

# 2022 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
October 2022

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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Oct. 25, 2022

Greetings,

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs presents the 2022 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.

At the onset of the COVID-19 public health crisis, the tribes and state came together quickly to coordinate a response. This partnership was crucial to slow the spread of the disease and save lives. As we move into more of a recovery phase, the tribal-state collaboration is paramount in addressing the social, health, and economic impacts we collectively face today.

Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

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

Craig A. Bill

Executive Director

# Washington State Attorney General's Office

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## Summary

The attorney general is the top legal officer for state government. Our office is the largest public law office with more than 1,300 employees from around the state. Attorney General Bob Ferguson's vision is to actively consult with tribes and engage with tribal communities.

## Highlights

**Addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People crisis.** The state's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force published their first report Aug. 1, 2022. The report includes 10 unanimous recommendations to address the crisis, including improved data collection and training. The report also recommends that the Legislature create and fully fund a cold case investigations unit in the Attorney General's Office focused on MMIWP cases.

**Creating the Missing Indigenous Persons Alert.** Attorney General Bob Ferguson worked with Rep. Debra Lekanoff to introduce and pass legislation to create the country's first Missing Indigenous Person Alert. This alert helps identify and locate missing Indigenous women and people. The alert, similar to "silver alerts" for missing vulnerable adults, broadcasts information about missing Indigenous people on message signs and in highway advisory radio messages when it's activated, as well as through press releases to local and regional media. The first alert went out in July and already helped safely locate a missing Indigenous woman.

**Successfully defending the Endangered Species Act from attack.** In 2019, Attorney General Ferguson filed a lawsuit challenging President Trump's attempt to weaken the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act is critical to protecting salmon and orca. Washington and a coalition of 18 states were successful in defending the ESA and a federal judge overturned the Trump administration's rule in July 2022.

**Supporting self-determination.** Attorney General Ferguson supports tribes' right to self-determination by operating gaming facilities through tribal-state compacts. Maverick Gaming, a Washington-based private cardroom operator, challenged Washington's laws and tribal-state compacts that limit certain types of gaming to tribal facilities, as well as the constitutionality of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Ferguson successfully got the case transferred from Washington D.C. to district court in Western Washington. Briefing schedule is set for later this fall.

**Defending the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) at the Supreme Court.** Through Attorney General Ferguson's leadership, Washington joined a bipartisan coalition of 25 other states to defend the constitutionality of ICWA in the Brackeen v. Haaland case. The Supreme Court of the United States accepted review of the case later this fall. Our office intends to continue to actively fight with the state coalition and file a 'friend of the court' brief supporting the positions of the tribes and the U.S. solicitor general.

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# Department of Agriculture

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## Summary

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) serves all the people of Washington by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection. The agency accomplishes its mandate through programs that ensure the safety of the state's food supply, provide food assistance, regulate the use of 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.

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

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

## Highlights

- The Food Assistance program granted tribes \$1.1 million in federal relief and state funds; 31 tribes used these program funds to distribute food through tribal food pantries and issue food vouchers to lower-income families.
- Kalispel Tribe participated in the Cook WA Meal Kit pilot. This was a statewide pilot project to pack The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodities with Washington-grown seasonal produce, sauces, spices and a chef-designed recipe into a meal kit.
- Several tribal food pantries (including Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe and the American Indian Community Center in Spokane County) were served through the Farm to Food Pantry initiative. This initiative provides funding to food banks and pantries to purchase produce directly from local small- and mid-sized farmers.
  - Kalispel Tribe and Lummi Nation each participated in the Flexible Funding Grants program, which provides funding to hunger relief organizations and tribes impacted by COVID-19.
- The Food Safety program continues its partnership with tribal communities to inspect, license, provide technical assistance and outreach to food processing businesses, including seafood-processing facilities. These include tribal-owned businesses and businesses whose food products enter commerce off tribal land.
- The Dairy Nutrient Management program partners with tribes on several water resources protection groups across the state. These include the Lummi, Muckleshoot, Nooksack, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, Tulalip and Yakama tribal communities.

- The Pest Program worked with numerous tribal entities to survey and control invasive species threatening state and tribal lands and resources.
- The Spartina Eradication program worked collaboratively with the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe and Tulalip Tribes. Through an interagency agreement, the Pest Program provided \$5,000 to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to support their Spartina eradication efforts.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation - Land Operations program requested help to survey and control flowering rush from the Pest Programs Aquatic Invasive Species group. Staff partnered with the tribe, county and other state agency staff to provide the requested assistance.
- Knotweed Eradication Program staff provided direct and indirect assistance to the Colville, Hoh, Makah, Nisqually, Quileute, Quinault, Samish, Sauk-Suiattle, Jamestown S'Klallam, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip and Yakama tribal communities.
- The agency made Japanese beetle reporting posters for the Yakama Nation.
- For its second year, the Vespa Mandarinia 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 (as a cooperator) in the citizen-scientist trapping program.
  - The Pesticide Management Division provides certification and licensing registration and compliance technical assistance related to fertilizer and pesticide issues, if requested, to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- The Natural Resources Assessment Section expanded to include the Washington partners to work with Yakama Nation Farms and respond to a USDA grant opportunity called Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.
- Our Emergency Management program coordinated with tribal partners, including the state emergency operations center (SEOC) tribal liaison and the American Indian Health Commission for the state's public health emergency preparedness and response liaison, to track resource needs at tribal food banks and pantries.

## Staff contact

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# Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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## Summary

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the state's sole agency with the mission to preserve and protect Washington's cultural resources. We have project review authority under federal law and the federal agency is responsible to consult with tribes. However, DAHP considers it a state responsibility to ensure federal consultation occurs and is conducted in an informed and meaningful way. Under state law, DAHP solicits comments from affected tribes before it makes decisions on archaeological and Native American burial excavation permits.

## Highlights

- Implemented 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).
- Worked with the governor's staff to develop and pass House Bill (HB) 1812. This bill modernized the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and included coordination between DAHP, federally recognized tribes and green energy projects.
- Worked with the governor's staff to develop and pass Senate Bill (SB) 5126, known as the Climate Commitment Act. The revisions to the Climate Commitment Act now require that any agency administering funds or grants under this act must conduct a consultation process with DAHP and tribes before releasing the funds.
- Received funding and support from the Legislature for additional staff to support action under SB 5126 and HB 1812.
- Participated with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers on a study that proposes updates and changes to the current National Register of Historic Places nomination process.
- Coordinated with national association of tribal historic preservation officers to advocate for additional federal operating funds for tribal historic preservation officers. These funds are needed for staffing due to the increase of projects being proposed under the Build Back Better and Inflation Reduction Act.
- Participated on the Low Carbon Siting study team and the Transmission Corridor study group.
- Participated on the Society for American Archaeology Government Affairs Committee.
- Received funding and support from the Legislature to conduct a survey and mapping project of Historic Ethnographic Communities and resources in Seattle.
- Received funding from the Legislature to propose recommendations to improve protections for operating and abandoned cemeteries, and intentionally buried cremains. The agency is required conduct the study in consultation with the Department of Licensing Funeral and Cemetery Board.
- Created video presentations on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and State archaeological excavation permitting for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit.
- Received funding from the Legislature for additional staff to manage the agency's archaeological excavation permit program and to conduct State Environmental Policy Act reviews.

- Opened 109 new human skeletal remains cases in 2021 and 20 so far in 2022. This brings the total number of opened and investigated cases since August 2008 to 776.
- Notified affected tribes of 560 nonforensic human skeletal remains cases since August 2008.
- Notified affected tribes of the state physical anthropologist's ancestry determination on 552 cases since August 2008.
- Repatriated or reburied, in place, 372 human skeletal remains cases. DAHP is temporarily holding 215 cases for one of the following reasons:
  1. By request of a tribe.
  2. The case requires repatriation outside of Washington.
  3. The remains are not Native American.
- Remaining cases are nonhuman, forensic and returned to respective coroners, or were handled by federal agencies under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Recorded 3,044 cemeteries and burial sites since August 2008.
- There are now 2,516 active data-sharing users on the archaeological and architectural website. All archaeological users signed confidentiality agreements.
- Issued 87 excavation permits in 2021 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 tribal cultural resources group for the Seattle City Light 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.
- Met twice with Council on Environmental Quality staff to discuss changes and improvements to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rules, particularly around cultural resources.

## **Staff contact**

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# Department of Commerce

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## Summary

Our mission is to strengthen communities. To strengthen tribal communities, we prioritized updating Tribal Engagement policies to ensure Commerce resources are fully accessible and equitably making their way to tribal nations.

## Highlights

### Director's Office

- Established the Commerce Tribal Advisory Committee (COMTAC) to meet with tribal leaders to discuss issues we have in common.
- Will hold the first COMTAC meeting in August 2022.

### Community Services Division

- Administer direct appropriation to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe for reentry support for individuals leaving local or tribal incarcerations.
- Contracted more than \$5 million through the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy and across more than 25 tribal nations and tribal-led, community-based organizations to provide services including:
  - Secure protection orders
  - Assist victims to navigate the civil and criminal justice system
  - Provide support at medical exams and appointments
  - Provide mental health treatment for victims and others impacted
  - Integrate traditional cultural healing into client services

### Energy Division

- Granted 15 awards to tribal nations for projects that include weatherization and solar.
- A representative from the Energy Policy Office met with tribes at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference to discuss green hydrogen and workforce opportunities.

### Housing Division

- Deployed \$30 million in federal COVID-19 and disaster relief funds to all 29 federally recognized tribes.
- Contracted \$26 million in emergency rent assistance funding and \$3 million in COVID-19 relief funds to tribal-led, community-based organizations to support housing for urban Indian populations.

### Local Government Division

- Funded two tribal nations to conduct broadband rapid design studies.
- Supported the appointment of a tribal representative on Cusick Town Council.

- Supported EO 21-02 Archaeological and Cultural Resources project reviews with nine tribal nations.

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

- Held informational meetings with tribal nations to explore business development and exporting to foreign markets.

### **Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)**

- Continued funding local governments and federally-recognized tribes on public infrastructure that supports private business growth/expansion and rural broadband connectivity.
- Projects include:
  - Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation/Chehalis Reservation Broadband Project (\$2,000,000)
  - Nisqually Indian Tribe/Nisqually 2021 OAN Broadband Project Phase I (\$2,000,000)
  - Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation/Colville Tribes Munitions Manufacturing Feasibility Study (\$50,000)
- Updated membership by:
  - Reappointing Small Business Position No. 10: Andrea Alexander, member of the Makah Tribe.
  - Appointing Small Business Position No. 4: Roni Holder-Diefenbach, member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

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# Washington State Conservation Commission

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## Summary

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

## Highlights

- From 2021-22, **SCC awarded \$100,000 in Food System grants** in areas that the Washington State Food Policy Forum recommended to address food system vulnerabilities.
- All **27 counties enrolled in the Voluntary Stewardship program** submitted their five-year reports during the 2019-2021 biennium. These reports documented their progress toward planned goals and benchmarks that protect critical areas while maintaining agricultural viability.
- **Grays Harbor Conservation District** restored the tidal function to an estuary floodplain on the Middle Fork Hoquiam River for fish passage — reopening tidal channels and removing culverts.
- From 2020-21, **King Conservation District** invested \$6.3 million in local food and farm projects since 2015 and in 2020, with 25% of the grants going to BIPOC-led groups.
- **Clallam Conservation District** and the **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe** teamed up to plant 6,000 trees along the Elwha River with 181 volunteers during Orca Recovery Day events. This helps restore habitat in the Elwha Watershed.
- **Kittitas County Conservation District**, in partnership with the **Yakama Nation**, secured funding for the “Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway” project. This five-year project focuses on drought resiliency and fish habitat and has completed 19 projects on 1,089 acres of agricultural land with \$2.2 million.
- **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD)** partnered with the **Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation’s Fish and Wildlife Department** to protect or enhance 26 acres of riparian areas on Omak, No Name, Tunk, and Salmon creeks and on Thurlow Lake.
- After 16 years and 16 different funding sources (that totaled \$7 million), **Pierce Conservation District** restored over 100 acres by planting 30,000 trees and creating a half-mile of side-channel habitat. This project includes 113-engineered wood structures and 33 acre-feet of new floodplain storage. Check out the project video on [the Pierce Conservation District’s Vimeo page](#).
- **Thurston Conservation District** worked with community partners to create a community garden to support food pantries with 10 raised beds and a pollinator hedgerow with the help of 71 volunteers. This hedgerow consists of plants that attract bees, which pollinate other plants in the garden.
- **Underwood Conservation District** placed over 75 logs with root wads by helicopter along a half-mile of stream as part of the Little Wind River Habitat Enhancement.

## **Staff contacts**

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# Department of Corrections (DOC)

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## Summary

We work to improve public safety by positively changing lives.

As of May 31, there are 13,226 incarcerated individuals and 12,673 actively supervised individuals under the department's jurisdiction. 5% of those incarcerated and 4% of those on supervision identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN). There is currently a 45.3% recidivism rate among the AI/AN population. As of now, 1.2% of DOC staff identify as AI/AN.

## Highlights

### Meetings, summits, conferences

Secretary Cheryl Strange established the Corrections Indian Policy Advisory Committee (CIPAC) to recognize Washington's unique relationship with tribal governments and honor their sovereignty.

- CIPAC reflects the implementation of government-to-government relationships.
- Twenty-two tribes have appointed delegates and alternates.
- Two meetings have been held, with future meetings being held quarterly.
- CIPAC developed DOC's first Consultation Policy. The policy has been sent out to Tribal Leaders and delegates for final review. Final policy will be brought to the Centennial Accord.

DOC collaborated with the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, along with the American Probation and Parole Association, to present a three-day workshop called Tribal Intergovernmental Reentry workshop.

- 16 tribes participated.
- DOJ BJA/APPA reached out to our agency to help tribes and tribal agencies develop plans to enhance tribal reentry strategies.
- Discussed how the state and tribal communities can work together to support AI/AN people who have been incarcerated. Also discussed the reality they face when they reenter their communities with minimal to no support services.
- Collaborated on strategies and methods to decrease recidivism rates of AI/AN in Washington.

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

DOC entered MOUs and MOAs with tribal governments:

- DOC and Tulalip tribes developed an MOA to implement Senate Bill (SB) 5694. A signing will take place later in this year.
- DOC collaborated with tribes to support this new law about tribal court orders. The bill states that individuals who are convicted in tribal court can serve their time in DOC facilities and get access to healthcare, programming, religious and cultural services, and reentry services.
- DOC and Tulalip tribes developed an MOA to allow tribal officers to attend the Community Corrections Officers Academy. As of August, six tribal officers have gone through the academy.

- DOC responded to requests from four tribes with MOUs to assist them with DOJ Second Chance grant application process requirements.
- DOC participated with state agencies and tribal governments to develop the Governor's Tribal Leader Social Services Council Charter.

### **Contracts**

DOC contracted with Unkitawa to help our facilities and religious coordinators provide religious ceremonies and associated activities to incarcerated AI/AN housed in statewide facilities.

