

2024 Centennial Accord Agency Highlights



Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
September 2024

To accommodate persons with disabilities, this document is available in alternative formats and can be obtained by contacting us at 360-902-8825.
Visit our website at www.goia.wa.gov.

Table of Contents

Department of Agriculture	2
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	4
Washington State Attorney General’s Office	5
ArtsWA (Washington State Arts Commission)	6
Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)	7
Department of Commerce	15
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)	17
Washington State Conservation Commission	19
Department of Corrections (DOC)	20
Department of Ecology	22
Employment Security Department	24
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	25
Department of Enterprise Services	26
Washington State Governor’s Office of Equity	28
Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education & Outreach)	29
Department of Fish and Wildlife	30
Washington State Gambling Commission	42
Washington State Board of Health	44
Department of Health	45
Washington Health Benefit Exchange	49
Health Care Authority	50
Washington State Historical Society	52
Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII)	54
Office of the Insurance Commissioner	56
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries	57
Department Of Licensing	58
Liquor and Cannabis Board	59
Washington’s Lottery	60
Washington Military Department	61
The Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE)	64
Department of Natural Resources	65
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	66

Puget Sound Partnership	67
Recreation and Conservation Office.....	68
Results Washington (Office of the Governor)	70
Department of Revenue.....	72
Office of the Secretary of State.....	73
Department of Social and Health Services.....	75
Office of the State Treasurer	82
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education.....	83
Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)	87
Washington Department of Transportation	88
Utilities and Transportation Commission.....	89
Department of Veterans Affairs	90
Washington State Patrol	91
Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech)	93



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1110 Capitol Way S, Suite 225 • P.O. Box 40909 • Olympia, WA 98501-0909
PHONE (360) 902-8827

September 20, 2024

Greetings,

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs presents the 2024 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 have completed this past year to partner with Tribal governments and serve Tribal communities. While this report showcases areas of valuable collaboration and engagement, we know there is need to grow and evolve our mutual work.

I encourage you to take a thorough review of this report and contact the state agency contact listed if you have questions or are interested in more information on a specific policy and programs. Our Tribal-state collaboration is critical in addressing the impacts to the social, health, natural resources and climate impacts we collectively face today.

Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

Craig A. Bill

Executive Director

Department of Agriculture

Summary

As part of its primary interactions with Tribes, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) facilitates access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods; manages animal health, food safety and pesticide regulatory programs across Tribal reservation boundaries; assists with trapping and eradicating invasive species; provides outreach and education to rural communities, agriculture and natural resources; and supports natural resources.

Highlights

- To eradicate and trap Japanese beetles, the WSDA Pest Program created a Memorandum of Understanding with Tribal media coordinators and Wildlife Resource Program staff from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. A 130-acre turf-grass area was treated by WSDA and pesticide experts in Wapato. Online maps and data were shared with Tribal biologists to measure trapping efforts. More than 1,300 Japanese beetle traps have been deployed on Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation land.
- The Spartina Eradication Program worked collaboratively with the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe and Tulalip Tribes.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians requested assistance with flowering rush control. Aquatic Invasive Species staff may partner with the Tribes to assist.
- Knotweed Eradication Program staff assisted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- WSDA partners with the Washington State University Integrated Weed Control Project to help fund biological control releases for noxious weed control, benefiting lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.
- The Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS) program continues to collaborate with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama to monitor surface water for pesticides in multiple watersheds and works to include the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) in WSDA's drought impacts (economic) modeling. WSDA has been working with them to understand the intricacies of WIP to improve future work. As part of the Washington Soil Health Initiative's State of the Soils Assessment, soil samples were collected, and soil health reports will be provided to producers with the Squaxin Island Tribe (via Mason Conservation District) and Kalispel Tribe of Indians (via Pend Oreille Conservation District).
- The International Marketing Program made a concerted effort to work with Tribal organizations including the Intertribal Ag Council, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians Economic Development Corporation, NW Native Chamber and the Swinomish Education Department to share information about export services with Tribes and Tribal businesses. Conversations continue about how we can best collaborate.
- We solicited input to create the new WSDA Promotions and Labeling Program, including the potential of a statewide "tribally produced in Washington"-type logo with employees of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Lummi Nation, Intertribal Agriculture

Council, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Washington State University Colville Reservation Extension Office and Yakama Nation Farms.

- The We Feed Washington (WFW) pilot program awarded grants to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for more than \$150,000 and to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians for more than \$615,000 of state funds.
- The Food Assistance programs granted Tribes over \$2.2 million in federal and state funds to support hunger-relief efforts in 32 Tribal communities across the state.
- WSDA Regional Markets Program engaged with Tribes and Tribal-led organizations to support local food systems and food sovereignty. Regional Markets Program staff:
 - Visited the Yakama Nation Produce Farm to learn about operations and share resources.
 - Attended and presented at the Second Annual Food Sovereignty Symposium: Native Grown and Gathered and the First Annual Northwest Intertribal Food Sovereignty Summit.
 - Presented on farm-to-school programs and support for traditional foods in school and childcare meal programs to the Associated Tribes of Northwest Indians Food Sovereignty Committee.
 - Hosted Producer Office Hours and Farm to School Networking event on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
 - Funded \$72,700 in Farm to School Purchasing Grants to three Tribal schools and three Tribal early care and education programs.
 - Funded \$463,409 in Local Food System Infrastructure grants to five self-identified native-led organizations to strengthen linkages along the regional food supply chain.

Staff contact

Evan Sheffels, Senior Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison
360-902-1918 | ESheffels@age.wa.gov

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Summary

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the state's sole agency with the mission to preserve and protect Washington state's cultural resources. The agency has project review authority under federal and state law and Executive Order 21-02. We are responsible for ensuring that agencies (land use and transportation planners) conduct Tribal Consultation during project planning. Consultation must be conducted in an informed and meaningful way. DAHP is required to solicit comments from affected Tribes prior to making decisions on archaeological and Native American burial excavation permits and is responsible for the recovery of and repatriation of human remains.

Highlights

- Sixteen thousand reviews were submitted to DAHP in 2023. In 2024, the number will be closer to 19,000.
- Forty-one renewable energy projects are under review by staff for effects to cultural resources.
- Archaeological surveys are being conducted on state lands for least-conflict energy facility siting locations.
- DAHP's statewide archaeological predictive model is being updated with additional archaeological data.
- Staff are continuing as members of the Society for American Archaeology Government Affairs Committee
- Ninety-eight new human skeletal remains cases were opened in 2023. There are 56 new cases as of 2024. The total number of cases opened and investigated since August 2008 are 963 cases.
- Tribes have been notified of 718 non-forensic human skeletal remains cases since August 2008.
- DAHP is temporarily holding 276 cases for repatriation at the request of Tribes.
- A total of 3,066 cemeteries and burial sites have been recorded in the state since August 2008.
- Ninety-nine excavation permits were issued in 2023 and 100% were completed within the 60-day time frame.
- Staff continued participating in multi-agency and multi-Tribal 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.
- Continued participating in Tribal cultural resources group for the Seattle City Light Skagit Project relicensing.
- Staff continued participation in multi-agency work group to address Washington state's unreinforced masonry historic structures.

Concerns: The loss of the Chevron Deference at the federal level may have impacts to cultural resource protection in Washington state. The agency is monitoring changes in federal regulations that could weaken the ability of the state to protect archaeological sites, historic buildings, and cultural and sacred places.

Staff contact

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer
360-586-3066 | allyson.brooks@dahp.wa.gov

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Summary

The Attorney General's Tribal Consent and Consultation policy recognizes self-determination is core to tribal sovereignty and must be integral in decision making that affects tribes, tribal lands and tribal rights. Our office affirms that it is a priority to continue to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the state and commits to an internal policy that requires the use of both consultation and consent as tools to further this engagement.

Highlights

Addressing the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and People crisis

Attorney General Ferguson worked with the Legislature to introduce and pass two budget provisos. The first budget proviso would create a workgroup to develop best practices for Indigenous demographic data collection by law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners. The second budget proviso provides one-time funding for DNA testing to clear the state's backlog of unidentified remains.

The state's Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women/People (MMIWP) Task Force held its 2nd annual summit with the Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Kalispel and Spokane Tribes. The summit highlighted MMIWP family voices and the work of the Task Force's five Subcommittees. The Task Force is also in the process of attending Community Resource & Services Site Visits, conducting MMIWP family interviews and additional legislative recommendations. The 3rd annual MMIWP summit will be held with the Lummi Nation later this fall.

MMIWP Cold Case Investigation Unit

The AG's new Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU) assists tribal, federal, county and local law enforcement agencies in solving missing person and cold homicide cases involving persons of Indigenous ancestry. The CCIU is fully staffed with a Chief Investigator, four Senior Investigators and a Victim/Witness Advocate and is currently assisting multiple law enforcement agencies.

Truth & Reconciliation Tribal Advisory Committee

The five-member Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to write a report on the operations and impact of Indian boarding schools in the state. For the report, the TAC will consult with tribes and develop recommendations for the state to begin to acknowledge and address the historical and intergenerational harms caused by Indian boarding schools. The TAC established three subcommittees: Elders, Survivors, & Descendants; Legal; and Cultural & Resource Protection.

Fighting the opioid epidemic

This year, the Legislature appropriated more than \$52.3 million recovered from the Attorney General's lawsuits against opioid companies to fund programs that will combat the opioid epidemic and assist tribes. Highlights include \$500,000 for the annual tribal fentanyl summit and \$2,000,000 for a tribal opioid prevention campaign.

Staff contact

Asa K. Washines, Tribal Liaison
360-878-0664 | asa.washines@atg.wa.gov

ArtsWA (Washington State Arts Commission)

Summary

ArtsWA promotes and documents the public value of the arts. ArtsWA's Tribal Cultural Affairs program (TCA) supports Washington Tribal communities as they expand, enhance or create space for art and culture, in a way that is respectful and responsive to each of the communities' needs as sovereign nations. We recognize the inherent authority of Tribes and maintain the highest respect for Tribal governance.

Highlights

Established Tribal Cultural Affairs

ArtsWA recognizes the critical role that cultural fluency plays in the vitality of Native youth and Tribal nations, and the important place the arts hold in Tribal economies. With additional funding from the Legislature, TCA can co-create culturally relevant services for Tribal members, in close consultation with Tribal leaders.

- Legislators included proviso funding in 2023 to support Tribal arts and culture.
- In line with ArtsWA's strategic plan to deepen relationships with Tribes, ArtsWA hired Tribal staff Cheryl Wilcox (Cowlitz) and Todd Clark (Wailacki).

Proposed future programming includes funding for individual Indigenous artists, Indigenous art organizations, Tribal governments, Indigenous entrepreneurs, Tribal museums, Tribal schools (including colleges) and urban Indian organizations.

Grant Funding

The first grant of its kind to support Tribal Art and Culture in Washington state, Tribal Arts Grants were issued to 20 of the 29 federally recognized Tribes. All Tribes who applied were funded. Grants are flexible to meet the needs of each Tribe's community. Grant-funded projects include language restoration and preservation, traditional regalia making, enhancing a youth center with art created by Tribal members, sweat lodge art, youth culture camp and traditional weaving. More than \$550,000 was awarded in the first year.

Grant funding for the second year of the program is available to the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington state. With additional funding, grants would also be available to Tribes not yet federally recognized; Tribal museums, schools and artists; Tribal non-profits; Tribal art organizations; and urban Indian organizations. Additional funding would also support an Indigenous Artists Directory and Washington Indigenous Artists Marketplace.

Outreach/Engagement

Tribal program staff will continue to provide extensive outreach to Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, Tribal non-profits, Tribal museums, Tribal schools and colleges, Tribal arts organizations, and Tribal/Native artists.

Staff contact

Cheryl Wilcox, Tribal Cultural Affairs Manager
360-815-1539 | cheryl.wilcox@arts.wa.gov

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Summary

DCYF is a cabinet-level agency focused on the well-being of children. Our vision is to ensure that Washington state's children and youth grow up safe and healthy—thriving physically, emotionally and academically, nurtured by family and community.

One of our agency's core guiding principles is a commitment to collaboration and transparency. It is through DCYF's government-to-government relationship with Tribes that this guiding principle can be actualized. Either through direct contracting with Tribes, or through formal Consultation and community engagement, DCYF seeks to foster this partnership to strengthen our agency's ability to effectively serve Tribal children, youth and families.

The following highlights provide a high-level overview of DCYF's child welfare, early learning and juvenile rehabilitation programs and services that exist to improve physical, mental, and emotional outcomes for Tribal children and communities.

Highlights

Administrative Services

DCYF rescheduled the implementation date for the revised Indian Child Welfare (ICW) policies and procedures to July 1, 2024. Revisions to ICW policies were made in collaboration between DCYF and Tribes; a two-and-a-half-year process that followed several defining Washington Supreme Court cases. Rescheduling the launch of the revised policies and procedures allowed time for the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), Child Welfare (CW) and Administrative Services to:

- Develop strategies for integrating new concepts into child welfare practice.
- Coordinate with The Alliance for Professional Development, Training and Caregiver Excellence to develop and offer staff comprehensive, mandatory, in-person training.
- Develop case management system technology to capture the accurate identification of ICW caseloads and to track ICW legal data.

Additional Administrative Services efforts included:

- Updating applicable child welfare policies so that they align seamlessly with ICW policy updates.
- Preparing for the new ICW Legal Unit to help caseworkers navigate the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Notice process and partner with the Office of the Attorney General.
- Providing legal guidance on issues relating to child welfare and early learning, as well as legal support for drafting memoranda of understanding with Tribes.

Child Welfare (CW)

In the past year, CW undertook the following work:

- Collaborated with OTR to refine and finalize the ICW policies and develop a training plan and curriculum for Child Welfare staff. To date, 1,278 staff have completed with 117 registered for additional sessions.
- Worked with Licensing Division to establish an initial licensing process for relative caregivers, supporting all families to care for their kin.

- Worked with Office of Public Defense to promote their Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) hotline for parents, providing access to free legal consultation at a point of critical decision making. CW also succeeded in having law and policy change to allow placement with suitable others on VPA.
- Approximately 18% reduction in Native children and youth coming into care over the last fiscal year. The ongoing understanding and implementation of DCYF’s safety framework, coupled with shared decision making within Safe Child Consults appears to show a direct impact on the reduction.
- Worked with Partnerships Prevention and Services (PPS) to reduce the number of Native children and youth experiencing out-of-home placement by expanding culturally specific and responsive programs under DCYF’s Service Continuum. Contracted with five providers to pilot culturally specific services with the anticipated outcome of adding these services to the Combined In-home Services dashboard.
- Increased timely placement entry by 12%, leading to more timely access to services and supports for caregivers and youth.
- The percentage of youth in the DS class decreased by 15% in just under two years. The total number of children and youth experiencing Night to Night/Placement Exceptions from July 2023–December 2023 decreased by 31%.
- Yakima County became the third county in Washington and 22nd county in the United States to create an ICWA docket. A dedicated workgroup formed of Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) Tribal representatives, as well as partners from DCYF, Yakima County, Casey Family Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, and other community/court members to spearhead this work.
- Attended the government-to-government training, sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA), to gain a better understanding of Tribal sovereignty, Tribal culture and the relationship of Tribes to the state government.
 - Region 1 participation included 16 CW staff and eight OTR staff.
 - Region 2 participation included 29 CW staff and one OTR staff.

Early Learning (EL)

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

A new definition of “Indian child” was solidified after a three-year process which included a Tribal Consultation held in October 2023. The new definition took effect on July 1, 2024. A new enrollment form was made available in June 2024.

Contracts and grants:

- There are currently five Tribal nations that contract with DCYF, three that subcontract with the ECEAP program, and one Recognized American Indian Organization (RAIO) that subcontracts.
- DCYF anticipates adding one additional Tribal ECEAP contractor for the 2024–2025 school year.

Other contributions of note include:

- A new ECEAP Tribal Specialist was hired in January 2024, who attended five Recruitment, Eligibility and Enrollment trainings in person to present the new definition of an “Indian child.”
- The ECEAP Tribal Specialist attended bi-monthly Indian Policy on Early Learning (IPEL) meetings.

Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)

There are currently 3,187 households approved for CCSP with one or more Native American children in the home. A total of 5,170 children have identified as Native American, of which 3,647 are currently authorized for care. There are currently 40 Tribal certified providers and 268 children with CCSP care authorized to one of those providers.

Federal Initiatives and Collaboration

Early Learning Coordination Plan (ELCP) Core Network Convening

Early Care and Education (ECE), other service providers and partners from various state and local agencies and nonprofits convened in October 2023 to launch an Impact Network around the ELCP. The ELCP is the state’s comprehensive, outcome-driven plan designed to guide our ECE system towards the goals that matter most to our children, families and the professionals who support them. Participants mapped networked participants, shared understanding of the network context and opportunities, discussed strategies on mutual support for each other’s work, and continued building strong relationships across service sectors.

DCYF drafted the 2025–27 Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Prior to submitting the plan to the Federal Office of Child Care, DCYF met with Tribal nations at the Indian Policy Early Learning Committee (IPEL) and with stakeholder groups to receive comment. DCYF further convened two public meetings as opportunities for communities to comment on the plan.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMH/IECMHC)

EL and Holding Hope at Child Care Aware of Washington is working with Dawn Yazzie, a Navajo Tribal member and an expert in IECMHC. Dawn has been contracted to grow a Tribal Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Development Pathway.

Dawn collected feedback from IPEL meetings and hosted an in-person IECMH/IECMHC workshop in partnership with the Yakama Nation Trauma-Informed Care Conference in May. A half-day training was provided by Dawn and information gathering was conducted regarding existing strengths and needs related to Tribal IECMH for a Tribal IECMH Landscape Analysis.

