and community supports. We are interested in how the model could be adapted and co-designed with tribal communities and urban Indian organizations (UIOs) in Washington. If interested, these communities could work to implement local HMG systems that include Indigenous knowledge and experience.

## Child welfare

The state received the Permanency From Day 1 (PFD1) grant to improve timely reunification for families or, if necessary, an alternate permanent plan (guardianship and adoption) for dependent children and youth. The grant strategies are based on the premise that increased family and youth engagement will increase timely reunification. The grant funding has helped us implement two strategies to support this:

- Use independent facilitators to bring family members, caregivers, tribes and family supports together to participate and lead in case planning. These meetings are held every three months to capture case progression and accountability for team members and make sure communication about safety and conditions to return home is transparent.
- Provide opportunities for legally-free youth in need of a permanent connection to be involved in placement and case decisions.

Each region in the state has worked toward enhancing services and ensuring continued strong relationships between our staff and tribal partners, all challenged by the pandemic this year. We successfully entered a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Nisqually Tribe, which brings our MOU total to 14 (listed on [our website](#)).

## Eligibility and provider supports

DCYF staff from the Early Achievers system worked with the Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) committee and tribal staff to explore a tribal pathway for this structure. Early Achievers is a statewide system that helps us strengthen and recognize early learning program quality. Family- and center-based childcare professionals are offered a variety of supports, including coaching, professional development, and grants and scholarships through this resource. We assess program quality — including teacher-child interactions and family partnerships — every three years and financial incentives are offered based on a program's level of quality.

A tribal pathway for Early Achievers will center culturally appropriate evaluation practices and culturally relevant goal setting for program improvement. Following recommendations from IPEL and the tribal workgroup, DCYF Early Achievers is moving forward with an *optional*, alternative Early Achievers pathway for Washington tribes.

Our DCYF Professional Development worked with IPEL to identify and coordinate professional learning supports related to language revitalization and preservation. This includes two recorded webinars and an allocation to purchase materials that support language revitalization and preservation.

## **Licensing**

We created a licensing system for outdoor, nature-based, early learning programs. Multiple tribes participated in various ways to support the success of the pilot project. IPEL was consulted on developing the Outdoor Preschool Pilot Licensing Standards, particularly those relevant to the Since Time Immemorial curriculum and how outdoor preschools should partner with tribes. The Squaxin Island Tribe became one of the first, licensed, outdoor preschool programs in the state and the nation. The Saplings and Cedars program at the Squaxin Island Child Development Center was featured in multiple news articles and a televised news segment, representing the success of the outdoor preschool pilot program across the country.

We also offered tribes the chance to participate in a working group for developing the Nature-Based Core Competencies for Early Learning and Care Professionals Supplement, and the Puyallup and Squaxin Island Tribes sent multiple staff to participate. We consulted IPEL on the introduction and relevant nature-based core competencies, as well. These competencies will now be integrated into core competencies for early learning and care professional standards, relevant to all professionals throughout the state.

The outdoor preschool pilot successfully finished in 2021, and the Legislature recently passed a bill that authorizes us to license outdoor, nature-based, childcare programs for preschool and school-age children.

## **Juvenile rehabilitation**

Our Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) division continues to maintain strong partnerships at state and local levels with federally recognized tribes and recognized American Indian organizations (RAIOs). This division helps ensure American Indian and Alaska Native youth and young adults receive the services they need to successfully reenter their communities. Meetings were held across the state with the tribes.

Other JR highlights include:

- There were nine Residential Custody Service Agreements (RCA) between JR and the tribes. The agreement allows youth to enter JR facilities through tribal court order and coordinate services to these youth.
- We continue to grow employment and post-secondary education access for young people in JR up to age 25.
- Legislative highlights
  - Engaging youth and families and education to youth in JR facilities.
  - Funding for the Behavioral Health and Community Reentry program for all.
- COVID-19 response
  - We provided vaccinations to cultural program contractors, and we had to cancel in-person events (such as the annual Potlatch and Pow Wows.) In addition, we used the phone and zoom for education and spiritual services.

- Cultural programming and religious services
  - Established a Native peer-mentor position that supports our Residential Mental Health Unit for native youth at Green Hill Institution.
  - The Native Culture Group is featured in a video highlighting their gains to reduce room confinement and isolation. They screened the film in Echo Glens Native Garden, which included drumming and singing. They also joined the African American Rites of Passage Group for drumming and songs during this year's Juneteenth celebration.
  - Internal, Native JR staff share their personal indigenous wisdom and storytelling, crafting and medicinal/historical plant knowledge. They used group educating, healing and growing together to help their communities create strong, healthy, compassionate, and educated young leaders.
  - We provided sweat lodges, smudging and talking circles, beading and drumming to JR youth while also following COVID-19 safety measures. This collaboration will continue in the upcoming year.
- Community Juvenile Accountability Act Grant (CJAA)
  - Two RAIOS and 11 tribes across the state received a small, flexible CJAA grant for fiscal year 2021 to support youth and families and avoid youth incarceration.

### **Staff contact**

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# Department of Ecology

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## Summary

We partner 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. Each reservation is effectively a neighboring state under federal environmental laws, and we work with tribes to coordinate on cross-border flows, consistent with our respective authorities. Our 12 environmental programs and offices had many significant government-to-government interactions with tribes this past year.

## Highlights

### Water resources

- **Streamflow Restoration Grant projects:** The Legislature authorized \$300 million in capital funds over 15 years for projects to offset new domestic wells' impacts on streamflow and to provide a net ecological benefit. We leveraged \$4.2 million along with private funds to acquire over 1,200 acre-feet of water for permanent protection under the Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation's habitat management strategy. We will accept applications for our next funding round Nov. 1 through Feb. 1, 2022.
- **Water rights adjudication:** We submitted an adjudication assessment to the Legislature in fall 2020 that recommended adjudication in the Nooksack and Upper Columbia Basin watersheds. The Legislature appropriated funding for us to prepare for adjudication with anticipated court filings in 2023.
- **Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic plan:** We worked with the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon, local governments, irrigators, and NGOs to develop a holistic, bi-state water resource management plan to guide water resource decisions for the next 30 years.

### Water quality and spills prevention

- **Nutrient pollution in Puget Sound:** Ecology is issuing a permit to limit excess nutrient pollution from wastewater treatment plants flowing into Puget Sound. We will upgrade the treatment technologies of 58 domestic wastewater treatment plants. You can view our permit and other actions to control nutrient pollution on [our website](#).
- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway crude oil train derailment near Custer, Washington:** On Dec. 22, 2020, a train carrying crude oil derailed near Custer and started a railway fire. Through quick action, nearby residences were evacuated, no injuries occurred and the oil didn't reach surface or groundwater. We notified Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, and both participated in response activities. Tribes interested in joining unified command for oil spills can contact [Jase.Brooks@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jase.Brooks@ecy.wa.gov) for more information.

## Toxics cleanup

- Eatonville Landfill: The Nisqually Indian Tribe approached us about partnering to clean up the Eatonville Landfill contaminated site. We secured funding for the town of Eatonville to work with Weyerhaeuser in the cleanup process. The parcel will be turned over to Washington State Parks and become part of the Nisqually Mashel State Park.
- Investigating dioxin pollution near Padilla Bay: While we investigated contamination at the March Point Landfill cleanup site near Padilla Bay, we discovered dioxin/furan contamination that may be associated with a stormwater outfall. We developed a cooperative agreement with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to study the contamination that may impact their property and intertidal habitat on Padilla Bay and coordinated a state and tribal response program grant.

## Habitat restoration

- Chehalis Basin habitat restoration projects: Our Office of Chehalis Basin is working with the Confederated Tribes of Chehalis Reservation and Quinault Indian Nation to reduce flood damage and restore and improve aquatic habitat. This includes three restoration projects along the Satsop, Skookumchuck and Wynoochee rivers. We also provided funding to the Quinault Indian Nation for a pilot study to determine the run abundance of juvenile chinook salmon in the upper Chehalis River.
- Washington Conservation Corps: Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps works on projects to restore important habitat along Washington's rivers and streams. This year, Corps crews supported projects for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and Tulalip Tribes.

## Implementing laws passed in 2021

- Climate Commitment Act: Ecology started the rulemaking processes to implement the Climate Commitment Act, which will establish an economywide cap and trade system for greenhouse gases. In addition to government-to-government consultation, there are several opportunities to engage in the rulemaking. You can find more information on [our website](#).
- Other climate legislation: We are engaged in rulemaking processes to implement clean fuel standards and hydrofluorocarbon legislation, both important components of the state's overall strategy to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. For more information, please visit Ecology's [air and climate website](#).
- Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act: We established a new Office of Equity and Environmental Justice to implement Washington's landmark environmental justice legislation, the HEAL Act. You can find more information about Ecology's current environmental justice initiatives on [our website](#).

## Staff contact

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# Employment Security Department

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## Summary

Our vision is for Washington to have the nation's best and most 'future ready' workforce with opportunities for all. We provide our communities with inclusive workforce solutions that promote economic resilience and prosperity.

During the current crisis, we adopted the following sub-mission: Help workers, businesses and communities navigate and rebuild around uncertainties in the economy and labor market.

Additionally, ESD collects unemployment insurance taxes, provides unemployment benefits, analyzes and disseminates labor market and employment information, and manages the Paid Family and Medical Leave program. We are an active partner in the statewide, career service delivery system known as WorkSource, which includes partners from nonprofit organizations, community colleges, local governmental entities and other state agencies. Services are available to everyone, with special emphasis on individuals who historically need the most help finding work.

ESD works in partnerships with tribes to improve delivery of these services in culturally informed ways, including engagement on rulemaking during program implementation of the PFML program and the Washington Cares Fund.

## Highlights

We played a critical role during the pandemic by providing unemployment benefits to Washington workers. During this time, we directly engaged with tribes in the following ways:

- Met virtually with tribes to better understand their workforce and economic security needs.
- Provided Bridges Out of Poverty Training for the Employment and Training Team of the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT).
- Worked with tribes to develop strategies for career pathways for tribal high school students.
- Increased targeted outreach by our consolidated veterans service representatives (CVSRs) to work more closely with tribal member veterans who served our country.

We look forward to building on existing partnerships and relationships in the next year.

## Staff contact

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# Department of Enterprise Services

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## Summary

We manage many business and operational services that tribes and other government entities need, which helps them focus on their core missions. 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:

- Recognize and respect each tribe as a sovereign government with a distinct culture and governmental structure that serve their tribal citizens and others.
- Constantly improve the value and effectiveness of the services we provide to tribal governments. Strive to constantly improve our understanding of tribal government needs, and identify and seek remedies for any barriers to accessing these services.
- Identify matters of mutual concern to offer early discussion, collaboration, and consultation, if needed.

## Highlights

### Statewide master contracts

Tribal governments are eligible to purchase goods and services from our statewide master contracts. This can save time and money and help tribes comply with federal grant requirements by using competitively awarded contracts. Currently, we manage about 200 master contracts that range from office supplies to electric buses and vehicles. For a complete list, visit our [website](#).

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.

### Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS)

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. WEBS is an internet-based tool that we maintain for posting competitive solicitations to registered vendors who are interested in doing business with state, tribal and local governments.

The following 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.



## **Supplier diversity**

The state is committed to dismantling barriers to inclusion and equity in its procurement practices. In 2020, we established the Procurement, Inclusion and Equity (PIE) program. The mission of the program is to lead the state's effort to create a sustainable increase in the procurement of goods and services from small and diverse businesses. The PIE program is doing this by creating a culture of procurement inclusion and creating a pipeline of small and diverse businesses to meet the state's needs. To be inclusive of tribes, tribal entities and tribal citizens, the PIE program regularly attends tribal events to reach these customers, constituents and stakeholders.

## **Delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

To support the Washington State Department of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic response, our Surplus Operations program delivered PPE to several tribes across the state.

## **Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary**

Through a long-term lease agreement with the state Department of Natural Resources, we manage the artificial, 260-acre Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary. The Legislature approved funding in 2018 to begin a project-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An executive level workgroup from the cities of Olympia and Tumwater, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Thurston County continues to collaborate and provide guidance.

We released a draft EIS on June 30 for public comment through Aug. 29. We expect to issue the final EIS mid-2022. It will include a preferred alternative for how to manage the body of water long-term (either an estuary, managed lake, or hybrid) and will have recommendations for shared funding and governance.

## **Staff contact**

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## Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education and Outreach)

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### Summary

Our mission is to protect consumers and advance the financial health of Washington by providing fair regulation of financial services and educating consumers to make informed financial decisions. As part of that, we provide financial education resources to tribal members in our state. That includes providing a tribe or entity with a grant for a financial education program, or to an entity providing financial education to tribal members.

### Highlights

- A grant with Your Money Matters provided financial education and mentorship to 275 youth from the Puyallup Tribe, many who are students at Chief Leschi Schools.
- Two grants with Heritage University offered financial education outreach (in-person and virtual) for youth and adults throughout the Yakima Valley — including some members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — and Yakama Nation Tribal School.
- A financial education grant with American Financial Solutions will provide financial education and services to members of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. This includes financial education classes, counseling and direction to support services.
- A grant with Tribal Technology Training (T3) is underway to rebuild the framework and support for the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition. Through this, we can provide financial education, training and services to tribal members throughout the state.
- We signed a grant with the Yakama Nation Housing Authority in June to provide financial education and services to youth and adults who live in the Apus Goudy Park Community Center in Wapato.
- We continue communications with the Makah Tribe about potential financial education outreach and grant opportunities.
- Our Division of Banks representatives met in January with board members of the South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) representing Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We provided a high-level overview of the Washington State-Chartered Bank application process.