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# Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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## Summary

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

Tribal Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) meetings are held bi-annually, and we invite all tribes and recognized American Indian Organizations. We also continue to hold monthly Indian Child Welfare Sub-Committee meetings, where state and tribal staff discussed child welfare policy, opportunities and issues. DCYF schedules annual meetings with the tribes to develop tribal plans (under the 10.03 policy) if the tribe requests it. The Indian Policy for Early Learning (IPEL) meets every other month and is led by Wendy Thomas, DCYF's new tribal early learning liaison. The Governor's Tribal Leader's Social Service Committee (GTLSSC) started meeting and is co-chaired by Secretary Hunter and Tribal Leader Loni Greninger. DCYF is also the lead agency for the Justice Subcommittee of the GTLSSC and held its first meeting December 2021.

DCYF continues to collaborate with a tribal/state work group to revise our ICW policy and procedures on an as-needed basis. When the policy update is complete, the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will schedule a formal consultation. DCYF has established a work group in collaboration with the University of Washington's [Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence](#) to develop a training protocol for staff and tribes when the ICW policy revision is complete.

## Highlights

### Early Learning Programs Division

**Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA)** FSKA is a \$1.1 billion investment to expand access to affordable, high-quality early learning for Washington families. This investment would increase eligibility limits, cap co-pays and provide resources to support early learning providers. FSKA also increased income eligibility for Working Connections Child Care to 60% of the state median income, which is about \$64,000 per year for a family of four. The FSKA makes a large investment into supporting child care and early learning providers with grants. These grants can provide opportunities to expand access to inclusive and supportive care with Child Care Complex Needs Funding and Early Childhood Equity Grants. DCYF sent a 'Dear tribal leader' letter and attended IPEL and TPAC meetings to share information and receive feedback during FSKA's design. The FSKA also requires our agency to consult with Washington's federally-recognized tribes to create a definition of an Indian child. This definition will enable eligible tribal children to attend ECEAP without delay. Conversations with tribes occurred several times in the past 18 months about the definition and consultation process at the Tribal ECEAP workgroup and IPEL.

**Early Achievers** In fall 2022, licensed or certified tribal child care and early learning programs — that includes programs that Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIOs) run — can now participate in the agency's Early Achievers program on an optional, alternative tribal pathway. Early Achievers offers a variety of supports, including coaching, professional development, grants and scholarships. Based on recommendations from IPEL and a tribal pathway work group, the quality recognition process for tribal early learning programs will use the tool LOVIT Way. This evaluation tool and process developed by the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia is designed to meet the culturally-specific needs of tribal programs.

## Professional development

- Trauma-Informed Care: DCYF will work with IPEL, tribal partners and sovereign tribal nations to grow capacity in trauma-informed and healing-centered supports for early childhood providers. This will emphasize dismantling oppressive structures to advance equity in the early learning system, boost workforce stability and wellness, and improve child and family well-being in Washington.
- Dual Language: DCYF hosted a virtual roundtable in collaboration with the IPEL for a tribal language revitalization pathway.
- Career Pathways: DCYF will prioritize pathway development funding to work with select higher education partners to develop or enhance tribal-focused adult learning pathways in college settings.

## Head Start

The Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) works with 18 sovereign tribal nations in Washington that receive federal funding to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services to children and families, prenatal through age 5.

## Tribal Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (New program)

DCYF has been working with IPEL and tribes to draft the program's scope, implementation, etc. The agency can use the funding to provide culturally congruent IEMCH-C supports for tribal child care, tribal early childhood education, the assistance program and tribal head start providers.

## Child Welfare program

On June 24, 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court issued an opinion ([\*In re Dependency of G.J.A.\*](#)) clarifying what "active efforts" the department must make to prevent Indian children from being placed out of the home. It also specified that services to prevent out-of-home placement and the termination of parental rights must be culturally relevant to the child's tribal heritage. To meet this higher standard for "active efforts" in these cases, DCYF will need to increase staff to provide collaborative case planning and implementation, train staff, and monitor and promote policy compliance. The agency will also need to expand contracts with tribes to provide culturally relevant services to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families in the expanded number of cases in where ICWA and WICWA apply. The Legislature approved these child welfare efforts for \$22 million to help DCYF meet the requirements of the Supreme Court opinions.

## Prevention and Client Services Division

In September 2021, DCYF experienced an agency structure change and formed the Division of Prevention and Client Services. This division was created to bring four strong teams (Child Welfare programs, Adolescent programs, Family Support programs and Quality Assurance/Continuous Quality Improvement) together to center equity, prevention and keeping families together whenever safely possible. This new orientation also supports families who require out-of-home placement, such as foster care or Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR.), with quality programs and services.

## Strengthen Families Locally program

This is a community-level initiative in four areas across Washington that have historically high rates of child maltreatment and out-of-home placements. The initiative brings community members together to

examine data and root causes of child welfare system involvement, and to prioritize and implement strategies to curb this outcome. Each location is engaging tribes and tribal organizations in this work. This program is issuing new funding to support strategies for families and communities. These include perinatal mental health, parenting education and family support programming, and family resource center capacity building.

### **Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT)**

Early intervention services are designed to enable children birth to 3 years old with developmental delays or disabilities. This can help them be more active and successful during their early childhood years and in a variety of settings — in their homes, child care, preschool or school programs, and their communities. ESIT entered the Interlocal Government Agreement with the Lummi Nation to fund early intervention services. Brian Frisina, ESIT's tribal program consultant, educates staff and contractors through the ESIT weekly recurring column called Tribal Terms of the Week.

### **Home Visiting program**

In addition to the contracts with tribes, the agency has seen a significant expansion of funds in fiscal year 2022 and 2023 for voluntary, early childhood home visiting programs. One funding opportunity was for general expansion and the other was for tribal home visiting expansion. The applications support expanding or starting a home visiting program (\$480,000 available) closed June 30, and applications are under review for contracts that will begin Oct. 1. We received five applications, totaling over \$800,000. To support the important partnerships with tribes, the Strengthening Families team added a position. Held by Ashley Cook, a member of the Cherokee nation, the position focuses on tribal home visiting and tribal partnerships.

### **Licensing**

The Outdoor Nature-Based (ONB) child care program moved from the pilot phase into licensing practice. The licensing division collaborated with tribal child care throughout the certification process. A continued partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe started during the Outdoor Preschool Pilot (OPP) and has continued during the current application of ONB licensing certification process. With this certification, DCYF and the tribe can enter an interlocal government-to-government agreement.

The Licensing Division created an online application portal for foster parent applicants known as WA CAP. Not only will DCYF staff use this portal, but Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) and tribal CPA's can also access WA CAP to streamline the foster care licensing process. Tribal CPA's have already helped create their own site page for families they will work with during licensure.

### **Juvenile Rehabilitation**

Our JR division continues to maintain strong partnerships and communication with federally recognized tribes and RAIOS to make sure AI/AN youth and young adults receive the services they need to successfully reenter their communities. Highlights of the last year include:

- Helped support House Bill (HB) 1186 implementation and the future rollout of Community Transition Services. Held four tribal work sessions regarding cultural and Indigenous approaches to support successful reentry for eligible youth so that they could serve part of their sentence in their home community. You can find more information about the work group on our website.

- Integrated new legislation that states parents don't need to pay for a portion of their child's support, treatment and confinement in JR. This means the families will no longer be billed for their youth's incarceration.
- An increase to nine Residential Custody Service Agreements (RCSA) between JR and the tribes. These agreements allow youth to enter JR facilities through a tribal court order and coordinate services to these youth.
- Nine tribes and two RAIO's entered into a small flexible agreement from the Community Juvenile Accountability Act Grant (CJAA), which supports youth and their families to avoid youth incarceration and court involvement.
- JR now offers community-assisted reentry services to youth who are released from JR, do not qualify for parole, and voluntarily receive critical community-based services that are necessary for their successful transition (for up to 12 months).
- Naselle Youth Camp for youth will be closed (based on a legislative decision) as of Sept. 15 with a small closing ceremony in July.
- JR continues to engage youth, offer cultural and religious services and activities, share Indigenous wisdom and storytelling, craft and share medicinal/historical plant knowledge across the three institutions and eight community facilities.

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# Department of Ecology

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## Summary

The Department of Ecology partners with tribes to protect, preserve and enhance Washington's land, air, water and climate for current and future generations. Ecology and tribes frequently consult and coordinate on projects throughout the state in connection with water quality permits, water cleanup plans, water right actions, shoreline management, spill response, toxic cleanup, environmental impact assessments and more. Ecology's 12 environmental programs and offices had many significant government-to-government interactions with tribes this past year.

## Highlights

### Water resources and water quality

**Water rights adjudication:** With a 2021 legislative appropriation, Ecology's Water Resources program performed pre-adjudication work for the Nooksack Basin and Lake Roosevelt. This was in response to petitions that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe filed. Ecology supported tribal requests to the Secretary of Interior for assignment of federal negotiation teams in anticipation of adjudication being filed in the 2023-2025 biennium.

### Cultural resources

**City of Ephrata wastewater project:** Before the city started construction on a sewer-line rehabilitation project that the agency funded, a cultural resources review found several areas of high risk to cultural resources. Ecology staff collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids, Yakama Nation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the city of Ephrata on an agreement. It would require the city to monitor and report on the recovery of culturally sensitive materials during construction.

### Grants and loans

- **Grant for Climate Commitment Act funding decisions:** Ecology opened a noncompetitive grant program to support tribal capacity to consult on spending decisions from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The CCA will award \$4 million to tribes for fiscal year 2023. The grants are open to all 29 federally-recognized tribes in Washington and the federally-recognized tribes with usual and accustomed territories within Washington.
- **Carbon Offset Assistance Grant program:** Ecology will provide \$5 million in the 2021-23 biennium to support tribes as they evaluate the feasibility of developing carbon offset projects on Washington tribal lands. Under the Climate Commitment Act, greenhouse gas emitters can use these offset projects to cover a portion of their compliance obligations.
- **Mashel River project:** Ecology provided funding and technical assistance to the Nisqually Indian Tribe to support a land acquisition project. Ecology collaborated to meet the tribe's forestry goals by using a new finance model that allowed the tribe to repay the loan with timber harvest funds, while ensuring water quality standards. Ecology established an acquisition work group to build on the 'lessons learned' and to refine the process.

## Low carbon and green energy projects and proposals

- **Low-carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement study:** Ecology and the Department of Commerce are studying how to improve the review and permitting processes for siting low-carbon energy projects in Washington. The report is due to the Legislature Dec. 1. The study will develop recommendations on how we can reduce the impacts of energy projects on the environment, tribal rights and resources, and populations impacted by energy projects.
- **Goldendale energy storage project environmental impact statement:** The agency issued a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) June 6 for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage project. The draft EIS identifies potential significant impacts to tribal cultural resources and sacred sites. Ecology offered four tribes an opportunity to review and provide feedback on tribal-related sections of the draft environmental impact statement and the technical report before the agency released it for public comment.

## Nuclear waste and toxic cleanup priorities

- **Hanford site cleanup strategies and funding:** The Nez Perce Tribe and Yakama Nation participated in a roundtable discussion with Gov. Jay Inslee and Ecology Director Laura Watson at our Richland office in June. We talked about forming a state, tribal, business, labor, and nongovernment organizations coalition to urge the federal government to fully fund Hanford cleanup starting with the fiscal year 2024 budget.
- **Bradford Island superfund site in the Columbia River:** On March 17, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency added Bradford Island to its National Priorities List. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used the island as a landfill for 40 years, which unfortunately became contaminated with toxic polychlorinated biphenyls. The listing represents a culmination of years of partnership with the Yakama Nation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

## Stream restoration and educational projects

- **Chehalis Basin experimental restoration projects:** Ecology's Office of Chehalis Basin continued its work with the Confederated Tribes of Chehalis Reservation and the Quinault Indian Nation to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic habitat. Projects included 20 new restoration projects, two experimental sediment wedge projects and eight experimental beaver dam analog projects. It also included a study to modify flows from the Skookumchuck Dam to increase the separation between spawn timing of spring-run and fall-run Chinook.
- **Padilla Bay National Marine Estuarine Research Reserve:** Reserve staff worked in partnership with the Samish Indian Nation, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and other tribal representatives in the Padilla Bay watershed to co-create a display at the Reserve's interpretive center. This display will provide an accurate narrative about Indigenous communities and their cultural and historic relationship with Padilla Bay's land and waters.
- **6PPD-Quinone Initial Study and Report:** Ecology's Environmental Assessment program coordinates with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and tribal policy staff, regional fish biologists and statewide stormwater scientists on how 6PPD-Quinone (a byproduct associated with vehicle rubber tire dust) links to salmon mortality. Ecology continues to coordinate and work with tribes to map and identify vulnerable salmon habitat.

## **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. Employment Security Department (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. ESD partners with tribes to better deliver these services in culturally informed ways.

## Highlights

- **WA Cares Fund:** We partnered with DSHS to create tribal focused materials and presentations for interested tribes regarding the new WA Cares program. In addition, we worked closely with tribal HR representatives to create and adopt administrative rules for the tribal opt-in provision of the WA Cares law.
- **Unemployment Insurance:** To aid tribes that were affected by floods in northwestern Washington, we coordinated with them to share information and helped people apply for the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.
- **WorkSource:** Worksource Washington is working with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to support business services and develop on-the-job trainings for job seekers. WorkSource Okanogan County is partnering with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to help with its Summer Youth Employment program. WorkSource Colville increased its targeted outreach by our consolidated veterans service representatives to work more closely with tribal member military veterans.
  - **Career Connect Washington (CCW) coalition:** CCW members engage local tribes as it develops regional program growth strategies, expands career connected learning programs, and identify workforce needs in specific industry sectors. Examples include:
  - Cape Flattery School District Maritime Career Launch program connects the maritime heritage of the Makah Tribe with 21st century skills for maritime careers.
  - Next Move Internship program, working with the Chief Leschi Schools, leverages cultural leaders such as the Leschi Tribal Liaison and The Puyallup Tribe's Elder Wellness Center. Students take part in on-campus internships.

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

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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. This is how we strengthen the business of government. DES brings the policy, planning and oversight of central services together, and constantly works to improve value and effectiveness. We are committed to the Centennial Accord principles and to achieving the following goals:

- Recognize and respect each tribe as a sovereign government with a distinct culture and governmental structure that serves 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

### Contracting

- **Statewide contracts:** Tribal governments are eligible to purchase goods and services from our statewide contracts. This can save time and money and help tribes comply with federal grant requirements by using competitively-awarded contracts. Participating tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Hoh Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.
- **Supplier diversity:** We are committed to dismantling barriers to inclusion and equity in state procurement practices. DES established the Procurement, Inclusion and Equity (PIE) program to create a sustainable increase in the procurement of goods and services from small and diverse businesses. The program does this by creating a culture of procurement inclusion and creating a pipeline of small and diverse businesses to meet the state’s needs. The program attends the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Reservation Economic Summit, and the Native Americans in Philanthropy and also presents on several tribal economic development panels.
- **Energy performance contracting:** Our Energy Program initiated an energy audit for Chief Leschi Schools (a tribal compact school with the Puyallup Tribe) that will improve energy efficiency measures that are being implemented in facilities. We are also doing a project for the Omak School District at East Elementary on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation where the contracted energy services company is soliciting tribal subcontractors to work on the project.
- **Washington’s Electronic Business Solution (WEBS):** For those tribes who conduct their own procurement activities, the WEBS platform provides a great way for them to reach potential

bidders. Tribal entities can post solicitations to the state’s bid notification system to reach over 20,000 goods and services vendors who are registered in WEBS. The following organizations are registered to post to WEBS at no cost to the tribe: The American Indian Chamber Education Fund Procurement Technical Assistance program, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Standing Rock Public Transit and Tulalip Tribes.