A Tribal IECMHC Proviso Advisory Group meeting is held bi-monthly to support the creation of the Tribal IECMH Professional Development Pathway and the Landscape Analysis.

Early Achievers, Washington’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Early Achievers established an optional alternative Tribal program evaluation process for quality recognition. This alternative process is known as The LOVIT Way: Learning to Observe, Value, Inspire and Transform. The LOVIT Way is a culturally sensitive program evaluation process and planning tool, created by the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia.

Grants and Awards

- EL worked with OTR to host two Early Childhood Equity Grant technical assistance sessions specifically for Tribes.
- The DCYF Child Care Grants team (and the Early Learning Communications, Engagement, and Language Access leaders) attended the GOIA government-to-government training to learn more about Tribal sovereignty, Tribal government, historical and legal issues, and the cultural perspectives that affect the relationship between Washington’s Tribes and state agencies.
- Between June 2023 and June 2024, DCYF issued the following amounts in grants to Tribal providers:
 - Child Care Complex Needs Fund: \$82,395 (two grants)
 - Early Childhood Equity Grant: \$390,957 (four grants)
 - Early Achievers Needs-Based Grant: \$3,000 (three grants)

Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)

Meetings, summits and conferences:

- Five government-to-government (10.03) meetings with Tribes were held across the state, as well as ongoing communication to share updates, job postings, training announcements, resources and presentation at conferences hosted by Tribes.
- Green Hill School in Chehalis hosted a Pow Wow in October 2023.
- Sweat Lodges were provided at Green Hill School and Echo Glen Children's Center (Echo Glen), as well as other cultural services such as beading, regalia and drum making.
- JR hosted tours for Tribal leaders at JR facilities, including Green Hill School, Echo Glen and Oakridge Community Facility.
- JR participated in the 2024 Trauma Informed Conference at Yakama Nation by presenting on mental health wellness and care.

JR programs and rule changes:

- The [Community Transition Services](#) program began implementation for eligible young people to serve up to 18 months of their sentence living with family while on electric monitoring.
- Expanded opioid treatment for young people with moderate/severe Opioid Use Disorder and continued to provide opioid/overdose prevention education for all young people, including post-release.
- Advanced Crisis Intervention de-escalation training provided to staff.
- The Medicaid rule changed to allow coverage up to 90 days before a young person leaves Green Hill School or Echo Glen (note: Medicaid is already active for young people in a community facility).
- OTR hired a full time JR Tribal Liaison in December 2023 to support JR Tribal services.
- Community Assisted Reentry (CAR) was developed as a pathway for young people to receive critical community-based support necessary for their successful transition. Participation in CAR services are voluntary and available for up to 12 months post-release from residential sentence. This is an option for youth committed to JR by Tribal Courts through the Residential Service Custody Agreements with Tribes.

Tribal contracts and grants:

- Ten Community Juvenile Accountability Act (CJAA) Tribal contracts were enacted. CJAA, as outlined in RCW 13.40.500, provides Tribes and RAIOS with small flexible grants to support youth and families to avoid youth incarceration.
- Six Residential Custody Service Agreements (RCSA) were developed to allow youth to enter state JR facilities via a Tribal court order. In fiscal year 2023, six youth were served under an RCSA.

Licensing Division (LD)

DCYF's OTR employs two Tribal licensing consultants: one for foster care and one for child care. LD coordinates and partners with OTR regularly. The Workforce Development Team (WDT) continues to work with OTR to increase LD staff awareness of ICW policy and legislation changes, Tribal sovereignty, and considerations when working with Tribal children and families.

Child-specific licensing and initial licensing were fully implemented for caregivers caring for Tribal dependent children. Foster care licensing is coordinating with Tribal communities on the development of new Kinship Licensing Standards. Kinship and Foster Licensing worked with OTR to organize a series of Tribal roundtables to discuss future organizational assignments for Tribal Child Placing Agencies.

The Group Care and Foster Care WAC Revision Projects have engaged with Tribes through the following ways:

- Presentations, including OTR, Tribal Policy Advisory Council (TPAC), ICW Sub-Committee and at Licensing Ad Hoc Meetings.
- Developing recruitment content for both projects.
- Sending dedicated recruitment messages via the OTR e-newsletter, Tribal engagement and Dear Tribal Leader letters.
- Distributing invitations to orientation, listening and learning sessions and Tribal roundtables.

Child Care Licensing attended IPEL meetings to discuss current policy development needs. Child Care Licensing continues to collaborate with Tribal child care throughout the certification process for interlocal government-to-government agreements. Child Care Licensing implemented announced monitoring visits for Tribes, requiring child care licensors to request entry into Tribal program sites that are located on Tribal lands.

The Foundational Quality Standards for Outdoor Nature-Based (ONB) child care went into effect on June 1, 2023.

On March 21, 2024, [House Bill 1879](#) was signed into law, changing the name of a training for ONB child care providers to honor the efforts of John McCoy (Iulilaš). This training supports student and educator learning about the history, culture and government of the 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes in the Pacific Northwest by renaming the curriculum to "The John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial Curriculum." DCYF has made all necessary edits to its website, publications and curriculum to reflect this change.

Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability (OIAA)

OIAA's ICW evaluator has been working towards publishing the first ICW Evaluation Report. Building from the literature review and logic model that was developed in 2023, a report of recent ICW trends will provide metrics that the agency can continue to monitor in the coming years. This work is designed to track and understand child welfare trends in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and AI/AN-Multi-racial communities and how changes to practices and services may improve these outcomes over time. It is the goal to meet with Tribal partners across the state to review these trends and eventually develop an evaluation plan to assess how changes to ICW policies have impacted child welfare system-involved Indian children, families and communities.

Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)

Staffing

OTR is now fully staffed with 25 team members supporting a diverse range of programs including ICW, EL and JR, strengthening DCYF's government-to-government relationships with Tribes. Additionally, DCYF has nearly a dozen dedicated Tribal specialists located in various divisions across the state.

Programs, Grants and Contracts

OTR has supported \$7.5 million in Tribal Early Learning Funds, which provide resources to Tribal early learning programs and Tribal-serving early learning programs. Funding goes toward programs providing culturally appropriate services in an inclusive manner.

DCYF plans to update its government-to-government administrative policy this year through consultation with the Tribes and in alignment with the best practices from the American Indian Health Commission's work to support a uniform consultation policy.

Meetings

Tribal Policy Advisory Committee meetings are held bi-annually; all Tribes and RAIOS are invited to attend. OTR also continues to hold monthly ICW Subcommittee meetings where state and Tribal partners discuss child welfare policies, opportunities and issues. DCYF schedules annual meetings with Tribes, when requested, to develop Tribal plans under the 10.03 policy. IPEL meets every other month.

Conferences and Trainings

OTR successfully hosted the fourth annual Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families (ICYF) Conference on Nov. 1–2, 2023. There were over 300 participants in attendance during this free, virtual offering.

DCYF, in partnership with National Indian Child Welfare Association, held three Positive Indian Parenting train-the-trainer training sessions. One session was virtual, and two were held in person in Eastern and Western Washington. There were approximately 50 individuals who participated.

OTR also presented at state and national conferences throughout the year, such as The Alliance's Program Manager Conference, the Children's Justice Conference, and the Race Equity Improvement Collaborative.

Partnership, Prevention, and Services Division (PPS)

Parent Recognition Month

During February 2024 when DCYF celebrates Parent Recognition Month, two Tribal fathers were celebrated as Unsung Heroes. Their stories were featured in "Seattle's Child" magazine and in a ceremony held by DCYF in Lacey.

SFY24 Concrete Goods

The Strengthen Families Locally team contracted with nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations to purchase and deliver concrete goods to low-income families. DCYF allocated \$129,200 to Tribal nonprofits, which used the funds to provide families with grocery gift cards, baby supplies, clothes, hygiene supplies and short-term rental assistance.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

There are various community-based child abuse prevention efforts supporting community capacity to support families, including family resource centers, fatherhood programs, family support programs and perinatal mental health. Below are a few highlights from these efforts.

Community-Based Family Support

DCYF has a contract with First Step Family Support Center in Clallam County that is providing pop-up light-touch family reconciliation services to the Hoh Indian Tribe and Quileute Tribe. Health and safety items are delivered to families monthly and staff aid with identifying resources when possible. This initiative was created at the request of the Tribal leadership councils. To date, 60 families have been served.

Tribal Fatherhood Program

Funded by the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention American Rescue Act, DCYF is completing its second year of Tribal Fatherhood supports with three contracts with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation and United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. These contracts support strength-based parenting programs for AI/AN fathers and father-figures to help promote family strengths and enhance healthy child development. The programs are rooted in Indigenous knowledge and practice and incorporate cultural practices such as music, food and drum-making. Programs honor participants with celebratory events and gifts. One participant shared that through participating in this program, he now feels that he belongs and has come home, completing a long journey that started when his grandfather “was basically stolen from his people.” Since these contracts started in November 2022, approximately 22 fathers or father-figures have participated.

Crisis Respite

Preparations have been made over the past year to support three community-based organizations in building capacity for crisis respite care in their communities. Crisis Respite is short-term care for children for when parents/caregivers need a break for any reason, whether they are exhausted and worn-out from the demands of parenting or when they experience difficult life circumstances or other unexpected events and have no safe alternatives for care. One of those organizations is partnering with at least one local Tribe to assess community needs and assets and plan for a system that will meet those needs.

Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators (CWELN) program

The CWELN program continued its momentum and growth this year. The first Tribal Navigator worked out of Region 6, supporting the child welfare office in Kelso. Since then, DCYF has experienced a staffing transition; the current Tribal Navigator now supports Pierce County, specifically the Puyallup Child Welfare office. With the support and oversight of OTR, DCYF plans to add a second Tribal navigator as the program is now permanently funded and expanding.

Home visiting

The voluntary Early Childhood Home Visiting program continues; DCYF seeks to expand partnerships with Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations. In fiscal year 2024, DCYF allocated more than \$1.6 million, serving 124 families from Tribal communities. This was accomplished through six contracts: four contracts directly with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Suquamish Tribe and Tulalip Tribes, and two contracts with the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and Hummingbird Indigenous Services.

During this fiscal year, DCYF is moving home-visiting contracts from cost reimbursement to rates-based payment. DCYF has been meeting with contractors and partners throughout the year to support development and plan for implementation in state fiscal year 2025.

Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT)

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

Highlights include:

- ESIT has continued to be in interlocal government agreements with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Lummi Nation.
- ESIT's Tribal program consultant supports the ESIT team and internal and external partners with specialized training/presentations.
- The weekly ESIT publication includes Tribal Terms of the Week to support learning in the early intervention community.

Help Me Grow Washington

In 2023, Help Me Grow Washington continued to contract with Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (KAI) to build upon the 2022 efforts of exploring the relevance of Help Me Grow among Tribes and urban Indian organizations (UIOs) and potential ways Tribal partners could adapt the model for their communities. As some Tribes expressed interest in participating in a demonstration project, KAI worked this year to develop a Tribal-specific communications toolkit to facilitate Help Me Grow Washington in its outreach and engagement efforts with Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations interested in becoming part of the Help Me Grow system and enhancing access to resources for AI/AN families.

Native Culturally Responsive Prevention Services

We will expand culturally specific and responsive programs and services that support families, which will safely reduce the number of Native children and youth that experience out-of-home placement. A Request for Application (RFA) was posted to contract with Tribal nations and Tribal-serving organizations to deliver these services, which resulted in five contracts with Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations in western Washington. In June 2024, DCYF re-opened the RFA with a focus on outreach and funding to eastern Washington Tribes and Tribal-serving organizations.

Fentanyl Response

PPS division is busy working to support the CW division as it implements expanded responses to support changes in child welfare practice when interacting with substance-using families involved with high-potency synthetic opioids (see SB 6109 enacted in the 2024 legislative session). Additional support includes a public health nurse pilot in high-need areas of the state. DCYF would like to partner with Tribes to implement an intervention with at least one Tribe or Tribal-serving organization.

Staff contact

Tleena Ives, Director of Tribal Relations
360-999-0077 | tleena.ives@dcyf.wa.gov

Department of Commerce

Summary

The Office of Tribal Relations collaborates with the agency's grant-making divisions to strengthen tribal communities. To prepare for this work, we developed and delivered a mandatory Introduction to Commerce Tribal Relations training to ensure tribal nations have a consistent and respectful experience with Commerce. We demonstrate our respect for tribal sovereignty through developing an agency-to-tribe agreement that streamlines contracting, asking tribal nations to dictate how we protect tribal data and engage at every level of tribal consultation.

Highlights

Director's Office:

- The Chehalis Confederated Tribes and Commerce entered into the first Memorandum of Understanding.

Community Services Division:

- Six tribes have received more than \$200,000 in Violence Against Women STOP and Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy grants.
- Additional tribal funds are distributed through the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy via the Tribal Government Initiative, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention and Wraparound Services of Human Trafficking programs.

Energy Division:

- Streamlined the tribal grant process in developing the Tribal Clean Energy Fund to include rolling deadlines and consideration for numerous energy grants.
- In the first round of awards, five tribes were awarded a total of \$7.5 million.

Housing Division:

- Lead housing discussion at the 2nd annual state tribal opioid summit in Spokane.
- Multifamily Housing Unit contracted with two tribes for a total of \$19 million.
- Five additional grants and two additional contracts were awarded to tribal housing authorities and/or tribal-led 501(c)3 organizations serving tribal populations.

Local Government Division:

- Growth Management Services collaborated with tribes to distribute \$50 million in Climate Commitment Act dollars to 32 tribes.
- The State Broadband Office engaged tribes for feedback, informing state planning efforts.
- The Behavioral Health Facilities awarded more than \$85 million to 11 tribes.

Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness:

- Small Business and Community Support program developed relationship with tribal CDFIs to create an avenue to get State Small Business Credits Initiative dollars into tribal communities to support tribal entrepreneurs.
- Quinault Pride Seafood and Makah Bay Seafoods are the first tribal enterprises to join Commerce Exports staff at the Seafood Expo in Barcelona, Spain to connect with new buyers.

Staff contact

Michelle Gladstone-Wade, Director of Tribal Relations

360-485-2662 | michelle.gladstone-wade@commerce.wa.gov

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Summary

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) is led by a nine-member, governor-appointed board that advocates, coordinates and directs Washington state's system of 34 public community and technical colleges. The college system's three mission areas are workforce education, academic transfer and basic education for adults.

In 2022, the director of Tribal government affairs (TGA) position was created and continues to be a part of the executive team within the office of the executive director, Paul Francis. This leadership move reflects the community and technical college system's support of government-to-government relations and advances SBCTC's vision and [strategic plan](#) highlighting racial equity and social and economic justice in service to Washington's diverse communities.

Highlights

Federal grant to build a climate-ready workforce

In June 2024, SBCTC received a \$9.3 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop a climate-ready workforce.

The NOAA grants, which are part of the [Climate-Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes and Territories initiative](#), aim to help Americans secure well-paying jobs to advance climate resilience in local communities. The grants focus on economically disadvantaged communities, people of color and Indigenous people. Over the next four years, SBCTC's [Tribal Government Affairs Program](#) will lead this effort and use funds to support the Tribal Stewards Program, an initiative to "grow our own" future generation of Tribal leaders and non-Tribal environmental co-stewards skilled in natural resources management.

Six community colleges will partner with five Tribes to advance the project:

- Peninsula College with the Makah Tribe.
- Grays Harbor College with the Quinault Indian Nation.
- Green River College with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.
- South Puget Sound Community College with the Squaxin Island Tribe.
- Spokane Community College and Wenatchee Valley College with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Additional collaborating organizations include employers, The Evergreen State College, the NOAA-affiliated University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, the Office of the Washington State Climatologist and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Government-to-Government Higher Education Summit

SBCTC's government-to-government summits were created to encourage and invite community and technical college leaders to expand their professional development on [RCW 43.376](#), which calls for government-to-government relationship building with Washington state's 29 federally recognized Tribes. The summits also provide training to build a better understanding of Tribes, their people and their contemporary cultures. These summits advance local Indigenous knowledge and improve access and pathways to postsecondary education and career and technical training in ways that serve Indigenous communities.

On June 18, 2024, SBCTC held its first statewide government-to-government higher education summit at The Evergreen State College, Evergreen Longhouse. More than 160 participants attended, which included Tribal leaders, campus presidents and leaders, native students, staff and faculty, and Tribal liaisons. Four panels were conducted with a focus on learning Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and pedagogies in higher education from Tribal leaders, native students, staff and faculty.

Washington State Community and Technical Colleges American Indian Advisory Board

Created by the Tribal Government Affairs Office, the 24-member [Washington State Community and Technical Colleges American Indian Advisory Board](#) (WCAAB) serves as a bridge for Tribal-based community leaders and college leaders to collectively strategize to eliminate historical education and economic disparities for American Indian/Alaska Native students, who are the most historically underserved populations. The board—consisting of college and Tribal leaders, scholars, and American Indian education organizations—adopted bylaws and set goals for SBCTC’s Tribal Government Affairs program:

1. Provide government-to-government professional development to college leaders, hire Tribal liaisons and create local Tribal-leader advisory boards.
2. Create spaces of belonging for Tribal/Indigenous students through intentional academic/career pathways that start at recruitment and continue through retention and completion.
3. Recruit and hire Indigenous faculty, train all faculty on Indigenous pedagogical methods, expand American Indian Indigenous studies across core curricula, and integrate place-based knowledge.
4. Develop special projects to meet local Tribal business and economic workforce needs and trends.