### Staff contact

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# Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Summary

Our mission is to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

We do this by managing fishing and hunting activities in concert with the Northwest Indian 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 throughout the state.

Our director, Kelly Susewind, sustains these partnerships with tribes and upholds this agency's role in successful state-tribal, government-to-government relationships. The director formally delegates authority to senior staff to represent him in many tribal-state management forums.

## Highlights

### Office of the Director

- Within his first three years, Kelly Susewind led the charge to focus on conservation, support responsible resource management decisions, and promote the importance of intergovernmental relations. He oversees 1,900 employees and an operating budget of \$500 million for the current two-year budget period.
- COVID response: In March 2020, state workers moved to mandatory telework for all office-based employees and reduced field work to essential services. Essential department employees have kept necessary enforcement officers on the ground, communications open and fish hatcheries operational. Throughout the pandemic, we communicated with tribal governments to make sure we met our shared responsibilities. Knowing that tribes have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, we continue to offer our assistance to support natural resource management.
- Policy 5007: In November 2020, we adopted a new policy entitled Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments. This policy guides us to communicate and coordinate with federally recognized tribes, provide a refined and uniform approach to consultation, promote transparency, and enhance communication and coordination. This will help us improve state-tribal relations. The policy also serves as an internal training tool for staff on how to work with tribal governments appropriately and effectively.
- [House Bill 1172](#): This is a joint proposal from the Office of the Attorney General and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to repeal statutory language (in RCW 77.110). This language is inaccurate and unenforceable because it denounces treaty rights and has no legal effect today. This came about under the United States Supreme Court cases of U.S. v. Washington and U.S. v. Oregon, among others. We have come a long way as a state in collaboration with tribes since these court decisions and we are working together to co-manage fisheries. This legislation is a chance to correct a historical error and clean up poor statutory language that does not apply to managing natural resources.

- Cultural resources: The Capital and Asset Management program hired two additional archaeologists (permanent) and a summer (student) intern to provide cultural resources support to capital budget projects, improving coordination and consultation with tribes.
- Capital budget: We actively manage over 225 facility and infrastructure improvement projects with a capital budget of \$163 million. Significant projects include hatchery improvements at Wallace River Hatchery, Soos Creek Hatchery, Minter Creek Hatchery, Naselle Hatchery, Toutle River Fish Collection Facility, Samish Hatchery, Dungeness Hatchery, Forks Creek Hatchery and Puyallup Hatchery. There are also several projects at statewide wildlife areas, and we are making improvements to more than two dozen boating access sites across the state.
- Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan: We received \$500,000 from the Legislature to conduct a Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan to assess and prioritize hatchery improvements based on the recommendations of the Southern Resident Orca Task Force. This includes a new Cowlitz River salmon hatchery. The plan focused on strategies and facility improvements for existing state and private hatcheries and constructing new state hatcheries. The increased annual production from expansion, when we combine it with 2018-2020 releases in the state, would provide over 50 million additional Chinook salmon smolts compared to production levels to 2018. The plan identified 21 new capital projects with an estimated value of \$258 million. These new projects will be combined into our capital budget plan for future funding.
- Pinniped management and coordination: We, along with other partners, submitted an application in May 2019 to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to use the state and tribes' expanded new authority to remove California and Steller sea lions in the Lower Columbia. Partners included: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Warm Springs, Nez Perce, Idaho Fish and Game, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We received a permit in fall 2020 and the Legislature appropriated funding for us to increase removals of pinnipeds in this area in 2021-2023. Six Steller sea lions were removed in fall 2020; 13 Steller and 21 California sea lions were removed from Bonneville in spring 2021. We also met with interested western Washington treaty tribes in the spring to examine results of pinniped predation impacts to out-migrating salmon smolts and to discuss next steps. We worked with these tribes this summer to develop a suite of ecological and management questions and are having a workshop with the WSAS to refine the scope of work that the WSAS analysis will inform.
- Southern Resident killer whale rulemaking: While developing the new commercial whale watching licensing program to protect Southern Resident killer whales, we created an intergovernmental coordination group to advise the rulemaking process. We invited tribes to participate and had regular engagement from the Makah Tribe. We also met periodically with a representative of the Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC) to share process updates and invite feedback before public comment.
- 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 2020-2021 hunting season, nine of the 24 tribes shared their hunting regulations with us. The NWIFC compiles a report of the 20 western Washington treaty tribes' harvest data, which they then shared with us. We have negotiated or maintained numerous hunting agreements with tribes, which can be accessed [here](#).

At the request of many treaty tribes, we also updated our guidelines for evaluating a treaty tribes' asserted traditional hunting area. Many tribes provided comments. 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 and 2020. In response to the summits, we continue to share our enforcement discretion guidelines for the upcoming fall hunting season regarding traditional hunting areas outside of treaty ceded area. We also invited tribes with off-reservation hunting rights to a November meeting to continue this dialogue. We wish to develop a process that has broad tribal participation and would establish agreed-upon criteria that could be applied to treaty hunting disputes on traditional hunting areas consistent with the state Supreme Court case *State v Buchanan*, while meeting tribes' ceremonial and subsistence needs.

- Joint enforcement patrols on Lake Rufus Woods: WDFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) agreed on a new contract for the 2021-2023 biennium. The new contract will continue funding for joint enforcement patrols for anglers on Lake Rufus Woods and maintain the designated fishing areas available to both tribal and non-tribal anglers. Under the agreement, we provide pass-through funding to the CTCR as part of the fishery agreement. The parties agreed to an increased contract amount to fund the 2.5 tribal full-time employees. This represents the first contract increase since the original contract was put in place during 2007. We have requested funding for the increase.

### **Fish management and science**

- We collaborated in 2021 with many tribal biologists to evaluate the impact of toxic contaminants on seaward-migrating, juvenile Chinook salmon in Salish Sea rivers, including a special focus on the Puyallup River System. This will help us identify contamination sources so we can take actions to recover Chinook salmon. Our toxics monitoring results are regularly reported on the Puget Sound Partnership's Toxics in Fish Vital Signs [website](#).
- Our staff worked closely with staff from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the other three lower Columbia River Treaty Tribes, and the Upper Columbia United Tribes to provide the Northwest Power and Conservation Council with consensus recommendations for the 2020 addendum to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The recommendations helped the council revise the goals, objectives and indicators in the current program. The collaborative work enabled the council and others to effectively evaluate program performance and support adaptive management.
- After a review of the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy, the following elements have progressed during 2019 and 2020:
  - Co-managed a policy review with tribal partners.
  - Continually used emerging science as we updated the policy.
  - Collaborated on the policy performance and evaluation document.
  - Made joint decisions around the co-managed Hatchery Benefits document.
  - Engaged tribal co-managers in policy development.
  - Conducted public outreach and engagement.
- Washington's attorney general settled a lawsuit against Monsanto corporation related to a dangerous class of chemicals called PCBs. Under this settlement, Monsanto will pay the state \$95 million to mitigate damages related to PCBs in the Puget Sound ecosystem. Our staff provided key scientific support for this lawsuit. We identified the affected species, and the extent and magnitude of the problem in Puget Sound and its food web.

- WDFW and the U.S. v. Washington tribes completed their annual salmon fishery planning process (North of Falcon) in April. They agreed on conservation objectives and fishery plans for the year. We received a one-year Endangered Species Act (ESA) authorization in May from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This covered fisheries affecting ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook, while the co-managers continue work on a multiyear ESA resource management plan. They will submit this to the NMFS.
- Jamestown S’Klallam, Makah, and WDFW partnered with staff from Washington SeaGrant to successfully request funding from the Legislature for the SeaGrant monitoring program. This would help the European Green Crab (EGC) in the Salish Sea. Without these funds, the citizen-science based monitoring program would have ceased, leaving the co-managers with no tools to detect newly establishing populations of this invasive crab, which poses a significant threat to shellfish resources and the nearshore marine environment. WDFW, Jamestown S’Klallam and Makah staff continue to partner and eradicate EGC in areas along the Straits and on the Makah reservation.
- Colville, Spokane, Kalispel and WDFW have combined with other partners to combat the spread of Northern Pike in the Columbia Basin. This annual suppression of invasive Northern Pike, a prohibited species in Washington, is ongoing. WDFW and the tribes also worked to obtain funding for a long-term control program.
- We have worked with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to reintroduce sockeye salmon into Lake Cle Elum. As a result, sockeye are annually returning to the Yakima River Basin. We lost much of our sockeye in the Yakima Basin because of four irrigation storage dams from a century ago. Our work continues to construct a permanent juvenile fish passage facility at Cle Elum Dam as part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Management Plan.
- WDFW and Western Washington treaty tribes agreed on shellfish harvest management plans that provide frameworks for conducting commercial, subsistence, ceremonial and recreational fisheries. The shellfish governed by the agreements include Dungeness crab, pandalid shrimp, geoduck clams, horse clams, intertidal clams, Pacific oysters, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, scallops, crayfish and squid. Geoduck clam and Dungeness crab fisheries have produced the largest landings for shellfish fisheries in Puget Sound. About 4.8 million pounds of geoduck and 9 million pounds of crab landed in state and tribal fisheries in 2018.
- Western Washington treaty tribes, WDFW, DNR, the University of Washington and other partners have collaborated to form the Pacific Northwest Crab Research Group. This group advances our understanding of crab life history and population dynamics. To advise long-term fisheries management, we implemented a pilot larval light trap network to explore crab larval dynamics as the group’s first research project.
- WDFW and coastal Washington treaty tribes agreed on Dungeness crab harvest management plans that provide a management framework for conducting the commercial fishery on the Washington coast north of Point Chehalis. State and tribal landings of coastal Dungeness crab totaled 12.4 million pounds through July of the 2020-2021 season.
- WDFW and Region 2E treaty tribes developed and implemented a new dispute resolution process that uses three independent academic advisers to create a technical review panel. The panel will decide a decadelong dispute on unreported harvest in recreational Dungeness crab fisheries. The process was viewed by the state and tribes as a constructive way to resolve long-standing technical disagreements. The technical review panel process we developed could be replicated to help settle disputes in other fisheries.

- Continued collaboration took place among Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, WDFW and scientists from NOAA, National Park Service, USGS, and USFWS to recover salmon and steelhead in the Elwha River after dam removal. The group is moving from the “preservation” phase to the “recolonization” phase for native, anadromous fish. While the fishing moratorium is extended for an additional year, preliminary discussions have begun to ensure future fisheries are consistent with conservation objectives and recovery goals.
- Managing coastal steelhead has undergone changes in the last year to improve how we meet conservation goals while providing fishing opportunity. This will be challenging in the future given decreased wild and hatchery populations. Plans include improved communication with the public (summer workshops and advisory group), scientific research to fill data gaps around fishery impact and marine survival, and identifying budget needs for long-term planning and monitoring.
- We evaluated trout stocking techniques using sophisticated technology (acoustic telemetry) and angler reporting to improve angler satisfaction in this important fishery.

## Hatcheries

- In cooperation with the NWIFC, we worked through a second challenging pandemic season. We collaboratively mass-marked and code-wire tagged nearly all salmon released into Washington waters. This is a tremendous effort even in normal years. Completing this critical work during an ongoing global pandemic makes this year’s accomplishments especially notable.
- WDFW and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation continue to coordinate on a plan at Priest Rapids Hatchery that creates a more efficient and collaborative process to supply surplus fall Chinook eggs/fish. This helps other facilities meet broodstock needs and helps the Yakama Nation meet its production goals, while ensuring that broodstock needs are also achieved for the Grant County Public Utility District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fall Chinook mitigation programs in the Hanford Reach.
- The following hatchery production that was funded in 2019-2021 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

## Wildlife management

- Between October 2020 and June 2021, we hosted five coordination meetings with tribes and partners from the USDA Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Parks to discuss outdoor recreation. Issues included recreation impacts on wildlife and treaty rights, capacity for enforcement of recreation regulations, and goals and strategies for educating recreationists. A set of principles for balancing conservation and recreation were workshopped with the group. The next meeting will discuss the draft WDFW Statewide Recreation Strategy.

- Our staff worked with Point Elliot Treaty Tribes on elk/agriculture conflicts in the Skagit River Valley. One of the main collaborations was working on nonlethal efforts to move elk away from agricultural areas. Tribal and WDFW representatives meet regularly at a policy and technical level to discuss progress, the vision for future cooperative efforts, and concerns related to conservation and/or hunting opportunity. Additionally, our staff worked with the Point Elliott Treaty Tribes on a variety of wildlife management projects, including aerial elk surveys in the North Cascades Elk Herd area, black bear monitoring, mountain goat surveys and waterfowl work.
- The Lands Division presented and discussed six potential land acquisition projects with interested Washington tribes in January before entering a public comment period on the same projects. Much interest was expressed in projects in Grays Harbor, Lewis and Thurston counties. This was part of our Lands 20/20 process, an early stage where we determine whether the agency is committed to moving forward to pursue funding for the presented projects. The director approved all six projects in March to move forward to pursue funding. The projects can be viewed on our [land acquisitions](#) page.
- We continue to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on multiple game management and conservation projects. This includes monitoring bighorn sheep disease outbreak in the Mount Hull herd, coordinating and monitoring the distribution of a tribal-led pronghorn antelope introduction effort, and collaborating on a tribal-led effort to implement big game surveys in northcentral/northeast Washington. Other projects include augmenting sharp-tail grouse populations through trapping in British Columbia and releasing on and off tribal land, coordinating multiple carnivore projects, and sharing wildlife radio collar data through a nondisclosure agreement.
- We coordinated with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on a variety of wildlife issues. This includes the Yakama Nation's pronghorn reintroduction effort and improving in-stream habitat on WDFW-managed lands.
- We continue to coordinate with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe on an ongoing deer survival study in Yakima and Kittitas counties.
- We coordinated with Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Nation biologists on burrowing owl management related to artificial burrow maintenance and monitoring with other eastern Washington and eastern Oregon partners. The group's goal is to standardize and improve these monitoring and data protocols, and increase capacity for individual programs and regionwide conservation efforts.