### **Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary**

Through a long-term lease agreement with the state Department of Natural Resources, DES manages the artificial, 260-acre Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary. The Legislature approved funding in 2018 to begin a project-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An executive level work group from Olympia and Tumwater, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe and Thurston County continue to collaborate and provide guidance for this important work. DES released the draft EIS in June 2021 for public comment, and in March identified a restored estuary as the likely preferred alternative for long-term management. We expect to issue the final EIS in October to provide a preferred alternative for long-term management, funding and governance.

### **State/federal surplus**

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

### **Staff contact**

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# Department of Financial Institutions

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## Summary

Our mission is to work with Washington tribal communities to expand information and education related to financial products and services. This work is accomplished through financial education grants, outreach and community listening sessions.

## Highlights

- Two grants with Heritage University increased financial education outreach (in-person and virtual) for youth and adults throughout the Yakima Valley. This includes some members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- A contract with Money Savvy Generation brought financial education curriculum to 29 tribal communities, reaching more than 1,200 pre-K, elementary and middle school students.
- A financial education grant with American Financial Solutions provided financial education and services classes to tribal communities with emphasis on members of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. This included 23 financial education classes, counseling and support services.
- A financial education grant with Tribal Technology Training (T3) is underway to continue strengthening the framework and support for the renewed Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition. This will also provide financial education, training and services to tribal members throughout the state.
- DFI extended a financial education grant with the Yakama Nation Housing Authority through 2022 to provide financial education and services to youth and adults who live in the Apus Goudy Park Community Center in Wapato.
- DFI's DEI director collaborated with the Department of Licensing to add Indian Home Loan Guarantee program awareness to required real estate broker and managing broker training. This also included training on not being biased toward specific loan programs and how to file mortgage lending complaints with our office.
- DFI's DEI director worked with the industry to include down payment assistance resources in the Washington State Mortgage Loan Originator required training.
- DFI's DEI director engaged the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and Native American organizations to learn priorities around financial services and what we should work on to narrow the wealth gap and help grow financial health and stability for all Washington residents.

## Staff contacts

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# Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Summary

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

We implement this mission by managing conservation and fishing and hunting activities 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.

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

## Highlights

### WDFW Office of the Director

#### Director efforts

Director Kelly Susewind continues to focus on conservation, support responsible resource management decisions and promote the importance of intergovernmental relations. The director strives to align and coordinate resource co-management with our tribal partners.

#### Implemented policy

The agency implemented the Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments policy (No. 5007). The policy helps staff communicate and coordinate with federally recognized tribes, provides a refined uniform approach to consultation, promotes transparency, enhances communication and coordination, promotes early engagement and will help us improve state-tribal relations. It also trains staff on how to work with tribal governments appropriately and effectively.

#### Cultural resources position

The agency received funding to create a new cultural resources manager position. That means we can put all agency cultural resource staff into a Cultural Resources Division within our Capital and Asset Management program. This new division will greatly improve cultural resources support to construction, maintenance, acquisition, and restoration pathways activities, and improve coordination and consultation with tribes. We are recruiting two additional archaeologists for a division total of 10 permanent staff and three interns.

#### Capital budget

We actively manage over 270 facility and infrastructure improvement projects with a capital budget of \$199 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 a new hatchery in the Deschutes River

watershed. There are also several projects at statewide wildlife areas, more than two dozen boating access sites, and several habitat restoration projects. We've started planning and design activities for hatchery improvements to support the Southern Resident Killer Whale initiative at Sol Duc Hatchery, Voights Creek Hatchery, Kendall Creek Hatchery and a potential new hatchery on the Cowlitz River.

### **Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan**

WDFW received \$500,000 from the Legislature to conduct a Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan. This plan helps us assess and prioritize hatchery improvements based on recommendations from the Southern Resident Orca Task Force. This includes priority for a new Cowlitz River salmon hatchery. The plan focused on strategies and facility improvements for existing state and private hatcheries. It will also help the agency construct two new state hatcheries. The increased annual production from this expansion, when we combine it with 2018-2020 releases in the state, would provide over 50 million additional Chinook salmon smolts (compared to lower production levels to 2018). The plan identified 21 new capital projects with an estimated value of \$258 million. We will combine these new projects into our capital budget plan for future funding.

### **Pinniped management and coordination**

WDFW continues to cooperate extensively with Columbia River treaty tribes on pinniped removal at Bonneville Dam and on joint implementation efforts for the Marine Mammal Protection Act permit. We worked with the 20 Western Washington treaty tribes last year to submit a series of pinniped science and management questions to the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS). The WSAS reports are due later this fall, before the next legislative session.

### **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 to establish population management objectives. In the 2021-2022 hunting season, eight 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 share with us. We have negotiated or maintained numerous hunting agreements with tribes, which can be accessed [on our hunting page](#).

At the request of treaty tribes, we updated our draft procedural guidelines for evaluating a treaty tribes' asserted traditional hunting area in spring 2019. Many tribes provided comments, and a common theme was that we should develop the guidelines collaboratively with the tribes. We hosted summits on the traditional hunting area guidelines in the fall of 2019, 2020, and 2021. And, we continue to share our enforcement discretion guidelines for the upcoming fall hunting season regarding traditional hunting areas outside of treaty ceded area. 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.

Tribes continue to express a desire to establish an intertribal forum to resolve geographic scope disputes. We see the value in the process and recognize that needs to be tribally initiated.

### **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 joint enforcement patrols for anglers on Lake Rufus Woods and maintain the Lake Rufus Woods designated fishing areas that are available to tribal and nontribal anglers. Under the agreement, we provide pass-through funding to the CTCR as part

of the Lake Rufus Woods 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**

- In February, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* tribes completed and submitted a proposed 10-year management plan for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Chinook Salmon. The co-managers enlisted the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) in a process that took almost a year to complete. The new plan sets a solid foundation to recover declining populations and provide harvest opportunities. The co-managers will continue to work with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for final approval in the next 15-18 months.
- In April, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* tribes completed their annual salmon fishery planning process (North of Falcon) using the objectives that are outlined in the long-term plan. We again received a one-year (ESA) authorization in May from the NMFS for fisheries planned in 2022 and early 2023.

### **Hatcheries**

- In cooperation with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, we worked through a third challenging year of mass marking and tagging due to COVID-19 and a lack of labor force. We mass-marked and code-wire tagged nearly all the salmon released into state waters. This collaborative approach was critical to successfully completing these obligations for tribal and state salmon hatchery releases.
- Our technical and policy staff are working with Puget Sound, Coastal and Columbia River tribes to develop a co-manager hatchery policy. A technical writing team recently completed a draft for policy staff to review and we hope to complete the document this fall.
- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and WDFW initiated the Ballard Locks Adult Sockeye Transport program (BLAST) to respond to rapidly declining sockeye returns to the Lake Washington Basin. This program was a joint effort that relied on Muckleshoot staff's knowledge and history of sockeye movement through the Ballard Locks to trap and transport sockeye to a loading area. From there, our staff hauled the sockeye to Seattle Public Utilities Landsburg Hatchery. The fish experienced minimal mortality and survived significantly better than adult sockeye trapped at the Cedar River adult collection weir. Based on the BLAST's 2021 success, the process was repeated in 2022, and as of June 30, 360 adult sockeye have been successfully transported, with a goal of 900 set for the 2022 season.
- WDFW and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation continue to coordinate on Priest Rapids Hatchery plan. It would create a more efficient process to supply surplus fall Chinook eggs/fish, helping other facilities meet broodstock needs. This effort also helps the Yakama Nation meet its production goals, while ensuring that broodstock needs are met 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

- WDFW, along with our comanagers, completed the following Endangered Species Act consultations for hatchery operations in 2021:
  - Lake Washington - Muckleshoot and Suquamish
  - Skykomish River Summer Steelhead - Tulalip
  - Hood Canal - Skokomish, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Jamestown S’Klallam
  - Snohomish River - Tulalip

**European green crab emergency management**

- In 2021, we coordinated with tribal co-managers and other partners and found a significant increase in invasive European green crab (EGC) populations within the Lummi Nation’s Sea Pond and outer coast areas. This includes Makah Bay, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. These and other EGC populations within the Salish Sea and outer coastal areas have the potential to impact significant tribal cultural resources, such as shellfish and salmon.
- Largely influenced by these efforts, Gov. Jay Inslee issued EGC Emergency Proclamation 22-02 with the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and many other tribes. This brought in nearly \$8.6 million from the 2022 supplemental budget to implement emergency measures including:
  - \$2.05 million for Lummi Nation
  - \$0.6 million for Makah Tribe
  - \$1.5 million in two grant programs that are available to tribal co-managers and other partners
- Within the Salish Sea region, the Lummi Nation and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe have active EGC control/removal programs. The most significant are management operations that the Lummi Nation lead, with technical support by WDFW. These removed 98% of the nearly 140,000 total Salish Sea EGC captured in 2021 and up to July 2022. The Lower Elwha Klallam, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Suquamish (provides access), Swinomish and Tulalip Tribes conduct early detection monitoring independently or in coordination with Washington Sea Grant’s Crab Team program.
- Across the outer Coast region, the Makah Tribe and Shoalwater Bay Tribe have active EGC control/removal programs. Makah removed 8% and Shoalwater removed 40% of the 50,000-plus EGC during the last 12 months. The Quileute Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation contribute to EGC management by conducting early detection monitoring, often in coordination with Washington Sea Grant’s Crab Team program.

## Wildlife management

- WDFW continued to meet through September 2021 with representatives from 20 tribes, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, the Governor's office and regional USFS leadership to discuss outdoor recreation issues. We held six meetings between October 2020 and October 2021. Themes included tribal concerns about the near and long-term impacts of recreation on wildlife, habitat and tribal treaty rights. Another theme called for more capacity to monitor recreation impacts and regulate recreation on public lands. Participants acknowledged that funding across agencies hinders land managers' capacity to manage recreation. These tribes were represented at one or more of these meetings.
  - Hoh Indian Tribe; Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Lummi Nation; Makah Tribe; Nooksack Indian Tribe; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Puyallup Tribe; Quileute Tribe; Quinault Indian Nation; Samish Indian Nation; Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe; Skokomish Indian Tribe; Snoqualmie Indian Tribe; Squaxin Island Tribe; Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Tulalip Tribes; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Yakama Nation

We provided a statewide strategy draft for planning and managing outdoor recreation on WDFW-managed lands to the tribes. This helped us solicit input before the SEPA public comment period.

- We continued our work with the Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) to benefit shrubsteppe wildlife, particularly as we see more intense wildland fires. To counter decades of these fires, WSRRI restores burned habitat, implements species-specific recovery actions, and supports private working lands impacted by fires. This initiative also supports restoration projects by providing coordinated and shared resources and services to landowners and land managers. This initiative will increase efficiency, facilitate restoration, and expand and enhance available restoration resources such as native plant materials, skilled habitat management professionals and specialized equipment and operators. WSRRI is led by a coalition of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This coalition is informed and advised by the diverse interests of Washington's shrubsteppe landscape, including tribal entities and public and private partners.
- We coordinated wolf population monitoring efforts with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Spokane Tribe of Indians and reported this data in the annual wolf report. WDFW communicated regularly about the wolf-livestock conflict deterrence rule, making effort with tribes participating in the Interagency Wolf Committee. The agency regularly attends and updates the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission as well as Olympic Peninsula tribes at the Olympic Peninsula Wildlife technical meeting.
- The Wildlife Program's Lands Division consulted the tribes regarding the following eight land acquisition projects: Brain (LT Murray WLA), Trepanier (Oak Creek WLA), Holz (Scatter Creek WLA), DNR/Big Bend WLA inholdings, Crane (Wells WLA), Conservation Fund/Violet Prairie (Scatter Creek WLA), DOT/ Martha Lake Access Area (Columbia Basin WLA), and the Hoppe/ Nehmah Tidelands Access Area.
- Our staff continued to work with Point Elliot Treaty Tribes on wildlife management throughout Region 4 (out of six regions across the state). One of the main collaborations was using nonlethal efforts to move elk away from agricultural areas in the Skagit and Acme Valley. Tribal and WDFW representatives meet regularly at a policy and technical level to discuss progress, the vision for future efforts, and conservation and/or hunting opportunity concerns.

- We continue to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) 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 them on and off tribal land, coordination on multiple carnivore projects and sharing wildlife radio collar data.
- While WDFW is not an active participant, the CTCR have informed us of relocating Canada Lynx onto the reservation and the North Half. CTCR staff also recently participated in WDFW's statewide Chronic Wasting Disease tabletop exercise in Ellensburg. CTCR will be an important partner in CWC surveillance and management.
- 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. There is a work group meeting to discuss wildlife management activities within a recently disputed portion the of the Yakama Nation reservation (Tract D portion).
- We continue to coordinate with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe on an ongoing deer survival study in Yakima and Kittitas counties.

#### **Habitat**

- We worked to implement Senate Bill (SB) 5273, which would help update standards to evaluate replacement shoreline armoring structures. This helps ensure that we use the least impactful structures. We are developing draft rule language and will conduct outreach briefings to tribal nations statewide on this issue.
- WDFW arranged standards that we use for instream structures; fish screening and diversions; and climate adaptive water crossing structures. We completed the steps, developed draft language and conducted two outreach briefings to tribal nations statewide. This will address compliance issues for instream structures and screening, steps to bring owners into compliance and actions we can take for noncompliance.
- WDFW continued to chair the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) while collaborating with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This board helps restore healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead by strategically removing fish passage barriers. The board received \$29 million for 25 fish passage projects statewide. It also asked for proposals to develop a fish passage barrier removal project list. Over 104 projects were submitted to the board with a total funding request of \$81 million.
- We continued to develop a comprehensive statewide fish passage barrier removal strategy to maximize the salmon and orca recovery benefits. The comprehensive strategy will also guide the FBRB funding recommendations, as well as other state fish passage barrier correction programs. We hired a strategist to lead this effort and will work with tribal nations to develop the statewide strategy.
- In mid-2022, WDFW initiated a consultant-led effort to evaluate existing and future challenges to public and tribal tideland access in Hood Canal. This effort also helped the agency assess opportunities to provide tideland access for current and future generations. This effort includes tribal collaboration and input from other organizations that are involved with public and tribal tideland access. We expect these efforts to form the basis for future legislative request(s) and broader strategy development to provide tideland access.