SBCTC’s governor-appointed board of directors adopted specific Tribal government affairs policies within SBCTC’s updated [2020–2030 strategic plan](#), demonstrating the community and technical college system’s commitment to this important work.

Staff contact

Glenda Breiler, Director of Tribal Government Affairs
360-704-1068 | Gbreiler@sbctc.edu

Washington State Conservation Commission

Summary

The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is to conserve natural resources in collaboration with conservation districts (CDs) and other partners. SCC and CDs empower people to take voluntary actions that keep natural resources and farmland healthy for all. Tribes are essential partners for achieving our natural resources goals.

Highlights

- Clallam CD implemented a riparian buffer project that contributed to a large-scale ecosystem recovery effort on the Dungeness River. This project planted over 15,000 native trees and shrubs to restore 43 acres of riparian habitat on land, owned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, to reduce sedimentation and fecal runoff to Dungeness Bay – improving water quality for commercial, Tribal and recreational shellfish harvesting.
- Whatcom CD partnered with the Nooksack Indian Tribe and local landowners to restore 66.5 acres of critical riparian habitat along 14,600 linear feet of stream, including planting 46,002 seedlings and installing five miles of fencing. The fencing protects plantings from beaver and elk. This work increases river resiliency for water quality and critical fish habitat.
- Mason CD supported the Squaxin Island Tribe's food sovereignty program and community garden space known as Salish Roots Farm. The CD implemented best management practices to support pollinator conservation and agroforestry plantings to include species of high cultural significance.
- Kittitas County and North Yakima CDs partnered with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership to restore mid-Columbia steelhead habitat with forest stand improvements, invasive weed removal, native species plantings and the replacement of inefficient irrigation systems.
- Pend Oreille CD renewed their Memorandum of Agreement with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians on their native plant nursery partnership. The CD is also working with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians on the Skookum Creek Fish and Farm Enhancement project to improve irrigation efficiencies and salmon habitat.
- SCC invested \$12 million in Riparian Grant Program (RPG) funding through CDs for outreach and implementation of riparian restoration projects improving salmon habitat.

Staff contacts

James Thompson, Executive Director
564-233-9919 | jthompson@scc.wa.gov

Kate Delavan, Policy Director
360-280-6486 | kdelavan@scc.wa.gov

Department of Corrections (DOC)

Summary

DOC's mission is to improve public safety by positively changing lives. As of June 1, 2024, the DOC has 13,789 incarcerated individuals and 13,081 individuals under court-ordered community supervision and under the department's jurisdiction. 4% of those in prison and 3% of those under community supervision identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN). That's a 2% decrease since June 2023. There is currently a 33% recidivism rate among the AI/AN population, which is 4% higher than last year, and above the overall DOC recidivism rate of 22%. The percentage of DOC staff that identify as AI/AN has increased over the last year from 2% to 2.32%.

Highlights

Meetings, summits and conferences

The department established the Corrections Indian Policy Advisory Committee (CIPAC) to recognize Washington's unique relationship with Tribal governments and honor Tribal sovereignty. Secretary Strange and co-chair Vice Chair Greninger are working on the development of the CIPAC Strategic Plan, which will be acted upon during our semi-annual meeting in September 2024. DOC is the host agency for the upcoming Governor's Tribal Leader Social Services Council (GTLSSC) Meeting. Secretary Strange is honored to join co-chair Vice Chair Greninger in hosting the annual GTLSSC meeting in October and host the Justice Sub-Committee meeting with co-chair Vice Chair de los Angeles.

DOC actively participated in the second annual Washington State Tribal Opioid and Fentanyl Summit. DOC leadership presented on the work of the DOC Fentanyl Task Force, their current efforts and future hopes for those incarcerated individuals with substance use disorder. They also shared information about their K-9 Unit that is used to combat contraband drugs from coming into prisons.

DOC strives to foster a safe environment through training and partnership, including use of the Norwegian-based Amend program to focus on improving not only incarcerated individuals but also employee health and wellness. The agency has committed to reducing the rate of violence in facilities by adopting a Group Violence Reduction Strategy and providing appropriate behavioral health services.

The Department continues its efforts to reduce the use of solitary confinement in DOC facilities by 90% over the next five years given appropriate resources, and we are moving forward with the Solitary Confinement Transformation Project. Research continues to show solitary confinement may have a negative effect on one's health. Reducing its use can help lower chances of self-directed violence, suicide and neurological damage, and in the long run, reduce recidivism rates.

DOC has put a strong emphasis on gender-informed practices in order to meet the needs of all individuals under the jurisdiction of the department. Through gender-specific practices and trauma-informed principles, DOC strives to enhance the overall well-being, benefiting the individual, their family and their community upon reentry. DOC plans to continue training and educating staff to continue this great work.

The department also continues to advance their patient-centered medical home (PCMH) health care delivery model, which uses a highly individualized approach to health care and increase opportunities for all culturally appropriate interactions, allowing AI/AN incarcerated individuals to choose support networks extending beyond their primary medical teams.

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

DOC has multiple MOUs and MOAs with Tribal governments:

- Implementation of Senate Bill 5694 allows Washington Tribes with federal sentencing authority to house their incarcerated individuals at DOC facilities, where individuals can access health care, programming, religious and cultural services.
- DOC and Tulalip Tribes continue the interagency agreement for Tribal Probation Officers and Administrators to attend and have access to DOC's Community Corrections Officer's Academy.

Contract for Services Specific to AI/AN Incarcerated Individuals

DOC contracts with Unkitawa to facilitate religious and cultural events such as Powwows, sweat lodges, regalia making and drumming for AI/AN individuals housed in DOC prisons.

Staff contacts

Colleen F. Cawston, Director Tribal Relations
360-789-1655 | Colleen.Cawston@doc1.wa.gov

Harj Aulakh, Management Analyst
360-515-6661 | Harj.Aulakh@doc1.wa.gov

Department of Ecology

Summary

The Department of Ecology partners with Tribes to protect, preserve and enhance Washington's land, air, water and climate for current and future generations. Ecology and Tribes frequently consult and coordinate on projects throughout the state in connection with water quality permits, water cleanup plans, water right actions, shoreline management, spill response, toxic cleanup, environmental impact assessments and more. Ecology's 17 environmental programs and offices had many significant government-to-government interactions with Tribes in this past year.

Highlights

Water Resources and Water Quality

- **Lower Snake River Dams Water Supply Replacement Study:** The Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology have initiated the Lower Snake River Water Supply Replacement Study. The study aims to understand current water supply and usage near the four Lower Snake River dams if Congress authorizes their breach and explore mitigation strategies. The Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation have engaged in two Tribal forums on the water study process. A draft report is expected by late 2024.
- **Tse-whit-zen Village site:** In December 2023, Ecology issued an order to the Port of Port Angeles to install stormwater treatment and consult with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe preserving the 2006 4-Party Agreement signed by the Governor. The Port was required to cease operations in areas of concern and reach agreement with the Tribe on a stormwater treatment design consistent with preservation of cultural resources as a priority. Federal funding and guidance will bring modernization to Port facilities and support the Tribe's efforts to establish long-term preservation of the Tse-whit-zen Village site.

Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction

- **6PPD Tire Dust:** Tribes across Washington state have participated in the 6PPD Action Plan advisory committee and provided a review of the Action Plan. With Ecology funding, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is monitoring concentrations of 6PPD-quinone at several sites on their reservation. The Hoh Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe and Suquamish Tribe are collaborating with Ecology to measure the detection rate of 6PPD-quinone in salmon bearing streams. Ecology is leading a Federal-State-Tribal stormwater and transportation task force to enhance the continued partnership between participating agencies and Tribes.

Spills Response and Prevention program

- **Skagit County Pipeline Spill:** In December 2023, over 20,000 gallons of gasoline spilled from the Olympic Pipeline in Conway, Washington. Ecology, the EPA, Skagit County Emergency Management, the Lummi Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe initiated the Unified Command to coordinate resources to respond to the spill. The Tribes identified potential cultural and natural resources in the area impacted by the spill and cleanup operations. Tribal briefings occurred frequently over the four-month response.

Toxic Cleanup

- **Upper Columbia River National Priorities Listing:** The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians are members of the Participating Parties and the Natural Resource Trustee Council for the Upper Columbia River. The Tribes and Ecology have worked collaboratively to evaluate impacts of contamination and natural resource damages from smelting operations in British Columbia. In fiscal year 2023–2024, the Tribes and Ecology successfully encouraged the EPA to propose including the site on the National Priorities Listing. An official listing is anticipated for September 2024 that would prioritize cleanup and create the potential to secure necessary financial resources.
- **Port Gamble Bay Habitat Restoration and Upland Mill Site Cleanup:** Upland cleanup and restoration of the Port Gamble Bay and Mill Site has commenced, which will include restoration of more than 20 acres of riparian and intertidal habitat and conservation of an additional 10 acres. This is the result of more than 10 years of intensive collaboration between Ecology and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe, as well as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Shorelands Restorations

- **Coastal Prairie Restoration:** Ecology is collaborating with the Samish Indian Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to restore 15 acres of rare coastal prairie habitat at Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The project incorporates traditional management methods and culturally important plants such as camas, biscuit root and chocolate lily.
- **European Green Crab Response:** Ecology’s Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve provided support, training and technical assistance to Tribes to control the invasive European green crab. Actions included hosting workshops for Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Tulalip Tribes. Ecology also provides trapping support to Tribes to protect priority areas.
- **Habitat Restoration in Tribal Lands:** Ecology’s Washington Conservation Corps provided 16 weeks of field crew support at no cost to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Tulalip Tribes and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to help with a variety of restoration projects on Tribal lands, including removing invasive species and planting native vegetation.

Climate Commitment Act

- **Tribal Capacity Grants and Carbon Offset Grants:** Ecology awarded \$16 million to 21 Tribes through a noncompetitive capacity grant to support consultation on spending decisions from the Climate Commitment Act and clean energy siting studies, as well as clean energy and climate adaptation work. Ecology also awarded \$5 million to nine Tribes through a competitive bid process in the 2023–2025 biennium to help Tribes design and assess the feasibility of carbon offset projects.

Staff contact

Tyson Hawk Oreiro, Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs
360-407-7017 | tyson.oreiro@ecy.wa.gov

Employment Security Department

Summary

The Washington State Employment Security Department (Employment Security) collects unemployment insurance taxes, provides unemployment benefits, analyzes and disseminates labor market and employment information, manages the Paid Family and Medical Leave program, and co-manages the state's long-term care program: WA Cares. The department is an active partner in WorkSource, Washington's employment and training service delivery system.

Highlights

Employment Security is distributing Community Reinvestment Funds to communities for career development support. Through this approach, Northwest Workforce Council has partnered with multiple Tribes this year, focusing on youth career exploration and placements. The Lummi Nation is expanding its summer young adult program to add workforce skill building prior to placement into paid work experience. The Nooksack Indian Tribe is adding career exploration to its summer recreational program, including industry and education tours. Additionally, they added a summer STEM camp focusing on careers in solar energy. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's High School Mentorship program is focusing on higher education and employment goals. A career fair, opened to the public, occurred in the spring, connecting high school students and community members re-entering the workforce with Tribal enterprise positions and other career opportunities.

The Washington Service Corps partnered with Wa He Lut Indian School to provide literacy-informed tutoring. In the coming program year, similar services may expand to more Tribes and native-led nonprofits.

WorkSource continues to support job seekers and employers, including multiple hiring events this year with Muckleshoot Bingo. WorkSource and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe regularly promote career opportunities at the Ilani Resort, including weekly WorkSource services at the resort to help Tribal members develop resumes and search for work.

The WorkSource Yakima Veterans program has expanded services to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to support Yakama Veteran Warriors and their families. The program helps these customers find jobs and resources, including digital access and literacy.

Unemployment program support in communities

Employment Security launched an Unemployment Insurance Community Navigator partnership this year with nine community-based organizations, including Native Action Network. These organizations are helping the agency reach individuals who need unemployment benefits and increase our understanding of the barriers they face.

Staff contact

Caitlyn Jekel, Tribal Liaison
360-790-9951 | caitlyn.jekel@esd.wa.gov

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Summary

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) serves as a “one-stop” shop for permitting and siting major energy facilities in the state of Washington. As part of the process, EFSEC seeks to identify: (1) Tribal resources or rights potentially affected by a proposed energy facility; and (2) ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on Tribal resources and rights.

Highlights

In its second year of existence as a newly independent state agency, EFSEC continued to build the infrastructure and processes needed to deepen engagement with Tribal nations and identify the impacts of energy facilities on affected Tribes. Highlights of this work include:

- Finalized the first interagency agreement with a federally recognized Tribe to provide funding with Climate Commitment Act funds for the completion of a Traditional Cultural Property Study of a proposed energy facility. The initial agreement now serves as a template for other agreements under development.
- Developed a soon-to-be-adopted internal Tribal consultation policy, establishing the foundation for EFSEC’s respect-based engagement with Tribe that recognizes its commitment to a constructive government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Tribes. The next step is development of a Tribal communications protocol.
- Within the Tribal consultation policy, established a requirement for staff working with any Tribe to attend the Washington State Government-to-Government class within six months of hire. As of the reporting deadline, eight members of EFSEC’s siting and compliance division have completed the training.
- Continued to review internal policy and processes for individual Tribal communications to strengthen participation throughout the course of project pre-application, application, construction and ongoing compliance. As part of that process, there was ongoing staff-level collaboration with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and environmental and cultural resource staff. In addition, EFSEC provided notifications to the Tribes in Washington and neighboring states of the application for site certification received for the Wallula Gap Solar project and of EFSEC’s pre-application discussions with developers for a battery energy storage system in Skagit County and a renewable energy facility in Kitsap County.
- Engaged in government-to-government consultations with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Staff contacts

Sonia Bumpus, Executive Director
360-664-1363 | sonia.bumpus@efsec.wa.gov

Lisa C. McLean, Legislation & Policy Manager
360-664-1345 | lisa.mclean@efsec.wa.gov

Department of Enterprise Services

Summary

We strengthen the business of government by managing centralized business and operational support services that tribes and other government entities may use so that they can focus on their core missions. DES brings the policy, planning and oversight of central services together.

We are committed to the Centennial Accord principles and to achieving the following goals:

1. Recognize and respect each tribe as a sovereign government with a distinct culture and governmental structure that serves their tribal citizens and greater community.
2. Constantly improve the value and effectiveness of the services we provide to tribal governments.
3. Continuously improve our understanding of tribal government needs so that we can find and remove barriers to accessing our services.
4. Find shared concerns to offer early discussion, collaboration and consultation, if needed.

Highlights

Statewide contracts: Tribal governments can buy goods and services from our statewide contracts. This can save tribes time and money by using competitively awarded contracts and help them follow United States federal grant requirements.

Participating tribes include: 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 Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

Supplier diversity: The DES Procurement, Inclusion, and Equity (PIE) program works to create a sustainable increase in the procurement of goods and services from small and diverse businesses through inclusion and building a pipeline of available business.

Each year the PIE program attends the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Reservation Economic Summit and the Native Americans in Philanthropy and also presents on several tribal economic development panels. Last year, the PIE Program also partnered with organizations including Native PTAC, Native Chamber of Commerce and Sister Sky to support tribal citizen owned businesses.

Energy performance contracting: Our Energy Program is in the design phase of an energy efficiency project to begin construction later in 2023 for Chief Leschi Schools (a tribal compact school with the Puyallup Tribe) that will reduce the energy consumption of the facilities and improve the learning environment for the students.

DES recently completed construction on a project at the Omak School District East Elementary School on the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and is now in the measurement and verification phase to confirm the reduction in energy use at the facility.

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 25,000** 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 Indian Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Standing Rock Public Transit, and Tulalip Tribes.

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

In October 2022, after decades of planning and the completion of an environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), DES issued an Environmental Impact Statement that recommended restoration of the Deschutes Estuary. DES made the decision with the support and guidance of the Cities of Olympia and Tumwater, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe and Thurston County.

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature approved funding through the Climate Commitment Act to begin design and permitting of the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.

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

Staff contacts

Tara C. Smith, Director
360-407-9201 | tara.smith@des.wa.gov

Ashlee Delaney, Director of Legislative Affairs & Tribal Liaison
360-485-3613 | ashlee.delaney@des.wa.gov

Washington State Governor's Office of Equity

Summary

The Washington State Governor's Office of Equity was established in April 2020 to promote equitable access to opportunities and resources that reduce disparities across state government and improve outcomes statewide. We are committed to transforming government operations to ensure that equity and justice are embedded in every action, serving the needs of current and future generations.

Highlights

Establishment of the Office and Team

- Successfully hired the inaugural Tribal Relations Liaison dedicated to advancing equity across Washington state.

Initial Community Engagement and Outreach

- The team has been actively engaging with the community outside of governmental functions and events.
- Participated in community events and forums to build relationships and foster trust with Tribal communities.

Enhancing Digital Equity

- Successfully drafted and proposed the Digital Equity Deputy Tribal Liaison position to improve access to digital resources in Tribal communities.

Emerging opportunities

TRIBE: Tribal Resource Initiative for Business Empowerment

- Launching the new Business Resource Group (BRG), TRIBE, to empower American Indian, Alaska Native and Indigenous employees and partners within the Washington state government system.
- Conducting outreach and engagement activities to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for all Tribal and Indigenous employees.

Future goals

Expanding Tribal Liaison Staffing

- Plans to expand the Tribal Relations team to better support the growing needs of Tribal communities.

Enhancing Community Engagement and Participation

- Continue to build strong partnerships with Tribal governments through regular consultations, meetings and collaborative projects.