## Habitat

- The WDFW Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provided \$1.5 million in grant awards for seven projects to tribes who competed successfully as part of the biennial ESRP grant competition that restores shorelines and estuaries in Puget Sound. Tribes receiving this funding are the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, the Skagit River System Cooperative, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- The Puget Sound National Estuary Program's Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead Program (co-led in collaboration with Washington Department of Natural Resources) completed investments for the cooperative agreement period. We awarded funds from federal fiscal year 2016-2020 Puget Sound Geographic Fund in grants to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (1); Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1); Tulalip Tribes (3); Skagit River System Cooperative (2); and Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians (1). The Suquamish Tribe is a lead collaborator in two additional grants.



- We continue to coordinate with tribes to ensure estuary restoration meets the shared goals of the tribes and state for the Duckabush Estuary Restoration project. This project is part of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). Tribal coordination is ongoing to evaluate project compatibility with shellfishing opportunity. We've initiated monthly cultural resources coordination meetings, including Tribal Historic Preservation Program Office (THPO) meetings. These will be instrumental as we refine designs and collect geotechnical data.
- As part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, we continue working with the Quinault Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. Our goal is to advance the Aquatic Species Restoration plan's development and implement on-the-ground restoration projects. This will protect and restore priority habitats throughout the Chehalis Basin.
- We collaborated with the Quinault Indian Nation to study spring Chinook genetics in the Chehalis Basin. This will better prioritize restoration projects.
- In 2021, we organized regular meetings of a habitat restoration cultural resources working group with interested tribes. This group will improve communication and coordination for archaeological and historical resources around restoration and other actions under the Chehalis Basin Strategy.
- We coordinated with multiple Puget Sound area tribes to share assessments of our watershed planning efforts associated with the Streamflow Restoration Act.
- We continued our partnership with the Yakama Nation to implement the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.
- We are working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Department of Ecology, Oregon, and others on a long-term, integrated water management plan for the Walla Walla River Basin.
- We coordinated with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to convince NMFS to reinstate fish passage requirements at all three PacificCorp's Lewis River dams.
- We coordinated with Skagit Basin tribes on study requests and a dispute resolution process in the relicensing process for Seattle City Light's three Skagit River dams.
- Habitat and Fish program staff continue to work with Upper Columbia United Tribes to reintroduce salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. More specifically, we are coordinating with Upper Columbia United Tribes staff and the Colville, Spokane, and Coeur D'Alene tribes on near-term experimental releases, to study design for fish behavior and engineering studies, and coordinate with federal agencies.
- We are working with Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council member Guy Norman to coordinate with tribes across the Columbia Basin (in Washington and beyond) as Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington seek to launch the Columbia Basin Collaborative in fall 2021. The collaborative will identify actions across the "four H's" (harvest, hatcheries, habitat and hydropower) and predation management to put the region on a path toward achieving healthy, harvestable salmon returns.

We continued to develop a new rule section to implement and organize standards that we use for instream structures, fish screening and diversions, and climate adaptive water crossing structures (Chapter 77.57 RCW Entitled Fishways, Flows, and Screening). This will

address compliance issues for instream structures and screening, steps to bring owners into compliance, and actions for noncompliance.

- We continue to chair the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB). We collaborated with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to help restore healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead statewide by removing fish passage barriers. The board received \$29 million in capital grants. These are extended to 25 fish passage projects statewide.
- WDFW, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and the FBRB developed a comprehensive statewide strategy to maximize salmon and orca recovery benefits. The strategy will guide FBRB's funding recommendations, as well as other state fish passage barrier correction programs. Existing staff continue to work on this proviso, while accommodating pandemic-mandated furloughs, competing teamwork priorities due to vacancies, and the unavailability of contractors. We will work with tribal governments as we develop the statewide strategy.
- We advanced full restoration on the Island Unit site in the Skagit River delta. Our staff worked closely with the Skagit River System Cooperative (providing natural resource management services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community) and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe on the project advisory group. This process helped us formulate and understand the costs and benefits of the Island Unit Alternative analysis, which has now been completed. SRSC staff also continue to provide important understanding around restoration effectiveness, smolt response, and channel designs that we use to inform improved restoration.
- We are advancing salmon recovery by investing in interdisciplinary teams. These teams will address watershed specific questions and concerns related to recovery in the Stillaguamish Basin. This work is critical for us to understand specific limitations to recovery and how to best target and improve project decision for the best outcome for the salmon. We also established an internal team (Stillaguamish Integrated Conservation and Rebuilding team) that coordinates restoration and recovery strategy.
- We are hiring a dedicated Stillaguamish restoration planner. Funding for this position comes from the Pacific Salmon Treaty. We also hired a compliance inspector for the Stillaguamish Basin who will inspect all permitted work for compliance with the hydraulic code and work on enforcing the hydraulic code through our civil authority.

Our Region 5 staff partnered with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (CIT) to remove Kwoonesum Dam and improve fish access to available habitat. The project ranked as one of the highest priorities for fish passage in southwest Washington during the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant review. Located on Wildboy Creek, a tributary to the Washougal River, the 1960s dam was built to provide lake recreation to a Girl Scouts camp. Removing the dam will open about 6 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for threatened lower Columbia coho and steelhead. The CIT conducted extensive community outreach and worked with Weyerhaeuser and Columbia Land Trust to secure proper land ownership so we could pursue dam removal. Our staff provided biological and engineering assistance for the project and processed the Hydraulic Project Approval permit. The project begins this fall.

## **Enforcement**

- We continue to implement an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to enforce and cooperatively patrol recreational fisheries within the Rufus Woods Reservoir of the upper Columbia River. As a part of that extended agreement, we provided \$3 million to create fishing access sites on the reservoir. This benefits state and tribal citizens, and funds two Colville tribal fish and wildlife officer positions.
- Tribal and state law enforcement collaborated to address poaching and trafficking cases where nontribal and tribal individuals co-conspired in violations. Alone, the jurisdictional reach of each entity is limited. Together, we successfully disrupted illegal harvests and markets.
- Our enforcement works with our local Yakama Nation officers on joint enforcement concerns and coordinates investigations of nontribal members within the reservation boundaries. Additionally, officers are cooperatively working with Yakama Nation officers in response to potentially dangerous wildlife issues.
- Our 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 nontribal fishers.
- Our enforcement officers continue to work jointly on patrols with tribal enforcement officers to address fisheries in the Puget sound.
- Five of our new hire officers attended in-house training presented by the Attorney General's office. The training focused on tribal case law, policies, and procedures and help staff understand the varying level of agreements we have with tribal governments.
- Our enforcement officers worked with Stillaguamish Tribe Natural Resource officers on enforcement issues for the Stillaguamish River and watershed.

## **Staff contact**

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# Washington State Gambling Commission

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## 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 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 29 casinos.

## Highlights

We mutually agreed to amendments to restate the Class III gaming compacts, including updates to regulatory and operational processes, for the Skokomish Indian Tribe and Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

We mutually agreed to amendments that will provide new gaming provisions for high limit rooms and pits and extension of credit; provide continued cooperation to promote responsible gaming; and increase the tribe's contributions to the community with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, and Suquamish Tribe.

As a result of HB 2638, we mutually agreed to amendments with 16 tribes for sports wagering: the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lummi Nation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and Tulalip Tribes.

We expanded our negotiation team to include agency staff as subject matter experts to help us negotiate amendments, when needed. Our staff created new forms, provided public information on our website, and updated internal processes for the new compact provisions. Staff then met with tribal representatives to discuss implementation and clarify the standards of these provisions. We also had ongoing communication with tribal gaming agencies to set policies and procedures and share new forms, regulatory checklists, guidelines and programs. This continues to be an important part of working with our co-regulatory partners.

In February, we passed a rule that allowed sports wagering vendors to submit applications for a pre-licensing investigative process in anticipation of finalized sports wagering compact amendments. The investigative process can take an extensive amount of time, and this pre-licensing investigative process can spread the workload and improve investigative response time. Staff from across our agency were also reassigned to assist licensing staff with the anticipated increased workload. We have developed rule language to allow licensed vendors and their representatives to enter contracts with tribes and provide sports wagering products and services.

The Tribal Gaming unit continued to work with tribes to address safety concerns of patrons and staff due to COVID-19. The tribal casinos made several changes such as temperature checks, mask requirements, increased distance between machines, eliminated or decreased the number of tables and machines available, and made their facilities nonsmoking. All meetings with tribal leaders changed to virtual meetings.

We will continue discussions and updates with tribal leaders on emerging topics such as sports wagering implementation, and rulemaking and regulatory billing.

We provided updates and participated in, or organized, virtual meetings and training for: licensing staff, tribal gaming agency directors, gaming executives, equipment manufacturers and independent testing laboratories.

We postponed New Agent Training in 2020 due to COVID-19, but we plan to conduct the training in 2022. The training includes licensing and regulating Class III gaming in Washington.

As part of our ongoing co-regulatory relationship with the tribes, and to improve operational efficiency and the use of new technology, we jointly agreed to 16 clarifications of compact appendices, and concurred with 311 internal control and game rule submissions. Several of these compact clarifications were agreements for new concepts that required extensive staff time to complete.

### **Staff contact**

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# Department of Health

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## Summary

Secretary of Health Umair Shah and the DOH Executive Leadership team ensure that DOH consults with tribal governments in a manner that shows respect for their sovereign authority. They also direct DOH collaboration on public health issues such as the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect American Indian tribes. The secretary appointed David Bayne to oversee the agency's tribal work.

We also have a tribal relations director who facilitates and monitors ongoing information and issues, while serving as the principal point of contact for DOH-tribal consultation parties. The director attends and presents agency updates at tribal meeting. Our Strategic Partnership team works with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, tribes, and other interested parties to ensure the agency's tribal work includes equity, innovation and engagement.

## Highlights

In 2021, we invested approximately \$6.5 million in its tribal partnerships. We made 50% of the investments in contractual agreements with 25 tribes for programs such as WIC, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and COVID-19 Emergency Response. We invested a little more than \$1.4 million through contracts with tribal urban American Indian health providers and tribal epi centers for foundational public health services (FPHS) and other chronic and infectious disease prevention and surveillance projects. (Tribal epi centers manage public health information systems, investigate diseases of concern, manage disease prevention and control programs, respond to public health emergencies and coordinate with other public health authorities).

We also invested about \$1.6 million through contracts with the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) for FPHS policy development and to support other additional services and programs. These included Healthy Eating/Active Living, Tobacco and Marijuana Use Prevention, COVID-19 Crisis and Vaccine Response, immunization outreach and maternal infant health promotion.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we partnered with AIHC to have its emergency preparedness consultant assigned as the permanent tribal liaison to the Incident Management Team. Our staff met weekly with tribal representatives, other government agencies and the AIHC to communicate what resources were available for tribal nations and American Indian health organizations. Our representatives also met regularly with tribal health and clinic program representatives to discuss resource needs and provide technical assistance.

## Staff contact

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# Health Care Authority

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## Summary

We seek to provide high quality health care and support services through innovative policies and purchasing strategies. These includes the Apple Health (Medicaid) program, various behavioral health block grants, and the Public Employees Benefits Board and School Employees Benefits Board programs.

## Highlights

- Apple Health coverage and payments: In calendar year 2020, Apple Health provided health care coverage to more than 85,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives statewide and paid \$461 million for services. This includes \$193 million to tribes for health care, transport and administration.
- Apple Health managed care: Apple Health managed-care plans began paying the tribal outpatient encounter rate in full; tribes no longer need to submit managed care claims to our ProviderOne system. After consulting with tribes, we directed managed-care plans to accept tribal documentation that indicate when residential substance use treatment is medically necessary. We extended the deadline for tribes to submit all managed-care claims to managed-care plans to the end of 2021.
- **Apple Health innovations for Indian Health Service.** Since the last report, we completed the items below in consultation with tribes:
  - Approved for higher, cost-based, facility-specific rates for tribal residential substance use treatment to support trauma-focused care, tribal cultural programming, discharge planning and after-care support.
  - Doubled the rates for tribal primary care case management.
  - Obtained approval to use state funds for administrative payments to Health Home program lead organizations to expand tribal Health Home case management services.
  - Established a standard contract for nonemergency medical transportation brokers to use statewide with tribes.
  - Paid \$1.2 million to support tribal Medicaid transformation activities, such as integrating physical and behavioral health care and responding to the pandemic.
- Behavioral health funding: For fiscal year 2021, 28 tribes accepted \$4 million to support tribal behavioral health prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support programs.
- Tribal designated crisis responders: We completed tribal consultation on our WAC to appoint tribal designated crisis responders. We also provided technical assistance for tribal efforts to draft model tribal codes for involuntary behavioral health treatment.
- COVID-19 pandemic response: We continue to pay for health care services delivered by phone or telehealth and maintain Zoom licenses for tribal providers.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Historical Society

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## Summary

Our mission is to partner with our communities to explore how history connects us. We are committed to continue implementing the Centennial Accord, which was established in 1989 by gubernatorial proclamation. During the last biennium, we hired a half-time tribal liaison to help us get closer to this commitment. It's just one way we honor the government-to-government policy with the tribes of Washington.