- In the Lower Columbia, we partnered with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to apply for funding that would remove derelict water intake infrastructure at WDFW's West Fork Grays River Hatchery. The tribe received \$99,800 to remove the intake. This will restore fish passage to over 15 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat, benefiting threatened populations of winter steelhead, coho, fall Chinook and chum salmon.
- We continued to coordinate and collaborate with the Colville, Spokane, Kalispel and Coeur d'Alene tribes, as well as the Upper Columbia United Tribes organization, to reintroduce salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. WDFW gave supportive comments on how the Phase 2 Implementation plan can help reintroduce salmon. We also coordinated with UCUT member tribes on pathogen screening and hatchery capacity and will finalize a contract so that UCUT can disperse \$3 million in state funding for tribal work.
- As part of the Columbia Basin Collaborative project team, we consulted with tribes throughout the Columbia Basin before and after the Collaborative started. Its mission is to identify and integrate actions we can take to achieve abundance goals. Achieving these goals will help fulfill tribal treaty and trust obligations throughout the Columbia Basin.
- We continued to work with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation to implement the Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. This helps us identify flood risk reduction projects to improve the condition of salmon, steelhead and other aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin. We are also working with the Chehalis Board, including the Quinault Indian Nation and Chehalis Confederated Tribes, to investigate ways we can improve operations or remove Skookumchuck Dam on the Skookumchuck River. This is an important spring Chinook-bearing tributary of the Chehalis River.
- WDFW worked with the Yakama Nation and the Colville Confederated Tribes to:
  - Improve instream flows and hatchery and irrigation water supplies.
  - Work on the Walla Walla 2050 strategy with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and others to improve flows for fish and farms.
  - Work on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan with the Yakama Nation and others to improve fish passage, instream flows, habitat and agricultural water supplies.
- We worked with tribes to negotiate or implement Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses around the state. Highlights include:
  - Reinstated fish passage requirements at all three PacificCorp dams on the Lewis River with the Cowlitz Tribe and Yakama Nation
  - Improved operations and fish passage at Seattle City Light's Skagit River dams with the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
  - Started to relicense Chelan PUD's Rock Island Dam where we are consulting with the Yakama Nation and the Colville Confederated tribes.
- Working with the Department of Commerce on the House Bill (HB) 1099 climate proviso, we spearheaded the planning to engage with and brief all tribal partners and participated in Commerce-hosted statewide virtual briefing with tribal reps March 24.
- We worked with the Yakama Nation staff to waive fees for Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data requests. PHS data sharing between WDFW and tribes is crucial; tribes update species or habitats they observe in the field and need access to our most current PHS mapping layers. As a result, the WDFW eliminated fees for *all* tribal governments when they request PHS data.

## Enforcement

- We continue to implement an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to support enforcement and cooperative patrols for recreational fisheries within the Rufus Woods Reservoir. As part of that, we provided \$3 million in pass-through funding to create fishing access sites on the reservoir. This benefits state and tribal citizens, and funds two Colville tribal fish and wildlife officer positions.
- Works with our local Yakama Nation officers on joint enforcement concerns and coordinates investigations of nontribal members participating in tribal hunts within ceded areas or within the reservation boundaries.
- Works with the coastal tribes to address special management areas (SMAs) to make sure state harvesters are not fishing within there. WDFW police respond to reports of gear conflict between tribal and nontribal fishers.
- While many coastal tribes closed during the pandemic, we saw continued coordination with WDFW enforcement to conduct enforcement patrols. Our enforcement patrolled tribal waterways and were granted access to fuel at tribal ports. We look forward to reconnecting and patrolling with our tribal enforcement counterparts.
- WDFW enforcement meets for the Stillaguamish Integrated Conservation and Rebuilding project to build and maintain a stronger co-management relationship with the Stillaguamish Tribe. This work will advance salmon recovery and shares a clear and consistent vision for the Stillaguamish River basin. Specifically, this will help us know how habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and predators affect Stillaguamish River salmon and steelhead. It will also help us know how management actions contribute to conservation and recovery, and what we need to achieve the expected contribution of each sector.
- WDFW enforcement officers continue to work on patrols with tribal enforcement officers to address fisheries in the Puget sound.
- Five new hire officers attended in-house training by the Attorney General's Office that focused on tribal case law, policies and procedures. This training helps staff understand the varying level of agreements we have with tribal governments.
- Our enforcement meets weekly with the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/P) Task Force to assess systemic causes behind the high rate of disappearances and murders of this demographic. The task force includes tribes, tribal organizations, and state and local policymakers.
- Joint annual coordination meetings were held with our enforcement staff and tribal law enforcement to discuss issues and network with staff.

## 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 the citizens of the state and tribes.

Of the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington, 29 have compacts for Class III gaming and 22 of the tribes operate 29 casinos.

## Highlights

We mutually agreed to amendments to restate the Class III compacts with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. These restated compacts include updates to regulatory and operational processes; add 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.

We mutually agreed to amendments to include sports wagering appendices with five additional tribes. Of the 21 tribes with this appendix, eight tribes are operating a sportsbook with one of those offering on-premises mobile wagering.

Sports wagering vendor licensing rules became effective June 2021. Staff developed new investigative programs, procedures and online forms to facilitate applications, and 24 sports wagering vendors have been licensed. Staff met with vendors, operations, tribal leadership and tribal regulatory personnel to coordinate timelines and improve communication.

To provide current information to commonly asked questions from tribal representatives, in April, the Electronic Gambling Lab created a monthly newsletter sent to our tribal regulatory and tribal gaming operational partners. The monthly update includes the status of new and previous equipment submissions that we received, investigations of equipment operated at tribal casinos and news or updates related to the Commission.

Our Criminal Enforcement Unit sent eight information bulletins to inform and share information with our tribal partners on various crimes and suspicious activity and 10 requests for information to ask for assistance from tribal partners beneficial to combating crime. About half of the information bulletins and all the information requests brought in additional information that we used for our investigations.

We mutually agreed to annual flat rate fees for Class III employee certifications with Nisqually Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. These agreements include submitting online applications and making one payment a year. These agreements result in an improved turn-around time, reduce the number of payments made throughout the year and reduce the data entry that we have to do with mail-in applications.

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 29 clarifications of compact appendices and we concurred with 317 internal control and game rule submissions. Many of the submissions were related to sports wagering, a new gaming activity that required extensive staff time to complete. We also made process improvements to provide better online processing of applications.

After a two-year delay of in-person classes, we reinstated our New Agent Training. In partnership with the Chehalis Tribal Gaming Agency, we conducted a weeklong, new agent training course for over 40 students from our agency and 15 tribes. The students were regulatory staff who work at the tribal casinos. Topics included history, licensing and regulation of Class III gaming in Washington.

### **Staff contact**

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# Department of Health

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## Summary

The Department of Health works with tribal nations and Urban Indian Health Organizations through the Foundational Public Health Services initiative to meet our shared basic responsibilities to protect the health and safety of Washingtonians. This partnership means everyone can depend on a core set of services that only the governmental public health system can provide. During the current 2021-2023 biennium, we collaborated with the American Indian Health Commission to provide contract support for \$6.1 million and support tribally-led projects building capacity in programs and infrastructure. This funding included a \$127,418 allocation to each tribe. DOH continues working with tribal public health partners to transform and modernize the public health system in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.

When vaccines arrived in the state in early 2021, DOH prioritized a 5% 'set aside' for tribes choosing to get vaccines through the state. In 2022, DOH continued supporting vaccine tribal partnerships and distributed more than 225,260 doses to tribes. The pandemic highlighted the vital role of public health in our state; it is truly essential in every way. With this in mind, we introduced the initiative called COVID-19 and Beyond: Healing, Hope and Health for all. Driven by equity, innovation and engagement, it will recommit us and update our vision.

## Highlights

- COVID-19 response:
  - DOH staff briefed tribal leaders monthly on COVID-19 response resources through a meeting convened by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.
  - DOH partnered with American Indian Health Commission to link their emergency preparedness expert to the state response. This meant tribal partners could go to the commission as a trusted, one-stop communication place for COVID-19 information.
  - DOH made \$100,000 available to each tribal nation in Washington for the COVID-19 care coordination response.
- DOH opened a consultation to develop tribal data sovereignty agreements.
- DOH co-sponsored the Regional Tribal Emergency Preparedness Conference at Tulalip Tribes and held a 'strengths and needs' roundtable for tribal emergency preparedness programs.
- DOH is implementing Senate Bill (SB) 5141, Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act by staffing the Environmental Justice Council. The council includes elected tribal officials.
- DOH developed an FAQ sheet to support tribal partners with their Behavioral Health Agencies (BHA) facility license attestation applications.

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# Health Care Authority

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## Summary

The Health Care Authority (HCA) seeks to ensure that American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have access to equitable health care. To achieve this goal, HCA partners with tribes to address existing health disparities and to increase access to quality care and services.

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

## Highlights

### Apple Health coverage and payments

In calendar year 2021, Apple Health provided health care coverage to more than 88,800 AI/AN citizens statewide and paid \$568 million for services. Tribes received over \$245 million for health care, transportation and administration services, a 22% increase from 2020. This indicates that our behavioral health services are recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders.

### Apple Health Managed Care

During 2021, tribes transitioned to billing the Apple Health Managed Care plans. HCA and tribes are working through many issues related to this change.

### Apple Health innovations for Indian Health

Since 2021, we implemented the following programs in consultation with tribes.

- Paid \$2.4 million during the 2021 calendar year to support tribal Medicaid Transformation activities, including integrating physical and behavioral health care.
- The Governors Indian Health Advisory Council (GIHAC) completed its first biennial Indian Health improvement advisory plan.

### Behavioral health funding and innovations for Indian Health in calendar year 2021

- In state fiscal year 2022, 28 tribes provided more than \$4.7 million to help fund behavioral health projects that support prevention, treatment, opioid overdose, recovery and mental health services.
- HCA partnered with the Legislature, Department of Health (DOH), American Indian Health Commission, Volunteers of America and the Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board to establish the Indian Behavioral Health Hub and the Native and Strong Lifeline.
- Successfully received funding to support the agency as it implemented tribal designated crisis responders.
- HCA published the first psychiatric treatment, evaluation and bed utilization for AI/AN individuals in a state report. This program was required by the Indian Behavioral Health Improvement Act (Senate Bill 6259).

- Continued the Tribal Opioid Solutions media campaign with new campaign materials around the theme “Culture is Prevention.” The campaign provides educational resources for tribes and urban Indian organizations to address opioid prevention, overdose response and treatment. More information can be found at [watribalopioidsolutions.com](http://watribalopioidsolutions.com).

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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 all. We are committed to continue implementing the Centennial Accord, which was established in 1989 by gubernatorial proclamation. During the last biennium, we hired a halftime tribal liaison to help us get closer to this commitment. It's just one way that we honor the government-to-government policy with the tribes of Washington.

## Highlights

- Beginning 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 17th annual In the Spirit Contemporary Native Art Exhibition and Festival. It happened June 16 through Sept. 11 and featured 38 pieces of art submitted by 26 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.
- We continue to provide the Treaty Trail: U.S.-Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest curriculum online through [washingtonghistory.org](http://washingtonghistory.org) in the Education section.
- We've been busy renovating the Great Hall exhibit area of the museum. Through legislative funds, we are working on a larger portion of the Great Hall that is focused on tribal history and sovereignty. We've reached out to tribes across the state for their guidance and have established a tribal advisory group to guide these efforts. The tribal advisory group consists of representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quinault Indian Nation and the Shoalwater Bay Tribe.
- We also provide grant opportunities through the Heritage Capital Project Grant and the Diversity in Local History Grant on the [grants page on our website](#).
- We are also continuing to work on the Monuments and Markers Project. As part of our Statement of Commitment, we are reviewing monuments placed by WSHS for historical accuracy, language and interpretive sensitivity. We are in the early stages now and will reach out to tribes directly about these monuments, particularly about the monuments that are located in tribally-identified areas of interest.
- As always, we continue to offer support and programming for museums through our Common Concerns series and other technical trainings. We would welcome tribal museum partners attending and/or suggesting topics for future programming based on any concerns or problems they may have.

## 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, agency staff members regulate the insurance business in Washington under state law. Our mission is to protect consumers, the public interest, and our state's economy through fair and efficient regulation of the insurance industry.

OIC consumer assistance services, including our Insurance Consumer Hotline and our Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program, provide free, unbiased information to consumers about health care coverage and access. SHIBA's trained volunteers are located statewide. They counsel people of all ages about their choices and options with Medicare, public health care programs, prescription drugs, fraud and abuse.

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 (AIAN) 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 opportunities to work with tribes in all areas of insurance. Our Consumer Advocacy program offers experienced insurance counselors who educate consumers on many types of insurance, including health, auto and homeowner coverage. They review consumer complaints against insurance companies to make sure they comply with state laws. They also provide counseling and insurance education to consumers through our hotline, the web, email or in person at our Tumwater office.

These services are available through our Insurance Consumer Hotline at 1-800-562-6900 and our website at [insurance.wa.gov](https://insurance.wa.gov).

## Highlights

### Meetings, summits, conferences and outreach events

The OIC participated in the following tribal-related meetings June 2021 through June 2022:

- 32nd Annual Governor's Office Centennial Accord meeting, Oct. 2021
- Regular quarterly AIHC delegate meetings (virtual)
- Regular AIHC meetings (during the pandemic)
- Regular tribal liaison meetings with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Participate in the behavioral health parity project

SHIBA and its affiliated sponsors participated in 242 virtual outreach events that included AIANs. In addition, SHIBA volunteers conducted over 187 one-on-one Medicare counseling sessions with AIAN.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

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## Summary

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) mission is to keep 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. The agency provides workers' compensation insurance coverage, oversees workplace safety and health, deals with wage compliance matters and provides the trade industries with licensing, inspections, and apprenticeships.

## Highlights

L&I continues its commitment to work closely with tribal governments, ensuring that individuals have the information they need and are aware of their rights. In our work to fulfill that commitment, we have created the L&I Tribal Advisory Committee. The committee includes contacts from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), 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 worked directly with tribes in positions outside the agency.

## Activities:

- L&I is in the approval process for an internal policy for tribal interactions.
- L&I is continuing ongoing education of L&I employees with government-to-government training. Since reinstating the trainings post-pandemic, multiple staff members have completed this course, with others on the waiting list.
- L&I is continuing to work with tribes to streamline the permitting process and enter a Memoranda of Understanding to provide better services to tribal businesses.
- From June 2021 through June 2022, there have been 150 electrical inspection requests.
- L&I supports 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 programs are across the state.
- The tribal apprentice subcommittee is part of the Washington State Apprentice Training Council. L&I works closely with the council, which created a subcommittee that is open to participation by all recognized tribes. The committee reports to the council quarterly.
- L&I staff participates in a variety of tribal events. Between September 2021 and June 2022, staff attended the Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention.
- In the last year, L&I met with several tribes to discuss services, provide presentations and discuss collaboration opportunities.