Staff contact

iisaaksiichaa ross braine (Apsaalooke Nation), Tribal Relations Liaison
360.870.2503 | iisaaksiichaa.braine@equity.wa.gov

Department of Financial Institutions (Financial Education & Outreach)

Summary

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

Highlights

- Partnering with Chehalis Confederated Tribes to provide training to elders on common scams and frauds targeting them.
- Collaborating with the Makah Tribe to provide financial education to elementary, middle and high school students attending the 2024 Makah College and Career Fair.
- The Makah Tribe and DFI are working to provide financial education for those enrolled in the summer youth program.
- A financial education grant with Heritage University enhancing 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 25 tribal communities, reaching more than 2,300 pre-K, elementary and middle school students.
- Financial education grant funding for Tribal Technology Training (T3) continued strengthening the framework and support for the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition. This grant also provided financial education, training and services to tribal members throughout the state.
- A grant with the Yakama Nation Housing Authority providing financial education and services to youth and adults within Yakama Nation.

Staff contact

Joepaul Wong, Tribal Liaison/Financial Examiner
360-250-6319 | joepaul.wong@dfi.wa.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary

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

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

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

Highlights

Director's efforts

The 50th Anniversary of the Boldt Decision was held on February 6–7, 2024, and hosted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe at their Casino Resort. WDFW Director Kelly Susewind, Director of Tribal Affairs Jim Woods, and Fish Program Director Kelly Cunningham, along with several other WDFW Executive Management Team members and Fish Program staff attended the event. Director Susewind had the pleasure of not only reflecting on the past as he spoke of the importance of co-management, conservation of resources, shared responsibilities and his commitment to meaningful Tribal-state relations.

In March 2024, WDFW hosted a hybrid film viewing and panel discussion about a new documentary, FISH WAR, for internal WDFW staff. Panelists included WDFW Director Kelly Susewind, WDFW Fish Program Director Kelly Cunningham, NWIFC Executive Director Justin Parker, NWIFC Chairman Ed Johnstone, and Willie Frank III, Nisqually Chairman. More than 700 WDFW staff tuned in to the event.

According to the film's website, the documentary captures "when the state of Washington made it illegal for Tribes to fish for salmon in their usual and accustomed places... FISH WAR follows the Tribes' fight to exercise their treaty-reserved fishing rights. A landmark court case in 1974 would affirm the Tribes' treaty rights and establish them as co-managers of the resource, but the fate of salmon in the Pacific Northwest still hangs in the balance."

The film was developed by North Forty and produced by Northwest Treaty Tribes Media and Salmon Defense. WDFW also helped to support and participated in the filming. WDFW is also working to integrate the film documentary in its training for all staff.

This documentary will play a large role in upcoming training regarding the agency's role and responsibilities when working with Tribal governments and communities.

In April 2024, WDFW and the Nisqually Indian Tribe co-hosted our first "all call" to Tribes where they were briefed on the legislative process, discussed the capital and operating budget process and potential requests, and provided a federal grant update. Twenty-two Federally Recognized and/or Treaty Tribes participated in this briefing. The meeting commenced with welcoming remarks from Nisqually Tribal Chair Willie Frank III and WDFW

Director Susewind, emphasizing the importance of early, effective communication regarding WDFW's 2025–27 state budget requests.

WDFW Director of Tribal Affairs Jim Woods and Legislative Director Tom McBride provided insights into the upcoming 2025 legislative session and the process for joint budget requests, highlighting key deadlines and the role of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Budget staff detailed the budget development process, including new request concepts and timeline for submission and approval. Capital Asset and Management Program staff discussed the capital budget's timeline and project priorities. The agency's federal policy coordinator reviewed federal budget considerations and partnership opportunities. Roundtable discussions concluded with participants identifying priorities for future budget investments and policy improvements.

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

Implemented policy

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

Cultural Resources Division

We now have a designated cultural resource division within the Capital and Asset Management program. This program provides the agency with training, resources and cultural reviews for WDFW construction, maintenance, acquisition and restoration projects. This division will improve processes and best practices internally and improve coordination and communication with Tribes. We also developed an agency Cultural Resource Policy to guide our process development, ensure the agency complies with state and federal law, and help us build relationships with Tribal and other state archaeologists.

Recreational impacts on Tribal treaty rights and lifeways

Ensuring collective protection of natural and cultural resources while providing compatible recreation is essential to WDFW's mission. WDFW joined the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and the Recreation and Conservation Office working with Tribes in Washington on the Interagency-Tribal Recreation Impacts Work Group. In 2024, WDFW contributed to a contract securing professional facilitation for this group. The group's Steering Committee created the Legislative, Information Sharing, and Technical (sub)-Work Groups, which in turn drafted a management charter and technical framework to guide future efforts assessing and managing recreation impacts on state-managed lands and waters.

WDFW also received a \$1 million federal America the Beautiful Challenge grant in response to a proposal co-developed with Tribes. This funding is contracted through WDFW and is being used to support Tribal work group engagement and technical expertise for Tribes. We are making good collective progress towards the goal of this partnership: "Tribes and state agencies working together to co-develop recreation management tools and an adaptive management framework that effectively coordinates cooperative stewardship of natural and cultural resources and preserves protected Tribal rights on state lands."

Capital Asset Management program through the 2023–25 biennium

We actively manage more than 270 facility and infrastructure improvement projects with \$170 million capital budget. Significant new and ongoing projects are expected to carry forward into the 2025–27 biennium including hatchery improvements at Beaver Creek, Wallace River Hatchery, Soos Creek Hatchery, Minter Creek Hatchery, Naselle Hatchery, Toutle River Fish Collection Facility, Spokane Hatchery and a new hatchery in the Deschutes River watershed.

There are also several projects at statewide wildlife areas, more than two dozen boating access sites and several habitat restoration projects including at the Skagit and Chehalis Basin areas. We've started planning and design activities for hatchery improvements to support the Southern Resident killer whale prey initiative at Sol Duc Hatchery, Voights Creek Hatchery, Kendall Creek Hatchery and Palmer Ponds. We also received some pass-through Tribal hatchery funding for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Suquamish Tribe.

Pinniped management and coordination

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

State/Tribal hunting coordination

There are 24 Tribes with off-reservation hunting rights in Washington. We regularly meet with Tribal wildlife staff to coordinate wildlife research, conduct population surveys and establish population management objectives. In the 2023–2024 hunting season, four of the 24 Tribes shared their hunting regulations with the Department. The NWIFC compiles a report of the 20 western Washington Treaty Tribes' harvest data, which they then share with us. We have negotiated or maintained [numerous hunting agreements](#) with Tribes.

At the request of Treaty Tribes, we updated our draft procedural guidelines for evaluating a Treaty Tribe's asserted traditional hunting area in spring 2019. Many Tribes provided comments, and a common theme was that we should develop the guidelines collaboratively with the Tribes. We hosted summits on the traditional hunting area guidelines in fall 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023, and there continues to be significant disagreement intertribally on how to proceed, especially in areas where there are Tribe(s) actively refuting another Tribe's asserted traditional hunting area.

WDFW is developing an updated Game Management Plan (GMP). This plan content will be like the existing plan and will have 14 chapters that relate to specific hunted species or guilds. The current title chapters are: Overarching, Migratory Birds, White-tailed deer, Elk, Cougar, Resident Game Birds, Pronghorn, Black-tailed deer, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Small game Furbearers and unclassified wildlife, Mountain Goat, Moose and Mule Deer. Previous plans have had a sunset date of six years; however, we are making this plan a living document without a sunset date and will revise as new information or science becomes available. The WDFW Wildlife Program anticipates completing a draft plan by summer 2024 and will ask for formal Tribal review and possible consultation before going out for public review. We reached out to Tribes early in this process to see if they have suggested content prior to completion of the draft document. We coordinated with Yakama Nation on several projects including the return of elk hunting to the Rattlesnake Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument, and on wildlife management issues for elk, mountain goats and mule deer across the South Central region (Region 3). We are also drafting a data sharing agreement for ungulate research projects and an access agreement for WDFW staff to work with Yakama Nation staff on reservation, both of which we hope to finalize soon.

Yakima Basin joint land acquisition – Springwood Ranch

As a key element of the Yakama Basin Integrated Plan, WDFW has partnered with The Trust for Public Lands, Yakama Nation, Kittitas County, the Kittitas Reclamation District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to collectively acquire the 3,600 acres Springwood Ranch in Kittitas County, 15 miles east of Cle Elum. WDFW and the Yakama Nation will co-own and co-manage 1165 of these acres through a Memorandum of Understanding. The remaining portions of the property will be owned and managed by Kittitas County and the Kittitas Reclamation District for ongoing agriculture use and the planned off-channel reservoir, respectively. This will support the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and will be a significant investment in fish recovery with the reservoir holding and releasing cold water later in the season to benefit fish. This area is targeted for the reintroduction here of Threatened Bull Trout and will support Spring Chinook, coho and listed mid-Columbia steelhead. This will be the first time that WDFW has co-owned and co-managed land with a Tribal nation.

Fish management and science

In February 2022, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* Tribes completed and submitted a 10-year management plan for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Chinook salmon to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The co-managers worked with NMFS in 2023–2024 as they assess the plan to potentially get approved in 2025.

In April, WDFW and the *U.S. v. Washington* Tribes completed their annual salmon fishery planning process (North of Falcon) using the objectives outlined in the 10-year management plan submitted in 2022. The Puget Sound co-managers received a one-year ESA authorization in May from the NMFS for fisheries planned in 2024 and early 2025.

WDFW has continued our work modernizing recreational catch reporting by developing two new mobile harvest reporting applications. Initially funded by the legislature in 2022, these new applications allow recreational hunters and anglers to carry and display their licenses on their mobile device, submit catch-record-cards and harvest reports, and access their licensing and harvest information. Application development is nearing completion, and state and Tribal co-managers are beginning to discuss development of the harvest estimation and validation methods. The new applications will be available to the public to download in December 2024, available for the 2025 license year.

Co-managers on the Washington coast worked in close coordination with the agency to respond to requests for information needed by the National Marine Fisheries Service as they evaluate petitions to list steelhead and Chinook in coastal streams under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Contaminant Monitoring

In 2023, WDFW collaborated with biologists from the Tulalip Tribe and Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Department of Ecology to conduct detailed contaminant monitoring and identify sources of contamination to seaward-migrating juvenile Chinook salmon in the Snohomish River and Puyallup River watersheds. All toxics monitoring results will be shared directly with Tribal biologists and reported on the Puget Sound Partnership's [Toxics in Aquatic Life Vital Sign](#) website.

WDFW also finalized a study in 2023 with biologists from the Nisqually Tribe and the Department of Ecology that investigated the source of contaminant exposure to juvenile steelhead trout in the Nisqually River. This study, "Investigating the Source of PBDE Contaminant Exposure in Steelhead Trout within the Major Tributaries of the Nisqually River Basin," documented that the wastewater treatment plant outfall in the Mashel River, a tributary of the Nisqually River, was a significant source of flame retardants exposure to the watershed in 2017.

WDFW worked with staff from Tulalip, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Nisqually, Suquamish and Skokomish Tribes to coordinate the purchase of Chinook, pink and chum salmon and the collection of herring for contaminant testing.

Contaminant data from this survey, and others planned for 2024, will be shared with Tribes and state and federal agencies to evaluate potential risks to human health and Southern Resident killer whales.

In the winter, WDFW worked with staff from Jamestown S’Klallam, Port Gamble, Stillaguamish, Suquamish and Tulalip Tribes to complete WDFW’s sixth survey for the Washington State Mussel Watch Program. The survey successfully sampled mussels from 95 monitoring sites. Monitoring results will be shared with survey partners and used to report on contaminant status and trends on the Puget Sound Partnership’s Toxics in Aquatic Life Vital Sign website.

WDFW continues to share results from our long-term contaminant monitoring program with Tribal representatives, including presentations to Squaxin Island Tribe, NWIFC’s Coordinated Water Quality Program and the Department of Ecology’s 6PPD-quinone advisory council.

Hatcheries

WDFW technical and policy staff worked with Puget Sound, Coastal and Columbia River Tribes to complete a draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy in November 2022. Beginning in January 2023, the WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) received several briefings on the policy. Following public comment on the draft policy in March 2023, and a SEPA process on the final draft of the policy during late Spring 2023 that resulted in a Determination of Non-significance (DNS), the FWC voted to approve the policy on October 27, 2023. The Co-Manager Hatchery Policy is the directing policy for all hatchery programs in the regions where individual Tribes have also approved the policy. In regions where Tribes have not approved policy or regions with no Tribal Co-Management (e.g., Willapa Bay), the FWC Hatchery Policy (C-3624) is the directing hatchery policy.

WDFW worked with NWIFC to complete mass marking and coded wire tagging for release in 2024. Increased SRKW production and a lack of labor force continues to be an ongoing issue for both WDFW and NWIFC. Nearly all salmon released into state waters were mass-marked and many of those received a code-wire tagged. This collaborative approach has been critical to successfully completing these obligations for Tribal and state salmon hatchery releases.

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and WDFW initiated the Ballard Locks Adult Sockeye Transport program (BLAST) to counter rapidly declining sockeye returns to the Lake Washington Basin. This joint effort relied on Muckleshoot staff’s knowledge and history of sockeye movement through the Ballard Locks to trap and transport sockeye to a loading area. From there, the co-managers 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 success of the program from 2021 through 2023, we are expanding the program again in 2024. The following hatchery production received ongoing funding from the Legislature in 2021–2023. These production increases will provide additional prey for SRKW:

Puget Sound

- Chinook salmon proposed increase: 3.275 million
- Coho salmon proposed increase: 800,000
- Chum salmon proposed increase: 2.5 million

Coastal

- Chinook salmon proposed increase: 570,000
- Coho salmon proposed increase: 400,000

WDFW, along with our co-managers, are in the process of ESA-consultations for hatchery operations for the following programs:

- Nisqually (Chinook, coho) – Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Puyallup/White (Chinook) – Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Cascade Conservation Hatchery Program (Chinook) – Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Swinomish Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Skokomish Bundle (Coho, sockeye, Chinook, Chum, Steelhead) – Skokomish Tribe, Tacoma Power
- Nooksack Bundle (Chinook, coho, chum) – Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe

European Green Crab emergency management

Long-term European green crab (EGC) management will not be successful without continued strong collaborative actions by state co-managers and Tribes. Strong collaboration with other local, state and federal agencies; shellfish growers; and other partners is also critical to share this burden. Gov. Jay Inslee issued an emergency proclamation to emphasize this issue as a state priority (EP 22-02), which remains active. In 2024, the State Legislature appropriated \$6.082 million per year in ongoing funding, of which \$4.406 million (72%) is pass-through funding for collaborative management. This includes \$1.46 million for Lummi Nation and \$475,000 per year for the Makah Tribe. We've encouraged other Tribes to submit proposals to the Recreation and Conservation Office as part of a \$1.5 million rapid response funding program.

WDFW and Washington State Congressional members unanimously support additional federal funding and EGC management support. This would be for co-managers, Tribes and partners. We want Congress to:

- Fund the reestablishment of the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species at NOAA headquarters to support state, Tribal and federal European green crab management programs.
- Appropriate \$5 million in fiscal year 2025 and future years to the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program as authorized under the Frank LoBiondo Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018.

In addition to funding, we provided equipment, training, coordination, planning and field support to co-managers and Tribes. This includes Hoh Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribes, Nisqually Tribe, Nooksack Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Quileute Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Tribal Community, the Tulalip Tribes and Upper Skagit Tribe. WDFW remains ready to continue its support of co-managers and Tribes to increase effort and build additional partnerships to address the shared European green crab problem.

Quagga mussel prevention and readiness

On Sept. 19, 2023, Idaho Governor Brad Little announced that quagga mussel larvae were detected in the south-central area of Snake River near the town of Twin Falls. Subsequent scuba diving surveys identified one adult mussel. In response, the State of Idaho executed a rapid response treatment with the goal of eradication. Due to the biology of quagga mussels and monitoring capabilities, treatment efficacy is still uncertain. If invasive mussels take hold in Washington, officials estimate it would cost more than \$100 million each year to keep Washington's power and water infrastructure running, in addition to causing ecological damage.

In response to the September 2023 discovery, WDFW immediately redeployed early detection monitoring staff to the Snake River in Washington and increased efforts at Mandatory Watercraft Inspection Stations located along Washington's borders to prevent the introduction from aquatic conveyances moving domestically on recreational watercraft. WDFW convened a quagga mussel Tribal policy coordinating group, including the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation,

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Upper Columbia United Tribes to establish a common situational awareness and collect feedback on WDFW actions and readiness. Due to this feedback, WDFW is taking immediate action to improve a state interagency rapid response plan, to be completed in August 2024.

Due to the September 2023 Idaho quagga mussel incident and associated economic and environmental risk to downstream waters, WDFW received a State Fiscal Year 2025 legislative proviso of \$1.81 million in state general funds, and \$1.81 million in federal general funds. The intent is to leverage cost-share funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for monitoring and response efforts to include coordination with Tribal, federal, regional, state and local entities; watercraft inspections and decontamination; equipment and training; monitoring of potential residential and commercial pathways; and public outreach. In the immediate term, WDFW is discussing new partnerships with the Nez Perce Tribe and Kalispel Tribe of Indians to develop capabilities to assist with early detection monitoring and preparation for assistance if quagga mussels are found in shared waters. WDFW is also working with the above-named Tribes to determine long-term needs for prevention, response readiness and planning for long-term management of this threat.