## Highlights

- In 2020, we instituted a land acknowledgement that we shared at all public programs and events at the State History Museum.
- The State History Museum hosted its 16th annual In the Spirit Contemporary Native Art Exhibition and Festival. It happened July 15 through Aug. 29 and featured 37 pieces of art submitted by 22 native artists. The festival took place at the State History Museum, Tacoma Art Museum and Museum of Glass in Tacoma and featured art vendors, performers, demonstrators and native art exhibitions. The event was open to the public for free during the day at all three institutions. Last year, this event took place online due to COVID-19.
- We are working with individuals from tribal communities to highlight stories from Native veterans in remembrance for this year's Veteran's Day.
- We continue to provide the [Treaty Trail: U.S.-Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest](#) curriculum online through [washingtonhistory.org](http://washingtonhistory.org).
- We've been busy renovating the Great Hall exhibit area of the museum. The most recent renovated gallery, titled "360," incorporates Native perspectives on early explorers, dams, agriculture, fishing and more, and will soon be ready for viewing. Though legislative funds, we are also taking steps to start work on a larger portion of the Great Hall that focuses on tribal history and sovereignty. We've reached out to tribes across the state for their guidance and input with hopes of establishing a tribal advisory group to guide these efforts
- We helped provide a Heritage Capital Project Grant to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to rehabilitate buildings at the site of the Reynolds Farm and Indian Agency. The project will focus on the historic Reynolds' home and convert one bay of the garage/shop into a 'large object' collections storage.

## Staff contact

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# Office of the Insurance Commissioner

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## Summary

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

By working in partnership with Washington tribes, we hope to better understand and respect the rights and interests of tribal members and create long-term relationships. We work with American Indians and Alaska Natives through state-tribal partnerships to reduce health care disparities and make quality health care more accessible to them. To facilitate this effort, the OIC collaborates with American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) representatives for Washington through a mutually established consultation policy.

We also continue to explore new ways to work with Washington tribes in all areas of insurance. Our Consumer Advocacy program offers experienced insurance counselors who advocate for Washington consumers on many types of insurance, including health, auto and homeowner coverage. They investigate consumer complaints against insurance companies and make sure the companies comply with state laws. They also provide counseling and insurance education to consumers through our hotline, the web, email or in person. These services are available through our hotline at 1-800-562-6900 and [our website](#).

## Highlights

### Meetings, summits, conferences and outreach events

We participated in the following tribal-related meetings from Sept. 1, 2020, through June 1:

- Regular quarterly delegate meetings of AIHC virtual meetings.
- Attended virtual, semimonthly AIHC meetings with state agency tribal representatives.
- Regular tribal liaison virtual meetings with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.
- Issued [March 24 news release](#) urging property and casualty insurance companies to craft consent policies with Washington tribes for environmentally-sensitive projects.
- Helped an AIHC representative as they made a presentation to the national meeting of state insurance commissioners on tribes' vaccination efforts and success.

SHIBA and its affiliated sponsors participated in 131 outreach events that included American Indians and Alaska Natives. Their volunteers conducted over 239 one-on-one Medicare counseling sessions with American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

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## Summary

We are dedicated to keeping Washington safe and working. Our staff collaborates with tribal governments, medical providers, employers and workers to support that mission. L&I recognizes the inherent authority of tribal nations and seeks to maintain the highest respect for tribal governance. We provide workers' compensation insurance coverage, oversee workplace safety and health, deal with wage compliance matters and provide the trade industries with licensing, inspections and apprenticeships.

## Highlights

We continue our 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 the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSHS), Apprenticeship, Employer Services, Office of Human Resources, the agency tribal liaison and one point of contact for each regional office. These programs help guide committee decision-making on agency policies and guidelines. A few committee members have experience working directly with tribes in positions outside the agency. Their perspective is valuable in describing the perception of L&I to each tribal entity.

## Activities

- L&I has finalized a Tribal Field Guide for its staff to use.
- We are working with tribes to streamline the permitting process and join Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to provide better services to tribal businesses. From September 2020 through April, there have been 149 electrical permits issued on tribal properties or by tribes.
- L&I is continuing ongoing education of government-to-government training for its employees. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the agency training has been on hold.
- We support apprenticeship programs for tribal members, where apprentices earn a wage while they learn specific, high-value skills in the trade or profession of their choice. Graduates receive nationally recognized certifications that verify they have the knowledge and journey-level skills required for their chosen career. These opportunities can be found all over the state.
- The tribal apprentice subcommittee is part of the Washington State Apprentice Training Council (WSATC). We work closely with the council, which created a subcommittee including tribal members that works with all the tribes. The committee reports to the council quarterly.
- L&I highlights the contributions of all indigenous communities. For the past 16 years, we have sponsored a series of events during American Indian Heritage Month in November to educate others and celebrate the rich cultural traditions and proud ancestry of American Indians.
- Our staff participate in a variety of tribal events. Between September 2020 and June, staff attended the Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention.

## Staff contact

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# Department of Licensing

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## Summary

Our mission is to help every Washington resident live, work, drive and thrive. We serve residents by licensing drivers, vehicles, vessels and over 40 different professions. We also collect more than \$2.8 billion in fuel taxes and licensing fees each year that fund the state's transportation network.

## Highlights

**Tribal license plate compacts:** In 2020, the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2491, which authorizes us and Washington tribes to enter compacts to provide tribal license plates and vehicle registrations. We requested this legislation and worked closely with tribes to develop the proposal and pass it through the legislative process. DOL is currently working with several tribes on tribal license plate compacts.

**Fuel tax agreements:** We may enter into motor vehicle fuel tax compact agreements with any federally recognized American Indian tribe located on a reservation in Washington. DOL has 25 fuel tax agreements with tribal governments. We continue to work with tribes to enter new agreements and update language. For calendar year 2020, we provided \$53.9 million in fuel tax refunds to tribes through fuel tax agreements.

Due to COVID-19 impacts, the governor issued [Proclamation 20-56](#) to suspend the restriction that we could only use fuel tax refunds for transportation purposes. This proclamation is active until the end of the state of emergency or until the governor formally says differently. We worked with tribes to communicate updates about the proclamation and answer questions.

**Reporting vessel information:** We continue to work with tribes and the U.S. Coast Guard to increase tribal vessel reporting information as required under the 1994 Consent Decree. For 2021, we provided 3,000 decals to the Tribal Fisheries Commission and received 300 tribal vessel registrations.

**Tribal government vehicles:** Similar to other government entities, we issued government exempt license plates for tribal government vehicles. These license plates do not need to be renewed and are exempt from standard vehicle registration fees. In 2020, we issued 324 new tribal government vehicle plates. There are currently about 4,368 tribal government vehicle plates in circulation.

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# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

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## Summary

Our mission is to serve the public by promoting public safety and trust through fair administration and enforcement of liquor, cannabis, tobacco and vapor laws. We support the principles of the Centennial Accord by promoting partnerships with tribes throughout Washington that are affected by alcohol, tobacco, vapor and cannabis regulation.

## Highlights

We worked with several tribes through 2019 and 2020 to update our government-to-government Consultation Policy, approved Aug. 18. It now reflects the full scope of our current work, and how our relationships with tribal governments function. The Government-to-Government Consultation, Coordination, and Planning Board Policy defines consultation as “an enhanced form of communication which emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility.”

In a related effort, we hope to reconstitute a Tribal/LCB Collaborative Committee, which would meet at least annually to resolve issues regarding alcohol, cannabis, tobacco and vapor products. The policy envisions that co-chairs of the Collaborative Committee, one an elected tribal leader and the other a board member, would have independent authority to set agendas and call meetings to address issues as they arise. Once it starts, the committee could develop a charter that would further describe its functions, vision and goals.

The governor has delegated us to negotiate compacts with tribes that are interested in operating cannabis enterprises. Over the past year, five additional tribes have completed cannabis compacts with the state. The agreements authorize Washington marijuana licensees to conduct cannabis-related business with any tribe that has a valid compact. We now have 19 of the federally recognized tribes in Washington that have completed compacts. Compacts appear to be nearly finished with another two tribes, and three additional tribes are engaged in the process of developing compacts.

We are grateful for the relationships we have strengthened through the process of negotiating cannabis compacts and liquor Memoranda of Agreements (MOA). The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation completed an MOA with us in 2020, bringing the total to seven, and we are working on another with the Tulalip Tribes. We are proud to be the frontrunners in the nation for government-to-government cannabis agreements and hope to serve as a model for other states with regulated cannabis markets.

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# Washington's Lottery

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## Summary

We are a state agency mandated to generate funds for the support of state programs. Washington State Lottery (WSL) sells tickets for games of chance to the public. Revenue from those sales pay for the costs of running the lottery business, which includes producing, marketing and selling lottery products. All WSL profits support the public good.

The Legislature decides how the government spends revenue that we generate. Recipients of WSL's proceeds include the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, Economic Development Account, Problem Gambling Account, General Fund Account and (completed) stadium debt payments for Lumen Field. We have contributed more than \$4 billion to various state programs since our inception. We are committed to maximizing opportunities for qualified veteran-, minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and require all contractors to fully comply with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal and state nondiscrimination laws.

We are proud to have tribal retailers support our mission to benefit all people of Washington.

## Highlights

### Fiscal year 2021 tribal sales

- Fifty-four licensed tribal retail locations sold tickets totaling \$16,096,859.
- Ticket sales at tribal locations have provided \$804,843 in sales commissions to those retailers.

## Staff contacts

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# Washington Military Department

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## 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 necessary to succeed as productive adults. Our department includes the Emergency Management Division, Washington National Guard and Washington Youth Academy. EMD's 24-hour Alert and Warning Center provides timely notification to tribes impacted by natural or man-made emergencies, and regularly tests and activates the systems we use to alert tribal communities.

## Highlights

### Response and logistics

- The Alert and Warning Center issued 950 weather advisories, watches and warnings to tribes.
- We continued to build the capacity for tribes to request resources during a disaster. To do that, we conducted WebEOC training for more than 13 tribes. As a result, there are now 26 tribes that have signed agreements to use WebEOC during disasters.
- The State Emergency Operations Center filled 399 resource requests submitted through WebEOC for 24 tribes during the COVID-19 response.

### Hazards and Outreach program

- The tsunami team installed new All-Hazard Alert and Broadcast sirens for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Lummi Nation, the Makah Tribe, the Samish Indian Nation, the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- The tsunami team hosted a tsunami seminar and workshop for tribal, federal, state and local stakeholders. Representatives from Lummi Nation, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe attended.

### Public Assistance program and Fire Management Assistance Grant

- We provided Public Assistance for the COVID-19 pandemic to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Lummi Nation, the Makah Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, and the Suquamish Tribe.
- We provided Public Assistance and Fire Management Assistance Grants to Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for the September 2020 wildfires and straight-line winds disaster.
- We provided Public Assistance for the January 2021 severe storms and flooding disaster to the Puyallup Tribe.

### Mitigation

- The mitigation team participated on a technical advisory group with the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe to help with its tsunami vertical evacuation tower project.

## **Preparedness Grants Program**

- We provided \$143,464 in Emergency Management Performance Grants to three tribes.
- We provided \$464,300 in Operation Stonegarden Grants to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to help with increasing border security and situation awareness.
- Through the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant, the Puyallup Tribe and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe joined the Seattle Urban Area Working Group as tribal representatives.

## **Preparedness**

- The planning team provided technical assistance to the Native Project, a federally qualified health center and urban health clinic, on how to develop the emergency operations plan.
- Six tribes attended the tribal-specific Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop to assess emergency management capability gaps and provide preparedness updates.
- Members of nine tribes attended 15 courses that covered incident command, emergency operations center interface, and mitigation planning.
- Tribal representatives from nine tribes participated in the 20th annual Washington State LEPC/Tribal Conference and Hazardous Materials Workshop. The conference hosted 21 presentations and classes for tribal participants.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Makah Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation participated in the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment to determine their capabilities while assessing the threats and hazards affecting their community.
- Our exercise team is coordinating with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Samish Indian Nation, the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, and the Skokomish Indian Tribe to participate in the Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise.

## **Washington National Guard Joint Operations Center**

- The Washington National Guard administered vaccines to the Hoh Indian Tribe in March and April 2021 and to the Lummi Nation in April, May and June 2021.

## **Washington Youth Academy**

- The WYA is a National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program designed to help at-risk youth change their lives, recover academic credits and gain important life skills to become productive, responsible citizens. The WYA is a residential (22 weeks) and post residential (1-year) program with one-on-one adult mentors for 16- to 18-year-old students who have or are at risk of dropping out of high school. Historically, graduates increase an average of two years and four months in academics and earn an average of 7.83 credits out of 8 total possible credits. Every class in the last year has included Native American youth.
- Our WYA recruiters work with high school American Indian education specialists across the state and tribal schools and organizations throughout the year.
- Over the past year, our outreach staff provided tours to contacts obtained from the state’s tribal directory, newsletters, materials and invitation.