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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. DOL serves Washington residents by licensing drivers, vehicles, vessels and over 40 different professions. The agency also annually collects more than \$2.8 billion in fuel taxes and licensing fees that fund the state's transportation network.

## Highlights

### Fuel tax compacts

DOL can enter motor vehicle fuel tax compacts with any federally recognized Indian tribe located on a reservation in Washington. DOL is party to 25 fuel tax compacts with tribal governments and we continue to work with tribes to enter new agreements and update language. For calendar year 2021, DOL provided \$54.9 million in fuel tax refunds to tribes with fuel tax compacts.

Due to COVID-19, the governor issued [Proclamation 20-56](#) to suspend the restriction that tribes can only use fuel tax refunds for transportation purposes. This proclamation was in effect from May 28, 2020, to July 1, 2022. DOL has worked with tribes to communicate proclamation updates and answer questions.

### Tribal License Plate Compacts

Since 2020, DOL can enter into compacts with federally-recognized Washington tribes to create tribal license plates for tribal member owned vehicles and tribal government vehicles. Many tribes have met with DOL about how to start a license plate compact and several are currently being developed.

### Reporting vessel information

DOL continues to work with tribes and the U.S. Coast Guard to increase tribes reporting vessel information. A 1994 Consent Decree requires 21 tribes to issue vessel decals (supplied by DOL) to their members so they can register their vessels and submit the vessel information to us. For 2022, DOL provided 3,000 decals to the Tribal Fisheries Commission and received 374 tribal vessel registrations.

### Combative sports regulation

DOL functions as the State Boxing Commission and regulates combative sports throughout Washington. Some tribes invite DOL to regulate combative sports occurring in their Indian Country, such as boxing and mixed martial arts (MMA) events. In 2022, tribes invited us to regulate three events in Indian Country over the summer and fall.

## Staff contact

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# Liquor and Cannabis Board

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## Summary

The Centennial Accord mission of the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) includes promoting public safety across the state and in Indian Country with respect to liquor, cannabis, tobacco and vapor product production, distribution, sale and use. In addition, we work to support tribal government revenues and tribal economic development through partnerships and collaboration. These collaborative efforts with tribes focus on agreements that tribes operate their business under. This business involves the sale of alcohol and cannabis.

## Highlights

As we worked with tribes, a primary focus over the past year was to complete cannabis compacts. Cannabis has become a significant source of tax revenue for the state. Tribes can similarly generate revenue to support tribal services through cannabis business enterprises. The governor has delegated our agency to negotiate agreements with tribes that are interested in establishing cannabis programs.

As of this writing, we have completed 20 tribal cannabis compacts.

- During 2021, cannabis compacts were completed between the state and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe and Cowlitz Indian Tribe.
- The state and tribal governments await final approval for two additional proposed cannabis compacts. We expect these compacts with the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Hoh Indian Tribe to be adopted by the time of the Centennial Accord meeting, bringing the total to 22 tribal cannabis compacts.
- Discussions are underway toward completing compacts with the Lummi Nation and the Quileute Tribe.

Recent legislation facilitated cannabis compact negotiations. Passage of [Second Substitute House Bill 1210](#) in the 2022 legislative session resolved an anomaly in state law. As a result, state law regarding tribal cannabis compacts aligns more clearly with the principle that tribes have sovereign authority to apply a tax or not, as they see fit, on the sale of products where there was value generated in the tribe's Indian Country. This affirmation of one aspect of tribal sovereignty has smoothed the pathway toward completing some of the pending cannabis compacts.

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# Washington's Lottery

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## Summary

Washington's Lottery (WSL) is a state agency mandated to generate funds for the support of state programs. 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 the revenue that we generate. Recipients of WSL's proceeds include the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, Economic Development Account, Problem Gambling Account and General Fund Account. We have contributed more than \$4.6 billion to various state programs since our inception. We are committed to maximizing opportunities for qualified veteran-owned and minority-owned business enterprises and small businesses, and require all contractors to fully comply with the provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act 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 2022 tribal sales

- 50 licensed tribal retail locations sold tickets totaling \$16,734,232.
- Ticket sales at tribal locations have provided \$836,712 in sales commissions to those retailers.

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

## Highlights

### Response and logistics

- The Alert and Warning Center issued 1,472 weather advisories, watches, and warnings to tribes in Washington.
- We improved WebEOC functionality for 26 tribes by providing them with upgraded Version 9 software and training.

### Hazards and Outreach program

- The tsunami team installed new All-Hazard Alert and Broadcast (AHAB) sirens for the Lummi Nation. The program also maintained existing sirens for the Hoh Indian Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Lummi Nation, the Makah Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation and the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe.
- The team provided tsunami signage to the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation and the Samish Indian Nation.
- Provided tsunami drill planning support for the Samish Indian Nation and helped the Suquamish Tribe develop tsunami evacuation maps. Provided tsunami evacuation route planning support for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.
- The Hazards and Outreach program supported the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe by helping tribal members with tsunami hazard and preparedness information, distributing outreach materials and distributing NOAA weather radios.

### Public Assistance Program and Fire Management Assistance Grant

- The agency provided its Public Assistance program for COVID-19 to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Lummi Nation, the Makah Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and the Nisqually Indian Tribe.
- We provided Public Assistance and Fire Management Assistance grants to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for the September 2020 wildfires and straight-line winds disaster.
- We provided Public Assistance for the November 2021 severe storms and flooding disaster to the Hoh Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Quileute Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

- We provided Public Assistance for the December 2021 severe storms and flooding disaster to the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

### **Assessment and exercise**

- Conducted the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment in 2021 with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation. We helped them determine their capabilities and capability gaps for the threats and hazards that affect their jurisdiction.
- Conducted the Cascadia Rising 2022 Critical Transportation and Mass Care Services exercise series to improve preparedness and communication with 14 tribes across Washington, the American Indian Health Commission and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

### **Recovery**

- The Human Services recovery team supported damage assessment and recovery efforts with the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe and the Quileute Tribe following the federally declared disaster caused by severe flooding in November 2021.
- Our agency's tribal liaison supported multiple tribes impacted by the November 2021 flooding by providing guidance and coordination with individual assistance programs.

### **Mitigation**

- The mitigation team worked with the Quinault Indian Nation to support funding from the fiscal year 2021 Congressionally Designated Spending round for its SR104 reroute project.

### **Preparedness Grants program**

- We awarded \$154,448 in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding to four tribes: the Makah Tribe, the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- We provided \$393,900 in Operation Stonegarden awards to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, the Nooksack Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to help with increasing border security and situation awareness.
- Through the Urban Area Security initiative, the Puyallup Tribe and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe participated in the Seattle Urban Area working group as tribal representatives.

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

- The Washington State Guard conducted tribal outreach to 27 tribes, facilitated emergency management coordination and communication between tribes and EMD, and developed Washington National Guard Standard Operating Procedures to respond to a tribe's request for assistance during declared disasters or emergencies.

### **Washington Youth ChalleNGe Academy (WYCA)**

- Every WYCA class in the last year included Native American youth.
- WYCA consulted the Suquamish Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe about platoon imagery in the style of Salish-style artwork used to promote esprit de corps. WYCA also asked for our partnership as it delivered aspects of our social studies curriculum that honors tribal history.

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

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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. This includes tribal members and tribally-owned small businesses.

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. 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](#). To ensure our accountability across state government, we report on the amount the state spends with certified businesses. We also lead the [Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity](#), which is a cross-agency effort for equity in public contracting and procurement.

## Highlights

Several policy changes took place between June 2021 and June 2022. The governor signed two executive orders (EO 22-01 and EO-22-02) that promote equity in public contracting for women and minority business enterprises. These executive orders rescinded a longstanding and overly restrictive executive directive that stood in the way of policies that promote equity in contracting. It also required agencies to adopt the Tools for Equity in Public Spending. These are a set of practices designed to make state contracting open and fair for women and minority business enterprises, including Native-owned businesses.

The governor also signed House Bill (HB) 1259, which increased our oversight and accountability by granting new authority to investigate complaints. The new law also requires OMWBE to report agencies that are underperforming on contracting equity for women and minority business enterprises, including Native-owned businesses.

## Outreach events

### Tulalip Tribes informational session – Nov. 17, 2021

OMWBE sponsored this event. Sharon Harvey, OMWBE's assistant director for certification, audit and support services and Julie Campos, our small business advocate, presented on the benefits of becoming certified minority- and women-owned businesses and the Linked Deposit program.

### Growing Your Business and Financial Recovery Workshop for Native American Owned Firms – Sept. 21, 2021

We attended this free, in-person workshop, provided information on the benefits of certification as women- and minority-owned businesses and promoted the event as well. We emailed 126 Native-owned businesses, of which 42% opened (53), and 5.56% clicked (7 individuals). The event took place at the Day Break Star Indian Cultural Center in Seattle.

## **National Native American Summit, *Standing Together and Taking Action* – Nov. 16, 2021**

This live, virtual event featured over 200 business professionals, and special guests hosted by the Michigan Diversity Council. We supported this event by promoting it.

### **Staff contact**

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# Department of Natural Resources

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## Summary

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), led by Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, works alongside tribal sovereigns to protect and care for Washington's lands and waters. 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. Below is a snapshot of the recent collaborative successes we have accomplished in partnership with Washington tribes.

## Highlights

### Tribal Summit

- Commissioner Franz and representatives from tribal nations with traditional territory in Washington came together to discuss shared interests in natural resource management at the annual **DNR Tribal Summit**. Hosted by the Puyallup Tribe, the meeting was the first in-person summit since the COVID-19 pandemic. We had a great turnout of leaders and staff from 16 tribes: Confederated Tribes and Band of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Snoqualmie Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe and Tulalip Tribes. DNR and tribes discussed:
  - DNR's draft government-to-government policy
  - Shared stewardship of lands
  - Preserving access to cultural resources
  - Clean energy
  - Advancing climate resilience and salmon recovery
- This year, DNR staff developed a new draft of the agency's **government-to-government policy**, which it presented to tribes for feedback at the summit. This draft policy broadly defines provisions for how DNR can enhance its consultation processes. This includes communication, coordination and co-stewardship/co-management with tribal governments.

### "Keep Washington Evergreen"

- In the 2021 legislative session, DNR partnered with several Washington tribes and other stakeholders to put forward legislation that set goals and developed strategies to conserve 1 million acres of working forest, as well as reforest an additional million acres by 2040. Although the bill did not pass this session, it laid important groundwork for continued efforts to **"Keep Washington Evergreen."** Tribal interests are reflected, particularly in the reforestation principle, which includes supporting and accelerating reforestation in post-wildfire areas. This includes tribal lands that have been heavily impacted by fires in recent years (e.g., the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation).

## Salmon recovery

- Collaborating on salmon recovery in the Snohomish Watershed is a shared priority of DNR and tribes. This led to joint development of the **Watershed Resilience Action Plan**, which coordinates, enhances and maximizes investments and work to protect and restore salmon habitat. It was released this February at an event featuring Commissioner Franz and tribal representatives.
- DNR continues to engage with tribes on the plan's implementation, including a joint presentation between DNR and the Tulalip Tribes at the 2022 DNR Tribal Summit. DNR collaborated on developing a **Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant**, which the agency submitted to the Tulalip Tribes. This grant sought funds to help develop a plan that includes nature-based solutions in the Snohomish Basin.
- A flagship success of the new **Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone Plan** featured close coordination among DNR staff and members of the Tulalip Tribes. In recognition of the cultural significance of salmon, kelp, and eelgrass to native nations in Puget Sound, this protection zone seeks to conserve and restore kelp forests and eelgrass meadows in Possession Sound and will enhance juvenile salmon habitat. DNR seeks to replicate this successful collaboration by developing a **Statewide Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Health and Conservation Plan** by 2023.

## Recreation and conservation

- In April 2022, DNR announced the development of a 10,000-acre **carbon project** on state lands. The project will set aside and conserve forested areas in Western Washington that were slated for harvest. DNR is identifying parcels to complete the 10,000 acres and is using the High Conservation Value (HCV) criteria as a framework to guide our selection. DNR will engage with tribal nations to identify forested areas on DNR-managed land that may meet HCV criteria and could be good candidates to include in the carbon project. HCV criteria include:
  - Areas or resources that are fundamental to meeting basic needs of Indigenous populations and local communities, *and*
  - Areas or resources that are critical to Indigenous populations' and local communities' traditional cultural identity.
- DNR's recreation and conservation programs work directly with sovereign nations to address impacts from recreation, illegal activities across the landscape and other public access. We continue to implement thoughtful planning that honors the relationship tribes have with public lands. For example, this collaboration provides DNR with a clearer understanding of how to balance public access to DNR trust lands for recreation with tribes' reserved treaty rights to hunt wildlife on "open and unclaimed" lands in Western Washington.
- DNR's conservation programs are continuing a partnership with the Samish Indian Nation in the San Juan Islands. In the early 2010s, the DNR Natural Areas program partnered with the Samish Indian Nation to gather baseline information before DNR's estuary restoration work at Secret Harbor on Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The partnership has broadened to include ecological assessment and restoration work on the grassy balds at Cypress Island and future work at Cattle Point NRCA on San Juan Island for butterfly habitat restoration. Bringing staff effort and federal funds to the restoration projects, DNR anticipates the partnership with the tribe to continue for the next year or so.

## Revitalizing trust land transfer

As part of the 2021-23 capital budget (House Bill 1080), the Legislature directed DNR to convene a work group of state trust land beneficiaries and stakeholders. This work group recommends how trust land transfer proposals are developed and implemented. This work is being completed in two phases by two different work groups convened by DNR. Tribal participation in the work group has created more robust prioritization criteria and impactful feedback.

## Clean Energy Mapping project

- DNR's clean energy program has developed a draft mapping tool to proactively assess DNR-managed trust lands for potential solar development lease opportunities. This tool will incorporate cultural resource concerns to help avoid development in areas of significance to tribes. DNR shared the draft map with tribal staff to ensure their input on the mapping tool, DNR's clean energy process, and the properties being evaluated.

## Workforce development

- Washington's forests and the natural resources sectors are diverse, and we need a workforce just as diverse. DNR is working to strengthen a holistic and inclusive **natural resources** workforce by investing in regionally-driven education and training programs for communities who have not had equal opportunities to forest sector jobs, such as women and BIPOC communities. This includes growing school-based nature education, high school hands-on training and apprenticeship programs. These are designed to build environmental literacy, provide good quality employment and advance climate resilience.
- In 2021, DNR's Aquatic Assessment and Monitoring team developed a climate resilience curriculum and educational internship program with the Skokomish Indian Tribe. The curriculum aims to prepare high school youth for professions in aquatic natural resource management, with the pilot program starting fall of 2022.