Wildlife Management

Land acquisition

WDFW's formal process for approving potential land acquisitions to pursue funding is known as Lands 20/20, and the Department continued Tribal consultation to engage Tribes early in that process. We held a Tribal briefing of 20 Lands 20/20 projects on Oct. 26, 2023, with consultation on Nov. 8, 2023. WDFW also consulted on 11 land acquisitions before closing, including the Springwood Ranch acquisition mentioned above.

Recreation on WDFW-managed Lands

WDFW is in the second year of implementation of the *10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands*. The Department has engaged with Tribes in early actions, including rulemaking to discourage the creation of illegal roads and implementing new sign design standards and guidelines on Department-managed lands.

Methow Wildlife Area Closures

WDFW consulted with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on a seasonal closure of several units of the Methow Wildlife Area. This closure was implemented with the intent of reducing disturbance of winter-range habitat of the Methow Valley mule deer herd. Early results indicate that mule deer use did increase and expand spatially as a result, and we are in the process of analyzing our camera and collar data to inform long-term management to recreation access on the wildlife area.

Illegal routes and trails rule

Many miles of unauthorized routes (roads and trails) have appeared in recent years on WDFW-managed lands. These routes often cut through sensitive habitat, interrupt habitat connectivity and cause direct damage to vegetation, wildlife and Tribal resources. Without the tools or statutory authority to prevent or cite user creation of new routes or structures without approval, they will continue to proliferate and degrade sensitive resources.

WDFW has initiated rulemaking to limit the development of informal roads on trails on Department-managed lands. This new rule, if adopted, will help WDFW better manage our wildlife areas and the use occurring on them. It will give WDFW law enforcement tools to discourage the creation of new roads or trails which can pose a threat to natural or cultural resources and create safety hazards for users.

WDFW held an early coordination meeting with Tribes on this rule making in October 2023. Our proposed rule was altered in response to feedback from that meeting. SEPA comment is set to open in early July 2024.

Water Access Area planning in Region 4 (Northwest Region)

The Department has developed a water access management planning framework and is initiating a planning effort for water access areas in the Northwest Region – Region 4. This effort is expected to extend across the next 12 to 18 months. We are planning a series of Tribal roundtables to inform this effort.

WDFW is responsible for managing 120 water access areas, 98 boat launches, 70 miles of public fishing easements, and 16 hatcheries in Region 4. This region has the highest number of water access areas in the Department’s portfolio and is the most diverse and densely populated region in the state. Millions of visitors visit these sites each year to access rivers, lakes and marine areas for a variety of water-based recreation opportunities. WDFW has started to engage diverse partners and audiences during the planning process, beginning with outreach to affected Tribes.

Habitat

Fishways, Flows, and Screening

WDFW continued the rulemaking process to develop a new rule section under title 220 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) as necessary to implement chapter 77.57 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Entitled Fishways, Flows and Screening. The main goals of the rulemaking effort are to establish standards for what constitutes a human-made obstruction to fish passage and an improperly screened diversion intake, and to address noncompliant, human-made fish passage obstructions and improperly screened water diversions.

In October 2023, WDFW received significant comments from Tribes, local jurisdictions and other stakeholders on proposed language. A new CR102 will be filed, and the public comment period will begin once the draft language and accompanying documentation are complete. WDFW will conduct a new policy outreach presentation with the Tribes.

Fish Barrier Removal Board

WDFW continued to chair the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) collaborating with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to help restore healthy and harvestable levels of salmon and steelhead statewide through the coordinated and strategic removal of barriers to fish passage. For the 2023–25 biennium, the board received \$48.4M in Capital and Climate Commitment Act funding to provide grants to 66 fish passage projects statewide.

Fish passage

The board also nominated fish passage projects to WSDOT Local programs for \$74 million of federal fiscal years 2022–2026 federal funding from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program (PROTECT). This funding will support the removal of an additional 26 fish passage barriers. The board’s request for proposals (RFP) for project funding nominations for the 2025–2027 biennial capital budget resulted in 56 project submissions with those project sponsors seeking \$80 million.

WDFW continued to develop a comprehensive statewide fish passage barrier removal strategy to focus the efforts of all culvert correction programs into a single strategic approach to maximize the salmon and orca recovery benefits from the public investment. The comprehensive strategy will also guide the funding recommendations of the FBRB, as well as other state fish passage barrier correction programs.

Kwoneesum Dam removal project

WDFW Region 5 Habitat Program staff collaborated with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (CIT) on the Kwoneesum Dam removal project. Located in the upper Washougal River watershed, the dam removal will restore steelhead and coho access to 6.5 miles of former habitat. The CIT led the project in partnership with the Columbia Land Trust and WDFW. Staff from WDFW participated in design reviews and grant scoring, fish salvage and removal efforts, and permit issuance.

Timber, Fish, and Wildlife

The Forest Habitats section (FHS) continued collaboration with eastside and westside Tribal partners in the Timber, Fish, and Wildlife (TFW) Adapted Management Program (AMP). FHS met monthly with the westside Tribal caucus representatives to review the issues prior to each monthly TFW meeting. Working closely with the eastside Tribes, FHS attempted to facilitate a compromise in site selection criteria for one of the Cooperative Evaluation, Monitoring, and Research (CMER) studies that was of concern to the eastside Tribes.

Priority Habitats and Species

The Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Section implemented a new process for delivering sensitive (confidential) data to Tribes and other qualified entities. The new process simplifies how sensitive PHS data is shared with our Tribal partners.

Habitat connectivity

Through the WA Habitat Connectivity Assessment Project (WAHCAP), PHS engaged tribes in multiple ways and have representatives from Yakama, Lower Elwha, Makah, Muckleshoot, and Stillaguamish Tribes on our Technical Advisory Group, and representatives from Yakama, Tulalip, and Lower Elwha Tribes on our Implementation Advisory Group. Julia Michalak also presented and hosted a booth at the Tribal Climate Conference hosted by Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI).

A letter was emailed to the Tribal chairs and natural resource contacts for each of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington to inform them of the WAHCAP effort and invited them to schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss Tribal engagement. Four individual meetings have been hosted thus far with Tulalip, Yakama and Lower Elwha S'Klallam.

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project

The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) team continues to advance two nearshore habitat restoration projects in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the Spencer Island project in Snohomish County, the Tulalip Tribe has been an important partner, serving on the technical advisory group and providing lessons learned on implementing a project with USACE. For the Duckabush Estuary project in Jefferson County, staff from the Skokomish Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Point No Point Treaty Council had opportunity in December/January to review and comment on the 65% plans and specifications. In January 2024, after two years of monthly coordination with Tribal THPOs, the SHPO, WDFW, USACE and others, a MOA was signed identifying mitigation for adverse impacts to historic properties at the Duckabush Estuary site consistent with the PSNERP Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) Programmatic Agreement.

Tideland opportunity assessment

WDFW Habitat and Shellfish program staff along with technical staff representing Skokomish Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Point No Point Treaty Council and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe have convened the Hood Canal Tideland Opportunity Assessment (TOA) workgroup to identify opportunities to improve tideland access in Hood Canal. Next steps will continue building on the collective strengths of our work group to navigate toward successful implementation that will result in up to two new or improved low barrier to entry tideland access opportunities in Hood Canal and a blueprint for future work.

Grants

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program that WDFW leads in partnership with the Recreation and Conservation Office funds multiple individual nearshore restoration and protection grants in direct support of tribes.

In the 2023–25 biennium, the program awarded funding to Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC), Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Tulalip Tribes.

The WDFW Habitat Program is currently reviewing proposals for funding that will be requested in the upcoming 2025–27 biennium. Two projects have been submitted by Tribes for formal evaluation: Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians - zis a ba II Restoration-Construction funding and the Swinomish Shore Friendly Program.

The WDFW Habitat Program successfully applied for and received \$23,782,282 in NOAA funding on June 15, 2023. With that funding, WDFW established partnerships with Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and Tulalip Tribes investing \$3,050,000 and \$1,885,624 respectively.

WDFW was also invited by NOAA to apply for a second round of funding, which we formally submitted on June 17, 2024. If accepted, the Stillaguamish Tribe will receive an additional \$2.1 million to continue the construction phase of the Trafton project.

Columbia Basin Tribes agreements

WDFW’s work with Columbia Basin Tribes culminated in two major agreements in late 2023. First, Washington’s steady support of the Colville, Spokane and Coeur D’Alene effort to reintroduce salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams contributed to the agreement those Tribes struck with the federal government regarding the “Phase Two Implementation Program” to identify a permanent means of reintroduction. Second, Washington joined with the State of Oregon and the Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Warm Springs Tribes promote the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative, which led to the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement with the federal government.

The RCBA seeks to improve salmon funding, management and near-term dam operations, and to make long-term restoration of the lower Snake River possible by replacing or mitigating their services prior to breaching four dams. Both agreements emerged from a federal mediation process that Washington/WDFW and the Tribes worked on together to set in motion. Both agreements were complemented by related a late-2023 Presidential Memorandum directing federal agencies to prioritize restoring native fish in the Columbia Basin to healthy, abundant levels. This memorandum builds on Tribal and state efforts at the Columbia Basin Partnership, Columbia Basin Collaborative and the federal mediation.

WDFW staff plays an integral role in several integrated water management efforts that include close collaboration with Columbia Basin Tribes through projects led by Ecology’s Office of the Columbia River. Highlights of the past year include the Icicle Strategy, where WDFW works with the Yakama Nation and the Colville Tribes to improve instream flows and secure water supplies for hatchery, agricultural and domestic uses; and the Walla Walla 2050

strategy, which is in the early phases of a multi-decade commitment to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and others to improve flows for fish and farms.

This year, WDFW initiated a project to update its 2009 Wind Power Guidelines and create our first ever Industrial Solar Guidelines. We've engaged Tribes from both sides of Washington through a series of facilitated meetings and individual outreach to hear Tribal perspectives and expertise that will help inform our statewide recommendations related to solar and wind development.

Chehalis Basin

WDFW continued to work with the Chehalis and Quinault Tribes to implement the Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan and identify flood risk reduction projects that are consistent with improving the condition of salmon, steelhead and other aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin.

Enforcement

We continue to implement an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for enforcement and cooperative patrols of recreational fisheries within the Rufus Woods Reservoir of the upper Columbia River. As a part of that agreement, we provided \$3 million in pass-through funding to create fishing access sites on the reservoir. This benefits state residents and Tribal members, and funds two Colville Tribal fish and wildlife officer positions.

WDFW enforcement works with our local Yakama Nation officers on joint enforcement concerns. It also coordinates investigations of non-Tribal members that participate in Tribal hunts within ceded areas or within the reservation boundaries.

WDFW enforcement works with the coastal Tribes to address special management areas (SMAs) to ensure state harvesters are not fishing within designated SMAs. WDFW police respond to reports of gear conflict between Tribal and non-Tribal fishers.

WDFW enforcement meets in partnership on the Stillaguamish Integrated Conservation and Rebuilding Project to build and maintain a stronger co-management relationship with the Stillaguamish Tribe. The goals are to:

- Advance salmon recovery.
- Share a clear and consistent understanding of our vision for the Stillaguamish River basin.
- Understand how habitat, harvest, hatcheries and predators affect Stillaguamish River salmon and steelhead.
- Understand how management actions contribute to conservation and recovery.
- Know what additional actions we need to achieve the expected contribution of each sector.

WDFW enforcement officers continue to work jointly on patrols with Tribal enforcement officers to address Puget sound fisheries.

WDFW enforcement continues to prioritize increasing officer presence across the state, a total of 19 new officers were hired of the last year.

Fifteen WDFW new-hire officers attended in-house training from the Attorney General's office. It focused on Tribal case law, policies and procedures. This helps staff understand the varying level of agreements WDFW has with Tribal governments. A total of nine officers attended government-to-government training.

We meet weekly with the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/P) Task Force to assess systemic causes behind this issue. The task force includes Tribes, Tribal organizations and state/local policy makers.

We held joint annual coordination meetings with Tribal law enforcement to discuss current issues and network with staff to enhance cooperative efforts.

Staff contact

Jim Woods, Director of Tribal Affairs

360-902-2224 | james.woods@dfw.wa.gov

Washington State Gambling Commission

Summary

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

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, 29 have compacts for Class III gaming and 23 of the Tribes operate 29 casinos. Eighteen Tribes offer sports wagering with four offering on-premises mobile. Four Tribes operate the newly approved electronic table games.

Highlights

We created two workgroups after consultation with Tribal leaders. The electronic gambling lab (EGL) workgroup has met twice to discuss our agency's role in class III gaming equipment testing and approval. We shared how the EGL's role and work has changed since it began 1997, testing gaps we have identified with the nationwide independent testing labs, and our future plans to improve efficiency. We continue to meet to discuss testing gaps and how to resolve them. The budget and criminal investigative costs workgroup discussed agency costs, cost recovery and proposed license fee increases that would impact the manufacturers and suppliers the Tribes use to provide gambling equipment. We continue to meet to receive ideas and feedback on costs.

We met with Tribal regulatory directors to address sports wagering issues and regulatory concerns related to electronic table games. We met separately with Tribal regulatory licensing staff to discuss counterfeit currency identification and background investigations and to share roundtable discussions.

We mutually agreed to 11 amendments for electronic table games with nine Tribes, high-limit rooms and pits with three Tribes, and clarification of smoking cessation provisions.

Our agency sends topic-specific informational notices and newsletters to our Tribal partners. Our electronic gambling lab sends monthly newsletters to Tribal regulator and gaming operations partners to share updates on new and ongoing equipment submissions, information on active investigations of equipment malfunctions, news or updates related to the agency, and answers to commonly asked questions. Our intelligence unit sent 34 bulletins to our Tribal regulatory partners to inform and share information on various crimes and suspicious activity. Most of these bulletins were requests for assistance on pending criminal investigations. In addition, we send a monthly intelligence information summary to our Tribal regulatory partners.

Our new agent training for gaming regulatory staff was held in partnership with the Stillaguamish Tribal Gaming Commission. Our weeklong training course was attended by over 30 students and covered Tribal and gaming history and class III gaming activity regulation in Washington. We also provided technical gaming equipment and vendor licensing training for individual Tribal regulators at their request.

We met with several Tribes to discuss changes in processing licensing applications, providing eligibility and registration information, and practical training on submitting application information online.

As part of our co-regulatory relationship with the Tribes, and to improve operational efficiency and technology use, we jointly agreed to 32 clarifications of compact appendices and concurred with 375 internal control and game rule submissions.

Staff contacts

Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison

360-486-3586 | julie.lies@wsgc.wa.gov

Jonnie Bray, Tribal Relations Advisor

509-862-8759 | jonnie.bray@wsgc.wa.gov

Washington State Board of Health

Summary

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) is a regulatory agency that serves people in Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. We work together with Tribal public health, the Washington State Department of Health and local health jurisdictions to advance public health practices that protect and improve the public's health. The Board's work focuses on analyzing policies, developing rules, promoting partnerships and encouraging public engagement in the public health system.

Tribal representation

The Sue Crystal Memorial Act of 2006 requires that one of four state Board of Health members "experienced in matters of health and sanitation" be a representative from a federally recognized Tribe. In April 2011, Stephen Kutz of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe was appointed to the Board and continues to serve.

Highlights

From June 2023 to June 2024, the State Board of Health:

- Was invited by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to hold our March 2024 public meeting on Swinomish Indian Tribal Community land. Board members and staff visited health and community facilities and were honored to have a presentation from the Tribe at our Board meeting. The Board presented a blanket to Senate Chair Steve Edwards for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- Held the April 2024 Board meeting in Spokane and received a briefing from The NATIVE Project. We made connections between our bodies of work, and the Board will use feedback to inform future efforts.
- The Board has a new Tribal liaison and is working on a new Tribal Engagement Plan, which will include Tribal outreach prior to Board meetings.
- Informational Dear Tribal Leader Letters were sent on two rule filings, which included a presentation to the monthly Health Care Authority and Department of Health Tribal meeting. These were for the Board's rules on Auditory Screening of School Age Children and Newborn Screening.

Staff contact

Ashley Bell, Tribal Liaison
360-800-7481 | ashley.bell@sboh.wa.gov

Department of Health

Summary

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

Highlights

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

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

Tribal-focused organizational improvements

- DOH's Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), created in 2023, leads and coordinates activities across DOH while also focusing its attention on policy, partnerships, communications and data. OTPHR is led by Executive Director Candice Wilson- Quatz'tenaut with the support of a Tribal Engagement Director, Policy Director and Governmental Health Systems Specialist.
- In its first year, OTPHR has led and contributed to cross-agency efforts to improve policies and programs that impact Tribes, such as the Dear Tribal Leader Letter outreach efforts, ensuring government-to-government relations training for DOH employees, and leading efforts related to Tribal Data Sovereignty.
 - DOH's Office of Health and Science recruited two Tribal epidemiologists and a Tribal Data Sovereignty Project Manager to work with OTPHR in support of the integration of Tribes and Tribal data sovereignty throughout the data lifecycle.
- DOH's Office of Public Affairs and Equity created a new Equity Public Information Officer role to build and sustain relationships with Tribal media outlets and community-based media outlets at large. Building relationships with Tribal media outlets will strengthen DOH communication efforts to disseminate timely public health information to Tribal communities.

Health and wellness

- Secretary Shah held a conversation with U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy at Red Eagle Soaring, an Indigenous youth theatre company in Seattle, to discuss loneliness, isolation, how social media is impacting the health and well-being of our youth, and the power of cultural traditions to bring back the threads of community, connection, service and care.
- DOH provided support to and actively participated in the Tribal and State Leaders Opioid Fentanyl Summit at Lummi Nation and the National Opioid Summit in Tulalip. DOH focuses on communities most impacted

by the opioid and fentanyl public health crisis through a Fentanyl & Opioid Crisis Unification of Strategies (FOCUS) Task Force.