## **Staff contact**

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# The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

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## Summary

We work to increase equity and participation in public contracting and procurement for small businesses owned by minorities, women, and other socially- and economically-disadvantaged people.

We manage the [state and federal certification programs](#) that certify small businesses owned and controlled by a minority, woman, or socially- and economically-disadvantaged person, which can include tribes and tribal members. We maintain an online directory of certified businesses so agencies, educational institutions, local governments, and prime contractors can find certified businesses in the industries they need. We assist agencies and educational institutions with best practices to increase spending with minority- and women-owned small businesses. This includes developing required [annual agency inclusion plans](#). We also lead the [Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity](#), which is a cross-agency effort for equity in public contracting and procurement.

## Highlights

### Launched Tools for Equity in Public Spending

In January, we published the [Washington State Tools for Equity in Public Spending](#), a toolkit to guide public agencies to create meaningful opportunities for small and diverse businesses to work with the state. This can help eliminate disparities in public spending and increase opportunities to tribes and tribal members that own businesses. We also hosted a widely attended [virtual launch event](#) to recognize the contributions of other agencies in the subcabinet. Since the launch, we have hosted monthly workshops and support sessions with state contracting and procurement specialists to share best practices and learn from each other's experience.

### Implementing the Business Diversity Management System (BDMS)

Since the release of the 2019 [statewide disparity study](#), we have followed the No. 1 recommendation to implement an electronic data and monitoring system for state agencies and colleges. This will fully capture their diverse spending and provide a system for agencies to ensure contract compliance. We are working with our vendor to [implement the BDMS](#) to let us track subcontractor spending in greater detail, and more specific data on Native American participation.

### Tracking statewide diversity spending

Every year we collect spending reports from state agencies and institutions of higher education to track how much money agencies spent with the demographic we serve, which includes tribes and tribal members. These [diverse spending reports](#) are posted on our website.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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## Summary

The Department of Natural Resources, led by Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz, works alongside tribal sovereigns to protect and care for Washington's lands and communities. In this partnership, we work to improve conditions for salmon, mitigate the impacts of climate change, address and improve protections for cultural and natural resources, support sustainable resource economies, and manage the cumulative impacts of activities on state-owned landscapes. We are committed to strengthening the health and resilience of our lands and waters, restoring Puget Sound, supporting salmon recovery, and creating economic opportunity in communities across Washington. Below is a snapshot of recent collaborative success we have accomplished with Washington tribes.

## Highlights

### House Bill 1168

In 2021, we partnered with stakeholders, such as Washington tribes, to secure comprehensive funding – \$125 million per biennium – from the Legislature to prevent wildfires, restore our forests, and build community resilience. This historic legislation will develop and implement the Forest Health Assessment and Treatment framework in part by partnering with tribes to expand the use of the Tribal Forest Protection Act. The legislation will also prioritize forest health treatments near state lands when entering into Good Neighbor Authority agreements. Funding from this legislation also helps increase speed, efficiency and impact on the landscape. This approach is consistent with DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, the Wildfire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan and the 2020 Forest Action Plan. We will work with Washington tribes in consultation to develop and implement initiatives to develop a forest health workforce.

We know that the best types of legislation and legislative proposals happen when all affected parties are at the table. That's why we continue to vet legislative priorities and agency strategies with tribes, their lobbyists and policy level staff. We are particularly thankful for the critical review and support these key partners provided on HB 1168, and we continue to meet with them for implementation planning.

Tribal sovereigns, entities, and members regularly engage with us to respond to fire, staff responders, conduct cultural reviews, deliver forest health treatments and staff cooperative command centers. State funding in this bill provides a catalyst for greater coordination and supported planned forest health and prescribed fire projects for fiscal year 2022-23 with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Kalispel Tribe of Indians. We have set goals for securing tribal cooperative burn agreements with tribal governments within the 20-year planning area to support cross-boundary treatments for prescribed fire.

### Wildfire preparedness/cooperative work

Through the Federal Excess Personal Property and Firefighter Property programs that we manage, the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe received two wildland fire engines in 2020. This greatly improved the tribe's ability to respond to incidents quickly and effectively. In 2020, Mason County Fire Protection District 16 received an engine from DNR to support their partnership program with the Skokomish Indian Tribe. Okanogan County Fire District 02, located on the Colville Indian Reservation, also received an engine.

We work cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to improve response on Washington tribal lands. This collaboration includes:

- Cooperative staffing at multiple air bases in Okanogan, Grant and Spokane counties.
- A new air base on the southern boundary of the Colville Reservation.
- Coordination with BIA on additional surge assets into Deer Park and Omak during the 2021 fire season.

This collaboration improved the coordinated response for fire incidents on both state and tribal lands and bolstered partnerships between DNR and tribal partners. We can now share resources and information more efficiently, resulting in faster and better coordinated wildland fire response for the tribes and DNR protected landowners.

In addition, we continue to make wildland fire academy training available to build tribal capacity. We had students from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians Agencies in fire academy training this year.

### **Forest health**

We believe that tribal partnership and collaboration is critical to restoring and maintaining the health and resiliency of Washington's forested ecosystems and successfully implementing DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic plan. We support tribal partners through direct funding and resources, which improved watersheds and forest health through increased landscape level planning, ecosystem services restoration, fuels reduction treatments and prescribed fire. Recent accomplishments during the 2021 fiscal year include:

- Supported the leadership of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians to complete the National Environmental Protection Act analysis for the Sxwuytn – Kaniksu Connections Trail project on the Colville National Forest.
- Provided essential support for a spring 2021 prescribed burn on tribal land.
- Supported the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to lead a collaboration with Trout Unlimited and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for strategic installation of beaver dam, man-made structures designed to mimic the form and function of beaver dams (beaver dam analogs) the Upper Columbia Region.
- Funded forest collaboratives through our competitive grant program. Many of these benefit from tribal participation such as the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative, led by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

### **Salmon recovery and restoration efforts**

DNR is moving forward on restoring Whiteman Cove, which involves removing a fish passage barrier identified under the 2013 U.S. District Court order litigation. Removal will reopen the natural tidal entrance to the cove and reestablish fish passage to and from Case Inlet, improving salmonid habitat in the South Puget Sound and better protecting our native salmon and orca. In partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe, whose usual and accustomed fishing area includes Whiteman Cove, we advocated for funding from the Legislature to move the project's design and permitting process forward. It is the highest priority habitat restoration project in the area.

Additionally, our State Lands Division accomplished a significant goal: we completed road maintenance and abandonment planning projects within the 2021 extension. This milestone represents 21 years of work, which includes numerous field staff interactions between tribal biologists, forest practice staff and state lands staff at a project-by-project level. Millions of state dollars were invested to correct fish barrier culverts and reduce the delivery of sediment to state. We now move into a mode of inspection and monitoring.

## **Recreation, conservation and treaty rights**

Our Recreation program continued working with the Tulalip Tribes and other sovereigns on the relationship between recreation and wildlife habitat. We continue to implement thoughtful planning that honors the relationship tribes have to our public lands by recognizing that overabundant recreational use challenges tribal rights to traditional and cultural practices.

Through this program, we want to better understand how to balance public access to DNR trust lands for recreation with the treaty reserved rights of tribes in western Washington to hunt wildlife on “open and unclaimed” lands. In coordination with the Tulalip Tribes, we are also funding research that will help us better understand how recreation impacts elk behavior. The study will focus on the North and South Rainier elk herds by placing wildlife camera traps in elk habitat areas that are also used for recreation. Overlaying data derived from the traps with information on recreational use will help researchers make connections between the frequency and timing of recreational use and the movement and behavior patterns of elk.

In partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), we have been listening to feedback and concerns about recreational overuse, impacts to wildlife habitat, enforcement, user education and related issues from many tribal partners. Over the next year, we will initiate further conversations with Washington tribes, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and recreational users on recreational use and public access on DNR-managed lands. The Recreation and Conservation Office and WDFW are conducting statewide planning efforts and we will help coordinate those.

## **Cultural resources**

- A timber sale with culturally modified trees (CMTs) was held at Upper Rutsatz in collaboration with the Nooksack Indian Tribe. This timber sale may potentially provide large cedar logs for traditional tribal usage, including cedar canoes and welcome poles.
- We have worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes to provide cedar harvest sites on state trust land.
- Clear Lake District reached out to tribes on recreation capital projects involving bridge replacements at the Walker Valley ORV area after the governor’s executive order (No. 0505) came out and SEPA released its review and comment procedures.
- We are presenting current projects to tribal partners before the SEPA process to ensure there are no unknown cultural resources within our project boundaries.
- Upland archaeologists have provided a series of cultural resource trainings for DNR staff.
- Upland archaeologists were commended by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on their collaborative efforts for the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

## **Timber sales**

- The Baker District held its annual Action Plan meeting with our tribal partners, which included:
  - Two timber sales with strategic outreach and field meetings with interested tribes.
  - The Caddis timber sale on Blanchard State Forest field meeting to identify CMTs with Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.
- Held a virtual pre-harvest review for the next fiscal year's action plan with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and Tulalip Tribes.
- Developed a protection plan with the Tulalip Tribes for a culturally significant site, which was newly identified during a timber sale design process.
- Developed two stream restoration projects with the Tulalip Tribes as a part of the timber sale road plan.

## **Staff contact**

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# Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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## Summary

Our agency looks for opportunities to develop mutually beneficial partnerships and agreements with tribes throughout the state. We manage more than 120 state parks and other properties that total approximately 138,000 acres. We support a variety of recreational and educational opportunities and provide stewardship protection for a diverse array of natural, cultural and historic resources.

## Highlights

### Planning, land management and environmental protection

- Our Collections program staff identified the original location of a petroglyph that was removed near the town of Vantage during dam construction over 65 years ago. We worked with the Grant County's public utility district to return it to the Wanapum Tribe for display in the Wanapum Heritage Center.
- In September 2020, our staff met with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's chairperson and their natural resources director to discuss master planning efforts for the stewardship and development of the Miller Peninsula State Park property near Sequim.
- As a managing partner for the Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, we held a special session with tribal members from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Tulalip Tribes to discuss updating interpretive exhibits on tribal history and culture within the reserve.
- Our staff collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Wanapum Tribe to improve the protection and interpretation of the petroglyph exhibit at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park.
- Our planning staff coordinated a Blue Mountains Tribal Workgroup. This included members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. We discussed planning alternatives and cultural resource protection for state parks in the Blue Mountain regional management area.

### Interpretive program partnerships

- Our Folk and Traditional Arts program staff worked with the Cowlitz Indian Tribes' Cultural Resources Department to produce a four-part video series on traditional resource gathering methods. The work with the tribe included developing a woodcarving project and associated multimedia resources as well as partnering with tribal staff and a spiritual leader to produce a 10-minute film called Mount St. Helens – A Fire Within. These resources will be displayed at the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center.
- Our Folk and Traditional Arts program staff worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Skokomish Indian Tribe to produce a documentary portraying traditional basket weaving and canoe paddle journey regalia with Skokomish and Chehalis tribal elders.

- We collaborated with the Samish Indian Nation to update interpretive exhibits at Rosario Beach that convey the story of Ko-kwal-alwoot, the Maiden of Deception Pass. The exhibits feature artwork by a Samish tribal member and accompany the Ko-kwal-alwoot story pole at Deception Pass State Park.

### **Development of Nisqually State Park with the Nisqually Indian Tribe**

- In October 2020, the Chair of the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Director of State Parks signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate and collaborate on the development and management of Nisqually State Park, and to work together to develop a framework for co-managing the park.
- Our staff and the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Parks Commission met over a dozen times to review designs, discuss artistic and interpretive opportunities, and discuss how to best protect natural and cultural resources for the newest state park. We conducted several on-site visits with tribal staff to tour the park and discuss conceptual plans for the Village Center. The center is the focus of the next park planning series and will include significant interpretive and programming elements featuring the Nisqually Indian Tribe's history and culture.
- During the 2021 legislative session, staff from State Parks and the Nisqually Indian Tribe made a joint presentation to members of the House Capital Budget Committee about the partnership between the tribe and State Parks and the shared vision for the park. We secured funding for the first phase of park development in the state capital budget.

### **Staff contacts**

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# Puget Sound Partnership

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## Summary

Our 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 manage and report on shared measurements of recovery, and we support our partners through mobilizing funding, removing barriers to implementation, and educating key decision-makers. State law also charges the Partnership's Leadership Council with developing, implementing, and monitoring a recovery plan to restore salmon populations in Puget Sound, which is vitally important to tribal treaty rights.

## Highlights

Collaboration with Puget Sound tribes is central to our collective effort.

- Tribes hold seats on our three boards established in statute: The Leadership Council, the Ecosystem Coordination Board, and the Science Panel. They also hold seats on our two advisory boards: the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee.
- Tribes regularly participate in Partnership-supported groups established at the watershed scale to develop and implement priorities for salmon and ecosystem recovery.
- We collaborate directly with tribes through the Partnership/Tribal Co-management Council and, when invited, the Tribal Management Conference.
- Partnership staff work with individual tribes throughout Puget Sound to coordinate specific local and regional projects to recover Puget Sound and its salmon.

We work closely with tribes on the important issues of salmon and Puget Sound recovery.