## Culturally appropriate place names

- DNR's Committee on Geographic Names responded to the U.S. Department of the Interior's orders (Executive Orders (EOs) 3404 and 3405) by holding special meetings to address name changes.
- These EOs relate to changing derogatory place names. EO 3404 specifically prohibits the use of a derogatory term toward Indigenous women in names for geographic features.
- This spring, the committee approved a community proposal to rename a channel between Orcas and Shaw islands for Henry Cayou, one of Washington's earliest Indigenous elected officials. An executive order required the federal government to change the name of all geographic features named with a derogatory term for Indigenous women.

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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

- During the 2022 legislative session, the agency secured funding for a full-time tribal affairs director. This position will focus on helping the agency develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with tribal governments. We also received funding for additional archeological capacity. This will help us meet the cultural resource protection requirements in Executive Order 21-02, which outlines state agency responsibilities on tribal consultation and cultural resource protection.
- The agency continues efforts with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to provide government-to-government training to all permanent agency employees.
- As part of the *U.S. v. Washington* culvert case, the agency completed repairs on a newly identified fish barrier at Millersylvania State Park. We also completed design work to repair a barrier at Tolmie State Park.
- Our Stewardship program, Executive Team, and Commission collaborated with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and leaders from King County on a ceremony to honor an ancestor at Flaming Geyser State Park.
- Our Stewardship and Interpretive programs initiated a project with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to develop Lushootseed language signage at Flaming Geyser State Park.
- Our Stewardship program developed a memorandum of understanding with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe regarding tribal collection of special forest products at Federation Forest State Park.
- The agency formally consulted with the Nez Perce Tribe about construction projects at Steptoe Butte State Park. Our planning and regional staff developed a working group with tribal cultural and natural resource staff from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Spokane Tribe of Indians to discuss resource management, interpretation and capital projects at the park.
- The director and executive staff met with Chairman Leonard Forsman and other Suquamish tribal leaders to discuss options at Blake Island Marine State Park for future improvements of the marina and opportunities to redevelop the Tillicum Village concession.
- The Commission and the State Parks Foundation co-hosted an event with the Wanapum Band of Native Americans to celebrate the opening of the Beverly Bridge to equestrian, bicycle and pedestrian use. This historic railway bridge is over 100 years old and crosses the Columbia River south of I-90 at Vantage.

- State Parks and the Nisqually Indian Tribe continued to develop Nisqually State Park. The joint planning team finalized the design for managed access to the Nisqually River and the first camping loop. The team also developed a preferred alternative for the primary day-use area of the park (the Village Center), which will feature interpretation of the Nisqually Tribe’s history and culture. The agency will request funding for the next phase of development in the 2023-25 capital budget.

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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 to develop, implement and monitor a recovery plan to restore salmon populations in Puget Sound.

## Highlights

Collaboration with tribal nations and consortia is central to our collective effort. Tribes lead, maintain and participate in forums that guide and inform salmon and Puget Sound recovery. These forums also help the agency implement the 2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound.

- Tribal representatives hold seats on our three boards established in statute: the Leadership Council (Russel Hepfer, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), the Ecosystem Coordination Board (Dave Herrera, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Vice-Chair; Victor "Turtle" Johnson, Lummi Nation; and David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe), and the Science Panel (Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission). They also hold multiple seats on our two advisory boards: the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (David Troutt, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Chair) and the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee.
- Tribes participate regularly in Partnership-supported groups established at the watershed scale to develop and implement priorities for salmon and ecosystem recovery.
- We collaborate directly and regularly with tribes through the Partnership Tribal Co-management Council (Dave Herrera, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Co-Chair) and, when invited, the Tribal Management Conference.
- Tribes participate in our internal Equity Advisory Group. The goal is to develop recommendations that integrate and support diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice considerations into each Partnership board, working group and committee.

We work with individual tribes throughout Puget Sound on local and regional issues, and projects of high importance to salmon and Puget Sound recovery.

- In December 2021, the Partnership requested proposals for the 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant round to solicit solutions for high priority habitat acquisitions and restoration projects for salmon recovery.
- In May, the Partnership partnered with Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to host the Puget Sound Days on the Hill. 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 June, the Leadership Council adopted the 2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound, with an expanded focus on government-to-government responsibilities and tribally prioritized hatchery and harvest goals and recommendations.

- We continue to financially match tribal implementation and capacity grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Puget Sound Geographic program.

The Healthy Environments for All (HEAL) Act (Senate Bill 5141) mandates the Partnership to expand our external work on treaty rights, tribal sovereignty and environmental justice efforts.

- In December 2021, the Partnership hired Lea Anne Burke as the full-time tribal liaison. This position is part of Executive Director Laura Blackmore’s office.
- Partnership staff must attend the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs’ daylong Government-to-Government training. Currently, more than 75% of staff have completed this training.
- The Partnership incorporated training requirements for Local Integrating Organizations’ (LIOs) staff and committee members to better understand treaty and sovereign rights of tribal nations. LIO members may include elected officials, tribal staff, city and county government staff, non-profit organizations, land trusts and conservation districts, marine resource committees, local businesses, interest groups, citizens and educational organizations. This requirement is part of the 2023-2025 LIO coordination and capacity grants that the Partnership funds to the LIOs.

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# Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) manages grant programs that help tribes, state and local governments, and nongovernmental entities recover salmon and orca, create places for outdoor recreation, and protect wildlife habitat and working lands.

## Highlights

### Grants

For fiscal years 2021-2022, RCO awarded more than \$12 million in grants to 15 tribes. This went toward 39 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 grants included the following:

- **Salmon recovery grants:** Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, Family Forest Fish Passage Program, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Salmon recovery, Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative
- **Recreation and conservation grants:** Aquatic Land Enhancement Account, Boating Facilities Program Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Youth Athletic Facilities

Since 1972, when the agency first helped with a tribal project, RCO has administered 660 grants to 28 tribes. Totaling more than \$229 million, these projects have helped tribes with waterfront access and restoration, boating facility construction, salmon habitat restoration and monitoring, fish hatchery improvements, athletic facility development and local park development.

### Salmon recovery projects

RCO's Salmon Section works closely with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to restore the Twisp River. The project, which ranked No. 1 on the 2021 Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board list, targets a 4-mile reach near Mystery and War Creeks, and will install 52 large woody materials structures. The project objective is to increase Twisp River flows onto the floodplain and increase rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Starting 2016 and wrapping up in June, RCO, Washington Department of Ecology and Bonneville Power Administration worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to restore three miles of salmon habitat on the North Fork Touchet River. The multiphase project included levee setback, floodplain features, in-stream large wood structures and riparian planting. This project will increase floodplain connectivity, encourage natural channel forming, and improve riparian function while greatly benefiting Snake River steelhead trout and spring Chinook salmon.

### Governors Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

GSRO collaborates with tribes through salmon recovery boards, watershed lead entity groups, developing the biennial *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report, salmon recovery conference, the governor's statewide salmon strategy and federal priorities.

## Recent initiatives

- GSRO is working with Spokane Tribe of Indians to establish a new lead entity to help reintroduce salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. This effort includes close coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and other member tribes through Upper Columbia United Tribes.
- GSRO served as one of the state co-leads on the state-tribal riparian working groups. This effort supports riparian protection and restoration and helps us collaboratively engage on this priority work.

## Washington Invasive Species Council

The council regularly coordinates and collaborates with tribes to monitor invasive species, promote Invasive Species Awareness Week, and attend technical and working groups, workshops and trainings. Two members of the council are appointed by tribes, including the current chair.

## Recent initiatives

- The council supports implementing the Multi-Agency Coordination Group, which includes tribal nations and will address the European green crab emergency. This work includes state and federal coordination.
- The council is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Spokane Tribe of Indians to address flowering rush.

## RCO's cultural resource consultation

We recognize that protecting archeological and historic resources is an issue of mutual concern. As part of the agency's commitment to strengthen government-to-government relationships with tribes, RCO reviews and consults on the projects that are awarded grants for possible impacts.

RCO-funded projects are reviewed under several different state and federal regulations to minimize harm to cultural resources. RCO facilitates a comprehensive consultation process that provides a thorough review of funded projects and multiple opportunities for comment. In addition, we facilitate cultural resources trainings for grant recipients, participate in the annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit, visit project sites, oversee consultants, frequently meet with tribal staff and attend functions that tribes host.

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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 work to achieve the governor's following goals:

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

## Highlights

- Delivered the [10<sup>th</sup> annual Lean Transformation conference](#) virtually. This offered free, continuous improvement-focused learning opportunities for 2,800 participants, mostly state government employees. Conference participants joined us from Washington and neighboring states.
- Delivered seven [Public Performance Reviews](#) in calendar year 2021. We introduced this new public review approach to state agencies in 2021, and it 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 reach a larger audience than we previously could.
- Completed Results Washington strategic planning work in partnership with small and large agencies to develop a performance management platform for Washington. This plan integrates continuous improvement (including Lean principles) and performance management. Its goal is to deliver a feasible, attainable and sustainable approach.

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# Department of Revenue (Tribal Partnerships Program)

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## Summary

Revenue remains committed to fostering our government-to-government relationships with the tribes by dedicating staff and resources to work with tribes, tribal citizens, tribal businesses and others doing business in Indian Country. Revenue's director actively engages in government-to-government meetings with tribes. The Tribal Tax Advisory Group (TTAG) remains active and meetings are co-led by the director and Ron Allen, Tribal Council Chairman for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

In 2020, the Lummi Nation requested consultation on the treaty fishery exemption. The department agreed to consultation and all federally recognized tribes located in Washington were invited to attend and participate. In early 2021, this effort expanded to include hunting and gathering.

The department notified retailers that as of April 1, 32 federally recognized tribes with fishing, hunting, and gathering rights in Washington can purchase retail goods and services used directly in fishing, hunting, and gathering activities tax exempt anywhere in the state. This includes the tribes' citizens as well as certain intertribal organizations and has no delivery requirement. The Consultation concluded in June 2022.

## Highlights

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

- As an extension of the Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Consultation, the department partnered with tribal leaders to hold two meetings with retailers. Discussion was around difficulties with retailers who refused to honor the old exemption and how to improve voluntary compliance with the new and expanded exemption.
- Compacted with four additional tribes, bringing the number of retail taxes compacts to nine.
- Co-hosted four TTAG meetings to share information and receive tribal feedback.
- Continued to support and discuss tribal tax issues identified by TTAG members and co-hosted subgroup meetings.
- Responded to over 170 tribal-related inquiries and issued 90 binding letter ruling requests from tribal and nontribal businesses that engage in business with tribes and their citizens.
- Continued annual meetings with tribes on cigarette compacts.

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# Office of the Secretary of State

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## Summary

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

## Highlights

**Washington State Archives** – Washington State Archives scans and makes 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 [digitalarchives.wa.gov](https://digitalarchives.wa.gov).

**Corporations & Charities Division** – Corporations & Charities works with tribal members to help them establish a corporation, nonprofit, or charity and maintain entities through filing annual reports and other documents. You can find more through [our corporation's webpage](#).

**Elections Division** – We have dedicated Elections staff that works with Washington tribes to promote education and outreach tools for tribal voters. We continue to meet with tribal governments to provide online voter registration using tribal ID card data. [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov) uses a GPS that allows nontraditional addresses for voter registration purposes. We partner with tribal governments to establish ballot mailing sites on tribal land so that voters who might not have a mailing address can use the tribal government buildings' mailing addresses to receive and send 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 with 78% for registered voters living on tribal land. You can learn more about this on [our elections page](#).

**Washington State Library** – Washington State Library awarded the following 13 tribes American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants of up to \$7,500 each: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and Quinault Indian Nation. Washington State Library recently awarded Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library and Library of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Virtual Reality (VR) 360 grants. Jamestown S'Klallam library received training to create a culturally important experience for people who can no longer visit a sacred site.

The Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) awards annual Native American Library Services Basic Grants of up to \$10,000. In fall 2021, 14 tribes were awarded these grants: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Makah Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Lummi Nation and Hoh Indian Tribe.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation was awarded a Native American Library Services Enhanced Grant of \$150,000. The grant award description states this will help them “... select, digitize, and make accessible approximately 200 materials from an underutilized historical collection that is not yet incorporated in the digital catalog such as the Strongheart collection of books, artifacts, newspapers, and interviews was donated by Native activist Nipo Strongheart in 1966.”

The Hoh Indian Tribe sent its tribal representative to the 2021 Association for Rural and Small Libraries using federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. The Hoh tribal librarian’s primary takeaway was knowing how to start a digitization project to preserve tribal photos. Washington State Library is collaborating on an \$82,000 Mellon Foundation grant to the University of Washington iSchool titled Centering Washington Tribal Libraries (CWATL). In late spring, Washington State Library facilitated a virtual tribal meeting and invited all tribal library staff. The new national tribal liaison for the Institute for the Museum and Library Services was introduced at the meeting.

**Washington Talking Book & Braille Library** – The [Washington Talking Book & Braille Library](#) (WTBBL) provides comprehensive statewide library services at the library in Seattle and by mail for Washington tribal residents who can’t read standard print material due to blindness, visual impairment, deaf-blindness, physical disability (cannot hold a book or turn pages), or a reading disability. Services include books and magazines in audio or braille, sent free by mail or downloaded from our website or mobile device for someone’s reading convenience. WTBBL produces books with a Northwest focus in audio and Braille at the library and provides readers with advisory and youth services. Programming includes a virtual patron book club, memory kits, summer reading, early literacy, accessible gaming lab and multisensory story times.

**Legacy Washington** – Legacy Washington’s new student contest, “[What's in a Place Name?](#),” asked students to research local names to find out how that name fits into Washington history and their community’s values. Resources included efforts to rename places that were originally given names considered offensive to Indigenous people. Some entries in the contest included research on tribal history and names. We completed our most recent exhibit, [Browsing the Stacks](#), in collaboration with Washington State Library and Washington State Archives. The project focuses on interesting items from both collections, organized by various *Trivial Pursuit*-style topics. The “Science” panel details the Columbia Basin Project, including the devastating effects on the Colville Tribes. On Legacy Washington’s social media channels, we spotlight previous material relating to tribal history. This includes “[We're Still Here](#)”: [The Survival of Washington](#) Indians and stories about prolific Native Americans, including Billy Frank, Jr., Hank Adams, Joann Kauffman, Fawn Sharp, Janet McCloud and Stan Jones. You can learn more on [our legacy webpage](#).

**Proposed new Library and Archives Building** – The Legislature approved the construction of a new state Library and Archives Building. Located in Tumwater, this 112,500-square-foot facility will replace the current State Archives and State Library buildings and house the Elections, Operations, and Corporations and Charities divisions. The building is projected to be completed in 2025.

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# Department of Social and Health Services

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## Summary

DSHS is committed to working in a spirit of togetherness as one agency, with one voice, to serve nearly 2 million clients and support a strong workforce of over 17,000 employees, breaking down silos to work collaboratively. The agency and its partners work to anticipate the needs of the people in Washington and are challenging deeply held beliefs about how to provide these services.