- DOH is working with Tribes and the Health Equity Zone Advisory Council to select a Tribal health equity zone, which stems from a legislative initiative to support the zone's self-selected public health priority.
- DOH held Tribal listening sessions to support the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant needs assessment.
- DOH's Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program provides access to a set amount of free naloxone each year for Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Urban Indian Health Organizations. OEND's mail order naloxone program has been actively accessed by American Indian and Alaska Native individuals who face a nearly four-times-greater rate of overdose than white Washingtonians.

Foundational public health services

- The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe hosted the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Steering Committee – comprised of Tribes, local health jurisdictions, the Washington State Board of Health and DOH – at the Dungeness River Nature Center for an all-day meeting on September 7, 2023. Following the meeting, the Steering Committee received a tour of the Healing Clinic and Jamestown Family Health Clinic.
- Through FPHS Steering Committee concurrence and Tribal consultation, \$8,300,000 was allocated to Tribes and \$930,000 for Tribal organizations in state fiscal year 2024 for culturally relevant foundational public health services such as environmental public health, prevention and control of communicable disease, access to medical services, oral and behavioral health, and other services.

Consultation, collaboration and listening sessions

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

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program funding, from which DOH would provide non-competitive tribal funding that amounts to 10% of Washington's total allocation. The funding also increased the number of Tribal governments contracting with DOH for PHEP funding from six Tribes in fiscal year 2022–2023 to 20 Tribes in fiscal year 2023–2024. This means more PHEP funding will go to Tribal communities so they can complete projects supporting their response to public health hazards.
- Three new environmental justice grants, including consultation on a grant available for Tribes to increase their capacity to engage with environmental health disparities map updates, Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act agencies, and the Environmental Justice Council.
- The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which includes Tribal listening sessions to guide DOH as it creates rules for 988 hubs and plans future workshops with Tribes to refine these rules. Health educators from DOH's Office of Public Affairs & Equity also participated in extensive Tribal engagement to ensure 988-campaign materials were culturally relevant and met the specific needs identified by Tribal members.

DOH conducted listening sessions, collaborated and invited Tribal engagement in a variety of ways related to population health assessment surveys:

- The Healthy Youth Survey hosted five listening sessions as part of the survey revision cycle for 2025, including a new process for Tribal partners to share proposals for the survey. In addition, with funding from Health Care Authority and coordination from Washington State University, DOH is working with a Tribal Healthy Youth Survey fellow to further expand and improve reporting practices for Healthy Youth Survey data collected from Native youth.

- The Child Wellness Survey established a Technical Advisory Group with participation from the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and consulted on additional engagement strategies for the survey launch in 2024. The team is also exploring appropriate mechanisms and methods for compensating Tribal members who participate in advisory spaces designed for young families to provide input on the Child Wellness Survey.
- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey team shared a Dear Tribal Leader Letter welcoming recommendations for the 2025 survey and sought input on establishing a routine Tribal engagement process throughout the survey cycle.
- The WA Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Advisory Committee reconvened in 2024 with a new panel of members, including representatives from AIHC, UIHI and the Həłmxiłp Indigenous Birth Justice project in Spokane. Empanelment followed a Dear Tribal Leader Letter process soliciting applications from Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- The AIHC Commission awarded Foundational Public Health Services funding to plan and implement an AI/AN Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System project in Washington to collect data from AI/AN birthing persons to better understand Indigenous pregnancy and birthing experiences. AIHC established a Steering Committee with representatives from multiple Tribes and Tribal organizations to develop the study protocol and recruitment plan, with aspirations to pilot the survey in 2025.

Global and One Health

- DOH recently introduced the Office of Global One Health. This office is dedicated to forging strong relations with Tribal nations across Washington, recognizing and honoring their integral role in One Health – an integrated approach that links human, animal and environmental health. Together we aim to promote cultural humility, address shared health challenges and honor our commitment to holistic well-being and resilience.

Environmental health

- DOH created three new environmental justice grants, including a grant available for Tribes and Tribal organizations to increase their capacity to engage with environmental health disparities map updates, HEAL Act agencies and the Environmental Justice Council.
- The Office of Drinking Water and the Squaxin Island Tribe are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for water system plan review. Monthly meetings include open communication about shared water resources, impacts to Tribal usual and accustomed areas, and expectations of each other. The document is poised for end-of-year completion.
- The Office of Drinking Water worked with Tribal members to gather feedback on allowing Tribal eligibility for debt forgiveness as a disadvantaged community, which resulted in changing DOH rules to allow Tribal entities to receive debt forgiveness eligibility from loans under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Emergency response

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

- Helping to plan and host the annual Tribal PHEP Conference in conjunction with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The conference provided basic and advanced emergency management training, shared best practices in Tribal public health preparedness, and included a breakout session for Washington's Tribes to connect with executive leaders on Tribal emergency preparedness and response topics.

- Hosting the first two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Tribal trainings on the west coast of Washington in collaboration with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, FEMA and the Washington State Emergency Management Division.
- Piloting a project with Tulalip community health nurses and their teams to produce a culturally specific seasonal-hazards-risk communications toolkit to support elder health and safety during heat and smoke events. The project also entails translating all seasonal-hazards-risk communications materials into Lushootseed and providing hard copies of the materials to each enrolled elder in both English and Lushootseed.
- Supported the AIHC as it developed a COVID-19 Outbreak Quick Reference Guide for Tribes, which included information on ordering personal protective equipment, testing supplies and therapeutics directly from the DOH Medical Logistics Center.
- Offered kiosks to distribute free COVID-19 and influenza tests 24/7. The kiosks can also be used to distribute other health supplies including naloxone. Four Tribes requested and received kiosks, including the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.
- Distributed 190 portable HEPA air cleaners to Tribes across Washington, part of a pilot project to mitigate the harmful impacts of wildfire smoke.

Staff contact

Candice Wilson – Quatz’tenaut (Lummi)
Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations
360-819-7626 | candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov

Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Summary

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) acknowledges the need to go beyond its responsibilities to federally recognized Tribes and develop meaningful processes to confer and partner with Tribally led serving organizations and the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) in the development of any Exchange policies or actions that have Tribal implications. The Exchange complies with the Affordable Care Act P.L. 111-148, Section 1311(d)(6), 45 CFR § 155.130(f) and RCW 43.71.020. In Section 3 of P.L. 94-437, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) was reauthorized under ACA. Also, The Exchange honors government-to-government relations per RCW 43.376, our Tribal Consultation Policy, and the Washington Centennial Accord. While governance criteria are upheld, our work with the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington state and any community members served by Tribal clinics, Indian health care providers (IHCPs) or Urban Indian Health programs (UIHPs) aligns with the Exchange’s mission “to radically improve how Washington residents secure health insurance,” and our equity goals, including our focus to “recognize the socioeconomic drivers of health and focus on people and places where needs are greatest.”

Highlights

- Tribal Liaison position was advertised and hired.
- Workgroup member of the Governor’s Indian Health Advisory Board (GIHAC); participant in the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) meetings; Opioid/Fentanyl Summit workgroup; the Tribal 988 and Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board; Monthly Tribal Meeting (MTM); Monthly MCO Rapid Response Workgroup; American Indian/Alaska Native Opioid Response Workgroup; Suicide Prevention Workgroup; IPAC and the Exchange holds both Tribal Advisory Workgroup (TAW) and Tribal Assisters’ meetings quarterly.
- Tribal Assister In-Service Day held in May 2024 (last held in 2019), which will continue annually.
- Two roundtables and a Consultation occurred to advance the procurement of a Tribal Lead Organization. The procurement evaluations were conducted and included Tribal representatives in the review. The Tribal Lead Organization began in August 2024.
- Attended the second Opioid/Fentanyl Summit.
- American Indian and Alaska Native Assister training reviewed by Tribal Liaison and updated with a Tribal-focused lens.
- Assisters were provided training on new program initiatives for Immigrant Health Coverage and Apple Health Expansion.
- Navigator Lead Organizations throughout the state host annual in-service days to celebrate and educate. This two-day event is focused on health equity and ensuring assisters are ready to serve our diverse customers in a culturally responsive manner.

Staff contact

Charlene Abrahamson, Tribal Liaison
360-688-7853 | Charlene.Abrahamson@WAHBExchange.org

Health Care Authority

Summary

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

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

Highlights

Office of Tribal Affairs staffing

The Office of Tribal Affairs welcomed new staff members – Tina Anderson, Curyung Tribal Member and Jaron Heller, descendant of the Squaxin Island Tribe – as Regional Tribal Liaisons. We welcomed Nakia Dimiero, descendant of the Isleta & Santa Clara Pueblos, as our Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator. The office of Tribal Affairs also received approval from the Washington State Legislature to add several new positions in the coming year.

Apple Health coverage and payments

In calendar year 2023, Apple Health provided health care coverage to more than 86,700 AI/AN citizens statewide. Tribes received over \$409 million for health care, transportation and administration services, a 24% increase from 2022.

Apple Health innovations for Indian Health

In the previous year, HCA continued or implemented these projects in consultation with Tribes:

- Closed out the initial Medicaid Transformation Project, which included paying out over \$4 million to Tribes and Indian health care providers (IHCP).
- Visited the 29 federally recognized Tribes and two Urban Indian Health Programs to directly discuss the Medicaid Transformation Project Renewal (MTP 2.0).
- Received approval from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) via a State Plan Amendment (SPA) for one pharmacy claim per day to be billed at the all-inclusive rate (AIR), and successfully implemented it via the new pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) system.
 - This new payment methodology went live with the new POS on June 8, 2024. HCA will include the change in payments to IHCPs in our 2025 Centennial Accord data.
- Received approval from CMS via a SPA for Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) providers. This includes all Community Health Aides (CHAs), Behavioral Health Aides (BHAs) and Dental Health Aides (DHAs), which will be eligible for the AIR.
 - HCA received word of our approval on June 21, 2024. Our 2025 Centennial Accord data will include more information, such as the number of CHAP providers enrolled, number of CHAP provider encounters billed and change in payments to IHCPs.

Behavioral health funding and innovations for Indian Health

- In March 2024, HCA, in partnership with the admirable work of the Tulalip Tribes, appoints the state's first Tribal Designated Crisis Responder, which includes a mechanism for a cost-based payment rate.
- Following the 2023 Centennial Accord, the Governor's Office allocated HCA funding to distribute Opioid/Fentanyl prevention, treatment and recovery messages.
- Opioid Abatement: 20% set aside grants to Tribes in the amount of \$15.4 million was distributed to Tribes by Opioid Abatement Indian Nation Agreements with minimal reporting requirements. Each Tribe received almost \$500,000 for the biennium.
- Legislative initiatives that HCA partnered on with Tribes and AIHC, are funded in 2024, including:
 - HB 1877, Improving the Washington state behavioral health system for better coordination and recognition with the Indian behavioral health system was unanimously passed, with many of the legislation sections to be implemented by HCA.
 - Tribal Prevention System support awarded \$1 million for the five Tribal pilot sites to implement their comprehensive services with lessons learned from the Icelandic Prevention System model.
 - \$2 million for continued support to the Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl campaign that will be focused on youth messaging.
 - Establishment of the Opioid Abatement Prevention and Treatment account, including 20% of opioid abatement dollars.
 - Funding to support the Opioid Task Force along with Tribal-State Opioid Summits in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.
 - Increasing coordination with the Tribal-State system for crisis services through HB 6251.

Staff contact

Aren Sparck, Tribal Administrator
360-622-1312 | aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov

Washington State Historical Society

Summary

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

Highlights

- In 2024, the Washington State History Museum will host the annual “In the Spirit Contemporary Native Art” exhibition July 20–September 29. The “In the Spirit” Arts Market and Northwest Native Festival will take place on August 10, featuring Native American artists.
- We continue to provide the “Treaty Trail: U.S.-Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest” curriculum, free to educators across the state, available at washingtonhistory.org under the Education tab.
- Renovation continues with the Great Hall, the core of the Washington State History Museum’s permanent exhibition space. This space will be filled with a new presentation of Native history called “This Is Native Land,” with a completion target of June 2025.
- Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) is a grant for facilities that provide public access to history. Grant dollars can support new construction, building rehabilitation, architectural/engineering design and property acquisition. Grant dollars must be matched 2:1 and are reimbursement only, meaning that expenses must be documented before funding is received. A 13-year monitoring period after project completion is required where grantees must retain site control and continue providing public access to history.
- Diversity in Local History (DLH) is a grant to fund paid internships that support inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility projects. Applicants must have a mission to preserve and interpret history and heritage for the public, and the projects should increase the stories told and communities served in Washington. No match is required, but grant funding is through reimbursement only, meaning organizations must document intern pay before grant dollars are received.
- America 250 is an initiative that will take place in 2026 to commemorate the founding of the United States as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The state of Washington formed a committee chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and managed by the Washington State Historical Society. Commemorative activities will be proposed for the upcoming Legislative budget and will revolve around the three themes of We the People, Power of Place and Sharing History.
- We continue to make progress on the “Dialogue in Place” initiative, a statewide project. As part of our Statement of Commitment, we are reviewing monuments placed by the WSHS for historical accuracy, structural integrity, language and interpretive sensitivity. We have begun a Tribal consultation and community engagement process to determine the future of these monuments. Currently, eight Tribes are participating and designing markers of their story and experience.
- Repatriation efforts are being made to return several artifacts to the Makah, Nisqually, Puyallup, Skokomish, Squaxin Island and Suquamish Tribes.
- The WSHS continues to offer support and programming for museums and cultural centers across the state through our Common Concerns series and other free trainings. We welcome Tribal Museum and cultural

center partners to attend and participate, and suggest topics for future programming based on any concerns or initiatives they may have.

Staff contact

Pam James (Colville/Sinixt), Tribal Liaison
253-317-1274 | Pam.James@wshs.wa.gov

Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII)

Summary

OII is a new state-wide agency tasked with conducting criminal investigations of use of deadly force by law enforcement. As Native Americans have been disproportionately involved in fatal encounters with the police, OII is committed to creating a Tribal Relations program that will ensure meaningful communication, consultation and collaboration with all of Washington's sovereign Tribes.

OII is working towards becoming fully operational and is already accepting requests to review prior investigations. Of the 19 requests to review a prior investigation, six involved Tribal members. OII is currently formally reviewing four cases involving a Tribal member.

This year's top priority has been establishing the agency's Tribal Relations program, building government-to-government relationships with all 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, and working with OII's Family Liaison program to ensure culturally appropriate support and Tribal-centered services on individual cases when preferred.

Highlights

Operational

- OII has hired a Director of Tribal Relations, who is a member of the executive leadership team. This director participates in all agency decision making and monthly advisory board meetings and is a member of OII's Pro-Equity Anti Racism team. This director will ensure that policies are created with input from Washington Tribes.
- OII has also hired a Tribal liaison who will assist the director of Tribal relations with outreach, government-to-government relations and working with individual Native American families impacted by OII investigations and prior investigations reviews.
- The OII Tribal Relations policy is being drafted and will be sent to Tribes for an opportunity to provide input before it is finalized.

Outreach

- OII is committed to meeting with representatives from every Tribal leadership and police department. OII has already met with representatives from more than 15 Tribes.
- The OII Director and Director of Tribal Relations presented at Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) in 2024.

Training

- OII is committed to having all staff attend the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) government-to-government training as well as other anti-bias, anti-racism trainings.
- The Director of Tribal Relations, along with other OII staff have attended The Tree of Healing conference, the Office of Victims of Crime National Indian Nations Conference, the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs Indian Country committee meetings and the National Native American Law Enforcement Association conference.

Staff contacts

Angie Smith, Director of Tribal Relations
360-890-6518 | angie.smith@oii.wa.gov

Michelle Charles, Tribal Liaison
564-669-4559 | michelle.charles@oii.wa.gov

Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Summary

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

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

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

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

Highlights

Meetings, summits, conferences and outreach events

- **American Indian health care provider contracting and network access requirements** – The OIC and AIHC-WA updated guidelines to help health insurers meet federal and state protections for serving AIs/ANs. The goal is to ensure that AI/AN enrollees get access to covered medical and behavioral health services from American Indian health care providers.
- The OIC Consumer Protection Deputy Insurance Commissioner completed the Advanced Tribal Relations certificate program offered by the Evergreen State College.
- AIHC-WA quarterly delegates meetings.
- Community Health Aide State Plan Amendment Consultation.
- Health Care Authority/Department of Health monthly Tribal meeting.
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency – “Looking Forward Together” outreach event.
- SHIBA and its affiliated sponsors participated in 420 virtual outreach events and 368 one-on-one Medicare counseling sessions that included AIs/ANs.

Staff contact

M. Todd Dixon, Tribal Liaison
360-725-7262 | Todd.Dixon@oic.wa.gov

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

Summary

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) aims to keep Washington safe and working through collaboration with Tribal governments, doctors, employers and workers. L&I acknowledges and respects Tribal nations' authority and their way of governing. The agency helps workers injured on the job, promotes workplace safety and health, ensures fair pay, and oversees licenses, inspections and apprenticeships in various industries.

L&I is dedicated to working closely with Tribal governments to ensure everyone understands their rights. To fulfill this commitment, L&I created their own Tribal Advisory Committee. This committee includes representatives from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Apprenticeship, Employer Services, Office of Human Resources, the agency's Tribal liaison, and regional offices. These representatives help make decisions on agency policies and guidelines.