- Partnership staff served as a state co-lead for the State/Tribal Riparian Pathways Work Group 3 (Monitoring and Adaptive Management). Executive Director Laura Blackmore participated in Pathways 3, 4 and 5. This effort helps fulfill the governor's commitment to implement a site-potential tree height standard at the 2019 Centennial Accord.
- The executive director partnered with Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Executive Director Justin Parker to host virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill in April and May. During this series of events, we met with our Congressional delegation and senior administration officials to discuss ways the federal government could increase its role in salmon and watershed recovery.
- In April, the Leadership Council adopted its desired outcomes for the 2022-26 Action Agenda for Puget Sound, which incorporates tribal recommendations.

## Staff contact

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# Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Summary

We manage grant programs that help tribes, state and local governments and nongovernmental entities recover salmon, create places for outdoor recreation and protect wildlife habitat.

## Highlights

### Grants

For fiscal years 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$40 million in grants to 19 tribes. These funds went toward 69 projects to restore and protect salmon habitat, develop athletic and boating facilities, create water access sites, and protect critical riparian habitats. Program funding for these grant awards include:

- Salmon recovery funding grants: Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, Estuary and Salmon Restoration program, Family Forest Fish Passage program, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Salmon state and federal projects, Coast Restoration Initiative project, Chehalis Basin Strategy, Puget Sound Critical Stock.
- Recreation and conservation funding grants: Washington Wildlife and Recreation program, youth athletic facilities, Aquatic Land Enhancement Account, Boating Facilities program.

Since 1972, when the agency first assisted a tribal project, we have administered 627 grants to 27 tribes. Totaling over \$205 million, these projects have helped tribes with waterfront access and restoration, boating facility construction, salmon habitat restoration and monitoring, fish hatchery improvements, trail development, athletic facility development and local park development.

### Contracts

In 2019, we worked with several tribes to redevelop a grant agreement template that better balances the state's and tribal governments' responsibilities. Since then, we have continued to make internal changes that ensure we meet the promise of better government-to-government relations. On this front, we have dedicated policy staff to review tribal agreements and related documents and work directly with tribal legal staff to follow up on outstanding issues. This helps us fulfill our promise of timely and direct communications to our tribal partners. In addition, we maintain a learning environment internally around tribal agreement-making, so all agency staff recognize the unique needs of each tribal partner and ensure we proactively identify and elevate needs toward improved tribal relations.

## 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan

Every five years, we update the comprehensive outdoor recreation and conservation plan for Washington. This plan guides state and federal investment in outdoor recreation and conservation and includes an update to the State Trails Plan. Since we have recently initiated that process for the 2023 plan, we will seek input from the tribes and incorporate it into the plan. We also have tribal membership on the planning advisory group.



## **State-Tribal Riparian Initiative**

At the direction of the governor at the 2019 Centennial Accord, we participate with other state agencies on the state-tribal policy work group to implement a uniform science-based riparian protection, restoration and management policy. This is based on the ‘One Site Potential Tree Height’ riparian buffer standard. As articulated during the 2020 Centennial Accord, the goals are to achieve broad salmon recovery objectives, attain water quality standards, and improve climate resilience and carbon sequestration. RCO and Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) participate in several work groups and are co-leading the Funding Pathway Workgroup to generate legislative budget and policy proposals for state and tribal leadership consideration.

## **RCO’s cultural resource consultation**

We review restoration, construction, and acquisition projects for possible impacts to cultural and historic resources. The law requires most projects to undergo extensive review to minimize impacts to cultural resources. To improve our process, we contract with archaeologists at the Washington State Department of Transportation. These archaeologists help our staff review grant-funded projects for potential impacts to cultural resources. Our cultural resources coordinator then conducts consultations with natural and cultural resources tribal directors. These consultations are about potential impacts to cultural resources, and further enhance the government-to-government relationship. Our website displays information about every grant proposal, which includes maps, design plans and detailed projects. (Please note: We do not make sensitive information available to the public.)

Our staff facilitates cultural resources trainings for grant recipients. They also participate in the annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit, conduct project site visits, oversee consultant work, and frequently meet with tribal staff and attend functions hosted by tribes.

Our agency recently hired an SOI-qualified archaeologist in August. This new position will allow us to build internal capacity and help us conduct robust and thorough project reviews and consultation.

## **Project highlights**

Owen Beach (Tacoma Metro Parks): The Puyallup’s Tribal Language Program and Historic Preservation Office dedicated their time and resources to assist RCO and Metro Parks Tacoma to properly interpret the place name for Owen Beach Park. Owen Beach is located within what is now known as Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium Park in Tacoma.

We consulted tribes and the Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation to make sure grant-funded project actions would not adversely affect this important place. Through extensive work with the consulting tribes and Metro Parks Tacoma, we are excited for this place to now also be known by its Lushootseed name (sq<sup>w</sup>uʔq<sup>w</sup>uʔq<sup>w</sup>ajali). Interpretive signs and other park amenities will help tell the tribal history and stories of this place. Construction is underway.

Dungeness River Acquisition and Restoration (Jamestown Tribe): After acquiring the property through a Puget Sound acquisition and restoration grant from RCO, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe was awarded funding in part through the RCO-managed orca funding. Funding for this grant program comes through the NOAA Fisheries distribution intended to support Southern Resident killer whale and Chinook salmon recovery. With these funds, the tribe will complete final design and

construct a critical portion of the Dungeness Rivers USACE dike setback project. The floodplain restoration project will set back nearly a mile of dike to restore, permanently conserve, and reconnect 65 acres of historic floodplain to the Dungeness River. The project will quadruple the width of the floodway along 0.95 mile of river and restore a chain of natural processes. We anticipate construction to begin early 2022.

### **Staff contacts**

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# Results Washington, Office of the Governor

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## 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
- Prosperous economy
- Sustainable energy and a clean environment
- Healthy and safe communities
- Efficient, effective and accountable government

## Highlights

- Held the [9<sup>th</sup> annual Lean Transformation conference](#) virtually, which provided free, continuous improvement-focused learning opportunities for over 3,000 participants (mostly state government employees). We will again offer the conference virtually in 2021.
- Introduced [Public Performance Reviews](#) in calendar year 2021. This new approach to public reviews focuses on partnering with state agencies on complex, cross-enterprise projects. The public meetings with Gov. Jay Inslee are one milestone in a larger, project management process. Because meetings are held virtually, we can now reach a larger audience.
- Initiated agency strategic planning work with the intent to partner across agencies — small and large — to develop a performance management platform for Washington. This platform would integrate continuous improvement, including Lean, and performance management. Our goal is to deliver a feasible, attainable and sustainable approach. We will work over the coming months to find the best balance between our leadership's intent and over 50 small and large agencies' expectations of Results Washington.

## Staff contact

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# Department of Revenue

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## Summary

The [Department of Revenue](#) is the state of Washington's primary tax administration agency, overseeing more than [60 types of taxes](#). We are committed to fostering our government-to-government relationships with the tribes by dedicating staff time and resources to work with the tribes, tribal citizens, tribal businesses and others that do business in Indian Country.

Director Vikki Smith actively engages in government-to-government meetings with tribes. And our Tribal Tax Advisory Group (TTAG) remains active with meetings that are co-led by the director and W. Ron Allen, tribal council chairman for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

The department has prioritized the implementation of retail sales tax compacts, which allow tribes to receive a portion of the sales tax revenue that is generated on tribal lands involving sales transactions between nonmembers. To date, over 100 department employees have invested over 10,000 hours to implement the legislation that authorized this new type of compact (Substitute House Bill 2803, 2020). We have so far compacted with seven tribes and are actively working with four others toward a compact.

In 2020, the Lummi Nation requested consultation on the treaty fishery exemption. We agreed to consultation and all federally-recognized tribes located in Washington were invited to attend and participate. Since early 2021, this effort has been expanded to include hunting and gathering. We are committed to working with tribal governments on these important issues throughout the consultation process and beyond.

## Highlights

- Co-hosted five information and feedback-sharing TTAG meetings.
- Continued to support and discuss tribal tax issues identified by TTAG members. Co-hosted Minimal Burden, Nuts and Bolts, and Forms (created in 2021) subgroup meetings.
- Responded to over 150 tribal-related inquiries and issued 70 binding letter ruling requests from tribal and nontribal businesses that engage in business with tribes and their citizens.
- Collaborated with the Liquor and Cannabis Board to review marijuana compacts.
- Created an agencywide education plan to provide staff with more tribal-related resources.
- Continued annual meetings with tribes on cigarette compacts. The state has cigarette compacts with 25 tribes.

## Staff contact

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# Office of the Secretary of State

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## Summary

Our office and Secretary of State Kim Wyman continue to work closely with Washington's tribal communities to expand knowledge of their unique histories, ensure their right to vote and take part in the electoral process, and maintain historic and literary documents related to Washington's tribes.

## Highlights

### Elections Division

Our office has designated Elections staff that are responsible for outreach to tribal communities. Our team works with Washington tribes to promote education and outreach tools for tribal voters. We continue meeting with tribal governments to provide online voter registration using tribal ID card data.

VoteWA.gov uses a GPS system 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 ballots. We also include the latitude and longitude coordinates for precise ballot drop box locations. There are currently 31 ballot drop boxes installed on tribal land, a 43% increase from 2018. Another 83 drop boxes are within 5 miles of tribal land. We assist tribal-led voter registration drives by providing voter registration forms, buttons, stickers, posters and pens free upon request. In the 2020 general election, overall voter turnout was 84% of registered voters — 78% for registered voters living on tribal land. For more information, visit [our website](#).

### Washington State Archives

Washington State Archives continues to scan and make public 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. Digital archives can be searched and viewed at [www.digitalarchives.wa.gov](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov). Archives is honored to have Joe Kalama, Nisqually Tribal archivist, as a Washington State Historic Records Advisory Board member. Over the past year-and-a-half, Archives has worked closely with the tribes, and other stakeholders to successfully prevent the closure of the National Archives and Records Administration facility in Seattle.

### Washington State Library

The State Library helped distribute CARES ACT funds to tribal libraries for personal protective equipment (PPE), mobile hot spots and funds to pay for the service, and outreach grants for libraries.

The following tribes applied for and received PPE grants: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Hoh Indian Tribe; Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Lummi Nation; Nisqually Indian Tribe; Nooksack Indian Tribe; and the Suquamish Tribe.

The following tribes applied for and received mobile hot spots: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Hoh Indian Tribe; Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Nooksack Indian Tribe; and the Suquamish Tribe. The Hoh Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, and Suquamish Tribe received outreach grants.

The library received American Rescue Plan Act funds, which worked out to \$7,500 for each tribal entity in the state. Tribes received notification on how to apply for these grants and the following tribes successfully applied for these funds: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Makah Tribe; Nisqually Indian Tribe; and the Squaxin Island Tribe. The tribal library consultant visited the Jamestown S’Klallam tribal library to witness the tribe’s progress expanding its tribal library and museum. She also visited the Little Boston Tribal Library (Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe) to see how the library was creating a safe place for community members to visit. At the Squaxin Island Library, Museum and Research Center, she learned about recent updates made to the facility.

Washington State Library facilitated virtual meetings for all tribal libraries, where they met the new state librarian and learned how to request a visit to their tribal communities from State Poet Laureate Rena Priest, who is an enrolled Lummi Tribal member. In addition, the tribal librarians shared whether their libraries were open or still closed. For more information, visit [our website](#).

### **Washington Talking Book & Braille Library**

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) provides comprehensive statewide library services at the library and by mail for any Washington tribal resident unable to read standard print material due to blindness, visual impairment, deaf-blindness, a physical disability (cannot hold a book or turn pages) or 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 provides readers advisory, programming and youth services. These include summer reading, early literacy and multisensory story times. For more information, visit [their website](#).

### **Legacy Washington**

Legacy Washington’s Ahead of the Curve exhibit spotlights the 2020 centennial of the 19th Amendment, which legally guaranteed American women the right to vote. Fawn Sharp, president of the Quinault Indian Nation, and the late Janet McCloud, a descendant of Chief Seattle, are among the women featured in the exhibit. For more information, visit [our website](#).

### **Combined Fund Drive**

The CFD distributes donations to dozens of charities that help tribal communities and members in need throughout Washington. For more information, visit [CFD’s website](#).

### **Corporations and Charities Division**

The Corporations and Charities Division continues to work with tribal members to help them establish a corporation, nonprofit or charity, and maintain entities through filing annual reports and other documents. For more information, visit [our website](#).

### **Proposed new Library and Archives Building**

The Legislature approved the design and construction of a new state Archives and Library Building. Located in Tumwater, the project has moved to the construction design phase for a planned opening in early 2024. This 112,500-square-foot facility will replace the current State Archives and State Library buildings, and provide offices for the Elections, Operations, and Corporations and Charities divisions.

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# Department of Social and Health Services

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## Summary

As 2021 ends, the relationships we have with tribal governments in our state are strong. Our mission to transform lives is more important to the residents of our great state now more than ever before. We know the past two years of this pandemic has changed us, and the old, normal way of doing our important work doesn't fit anymore. Line-of-sight supervision has given way to telecommuting and zoom meetings. Things such as digital technology and remote delivery are now at the core of how we make services more accessible. And health and safety are now central to our employees, clients, patients and residents — not just peripheral. We had to and will continue to adapt to the new reality we face with COVID-19.

DSHS and Washington tribes are resilient and innovative. We hold strong conversations and listen to each other about ways to expand our services and make them better and more inclusive. Together, we better anticipate the needs of the people in our state. And we are challenging deeply held beliefs about how to provide these services.