Together, DSHS and its partners are building a new house of social services. The agency's priorities are aligned with Gov. Jay Inslee's top issues: poverty reduction, homelessness and climate change. At the foundation of all this shared work is a modern IT infrastructure, with cloud-smart solutions that increase mobility and interconnection of services. This helps us become a more equitable and anti-racist agency, building courage, resilience, belonging and justice for our staff and clients. The agency is focused on ensuring a stable and supported workforce, from 24/7 direct caregivers to public benefits specialists to home care aides and everyone in between, with competitive salaries in high-demand fields. We acknowledge these deficits impact our ability to provide the best services.

Our work to transition people from institutions to community living situations of their choice with wraparound supports is critical, as is transforming behavioral health care and access. Solidifying this work helps reduce poverty and homelessness, and when all of this is done with a firm foundation of an energy-wise infrastructure, it advances the governor's climate goals.

This annual gathering is a time to share ideas and successes while looking toward the future together. Being committed and dedicated to our partners and clients as transform their lives is nothing short of magical. It is humbling to be a partner in leading the department through these strategic initiatives. Now is the time for new ideas of doing business.

## Office of the Secretary

- The DSHS Office of the Secretary helped Secretary Jilma Meneses schedule visits with each of the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington.
- OOS launched the Office of Justice and Civil Rights, which will investigate Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and civil rights complaints from staff and clients.
- The Office of Equity, Diversity, Access and Inclusion (EDAI) has centralized all EDAI functions from the administrations (DSHS program areas) under the senior director. This will help DSHS meet the governor's executive orders for a more equitable state.
- The Poverty Reduction team joined the Office of the Secretary in 2022, elevating client voices and leading statewide efforts to create economic justice for Washingtonians.
- OOS conducted more than 12,650 recruitments so that it has staff in place to transform lives, and processed nearly 6,100 constituent referrals through a toll-free number and online referral system.
- OOS created a matrix model for our agency's technology so that all DSHS administrations' IT would report under the chief information officer. This sets up the department to better meet business needs, while also looking for areas to innovate for the future. It will also increase tribes' access to our networks, helping us collaborate further.

## Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

- Increased the Tribal Affairs Office staff to focus on new initiatives: Tribal Health Homes and Tribal Medicaid LTSS Financial and Functional Eligibility determinations contracting (this will help more members access our services).
- Finalized the Tribal Health Home Care Coordination Contract Language through consultation and implemented it with lead agency contracts.
- Revamped and expanded Adult Protective Services access so that tribal representatives could attend the Adult Protective Services Academy.
- Restarted the Tribal Background Check work group. This will help tribal representatives on the House Bill 1411 Informed Hiring Choice work group develop recommendations for legislative action.
- Continued to expand Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative contracting opportunities for sustainable, culturally relevant long-term services and supports.
- Expanded existing nutrition services. Eight tribes specifically expanded existing Home-Delivered Meal programs. These provide a wholesome meal, a safety check and an opportunity for face-to-face contact for older individuals who typically cannot leave their homes without assistance.
- Gave tribal government employees the choice to 'opt in or opt out' of the state's 2019 Long-Term Care Trust Act - WA CARES and created new coverage options this year. Employee payroll contributions begin in 2023 and benefit access begins in 2026. State agencies worked with tribes and the LTSS Trust Commission to create this choice.

## Behavioral Health Administration

- BHA has plans to create civil facilities at Maple Lane (a 16-bed residential treatment facility is scheduled to open winter 2023), Clark County (a 48-bed civil center with 16 beds operated by DSHS and 32 beds overseen by the Health Care Authority, is scheduled to open spring 2024), and on Tulalip tribal grounds.
- Completed implementation requirements in June 2021 in the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement (Phase 1). This work brought the following programs to 10 counties across three regions:
  - Forensic navigator
  - Outpatient competency restoration
  - Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services program
  - Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness programs
- Phase 2 has been implemented in King County.
- **Tribal Affairs** - Each facility (Eastern State Hospital, Western State Hospital, Special Commitment Center, Office of Forensic Mental Health Services and the Child Study and Treatment Center), worked with outreach and advocacy for Native American patients. This includes visits with the tribal affairs administrator. BHA is also exploring ways to partner with tribes/organizations/agencies to provide cultural services in its facilities.

## **Developmental Disabilities Administration**

- DDA serves 473 clients with self-identified tribal affiliation across the state.
- In February, DDA hired the tribal affairs manager. This new position will develop, coordinate and implement statewide initiatives that increase DDA's partnerships with tribes and urban tribal communities. Prioritized projects include:
  - Develop an American Indian/Alaska Native cultural awareness policy to ensure DDA delivers services in a way that respects tribal sovereignty and cultural traditions.
  - Continue in-person visits with tribal governments to build relationships, when invited.
  - Evaluate DDA strategic measures for required trainings to ensure staff understand tribal sovereignty and increase the staff's knowledge of cultural traditions.
- DDA Office of Program Policy and Development participated in the tribal work group reviewing background checks and seeks formal consultation with tribes to provide recommendations on the Informed Choice Report (House Bill 1411), which can increase the number of eligible caregivers for people with disabilities.

## **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

- DVR actively maintains a strong partnership at the state and local levels with all American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This helps ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives with disabilities receive the services they need to ensure their independence and inclusion in the workforce. DVR has assigned staff to provide all tribes with direct services and liaison support.
- DVR, the Department of Services for the Blind and AIVRS updated the statewide Government-to-Government Cooperative Agreement in October. This commits all parties to work cooperatively and facilitate access to vocational rehabilitation services. The groups update this agreement each year.
- This division shares training, workshop and webinar opportunities with AIVRS programs. The agency has invited AIVRS program staff to monthly "Everyday Ethics" conversations, Vocational Rehabilitation Institute courses and the Biology of Belonging webinar. They also receive materials for monthly 'micro learning' events that DVR creates. DVR shares other development opportunities regularly.

## **Economic Services Administration**

### **Community Services Division**

- Staff from CSD and 11 tribal TANF programs work closely together to coordinate services. CSD also works closely with a 12th tribe that is pursuing federal approval to start a Tribal TANF program and intends to provide services to tribal members effective January 2023.
- A CSD work group developed a process to issue EBT cards at selected tribal outstations. CSD is working with tribes to expand issuing EBT cards now that CSOs are providing full services in person again.

- CSD uses SNAP employment and training dollars to match local tribal funding, with a 75/25 reimbursement. These funds help DSHS develop and operate culturally relevant employment and training programs for SNAP-eligible residents. Current partnerships include Northwest Indian College, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

## Division of Child Support

- Eight tribal child support programs are operating in Washington. During fiscal year 2021, tribal programs collected and distributed over \$12.5 million to DCS.
- In 2015, DCS began a project that modified (or “right-sized”) state child support orders that were more appropriate to the parents’ income. This project was introduced to the IPAC delegation in July 2021. In 2022, the division project was expanded to include and help parents who receive benefits from the Aged, Blind or Disabled and Housing and Essential Needs programs.
- Several new laws passed in 2021 and 2022:
  - **Abatement** – Effective Feb. 1, 2021, Washington state law created a *rebuttable presumption*. This means that when parents who are incarcerated for more than six months do not have the financial ability to meet their current support obligation, they can try to get their support lessened (or for the court to review their request order to include abatement language). The law is applicable to Washington orders only. Tribal (or “non-Washington”) orders are referred to the appropriate jurisdiction.
  - **Pass-through payments** – Effective Feb. 2021, DCS disbursed a portion of the child support payment collected to custodial TANF households. Each month, TANF recipients may receive up to \$50 of support collected for one child, or up to \$100 of support for two or more children.

## Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration

- FFA helps manage tribal-consolidated contracts through intergovernmental agreements. This management includes preparing, negotiating and maintaining the agreements with General Terms and Conditions (GTC) that are developed specific to DSHS. DSHS established the current conditions in 2017 and are in effect through June 20, 2023.
- FFA consults with tribal governments concerning proposed construction activities on DSHS’s state-owned lands.
- FFA collaborates with tribal nations through the support 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

### Office of Native Education Staffing

New staff added to ONE:

- Ramona Halcomb, Native American Student Success program supervisor
- Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation program supervisor
- Rebecca Purser, Native American Educator Cultivation program supervisor (ESSER/ARPA)
- Rachel Buckle, Native Education Pathways data analyst (ESSER/ARPA)
- Kayla Guyett, Tribal Language program supervisor (ESSER/ARPA)

Executive Director Jon Claymore left OSPI to serve as superintendent for the Taholah School District. We will soon conduct a search and selection process to hire a new executive director.

### Response to COVID-19

During 2021-22, schools pivoted to reopen while responding to disruptions to instruction and services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ONE continued to collaborate with the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC), STEC school leaders, Tribal Leaders Congress on

Education leaders, and all state Native education organizations to elevate and respond to the needs of the over 64,000 Native learners and their families.

Using state allocated federal ESSER/ARPA funds, ONE began implementing projects to serve Native learners, families, and communities. We are using federal relief funds for:

- **Tribal language grants:** Each tribe in Washington is working to preserve, restore and grow their tribal language. Now, tribes have access to 28 two-year grants ranging from \$60,000 - \$240,000 for more than \$2.4 million for seed grants. This will help build capacity to implement and expand pre-K through 12th grade tribal language programs. The agency will also use funds for a temporary OSPI position in the Office of Native Education to lead tribal language program development and professional learning.
- **American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) learner identification and data training:** Under-identifying and misidentifying AI/AN learners are ongoing and deep systemic issues in our school systems. To help, we will develop media resources, trainings, and other written resources to raise awareness about these impacts on district personnel and tribal families. This will also improve registration and reporting processes across the state.
- **Since Time Immemorial (STI) tribal-developed curriculum:** Tribes can access OSPI resources that support the development of Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. These lesson resources are tribal specific for educators who use and implement the STI curriculum.
- **Native American Educator Cultivation program:** This capacity-building project responds to conditions that OSPI, institutions of higher education, school districts and Native communities need to develop systemic change. This will help identify, support, recruit and retain Native American educators.
- **Mitigating effects of intergenerational trauma and strengthening social-emotional learning within education for AI/AN children, youth, and families:** Intergenerational/colonial trauma experienced by AI/AN students and families continue to impact well-being and educational outcomes. This project raises awareness of the impacts of intergenerational/colonial trauma, highlights ways to enhance resiliency and provides support, guidance and resources to school personnel and Native families.
- **Attendance and re-engagement project:** Six state-tribal education compact schools are participating to provide unique supports and services to meet the needs of AI/AN learners and families to connect and re-engage with school.

### Legislative implementation

- **House Bill 1356 (2021):** Prohibits the use of Native American names, symbols, and images as public-school mascots, logos and team names. Today, 27 school districts have applied for grant awards totaling \$5,299,752 to implement new mascots, logos and team names.
- **House Bill 1426 (2021):** Specified minimum continuing education requirements for administrator and teacher certificate renewals that focus on equity-based school and classroom practice. The bill also helps OSPI certify that they engaged in tribal consultation training, effective July 1, 2023.

- **Tribal language grants:** Provided funding for school districts to collaborate with tribes to initiate or expand tribal language programs:
  - One-year grants, 2021-22  
*Six grants at \$60,000 each for a total of \$360K*
  - Two-year grants, 2021-23  
*28 grants ranging from \$60,000-\$240,000, for a total of \$2,040,000*

### **New legislation being implemented**

- **Senate Bill 5252:** This involved school district consultation with local tribes. Effective Sept. 1, 2024, school board directors, superintendents and other district staff that engage in tribal consultation must take and certify that they've completed tribal consultation training.
- **Tribal Language Grants:** These 12, one-year grants at \$30,000 each for a total of \$360,000 provide funding for school districts to collaborate with tribes to initiate or expand tribal language programs.
- **Senate Bill 5933:** This law establishes a school seismic safety grant program. State-tribal compact schools are eligible to apply for these grants.

### **Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee**

The [Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee](#) (WSNAEAC) met twice with State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. Topics included ensuring all AI/AN students have access to online learning (if needed), building relationships and strengthening tribal consultation between school districts and local tribes, dedicating resources to mitigate learning loss during COVID-19, strengthening social emotional learning and development, school plans regarding mental health and social emotional development and learning, addressing post-pandemic issue of graduation requirements, and raising awareness on Title VI and ESSA school issues. Work also continued in the WSNAEAC subcommittees:

- *Since Time Immemorial/K-12/higher education/career and technical education/curriculum and assessment*
- Data policy and practices
- Social-emotional learning
- Bylaws
- Legislative/government-to-government OSPI-tribal consultation policy

### **State-Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs)**

Continuing into the 2021-22 school year, ONE met virtually every two weeks with STEC staff to provide technical support, guidance, educational and financial opportunities, and other supports. The OSPI Title II Office, our office and representatives from tribal schools and school districts developed 25 new course codes that aligned with the First Peoples' Language, Culture, and Oral Traditions certificate. These connect with language, visual and performing arts, and health and fitness for credited courses in the 2022-23 academic year. Thirteen American Indian Language courses previously existed aligned to the First Peoples' certificate. ONE updates the [online STECs Guide](#) and hosts meetings to strengthen and sustain collaborations. [Additional details related to STEC schools are available on the OSPI website.](#)

## **Life Cycle of the Salmon project**

The Office of Native Education within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has partnered with College Spark and Redd Zone to provide our school districts that serve AI/AN students the chance to engage in our Life Cycle of the Salmon project. With a focus on providing this project within our state tribal education compact schools, the goal is to create a culturally-relevant learning environment for our students to thrive in. This project is designed to include teachers, elders and families, local tribal leaders, tribal fisheries departments and community.

College Spark Washington supports the postsecondary dreams of students and their communities through grantmaking. This grantmaking focuses on dismantling racism in the education system by providing students with the Small District Fund grant opportunity. College Spark Washington invited small school districts, STEC schools, and eligible partners that work with schools and districts to submit requests for grant funding to support one-year projects. The funding better prepares students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and improves racial equity in education. Rural communities have distinct needs that they best understand, and the Small Districts Fund provides flexible grant funding for a wide range of activities to support equity in college readiness and transition to college or other postsecondary opportunities.

Redd Zone Instant Hatchery, which is run by Tod Jones, is a portable fish/egg incubation system created to give children the best hands-on learning experience. Tod and Redd Zone have worked on projects and have helped the following tribes: Nez Perce Tribe (egg planting), Yakama Nation (rearing Sturgeon), Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (incubation trials), Skokomish Tribe (instant hatchery), Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (incubators), Karuk Tribe (egg planting and evaluation), Quinault Indian Nation (Redd Zone incubators), Taholah School (hatchery options) and Coquille Tribe (wild fish evaluation and augmentation plans and strategies).

Each participating school received funding from College Spark to plan, develop and implement an Instant Hatchery on their school grounds that fit with their unique and specific needs. The goal is to have each participating school collaborate with their school staff to implement the system. This includes CTE directors/teachers, tribal leadership, local tribal hatcheries and Redd Zone. Each area will add traditional resources and best practices to their curriculum.

Our list of current participating schools include Cape Flattery School, Chief Kitsap Academy, Chief Leschi School, Lummi Nation School, Muckleshoot Tribal School, Pascal Sherman Indian School, Quileute Tribal School and Toppenish School District.