Highlights

Activities from June 2023 to June 2024:

- L&I trained their employees in government-to-government collaboration.
- L&I received 126 electrical inspection requests from Tribes.
- L&I worked with Tribes to enhance permit processes and enter into Memorandums of Understanding, with the goal of improving services for Tribal businesses.
- L&I supported Tribal members that join apprenticeship programs:
 - Apprentices earn wages while learning valuable skills in their chosen trade.
 - Graduates receive nationally recognized certifications.
 - These programs are open statewide in Washington.
- The Tribal apprentice subcommittee is part of the Washington State Apprentice Training Council:
 - L&I worked closely with the council.
 - The subcommittee is open to all federally recognized Tribes.
 - They reported to the council quarterly.
- L&I staff participated in various Tribal events:
 - Staff attended the Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention.
 - They also participated in the State Agency-Tribal Liaison meetings.
- According to RCW 70A.02.100, L&I meets with several Tribes:
 - They discussed services, gave presentations and explored ways to collaborate.
 - In the last year, there were 12 interactions with Tribes, including responding to a fatality on Colville Reservation.
 - L&I worked closely with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Attorney General's Office for guidance.

Staff contact

Uriel Iñiguez, Tribal Liaison

360-902-5411 | uriel.iniguez@lni.wa.gov

Department Of Licensing

Summary

Department of Licensing's (DOL) mission: Helping 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 collects more than \$1.67 billion in fuel taxes and licensing fees each year that fund the state's transportation network.

Highlights

Fuel Tax Compacts – DOL (by delegated authority from the Governor) may enter into motor vehicle fuel tax compacts with any federally recognized Indian Tribe located on a reservation in Washington. DOL is party to 24 fuel tax compacts with Tribal governments. We continue to work with Tribes regarding their questions and concerns on fuel compacts. For calendar year 2023, we provided \$69.3 million in fuel tax refunds to Tribes pursuant to fuel tax compacts.

Tribal License Plate Compacts – Since 2020, DOL (by delegated authority from the Governor) may enter into compacts with federally recognized Washington Tribes to create Tribal license plates for Tribal-member-owned vehicles and Tribal government vehicles. Currently, we have license plate compacts with three Tribes: Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and a new agreement this year with the Puyallup Tribe.

Reporting Vessel Information – DOL continues to work with Tribes and the U.S. Coast Guard to increase the reporting of Tribal vessel information. A 1994 Consent Decree requires 21 Tribes to issue vessel decals supplied by DOL to their members for use in registering their vessels and submit the vessel information to DOL. In 2023, we provided 3,000 decals to the Tribal Fisheries Commission and received 611 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 2023, we are scheduled to regulate three events in Indian Country at the invitation of Tribes over the summer and fall.

Staff contact

James Manuel, Tribal and Federal Liaison
360-634-5278 | james.manuel@dol.wa.gov

Liquor and Cannabis Board

Summary

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

Highlights

This past year's focus with the Tribes included updating cannabis compacts and liquor Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) to adjust to the changes that Tribes experienced. Both remain significant sources of tax revenue for the state and the Tribes. Tribes use liquor and cannabis revenue to support Tribal services and programs within their communities. The governor has designated the LCB to negotiate compacts with Tribes that are interested in establishing cannabis programs. The LCB also works with Tribes incorporating liquor privileges into their new or existing establishments that meet state requirements.

LCB continues to work with Tribes in adopting cannabis compacts and has completed 23 Tribal cannabis compacts to date, with the Lummi Indian Nation's cannabis compact signed since the last Centennial Accord Report in 2023. The agency is currently in new compacting negotiations with one other Tribe.

- Through June 2024, we completed updates of Tribal cannabis compacts with the Chehalis Confederated Tribes, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and Suquamish Tribe. These typically involved adding new elements and locations. We are currently updating compacts with three other Tribes.
- To date, we have updated MOAs with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and the Suquamish Tribe. We are consulting with four other Tribes to update their MOAs at this time.

In March 2024, the agency conducted rulemaking to redefine Trade Areas for spirits liquor sales. The rule, [WAC 314-02-1071](#) was amended to exempt spirits retailers owned or operated by a Tribe or its Tribal Enterprises in Indian Country from the 20-mile travel distance requirement for all licensees engaging in off-premises spirits sales. Definitions for Tribe, Tribal Enterprise and Indian Country are provided, all referencing federal regulations. Tribal Feedback sessions, closed to the general public, were held in November 2023 to solicit feedback on proposed rule language from our Tribal partners. As a result of the agency rulemaking, several Tribes have begun expanding business operations for off-premises spirits sales in Indian Country.

Staff contact

Marla Conwell, Tribal and Government Liaison
360-819-7383 | tribal.liaison@lcb.wa.gov

Washington's Lottery

Summary

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

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

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

Highlights

Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal sales:

- Fifty-three licensed Tribal retail locations sold tickets totaling more than \$20 million (\$20,036,374).
- Ticket sales at Tribal locations provided \$1,001,819 in sales commissions to those retailers.
- Tribal locations received \$36,000 in retailer selling bonuses.

Staff contacts

Cassi Villegas, Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison
360-918-3103 | cassi.villegas@walottery.com

Lance Anderson, Tribal Business Relations
360-485-5809 | landerson2@walottery.com

Kristi Weeks, External/Stakeholder Affairs
360-810-2881 | kweeks@walottery.com

Washington Military Department

Summary

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

Highlights

Construction and facility maintenance

- Conducted surveys and Tribal consultations at Washington Army National Guard facilities and sites to ensure historical preservation and highlight the importance of historical awareness.
- Continued to improve consultations with the Tribes under Section 106 for potential agency actions.

Joint Operations Center

- Finalized a Standard Operating Policy for the deployment of WANG personnel to Tribal communities.
- Continued to develop WANG support to Tribes, in conjunction with EMD, with initiatives like the Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT).
- Provide advice and guidance regarding Tribal interface and support, including testimony before legislative committees and communications with congressional staff.
- Ensured Tribal program coordination and support between Joint Operations Center (JOC) and EMD.
- Worked with ROTC program leads on Tribal outreach for scholarship opportunities for Tribal membership to build Tribal leadership capabilities in both the WANG and their respective Tribes.
- Conducted outreach to Tribal members currently serving in the WANG to train as LNOs during disasters.
- Working with the WYCA on Tribal outreach efforts.
- Assisted Colville Confederated Tribes with its hazardous material response exercise, bringing in federal, state, local and Tribal interagency partners.
- Worked with Intergovernmental Affairs on the establishment of a full-time Tribal LNO position assigned to directly assist the WANG, the WYCA and other military programs within the department.

Response and logistics

- Proposed successful legislation resulting in the extension of Emergency Worker Program benefits to federally recognized Tribes in Washington state under House Bill 2135, effective June 6, 2024.
- Activated State Emergency Operations Center ESF 9 Search and Rescue to aid Quinalt SAR mission coordination and supported DNR's Margarita Fire efforts.

- Provided in-person technical assistance in the form of customized training and exercise to support Colville Confederated Tribes' Emergency Operations.
- Delivered more than 200 emergency alert and warning messages to Tribal emergency managers.

Hazards and Outreach Program

- Facilitated a visit of a delegation from the Ngati Porou Tribe in New Zealand to Washington State, including site visits with the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe and the Makah Tribe to discuss shared tsunami risks and lessons learned.
- Provided education and outreach materials to the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Hoh Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribes and Tulalip Tribes.
- Facilitated tsunami maritime response and mitigation workshops with the Makah Tribe and supported the first ever Makah Tribal Tsunami Exercise with planning, set-up, materials, presentations, workshop facilitation and the development of an after-action report.
- Worked with coastal tribes through presentations and funding support efforts, as well as maintenance and testing for the All-Hazard Alert Broadcast tsunami sirens on lands under the jurisdiction of the Hoh Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Makah Tribe, Lummi Nation, Quileute Nation, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Replaced a siren pole for the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe at no cost.

Assessment and Exercise Program

- Supported an in-person, Tribal-only ICS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents and ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incidents courses held at the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to prepare 43 students to fill critical response roles needed within Tribal communities throughout the state.
- 58 members of Tribes and nations attended 34 additional training courses across the state focusing on response and recovery core capabilities to prepare and develop resiliency within Tribes and nations.

Recovery and human services

- \$17,072 of Extreme Weather Sheltering grants funds were provided to the Spokane Tribe of Indians for colder weather shelters they established in Jan 2024.
- Assisted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation with damage assessment and submission for a Major Disaster Declaration for the Jan 2024 Severe Winter Storms (DR-4775).
- State Public Assistance continues to assist Tribal nations with long-term recovery efforts by distributing more than \$7 million of recovery funds to Tribes this last year.

Preparedness Grants Program

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

Emergency Management Council

- Tribes from across the state serve on the state's Emergency Management Council. The Council advises the Governor and the Adjutant General on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management by promoting, assessing and reporting on statewide emergency readiness. Current members represent the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Suquamish Tribe and Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Washington Youth Challenge Academy

- Over the past year, WYCA Outreach and Admission Specialists worked with high school American Indian education specialists across the state and Tribal schools and organizations. Three percent of the WYCA cadets are Native Americans.

Staff contacts

James Baumgart, Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director
253-921-3879 | james.baumgart@mil.wa.gov

Erik Riske, Tribal Liaison
253-512-7163 | erik.riske@mil.wa.gov

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

Summary

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

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

Highlights

In 2024, OMWBE prioritized attending the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Convention in Canyonville, Oregon, a crucial platform for discussing policy and the future of Indian Country in the Northwest. In an effort to increase the number of Native and Tribally owned OMWBE certified businesses, our Business Development team reached a number of Native-owned business in a Vancouver-area certification listing session. This enhances our business community engagement and support. We are planning additional OMWBE Certification listening sessions for Native and Tribally own businesses for fall 2024.

At OMWBE, we recognize the importance of government-to-government training. In early 2023, OMWBE leadership prioritized a significant shift to increase the number of staff and leaders internally required to take the government-to-government training. Of our 44 employees, 16 staff members (representing 33% of our team) have attended this training. This is an improvement over prior years when only one in six OMWBE employees attended the training. OMWBE’s commitment ensures that program leaders receive foundational training to develop policies, agreements and programs in an inclusive and culturally conscious manner, fostering effective engagement with the Tribal community. By the end of 2024, 50% of our staff will have completed government-to-government training.

During the 2024 Legislative session, OMWBE secured funding for an updated state of Washington statewide disparity study. This new study will provide valuable information about state government progress to include minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses in contracts and purchasing. The last study was released in 2019 and gave recommendations on how to achieve these goals and prioritize impactful changes. Additionally, through the Governor’s Subcabinet on Business Diversity, OMWBE is actively researching ways to eliminate barriers for Native and Tribally owned businesses. These initiatives underscore OMWBE’s commitment to fostering inclusivity, equity and meaningful participation in public contracting and procurement across Washington state.

Staff contact

Kimber Starr, Manager of Tribal Relations, and the Governor’s Subcabinet on Business Diversity
564-669-9208 | kimber.starr@omwbe.wa.gov

Department of Natural Resources

Summary

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Tribal Relations department interfaces with and facilitates communications between DNR staff and Tribal government representatives and their staff. Currently, the Tribal Relations department at DNR consists of a Director and Deputy Director with the support of a part time Executive Assistant. The Tribal Relations team advocates for the Tribal voice at the state agency table when applicable and after appropriate consultation.

Highlights

Outdoor Access and Recreation – In response to Tribal concerns regarding increased recreation, DNR is developing a comprehensive Outdoor Access and Recreation (OAR) strategic plan that will protect Tribal rights and resources, while ensuring everyone has equitable access to the outdoors. In 2024, DNR conducted regional in-person and virtual meetings to listen to and work with Tribal nations to co-develop this strategic plan. DNR will finalize the OAR plan by the end of 2024.

Kelp and Eelgrass Conservation Plan – This is a collaborative effort to conserve 10,000 acres of kelp forest and eelgrass meadows in the state. DNR staff continue to consult with Tribal nations to develop the plan and continue to engage with those nations to implement this plan. The next steps are to identify areas within which to implement the plan.

Tree Equity Collaborative – Tree Equity means ensuring that every neighborhood in the state has an adequate and equitable level of tree canopy so that all people experience the environmental, social, health and economic benefits that trees provide. Tribal representatives are asked to join the Steering Committee as interested, as well as join the TEC.

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

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

Tribal Summit – June 2024: DNR hosted its annual Tribal Summit. The summit covered government-to-government topics, salmon recovery, recreation, offshore wind, and fire prevention and response.

Staff contact

Patrick DePoe, Director of Tribal Relations
360-701-3482 | patrick.depoe@dnr.wa.gov

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Summary

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for treasured lands, waters and historic places in 124 parks. State Parks provide various opportunities for the public to connect to diverse natural and cultural heritage through recreational experiences.

Highlights

Building capacity

In 2024, State Parks continues to prioritize Tribal-relations work. The agency hired two new positions: a Tribal Relations Deputy Director and an Administrative Assistant. The Division was created in 2023 and reports directly to the Agency Director.

Protecting the environment

Staff in the agency's Environmental and Cultural Resources Programs continue to work with Tribal nation's staff to complete state and federal regulatory requirements for projects.

Supporting cross-agency approach to addressing recreation impacts

State Parks has committed staff resources to a Recreational Impacts Workgroup, a group working to address the effects of increased public recreation on Tribal reserved rights.

Focusing on key partnerships with Tribal nations

State Parks continues to learn how relationships with Tribal nations are different from non-profit groups, stakeholders and other partners. The lessons learned will help the agency prioritize Tribal Nation Consultation over established processes. We anticipate this will ultimately help address systemic barriers to better understand that the commitment to Tribal relations goes beyond cultural resources.

Aligning agency approach to Tribal relations

The Tribal Relations division continues to assess the internal alignment needed to support effective Tribal engagement, outreach and Consultation. The agency has prioritized creating an internal cross-departmental workgroup to identify current processes and gaps for aligning with the Centennial Accords, Millennium Agreement and RCW 43.376 Government-to-Government Relationships with Indian Tribes.

Staff contacts

Jenna adzalous Bowman, Tribal Relations Director
360.870.4696 | Jenna.bowman@parks.wa.gov

Jeanne "JJ" Jackson McMinds, Tribal Relations Deputy Director
360.870.7731 | Jeanne.mcminds@parks.wa.gov

Puget Sound Partnership

Summary

The Partnership's 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. We support our partners through mobilizing funding, removing barriers to recovery work and educating key decision-makers. Under state law, we create and track a recovery plan to restore salmon populations in Puget Sound.

Highlights

Ongoing collaboration with Tribal nations and consortia is critical and central to our agency operations and collective efforts.

- Tribal representatives hold seats on our three boards established in statute:
 - Leadership Council (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe)
 - Ecosystem Coordination Board (Jamestown S'Klallam, Lummi Nation, Nisqually Indian Tribe)
 - Science Panel (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission [NWIFC])
- Tribes hold multiple seats on our two advisory boards:
 - Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (Note: Each Tribe within Puget Sound may appoint a representative and an alternate)
 - Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee
- The Partnership and NWIFC co-facilitate the Partnership Tribal Co-management Council (PTCC). PTCC promotes ongoing State-Tribal government-to-government communications, coordination, priority setting and information sharing.
- The Partnership participates in State-Tribal Riparian and State-Tribal Climate Roundtables.
- The Partnership provides ongoing match for Tribal implementation and capacity grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Puget Sound Geographic Program.
- The Partnership and NWIFC co-host Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C., and Puget Sound Day on the sound locally, to raise awareness about the need for key policy changes and sustained investment in Puget Sound restoration and salmon recovery.
- The Partnership invited consultation on the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan Addendum, the 2025–2029 Science Work Plan, and Phase 1 Development of the 2026–2030 Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- The Partnership provided sponsorship to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Winter Convention and National Tribal Leaders Climate Summit.

Staff contact

Lea Anne Burke, Tribal Affairs Manager
360-628-7532 | lea-anne.burke@psp.wa.gov

Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) manages grant programs, councils and boards, and policy offices that help Tribes and others recover salmon and orca, create places for outdoor recreation, and protect wildlife habitat and working lands.

Highlights

Grants

For Fiscal Years 2023–2024, RCO awarded more than \$47 million in grants to 21 Tribes for 75 projects to restore and protect salmon habitat, develop athletic and boating facilities, create water access sites, and protect critical riparian habitats. Funding came from seven salmon-related and seven recreation-related grant programs.

Since 1972, when the agency first funded a Tribal project, RCO has administered 749 grants to 29 Tribes. Totalling more than \$289 million, these projects have helped Tribes with recreation facilities, salmon habitat restoration, fish hatchery improvements and outdoor education.

Projects

RCO is working with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and Clallam County to restore the lower Dungeness River floodplain. The project targets setting back a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers’ levee to reconnect almost 2.5 miles of river and side channels and 170 acres of floodplain habitat with the river for salmon rearing habitat.

The Makah Tribe was awarded a grant to buy a maintenance truck and materials to repair the surface of a playground, boardwalk trail and parking lots at Neah Bay parks.

RCO is working with the Tulalip Tribes and the Washington Farmland Trust to permanently protect 136 acres from development and to aid future restoration through shoreline plantings, invasive species plant removal and improved access to Haskel Slough. These actions will conserve and enhance high-quality habitat and restore access to off-channel habitat, benefiting salmon in all life stages.

Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

GSRO collaborates with Tribes through Governor’s Office initiatives, the Governor’s statewide salmon strategy, development of the biennial *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report, Southern Resident orca recovery, federal priorities, salmon recovery boards and watershed-based lead entities.