Now is the time for new ideas of doing business. We are 17,000 employees and 29 tribes strong and we service over 2.8 million people in the state. Our annual gathering is a time to share ideas and successes as we point our agency toward the future together.

## Highlights

- We have worked diligently to consult and collaborate with tribes to develop these relationships. We also helped create programs in collaboration with tribes across several decades. Our department leadership has supported us working closely with tribes to accomplish incredible goals, including our consultation and communication protocols/policy.
- We are committed to implementing the Tribal Leaders Social Services Council with guidance from tribal leaders and communities, and state government partners. We are close to gaining approval and are excited to see where it takes us in our collective efforts to provide services under the government-to-government umbrella.

## Aging and Long-term Support Administration

- Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative continues to expand direct contracting opportunities for sustainable, culturally relevant, long-term services and supports. The initiative also helps us return institutionalized American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) to their communities.
- We held virtual tribal summits (including the Annual Tribal-ALTSA-HCS-AAA Summit) in fall 2020 and spring 2021. You can explore the recorded sessions, ranging from veteran services to Lessons from the Pandemic, on [our website](#).
- Our State Unit on Aging continues to work with tribes and tribal Area Agencies on Aging to provide and rebuild elder services affected by COVID-19 and fires. We now have funding to rebuild the Colville Confederated Tribes' elder center/congregate meal site and support grandparents raising grandchildren during school closures.

- We implemented [electronic Visit Verification](#) for in-home services for home care agencies and Individual Providers. Information is regularly shared through IPAC meetings and Tribal Summits. Seven tribes help kinship care families with supports, services and benefits application assistance.
- [Health Home Program](#) promotes person-centered health action planning by supporting beneficiaries to take charge of their health care and coordinate care between the beneficiary, their health care providers and family caregivers. Three tribes hold Care Coordination contracts.
- Eight tribes expanded [nutrition services](#) through home-delivered meal programs. These provide a wholesome meal, a safety check and face-to-face contact for elders who typically can't leave their homes unassisted.
- The [Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#), through a telecommunications relay service native outreach specialist and tribal liaison, continue to provide assistive communication technology, sign language interpreters and access to real-time translation access.
- State agencies worked with tribes and the LTSS Trust Commission to create an opt-in/opt-out choice for tribal governments on the long-term care insurance benefit ([WA CARES](#)). It will provide a \$36,500 lifetime long-term care benefit to eligible Washingtonians, regardless of their level of income or assets.
- We held virtual meetings with tribal governments to maintain government-to-government relationships and service delivery planning for Area Agencies on Aging. These provide local, community-based services and offer various state and Medicaid-related services.

### **Behavioral Health Administration**

- We have plans to create civil facilities at Maple Lane (a 16-bed residential treatment facility is scheduled to open fall 2022), Clark County (a 48-bed civil center with 16 beds operated by DSHS and 32 beds overseen by HCA, is scheduled to open spring 2023), and on Tulalip tribal grounds.
- The state completed implementation requirements June 2021 in the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement (Phase 1). 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 10 counties across three regions. Phase 2 implementation in King County is underway.

### **Developmental Disabilities Administration**

- As of July, DDA serves 477 clients with tribal affiliation across the state.
- Our staff conducted outreach and training throughout the pandemic and received service requests from various tribes.
- We partnered with tribes to help tribal members with their eligibility and access to DDA services. More tribal members are receiving DDA services because our staff answered vital questions, helped members complete forms and conducted intake and eligibility reviews.
- We are honored that more than a dozen tribal staff participated in the DDA Core Academy training and our quarterly trainings for DDA programs overview.



## **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

- DVR actively maintains a strong partnership at the state and local levels with American Indian vocational rehabilitation services to ensure AI/AN with disabilities receive the services they need for workforce independence and inclusion. We assigned staff to provide direct services and liaison functions with all tribes.
- The Department of Services for the Blind and AIVRS updated the Statewide Government-to-Government Cooperative Agreement in October to commit all parties to work cooperatively and facilitate access to vocational rehabilitation services. We update this agreement annually.
- We improved the referral process to AIVRS programs for customers who self-identify as AI/AN. The ability to track referrals is now included in the DVR case management system and written policies have been implemented to reflect that change. We are reinforcing the expectation that our staff will refer AI/AN customers to the local AIVRS program to ensure customers have the option to receive joint services, when possible.
- We shared training opportunities with AIVRS programs and invited their staff to attend the DVR in-service event. A panel of AIVRS directors presented on the uniqueness of their programs and the importance of AI/AN customers receiving culturally appropriate services.

## **Economic Services Administration**

- Gov. Jay Inslee's Poverty Reduction Workgroup created a 10-year plan to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington. The group includes state agencies, legislators, racial and ethnic commissions, community-based organizations, advocates, employers, philanthropy and tribal representatives (Nickolaus Lewis, Lummi Nation, and Colleen Echohawk, Chief Seattle Club).
- The Community Services Division promotes and supports government-to-government relationships with all 29 federally recognized American Indian tribes in Washington by recognizing tribal sovereignty in the development and delivery of programs and services. The division works closely with tribes, recognized American Indian organizations, tribal TANF and tribal SNAP programs to create partnerships, which may include CSD staff being out-stationed at tribes and providing technology alternatives to face-to-face interactions.
  - Tribal TANF programs: Staff from CSD and the 11 tribal TANF programs work closely together to coordinate services. They meet twice a year to build relationships, share updates and provide a forum to reduce poverty and learn from each other on how to best serve families.
  - Tribal SNAP Expansion project: ESA continues working with tribal governments and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to expand SNAP eligibility determination to other interested tribes. CSD is waiting for an implementation plan approval that was submitted to FNS.
  - Expand EBT into tribal outstations: In remote locations, tribal members may have difficulty accessing a community services office to pick up an EBT card. We formed a workgroup and proposed a process to issue EBT cards at selected tribal outstations. This plan will resume once our staff safely returns to in-person operations.
  - Basic food employment and training tribal partner: We use SNAP employment and training dollars to match local tribal funding (75/25) for the development and

operation of culturally relevant employment and training programs for SNAP eligible residents. We currently have partnerships with Northwest Indian College, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

- Division of Child Support and tribes work to improve child support services to AI/AN families. DCS is a national leader in government-to-government work with tribes, advocating for child support policies, laws and intergovernmental agreements that respect tribal sovereignty. We partner with the 29 federally recognized tribes of Washington (including eight tribes that operate federally-funded tribal child support programs) and RAIOs.
  - Tribal child support programs: In addition to DSHS Policy 7.01 meetings, the DCS director and tribal directors participate in bi-annual Child Support Directors Roundtable meetings that involve policy discussion and decision-making. This formally captures standing items, achievements and assigned tasks.
  - Identify and Work tribal cases: Since 2015, inappropriate actions, such as withholding notices being issued to tribal businesses, have *declined significantly* due to efforts to accurately identify tribal employers and educate our staff. In addition, year-to-date comparisons show the percentage collected on current child support obligations has increased 2.5% for tribal cases.
  - COVID-19 impacts: We have balanced the importance of continuing child support payments with a parent's inability to work due to COVID-19. Our staff make every effort to maintain good communication and educate clientele about their options and resources before taking enforcement actions. We continue to meet virtually with tribal leaders and staff to discuss legislative proposals, share resources/training and reinforce our relationships.
  - Right-Sized Order project: For this project, IPAC, DCS and several tribal partners will seek tribal input on how to better develop and deliver training, resources and effective messaging. This will also help us identify barriers and provide better customer service.
  - Intergovernmental agreements: We continue to facilitate data-sharing and federal offset agreements and memoranda of understandings with tribal governments. These offer enhanced cooperation and collaboration with tribal programs and improved services for tribal families.

### **Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration**

- We help manage tribal consolidated contracts. This includes preparing, negotiating and maintaining agreements with the 29 federally-recognized tribes of Washington on DSHS General Terms and Conditions (GT&Cs). Current conditions were established in 2017 and are in effect through June 20, 2023.
- We consult with tribes concerning proposed construction activities on DSHS's state-owned lands.
- We collaborate with tribal nations through our support of Emergency Support Function #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing and Human Services. This provides life-sustaining resources and essential services.

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# Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education

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## Summary

Our Office of Native Education (ONE) serves as a liaison among school districts, tribal governments, state-tribal education compact schools (STECs), tribal schools, Native communities, parents/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.
- Annually report to the governor, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs on the status of Native education in Washington.

## Highlights

- Shandy Abrahamson joined ONE as our Career Connected Learning tribal engagement specialist. This position works with the OSPI Career and Technical Education Department to ensure consistent communication and expand career-connected and work-based learning opportunities within STECs schools and school districts that serve tribal youth. Shandy also supports CTE program development; expanding career exploration, preparation and launch activities; and establishing CTE graduation pathways to increase access and outcomes for tribal youth.

## Response to COVID-19

Schools faced ongoing challenges providing quality education to students during COVID-19 but learned much from providing services during the previous school year. With a combination of remote learning, hybrid learning and in-person learning, access to effective technology and support systems continues to contribute to student access and success. We continued to collaborate with the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC), State Tribal Education Compact School leaders, Tribal Leaders Congress on Education leaders, and all state Native education organizations to meet the needs of over 63,000 Native learners and their families.

- [Academic and Well-Being Recovery Plan Recommendations](#): On May 12, we issued a bulletin to school districts and ESD superintendents that offered additional guidance to districts and schools on how to develop their Academic and Well-Being Recovery Plans to serve AI/AN learners with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds.
- ONE Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Fund proposals submitted to OSPI have been awarded. They include:
  - Tribal language grants
  - AI/AN Learner Identification and Data Training proposal
  - Since Time Immemorial Tribal-Developed Curriculum proposal
  - Comprehensive Native Educator Pathways proposal
  - Mitigating Effects of Intergenerational Trauma and Strengthening Social Emotional Learning within Education for AI/AN Native Children, Youth and Families

## Legislative implementation

- Tribal and Heritage Language grant
  - Expanded tribal language grants in 2019-2020 from 6 to 10 (\$36,000 each) and two Heritage language grants (\$60,000) in 2020-21.
- The Career Connect Learning tribal engagement specialist now works in ONE under the Office of Native Education director, and in partnership with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department.
- CTE in tribal communities: We developed trainings to discuss CTE/dual credit and its relation to tribal communities. This includes topics on data, tribal community economic priorities, tribal partnerships and existing dual credit opportunity tribal programs. Other ONE training opportunities include Tribal Sovereignty 101, Tribal Consultation, Land Acknowledgement, Intergenerational/Historical Trauma and Government-to-Government Training. Please access [our website](#) for training details and dates.
- Dual credit programs: We are developing the following programs: Hospitality and Gaming, Tribal Language, Health Programming, Home Caring Training, Environmental Programming, Maritime Programming, Core Plus, Natural Resources/Environmental Studies, Business Management/Financial Literacy.
- Data and research: This position tracks how many AI/AN students across the state enrolled and completed the programs. This will better guide how we develop and implement dual credit programs.
- Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee supports: We are currently working to identify statewide tribal leaders/educators in the CTE field to serve on a CTE committee. The following groups and tools provide information and support to CTE organizations: Washington State Regional Tribal Economic Priorities, tribal partnerships (development, protocols, sustainability, relationship building), Tribal Workforce Industry Committee (identify appropriate representatives for specific workforce advisory committees), current tribal programs and best practices.
- House Bill 1139: This bill expands the current and future educator workforce. In collaboration with OSPI's Title II, Part A office, the Office of Native Education, ESDs 114, 171 and 123 (identified for having the least access to alternative routes to certification), tribal

partners from across these three regions, and WEA came together and identified the necessary conditions to strengthen Native educator pathways.

- SB6263: School district/Tribe Data Sharing Policy and Procedures completed Dec. 31.
- The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), ONE, the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education (TLC), and local tribes developed model policy and procedures to establish datasharing agreements among districts and local tribes.
- Completed tribal consultation training components. The objective of the project is to research, develop and provide recommendations for content that relates to developing a 3-hour tribal consultation training focused on education-related issues for school directors. Components include:
  - Added introduction to tribal sovereignty and tribal consultation.
  - Included history overview, impacts of boarding schools and how historic trauma impacts AI/AN peoples and communities.
    - Established data practices and identification of AI/AN students.
    - Added relationship building with tribal nations.
- Reviewed and revised our tribal consultation tool kit and reviewed other tribal consultation tool kits to develop one comprehensive tool kit draft that addresses our consultation needs.
- Designed a survey with tribal, parent and district partners who engage or were required to engage in education-related tribal consultation to ask about their needs and suggestions for the components of training.

## **New legislation being implemented**

- HB 1356: This bill requires schools with Native American names, symbols, and images as mascots, logos, and team names in the state — and that wish to keep them — to consult with the nearest tribe regarding their appropriateness. It is the tribe's decision whether the school keeps its mascot. The law went into effect July 25.
- Tribal Language grants: ESSB 5092 Sec. 522(9) – 6 grants at \$60,000 each will be awarded for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- HB1426: This bill specifies the minimum continuing education requirements for administrator and teacher certificate renewals that focus on equity-based school and classroom practices.
- SB5044: This bill provides better professional learning opportunities, focuses on equity and cultural competency and helps dismantles institutional racism in the public school system.
- SB5249: This bill supports mastery-based learning which, at its core, enables students to move at their own pace as they master knowledge, skills and dispositions.
- SSB 5572: This grant program provides fully funded repairs and modernizations to older school buildings in economically-disadvantaged communities throughout the state. During the 2020 session, the Legislature amended the grant to include tribal compact schools, and five of the seven STECs received funding.

## Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee

The [Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee](#) (WSNAEAC) met often with State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. Topics included Native student learning, achievement, testing and assessment; identification of Native students; support for Native families; best practices in American Indian education; legislation; measures of accountability at the local and state levels to prioritize Native learners and families; social-emotional learning and tribal consultation.

## STECs

Continuing into the 2020-21 school year, we met virtually with [STEC](#) staff to provide technical support, guidance, educational and financial opportunities, etc. ONE updates the online STEC guide and hosts meetings to strengthen and sustain collaborations.

## Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Online Curriculum project

Many groups came together to create a model, online curriculum for elementary, middle, and high schools that included Native American history, culture and civics. Teaching the history surrounding tribal sovereignty and inter-governmental responsibilities in our state's classrooms will help citizens understand the unique relationships of tribes and tribal citizens in Washington. Lesson resources are now aligned with state standards in social studies, English language arts, environmental and sustainability education, and SEL standards. The STI curriculum is available free [online](#).

- In response to COVID-19 school closures, we developed a new set of Ready to Go curriculum resources and provided a series of Ready to Go and Teacher to Teacher webinars. Additional trainings took place through conference workshops and district/school coordinated staff trainings. Where possible, we involved tribal education and/or culture specialists to help us plan and teach these trainings. Districts are developing systemic districtwide plans to implement the curriculum in collaboration with tribal partners.
- Tribal leaders and educators continue to develop tribal-specific lessons to integrate and/or add to existing STI curriculum. We collaborated with Quinault Indian Nation, Puyallup Tribe, and Snoqualmie Indian Tribe to offer tribal-specific trainings.
- Approximately 4,000 participated in tribal sovereignty and history trainings.
- We translated the STI curriculum into Spanish to increase accessibility.

## Collaborations with tribes, districts, statewide and national Native professional organizations

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) prioritizes tribal consultation for school districts that serve AI/AN students. We developed guidance for this effort and are implementing tribal criteria as part of a program review process. The 37 districts scheduled for review that are required to engage in tribal consultation through ESSA are monitored to show evidence that they're working on goals.

## District-tribal consultation guidance

ONE developed a tribal consultation protocol in consultation with tribes and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education (TLC). The protocols will help us sustain quality and healthy relations between the state and tribes. We 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, and have developed a [tribal consultation video](#).

We strengthened our partnership with the U.S. Department of Education Region 16 Comprehensive Center through:

- Implementing [SB 5433](#) and the [Since Time Immemorial](#) curriculum.
- Supporting the ongoing implementation of:
  - Tribal consultation
  - Government-to-government training
  - Data collection
- Focusing our state efforts on student and educator outcomes such as increasing:
  - AI/AN graduation rates
  - Access to dual credit programs for AI/AN students
  - The number of AI/AN educators serving in our K–12 system

Through our collaboration with Region 16, Washington was one of four states invited to take part in a facilitated process called the Circles of Reflection. The process provides a systematic way for SEAs to collaborate with TEAs and LEAs on behalf of Native students in K-12 schools. This work will reinforce our working relationship with tribal education leaders and others to map a path forward. ONE also coordinated a series of virtual gatherings entitled “Share our Voices, Hear our Stories” to ensure that Native students and parent voices were heard.

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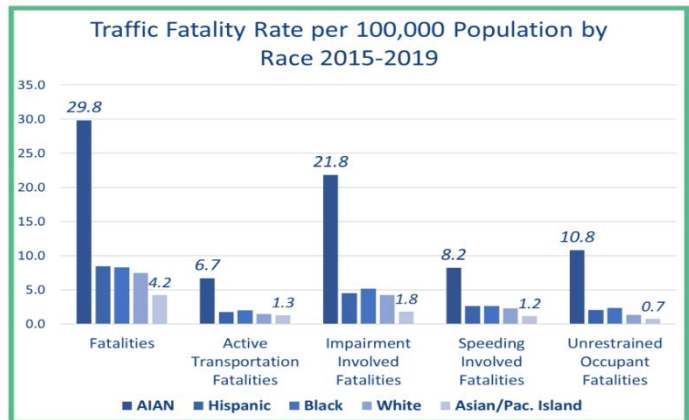


# Washington Traffic Safety Commission

## Summary

American Indian and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) have higher death rates involving high-risk driving behaviors than other racial/ethnic groups in Washington. This overrepresentation means that we must continue to partner with tribes and stakeholders that serve tribes to implement or develop effective strategies to identify and reduce fatalities. Data shows that AI/AN residents are:

- 4.2 times more likely to be involved in a fatality crash than the state's general population.
- 4.6 times more likely to be involved in a pedestrian-involved fatality.
- 5.5 times more likely to be involved in an impairment-involved fatality.
- 3.9 times more likely to be involved in a speeding-involved fatality crash.



## Highlights

In fiscal year 2021, we allocated \$349,000 to support traffic safety programs on tribal lands. These include:

- The Tribal Traffic Safety Advisory Board (TTSAB) met once in January 2020 due to COVID-19 and met again in spring 2021. TTSAB leadership drafted a new charter for it to transform to the Tribal Traffic Safety Committee (TTSC), a subcommittee of the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO).
- Through the Tribal Traffic Safety Coordinator project, funding was provided to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation. These coordinators continue to increase awareness about traffic safety issues despite individual tribe orders shutting down much of the economic and social activity on the reservations.
- The Swinomish Tribal Police administered the Tribal Law Enforcement Training and Support project. Two tribal law enforcement agencies applied to receive funding for materials and training. Funding for this project has historically been provided by National Traffic Safety Highway Administration. NHTSA determined that this project is no longer eligible for federal funding and will be discontinued.
- The statewide Child Passenger Safety program annually offers one child passenger safety technician training in partnership with a tribe. Due to the pandemic, this was not possible in 2021. Work is underway to continue this project in the future.

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# Department of Transportation

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## Summary

We provide and support safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation options to improve livable communities and economic vitality for people and businesses. Our vision is to be the best at providing a sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system. We collaborate with tribes on a variety of transportation issues, including project development and administration, safety, planning and workforce development. Consultation with tribes regarding the effects of WSDOT projects on natural resources, cultural resources and other tribal interests is a key element of this work. The highlights below represent a small sample of the accomplishments and day-to-day coordination and collaboration between tribes and WSDOT.

## Highlights

- We reached a historic land-exchange agreement with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians that allows us to construct a portion of the SR 167 Completion Project across tribal trust property. We will return more than 116 acres of improved wetland, stream and habitat to the tribe to manage after construction. Improvements include removing invasive vegetation, planting tens of thousands of native plants and restoring streams and floodplains to encourage the return of healthy salmon populations.
- The Legislature fully funded our request for \$726 million for the Fish Passage Program for the 2021-2023 biennium. Over the past year, we corrected 14 fish barriers, which improved access to approximately 55 additional miles of potential habitat. An additional 54 barriers are currently under construction and 80 barriers are in the design phase. We participate in quarterly meetings with tribes and state agencies to coordinate implementation of the culvert injunction.
- Our Northwest Region worked successfully with the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe to deliver the Nookwa-Chahbsh Lane Safety project. Improvements will construct a pedestrian path, curb ramps, marked crosswalks, raised crosswalk and shared lane markings. We provided \$705,000 of the \$1.7 million that the tribe needed for the project.
- In 2020, we extended the application deadline for Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian Bicyclist program grants for tribes in recognition of pandemic-related office closures. We also awarded grants to the Lummi Nation and Skokomish Indian Tribe, and to cities and counties in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.
- We provided over \$2 million to five tribes through the consolidated transit grant program. These grants will help sustain and expand tribal transit services and fleets.

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# Utilities and Transportation Commission

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## Summary

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

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, a separate agency that receives administrative support from the UTC, provides one-stop licensing for large energy projects that may impact tribal communities.

We support the Centennial Accord through collaboration and information sharing. Through the last year, we strengthened partnerships among tribes and the commission to encourage understanding, cooperation and trust.

## Highlights

*We completed an investigation into taxes charged to tribal accounts.* In September 2020, our staff completed an investigation into the public utility tax exemption for Lummi Nation tribal members living on tribal lands. In the investigative report, commission staff recommended, among other things, that Puget Sound Energy participate in a workgroup with various parties to establish a process for certifying the tax-exempt status for Puget Sound Energy customers, and to appoint a PSE contact for tribal inquiries. On Oct. 15, 2020, staff held a workshop and Puget Sound Energy agreed in principle to all staff's recommendations. (October 2020)

*We continue to address COVID-19 customer impacts.* We held additional special open meetings in October 2020, February, and May that addressed COVID-19 issues for the state's regulated electric utilities. Our discussions continued to focus on the governor's Proclamation 20-23 and how to alleviate economic hardship created by COVID-19. We continue to facilitate discussions with a workgroup comprised of utilities and consumer advocates, focusing on low-income utility assistance distributions, customer communications, and outreach specifically to tribal communities. We are committed to evaluating how regulated utilities can provide more efficient and equitable service to tribal customers impacted by this crisis. (Ongoing)

*We partnered with Avista Utilities to improve LIRAP outreach.* Through participation in Avista's Low Income Rate Assistance Program (LIRAP) advisory group, UTC energy regulation staff helped facilitate additional outreach for Avista's LIRAP. Avista has since built a partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Spokane Tribe of Indians to distribute LIRAP benefits. (Ongoing)

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# Department of Veteran Affairs

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## 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 the same benefits as other veterans.

## Highlights

- We hosted the 2021 Veteran Service Officer Training Conference virtually. This training was available to tribal veterans representatives and service officers in addition to state, county and nonprofit veterans service officers. This training event provided 16 hours of professional development education on topics such as veterans' disability compensation, pension benefits, survivors' benefits, health care benefits and helping with military discharge upgrades.
- We signed memorandums with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and Snoqualmie Tribe that allow us to provide training, accreditation and technical assistance to tribal veterans representatives and service officers who are employed by the tribe.
- We presented virtually at the Veteran Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians in January and May. Topics included veterans' disability and survivors' benefits, education benefits and establishing tribal veterans service officer programs in partnership with state veterans' agencies.
- We presented virtually in the VA Puget Sound Health Care System Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council meetings in November 2020, February, and May. Session topics included suicide prevention, veterans' disability benefits, professional development training available through the Veterans Training Support Center, outreach to LGBTQ+ veterans, and establishing tribal veterans service officers programs in partnership with state veterans' agencies.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Patrol

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## Summary

Our mission is to make a difference every day and enhance the safety and security of our state 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 (that works to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries) across the state, which may include many tribal partners and communities.

## Highlights

- We attended local chief and sheriff regional meetings throughout the state.
- Wenatchee area troopers continued to help with collision investigations and emergency response planning, which included wildfire responses on tribal lands.
- On April 9, we reached a cooperative public safety agreement with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, which allowed us to return to active patrols within the Yakama Nation Reservation. We appreciate the Yakama Nation Tribal Council and Attorney General's Office Tribal Liaison, Asa Washines, for working through the complexities of collaborative policing and partnership under retrocession guidelines.
- Since April 2016, we have responded to 4,368 calls for service, investigated 1,034 collisions, 580 public assists, and approximately 2,000 investigatory assists to the Yakama Nation Tribal Police and Yakima County Sheriff's Office on the highway and roadways of the Yakama Nation Reservation.
- We meet with Yakama Nation Tribal Police Department biweekly to discuss and address issues that affect the community and how we can best collaborate to solve crime and keep our communities safe. WSP also continues to meet with the White Swan Coalition online while collaborating with tribal community leaders.
- WSP hired Tribal Liaison Dawn Pullin, our second liaison, in December 2020. She is actively involved with Tribal Liaison Patti Gosch in building relationships among American Indian tribes and tribal organizations, urban American Indian organizations and nongovernmental entities that serve native communities.

## Staff contacts

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# Consolidated Technology Services (WaTech)

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## Summary

Consolidated Technology Services, also known as Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech), provides quality technology services to state, local and tribal governments. Our agency operates the state's core technology services – the central network and data center – and provides strategic and comprehensive information security to protect state networks from growing cyber threats. We are committed to the principles of the Centennial Accord and making sure our services are accessible and beneficial to tribes.

## Highlights

### Provided connectivity to the Intergovernmental Network

We work with tribes at their request to provide technology access to the Intergovernmental Network (IGN) so they can use technology services maintained by state government agencies, such as law enforcement systems. WaTech is currently working with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians to connect to the IGN and continues to provide access to the Nisqually Indian Tribe. This service is available to any tribe once we've confirmed there is a need.

### Geographic Information System program

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), a department within WaTech, is home to the state's Geographic Information System (GIS) office. This office administers an enterprise program and provides services for imaging lands and support for electronic mapping in the state. The GIS program leads the Statewide Imagery Consortium.

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. Tribes can then use this imaging to support wetland evaluations and updates, tribal forestry management and other use cases.

In addition, the GIS program also co-chairs a work group related to Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology use in the state. LIDAR technology can help us 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 have all participated in twice-yearly meetings to provide their input on the coordination of statewide activities regarding LIDAR collection, use and planning for the future. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission also participated in these planning discussions.

The GIS program also provides consultative and informational services to tribes on request.

## Staff contact

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