## **Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Curriculum Project**

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

The intent is to embed the history surrounding tribal sovereignty and inter-governmental responsibilities into state classrooms, in collaboration with the tribe nearest the district. That way, all citizens understand the unique relationships among tribes and tribal citizens in Washington. As of today, lesson resources align with state learning standards for social studies, English language arts, environmental and sustainability education and social-emotional learning. The curriculum has been translated into Spanish to increase accessibility. You can access [the STI curriculum on our website](#).

ONE provided a series of Ready to Go and Teacher to Teacher webinars to school districts. During this reporting period, ONE conducted seven STI Ready to Go introductory trainings: one librarian focused, four STI Teacher to Teacher “grade level specific” trainings, and one training for trainers. Additional trainings took place through conference workshops and district/school coordinated staff trainings. Where possible, tribal education and/or culture specialists helped plan and teach these trainings. Increasingly, districts are developing systemic districtwide plans, in collaboration with tribal partners, to implement the curriculum. In total, approximately 815 people participated in ONE sponsored tribal sovereignty and history trainings this reporting period. Since May 2020, approximately 8,315 educators have participated in ONE Ready to Go and Teacher to Teacher webinars. ONE also continues to collaborate with PESB and tribal higher education representatives to implement STI into all teacher preparation programs. Many administrative preparation programs are also integrating STI into their courses with their candidates.

Tribal leaders and educators continue to develop tribal-specific lessons to integrate and/or add to existing STI curriculum. ONE used ESSER/ARPA funds to support tribes as they developed tribal-specific curriculum. These funds will also help tribal elders, tribal experts, and district experts be more involved developing multimedia learning resources to implement the curriculum. During this reporting period, nine tribes accessed these funds.

The Native Voices Arts Academy project entered its fourth year engaging middle school-aged AI/AN students who qualify for Title 1, Part C Migratory Education (a supplemental federal program that supports children and youth who qualify for migrant education. Native children who practice traditional lifeways of fishing, gathering and other protected treaty rights qualify). Students and classroom educators from six school districts and one STEC come together each quarter to learn with Native artist teachers and engage in place, story, and arts-based teachings connected with STI. This past year, many educators participated in mentorships with Native artist mentor teachers and local tribal educators. These mentors helped co-design and co-facilitate classroom lessons that focus on language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. This collaboration is among schools, local tribes, OSPI’s Migrant Education, Arts Education, and ONE, and Arts Impact (nonprofit). Funding for this project is provided through the OSPI Migrant Education program.

### [Collaborations with tribes, districts, statewide and national Native professional organizations](#)

ONE continues to support school districts, tribes, state and national Native organizations. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) prioritizes tribal consultation school districts whose AI/AN student enrollment is 50% or greater and/or who receive \$40,000 or more in federal Title VI Indian Education supplemental funds. 37 school districts who met these criteria engaged in tribal consultation. Effective Sept. 1, 2024, school board directors, superintendents, and other district administrators of districts who meet the criteria must complete tribal consultation training and renew every three years. We continue to monitor this criteria as part of our Consolidated Program Review (CPR) process. Districts monitored through CPR must provide evidence they are working on goals established through tribal consultation and the implementation of STI.

### **District-tribal consultation guidance**

In consultation with tribes and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education (TLC), ONE developed a tribal consultation protocol. The protocols are based upon the 1989 Centennial Accord. The intention is to sustain quality and healthy relations between the state and tribes.

ONE continues to collaborate with OSPI Consolidated Program Review staff to support the ESSA implementation, strengthening tribal consultation processes with federal program application and

review processes. ONE also continues to collaborate with the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) to assess and strengthen government-to-government relationship building protocols between tribes and school districts throughout the state. As part of this collaboration, WSSDA developed [tribal consultation resources](#) for school directors.

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# Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

## Summary

One of every 100 Washingtonians are American Indian and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN), yet one of every 20 traffic fatalities involve AI/AN people. In the previous 10 years, Washington lost 243 AI/AN people to traffic death. The AI/AN traffic death rate is nearly four times higher than all other races. This over-representation means that WTSC must strengthen relationships with AI/AN people to work together and create more effective strategies to reduce AI/AN traffic fatalities. Data shows that:

- Almost half of AI/AN traffic fatalities were people ages 26-45, versus 32% of all other races.
- 8% of AI/AN traffic deaths were youth under age 18, versus 5% of all other races.
- Nearly three of every four (72%) AI/AN traffic deaths involved impairment, versus 60% of all other races.
- One-third of AI/AN deaths were unrestrained vehicle occupants, versus less than 20% of all other races.

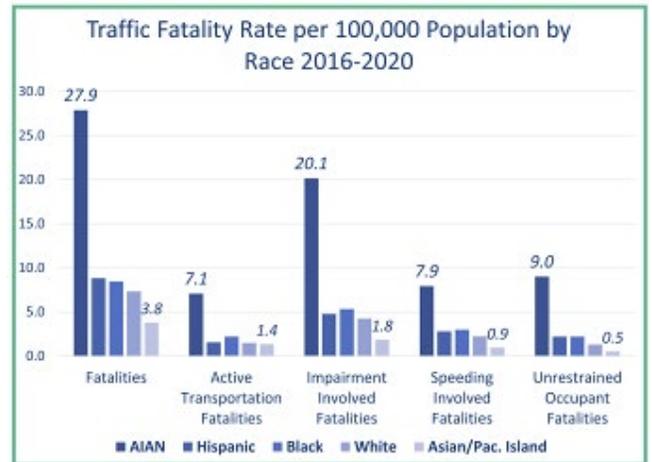


Figure 1: Chart of Traffic Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population by Race 2016-2020

## Highlights

WTSC allocated \$206,000 to support traffic safety programs on tribal lands. Unfortunately, COVID -19 significantly impacted Washington’s American Indian communities. While the following programs were scheduled to take place, they did not occur, due to staffing challenges within the American Indian communities.

- Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes: tribal traffic safety coordinators – The intent was for these coordinators to continue the work started in previously WTSC-funded projects. These coordinators would form local coalitions of internal and external partnerships that prioritize resources, promote overall public safety and traffic safety education throughout each of their organizations.
- Yakama Nation Bicycle and Walker Safety program – This program was designed to bring attention to pedestrian and non-motorist issues as a central consideration for all Yakama tribal traffic safety planning and programming efforts.
- Tribal Traffic Safety Strategic Planning and Education program – This program would improve tribes’ capacity to reduce the disproportionate traffic fatality rates of Native Americans. It would also support a culture of traffic safety in individual tribe’s cultures and implement a tribal traffic safety conference or tribal traffic safety peer review.

WTSC remains committed to collaborating and working with Washington’s American Indian communities to renew traffic safety program efforts.

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# Department of Transportation

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## Summary

WSDOT provides safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation options to improve communities and economic vitality for people and businesses. Our vision is to provide a safe, sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system. This agency collaborates with tribes on various transportation issues, including project development and administration, safety, planning and workforce development. Consulting with tribes regarding how WSDOT projects effect natural resources, cultural resources and other tribal interests is key to this work. The highlights represent a small sample of the accomplishments and day-to-day coordination and collaboration between tribes and WSDOT.

## Highlights

- WSDOT submitted agency-request legislation to remove two tribal-specific restrictions on transferring WSDOT environmental mitigation sites to tribes. With the support of our tribal partners, House Bill 1934 passed the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support.
- The agency corrected 14 fish barriers over the past year, improving access to approximately 95 miles of habitat. Since 2013, WSDOT has corrected 100 fish barriers, improving access to 478 miles of habitat. We consulted with tribes as we developed our 2030 Fish Passage Delivery Plan, which is available on our website. We update this plan quarterly.
- WSDOT's Olympic Region entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe regarding the Elwha River Bridge Replacement Project. As part of the agreement, WSDOT agreed to transfer full ownership of the property it was leasing to the tribe at the ancestral village of Tse-Whit-Zen.
- WSDOT's Eastern Region partnered with the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Kalispel Tribe on the West Plains Subarea Transportation Management Plan. Both tribes have trust lands and significant tribal enterprises within the planning area.
- WSDOT's South Central Region partnered with the Yakama Nation to submit two federal grant requests for the Heritage Connectivity Trail. The Yakama Nation is developing this project to address pedestrian deaths and serious injuries along US 97 between Union Gap and Toppenish.
- The agency's Cultural Resources office helped sponsor the 15th Annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit, co-hosted by the Suquamish Tribe.
- Our Active Transportation Division offered technical assistance to tribes that had not previously received Safe Routes of School and Pedestrian Bicyclist Program grants to encourage their participation in the program.
- WSDOT's Olympic Region is partnering with the Quinault Indian Nation to develop an alternative access to a section of SR 109 that is threatened by coastal erosion and landslides. SR 109 currently provides the only access to the village of Taholah.

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# Utilities and Transportation Commission

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## Summary

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

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, a separate agency that received administrative support from the UTC through June 30, 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 the policy statement for intervenor or participatory funding.** This gives a party (other than the applicant or the staff of the reviewing public agency) more opportunity to join an ongoing case or proceeding as a third-party to protect an interest. In November 2021, the UTC issued a policy statement on intervenor or participatory funding in regulatory proceedings. The policy provides guidance to energy utilities and organizations on how to implement a new state law (RCW 80.28.430). This law directs energy utilities to provide financial assistance to organizations that participate in UTC proceedings on behalf of customers. Tribal governments are eligible to apply for participatory funding; all other government entities are not.

We began reviewing the first Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) from Puget Sound Energy (PSE), which is what the Clean Energy Transformation Act requires. In December 2021, the UTC received Puget Sound Energy's first CEIP. This outlined the company's steps to meet CETA's clean energy targets in 2025 and 2030, on the way to being carbon-free by 2045. The utility's CEIP also includes a communication plan, which UTC staff reviewed to ensure it includes a transparent and appropriate tribal engagement process.

**We reviewed energy utility outreach plans to make sure utilities are following CETA customer notice requirements.** From January 2021 to March 2022, we reviewed reports from investor-owned energy utilities. This was to make sure that utilities meet the requirements in CETA to create outreach strategies that encourage eligible households to participate in assistance programs. The utilities' outreach strategies must include comprehensive and appropriate consultation with community-based organizations and tribes.

**We partnered with the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) on the Transmission Corridors work group.** The UTC, which sits on the work group, supported EFSEC as it established it. Required by CETA, the work group reviews the need for upgraded and new electricity transmission and distribution facilities across the state to increase the distribution of clean energy to all Washington electric customers. This includes tribal customers on and outside tribal lands.

**We opened a general rate case to evaluate Puget Sound Energy’s latest rate increase request.** Puget Sound Energy filed a request to update its rates and services in January 2022. To evaluate the utility’s request, the UTC opened a general rate case — a process that can last up to 11 months. The Puyallup Tribe is a party to the general rate case. The three-member commission must issue a case decision by Dec. 31.

## **Staff contact**

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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 their earned veterans' benefits.

## Highlights

- We co-sponsored the 2022 Tribal Veteran Advocate Conference with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations. This virtual regional event provided 12 hours of education on topics. These include addressing historical trauma, cultural awareness, Native American veterans' military service, dependents' benefits, federal tribal health care reimbursement agreements, advance care planning, women veterans and the federal veterans' comprehensive assistance for a federal family caregiver program.
- We co-hosted a nationwide webinar with the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations on tribal engagement with state veteran agencies and state veterans' benefits, programs and services.
- We hosted the 2022 Veteran Service Officer Conference. This training was available to tribal veterans' representatives and tribal service officers in addition to state, county and nonprofit veterans service officers. This training event provided 16 hours of education on topics such as veterans' disability benefits, survivors' benefits, health care benefits and helping with military discharge upgrades.
- We participated in veterans' disability claims clinics with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Nooksack Indian Tribe hosted.
- We presented at the Veteran Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians and VA Puget Sound Health Care System Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council meetings. Topics included veterans' disability benefits, survivors' benefits, women veterans' outreach and best practices, and suicide prevention.

## Staff contact

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# Washington State Patrol

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## Summary

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

## Highlights

- WSP attended local chief and sheriff regional meetings throughout the state.
- Wenatchee area troopers continued to help with collision investigations and emergency response planning, which includes wildfire responses on tribal lands.
- Tribal liaisons are heavily involved in correcting racial identifiers of our state's missing Native population and finding missing people. Often, people's race is marked incorrectly, which misrepresents the statistics. Tribal liaisons have received calls from across the nation and Canada from people looking for their lost family members.
- Tribal liaisons provide the WSP Academy class training to cadets before they become fully commissioned state troopers. This training consists of 'hard history' (the abuse, genocide, and mistreatment of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities from first contact, cultural differences and exercises to promote empathy.
- WSP participates with the Washington State Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force.
- WSP has received safety grants from tribal communities.
- On May 6, WSP partnered with the Yakama Nation and conducted a High Visibility Emphasis (HVE) on SR 97. This is when a trooper increases their visibility on the road to encourage drivers to slow down or follow the law.
- WSP partners with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to provide joint Law Enforcement Coordination (LEC) meetings.
- WSP partners with the Tulalip Tribes and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to work on joint death investigations and any other law enforcement support they request.
- WSP partners with the Suquamish Tribe to mitigate any local issues that arise from the tribe's casino. They also conduct joint trainings with Suquamish Tribal Police.
- On April 9, 2021, the WSP reached a cooperative public safety agreement with the Yakama Nation Tribal Government, which allowed the WSP 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.

- WSP meets 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 through online meetings while collaborating with tribal community leaders.

## **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. The agency's enterprise solutions allow for uniformity and scalability in implementation. WaTech is committed to the principles of the Centennial Accord and ensuring that tribes can access our services and benefit from them.

## Highlights

### Intergovernmental Network (IGN)

The technology networks we maintain are the backbone of state government operations. Local and tribal governments can securely connect, as needed, to systems maintained by the state through the Intergovernmental Network (IGN). WaTech works with tribes, at their request, to provide technology access to the IGN so they can use technology services such as law enforcement systems. WaTech is 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 the agency working with the tribe confirms there is a need.

### Geographic Information System (GIS) 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, provides services to digitally 'image' lands and offers support for electronic mapping in the state. The GIS program leads the Statewide Imagery Consortium, which pools resources to buy statewide imaging at a significant discount. This imaging can then be used to support wetland evaluations and updates, tribal forestry management and other cases. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission participates as a member of the consortium on behalf of its member tribes.

The GIS program also co-chairs a work group related to Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology use in the state. LIDAR technology can 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 biannual 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 provides consultative and informational services to tribes on request.

### Office of Privacy and Data Protection (OPDP)

WaTech's Office of Privacy and Data Protection (OPDP) hosted six public webinars, which are available to any tribe interested in learning more about privacy. Additionally, the OPDP met directly with representatives of the Puyallup Tribe on privacy issues. This type of consultation is available to all tribes upon request, and WaTech will expand direct outreach to additional tribes in the next year as the privacy program continues to grow.

## Staff contact

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