- GSRO worked with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to establish a lead entity to support reintroduction of salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. This effort includes ongoing coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians and other member Tribes through Upper Columbia United Tribes.
- GSRO worked with Tribal organizations and individual Tribes on the 2025–27 biennial work plan to inform the Governor’s next biennial budget, 2024 *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report to the Legislature and intergovernmental work groups to guide salmon and orca recovery.

Washington Invasive Species Council

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

- In the spring of 2024, the council collaborated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Washington State University to offer a series of workshops focusing on invasive species that saw registrants from 38 Tribal communities.
- The council is working to add cultural resource impacts to the council's prioritization assessment tool. This ensures that impacts to Tribes are better considered when assessing real and potential impacts of priority invasive species.

RCO's Cultural Resource Consultation

RCO recognizes that archeological and historic resources hold special cultural, historical and spiritual significance to Tribes. Executive Order 21-02 directs RCO to review state-funded projects and consult affected Tribes on potential effects. In the past year, RCO has initiated cultural resources consultation on more than 350 state-funded projects with all 29 Tribes in Washington and five out-of-state Tribes. The work helped protect many archeological and historic resources. To help build more meaningful consultation, RCO will cohost the Cultural Resources Protection Summit in October and frequently meets with Tribal staff.

Staff contacts

Megan Duffy, Director

360-902-3000 | megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director

360-789-4563 | brock.milliern@rco.wa.gov

Results Washington (Office of the Governor)

Summary

Results Washington, [founded in 2013](#), within the Office of the Governor, integrates performance management, continuous improvement and cross-agency collaboration to achieve key goals and improve government effectiveness, all of which will support numerous state agencies as they work directly with Tribes and American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Our vision is to be a collaborative partner championing the best results for the great state of Washington. We support the governor's five goals to achieve:

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

Highlights

Hosted [Governor Inslee's Public Performance Reviews \(PPRs\)](#). We continue to intentionally widen our focus to address inequities that exist in state government by engaging with agencies and Washington state business resource groups (BRGs). We formed an accessibility workgroup to ensure appropriate levels of participation in monthly PPRs could be achieved and maintained, including ASL interpretation, closed captioning and audio. These monthly PPRs, which we've facilitated, have outlined how agencies have worked with Tribes on matters such as opioid use, homelessness and reentry.

- The Results Washington team produced and hosted the 12th annual Washington State Government Lean Transformation Conference, an event which provides state employees with Lean and continuous improvement tools and methodologies that can be readily applied to their work while supporting the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in state government.
- We continued to foster our state's Lean and continuous improvement culture by hosting and facilitating monthly Community of Practice meetings with the goal of increasing state employees' knowledge and skills and highlighting effective process improvements efforts within state agencies.
- Results Washington began an ambitious project in partnership with the Office of Financial Management, the Office of Equity and Washington Technology Solutions to build a cohesive performance management system across the enterprise with performance measures integrated into decision making for the governor's policy, budget and performance staff.
- To improve transparency, Results Washington gathered data dashboards from across state government to share in one online location. These dashboards provide metrics related to performance across the Governor's five goal areas. We track and connect state agencies' strategic plans to the Governor's key initiatives and five goal areas.
- Results Washington also works with executive branch agencies and the State Auditor's Office to encourage performance management and continuous improvement principles throughout the performance audit process. Individual [agency action plans](#) can be found on our website.

Staff contact

Mandeep Kaundal, Director

360-999-9395 | mandeep.kaundal@gov.wa.gov

Department of Revenue

Summary

The Department of Revenue (Revenue) is the state of Washington's primary tax administration agency, overseeing more than 60 different types of taxes.

Revenue remains committed to fostering our government-to-government relationships with the Tribes by dedicating staff and resources to work with the Tribes, Tribal citizens, Tribal businesses and others doing business in Indian Country.

Revenue's Director, Drew Shirk, actively engages in government-to-government meetings with Tribes. The Tribal Tax Advisory Group (TTAG) is active, and meetings are co-led by the Director and Ron Allen, Tribal Council Chairman for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

To equalize the originally anticipated revenue sharing with the actual revenue sharing received under existing Retail Sales Tax Compacts, the Department has embarked on an effort to develop a legislative proposal that would change two statutory provisions affecting Retail Sales Tax Compacts as follows:

- For a Tribe that has completed its Qualified Capital Investment (QCI) and has defined New Development, their revenue sharing percentage would increase from 60% of the state portion currently to 100% of the state portion.
- For a Tribe that has completed its Qualified Capital Investment (QCI) and is in the fourth or subsequent year of compacting, their revenue sharing percentage from all non-New Development would increase from 50% currently to 100% of the state portion.

Highlights

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

- Drew Shirk was appointed Director after the retirement of long-serving Director Vikki Smith.
- Dan Knudsen rejoined Revenue as Tribal Relations Program Manager.
- Revenue entered two formal government-to-government consultations with Tribes.
- To meet the commitment made with Tribes during the Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Exemption process, Revenue engaged in significant retailer education and outreach to retailers on the Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Exemption. This ongoing effort saw Tribal tax exemptions integrated into large retailer sales platforms and point-of-sale systems.
- Revenue received 62 Tribal-focused letter ruling requests.

Staff contact

Daniel Knudsen, Tribal Relations Program Manager
360-534-1573 | danielk@dor.wa.gov

Office of the Secretary of State

Summary

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

Highlights

Washington State Library: Washington State Library (WSL) was awarded a \$2,500 John Cole and Nancy Gwinn Library of Congress grant used to send author and Washington State Book Award winner Sasha taqwšəblu LaPointe (Upper Skagit and Nooksack) to two locations – The Quinault Indian Nation Community Center in Taholah and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library. WSL also funded an additional event at the Spokane Community College. This year, for the National Book Festival in Washington D.C., the Washington Center for the Book, which the Washington State Library administers, has again chosen two books to represent the state, one title for adults and one for youth. The title for adults is by Matika Wilbur (Swinomish and Tulalip), "Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America."

Tribal Libraries now have free access to [research and learning resource provider] Gale's collection of online databases that offer content in a variety of resources for education, lifelong learning and academic research, including peer-reviewed articles, full-text magazines, newspapers, eBooks, primary source documents, videos and podcasts at www.triballibwa.info. With the assistance of the Washington State Library, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library (Heron Hall Library and Cultural Exhibit) has implemented the Palace Project eBook app. It is now providing Tribal residents free access to over 35,000 eBook and eAudiobook titles.

In 2023, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded 11 Washington Tribes the Native American Library Services Basic Grants of up to \$10,000 each to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Makah Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation.

The Samish Indian Nation received a \$59,860 Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant to build a digital library focused on indigenous books from the Pacific Northwest and digitally preserve oral histories and stories.

Elections Division: This year, the Secretary of State's office has made online registration more accessible for voters without a Washington driver's license or ID card by implementing legislation making it possible to register using the last four digits of one's social security number. A state ID is no longer required. The Elections Division also has dedicated staff responsible for outreach to Tribal communities that promote education and outreach tools for Tribal voters. They assist with Tribal-led voter registration drives by providing voter registration training forms, buttons, stickers, posters and pens – free upon request. The team attended the Canoe Journey Protocol and the 2023 Centennial Accord.

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

member of the Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee and is documenting the work of artist Haiying Wu as he completes the nine-foot-tall bronze statue of Billy Frank Jr. to be installed in National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., in 2025.

Legacy Washington: This division completed two new publications commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Boldt Decision. The first, "Lightning Boldt," is a book-length biography of Judge George H. Boldt, illuminating his life journey that culminates with his landmark ruling in favor of upholding treaty promises. The second volume, "Confluence: The Boldt Decision at 50," includes five oral history profiles of natives and non-natives whose lives are connected to the aftermath of the Boldt Decision. Both serve as companion pieces to Legacy Washington's 2012 detailed biography of Billy Frank Jr., "Where the Salmon Run." All three volumes are available for order through the program website and will soon be available for electronic download at no cost.

Address Confidentiality Program: The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) serves Tribal survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking by issuing a substitute address to use instead of the survivor's actual address in the public record. In addition, criminal justice affiliates, election officials and protected health care workers can enroll in program services. ACP protects two typical public records: voting and marriage. In 2023, ACP partnered with advocates within the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Alternative to Violence of the Palouse and Mother Nation so survivors could work with trusted Tribal resources to gain access to ACP services.

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

Corporations, Charities, and Non-Profit: The Corporations, Charities, and Non-Profit Division recently entered a contract for education and engagement of Native-led non-profits and charities in Washington. The successful bidder was Native Action Network (NAN), which is led and staffed by Native women in Washington. The contract builds on the successful one-year pilot contract with NAN in the 2022–2023 fiscal year. It focuses on Native-led organizations to provide education, training, networking and support to these organizations and their leaders and members.

Staff contact

Patrick McDonald, Tribal Liaison
360-902-4151 | patrick.mcdonald@sos.wa.gov

Department of Social and Health Services

Summary

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

We continue to excel in many areas of social services thanks to our talented, creative staff who serve and lead with passion and dedication throughout the state. We remain focused on becoming pro-equity and anti-racist, building strength, belonging and justice for our staff and clients, and ensuring a stable and supported workforce. DSHS is committed to doing all facets of our work and implementing new ideas for how we do that work as one agency, with one voice. The highlights that follow reflect our agency's commitment.

Highlights

- Work continues on the [10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty](#) in the state of Washington, designed by the Washington Economic Justice Alliance. Hosted by DSHS, the Alliance includes Governor Inslee's Subcabinet on Intergenerational Poverty Reduction, which calls on all state agencies to understand structural racism, address holistic family needs, and center the needs of people experiencing homelessness, violence, mental illness and addiction in all communities.
- All major indicators of poverty are improving, but much work remains to achieve equity and economic justice. State agencies are continuing to use the 10-Year Plan to build their budget and policy priorities, and the DSHS Economic Justice Team is working to better align efforts to achieve a vision of joy, belonging and well-being for all Washingtonians; build a sustainable collaboration with Tribes, community partners and people with lived experience to ensure the work continues; and make measurable progress toward poverty reduction and economic justice in the near term.
- In October 2023, Jennifer Bereskin, member of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, Unangan, presented with the DSHS Economic Justice Team at the [National Academies of Science population health roundtable](#) to showcase the 10-Year Plan as a model for the nation.
- Tribal leaders and representatives and the DSHS Office of Indian Policy collaborated to update DSHS Policy 7.01, *American Indian Policy*. Changes include the addition of the Governor's and Tribal Leaders Social Services Council (GTLSSC) description and organization, as well as the three GTLSSC Subcommittees, which are Health, Justice and Social Services. The title of "Recognized American Indian Organizations (RAIOs)" was replaced with "Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)."
- Several workgroups, including Tribal representation, were formed as a result of concerns brought forth from the GTLSSC, such as spouses as paid caregivers and Tribal opioid/fentanyl education campaigns. The workgroups met and presented recommendations to the GTLSSC Social Services Subcommittee in May.

- On September 20, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., DSHS, in partnership with HCA, DOH, Tribes, local governments and community partners, will host ***Facing Fentanyl Together***, 26 simultaneous resource fairs throughout the state, providing education and connection to individuals and families impacted by fentanyl.

Staff contact

Tim Collins, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy
425-327-5614 | tim.collins@dshs.wa.gov

Aging and Long Term Support Administration

Summary

DSHS' Aging and Long-Term Support Administration promotes the power of choice, independence and safety through innovative services and partnerships.

Highlights

- Tribal Affairs Office staff focused on new initiatives and projects such as the Tribal Care facility and Tribal case management contract.
- Adult Protective Services expanded access for Tribal representatives to attend the Adult Protective Services Academy.
- State Unit on Aging continues to work with Tribes and Tribal-area agencies on aging to provide and manage elder services.
- Area Agencies on Aging provide local, community-based, state and Medicaid-related services to Tribes that have engaged in contracts.
- Fostering Well-Being is a care coordination program that provides Tribal support for infants/children/youth on Apple Health (fee-for-service Medicaid) and are in foster or relative placement.
- Lifespan Respite Grant increases respite service options tailored to the needs of Tribal communities and family caregivers and providers.
- Tribal Kinship Navigator Program serves Tribes in supporting services related to kinship care, community resources and state programs.
- Health Home Program promotes Tribal wrap-around, person-centered services, enabling clients to take charge of their own health care.
- Expanded existing home-delivered meal programs and provided meals to Tribal elders who may be homebound.
- The Medicaid Alternative Care and Tailored Supports for Older Adults is a presumptive eligibility program to access Medicaid-funded home and community-based services under the 1115 waiver and available to interested Tribes.

- AL TSA and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) created a High School Home Care Aide Course for high school students who are Tribal members.
- WA CARES Long-Term Care Trust Act began receiving employee payroll contributions in 2023, and the benefit package begins in July 2026. Tribes have the ability to opt in to the program.

Staff contact

Tamara Gaston, AL TSA Tribal Affairs Administrator
360-725-3489 | tamara.gaston1@dshs.wa.gov

Behavioral Health Administration

Summary

DSHS' Behavioral Health Administration provides long-term inpatient treatment to people in our custody and care, with intensive behavioral health needs at state-operated psychiatric hospitals for adults and youth forensic behavioral health services facilities and a residential treatment facility for people who are civilly committed for sex offenses after having completed their prison sentence.

Highlights

- Opened an additional 140 inpatient treatment beds (68 forensic and 72 civil beds). Over the next two years an additional 100 civil beds are funded to open at the Maple Lane and Brockmann campuses.
- Opened the 112-bed Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health facility in Tukwila. OHBH serves civilly committed individuals transferring from Western and Eastern State Hospitals, allowing the hospitals to accept more forensic patients coming in from the criminal court system.
- Expanded the Maple Lane Campus by opening a 30-bed unit serving residents who have been deemed not guilty by reason of insanity. This allowed for the creation of 30 additional inpatient competency beds at Western State Hospital. Construction is underway for a new 48-bed civil center in Clark County, and set to open in 2025.
- Phase 3 of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement began in full July 1, 2024.
- As a result of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement, the Legislature passed [SB 5440](#). 30 staff were hired to work within Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Additionally, BHA is implementing the applicable components of [HB 1877](#), improving the Washington state behavioral health system for better coordination and recognition with the Indian behavioral health system.
- The BHA Tribal affairs administrator is working on outreach and advocacy for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in each facility.
- BHA is exploring ways to partner with Tribes/organizations/agencies to provide cultural services in the facilities, which is codified to a degree in the work of forensic navigators in the new state law changes to [RCW 10.77](#).
- A new BHA Tribal Affairs Administrator is expected to be hired in Summer 2024.

Staff contact

Emma Palumbo, BHA Legislative Affairs and Rules Manager
360-972-6214 | emma.palumbo@dshs.wa.gov

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Summary

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are valued, and the DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration strives to provide support and foster partnerships that empower people to live the lives they want. We serve 557 clients across the state who have a self-identified affiliation to a federally recognized Tribe in Washington.

Highlights

- Dr. Tonik Joseph was appointed Assistant Secretary in November 2023, and Lisa Pemberton was hired as Tribal Affairs Administrator in April 2024.
- In 2024, the six-bed Stabilization, Assessment and Intervention Facility in Gig Harbor opened, providing clients aged 18 and older with short-term stabilization services (up to 90 days) and 24-hour support. This facility is open to Tribal referrals.
- In 2024, the Lake Burien Transitional Care Facility opened, which is a 12-bed facility providing services to youth ages 13–18 with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have co-occurring behavioral health needs or substance use disorder. This facility is open to Tribal referrals.
- DDA has partnered with Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council to fulfill about \$19 million worth of affordable and accessible housing contracts, which are available to Tribes.
- DDA has created additional housing opportunities through the Dan Thompson Developmental Disabilities Community Services Account and is committed to providing technical assistance for Tribes and Tribal organizations to apply for the grants, once the Legislature gives authority to solicit projects for another round of funding.
- DDA continues to engage in a government-to-government approach with Tribes related to the following legislative items:
 - [HB 1188](#) – Concerning people with developmental disabilities who have also received child welfare services and creating pathways to bring them home.
 - [HB 1694](#) – Addressing home care workforce shortages. DDA wants to increase opportunities for Tribes and Tribal members to become contracted providers.

Staff contact

Lisa Pemberton, DDA Tribal Affairs Administrator
360-890-2055 | lisa.pemberton1@dshs.wa.gov

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Summary

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) helps individuals living with disabilities to participate fully in their communities and become employed. DVR continues its cooperative working relationships and service delivery commitments with all federally recognized Tribes in Washington, including those who do not operate federally funded Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) programs, and with Urban Indian Organizations, and actively maintains a strong partnership at the state and local levels with all TVR programs in the state to ensure AI/ANs with disabilities receive the services they need to ensure their independence and inclusion in the workforce.

Highlights

- Tribal Consultation between Tribal leadership was completed in 2024, with successful resolutions to incorporate Tribal recommendations into the 2024–2027 DVR State Plan.
- DVR, the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) and TVR programs updated the Statewide Cooperative Agreement in October 2023, to commit all parties to work cooperatively in providing vocational rehabilitation services to AI/ANs with disabilities who want to work.
- DVR, DSB and TVR directors began meeting on a quarterly basis in 2024, to improve relationships and discuss issues of mutual interest.
- TVR directors jointly participated in the development of DVR’s first all-staff State-Tribal Relations Orientation and will present on the uniqueness of TVR programs when the orientation is launched later in 2024.
- Ongoing monitoring and guidance resulted in a 13% increase in referrals from DVR to TVR programs.
- Implemented procedural guidance to assist DVR staff in knowing what income must be excluded when a customer includes Tribal or treaty income, distribution or payments on a Financial Statement form.

Staff contact

Christelle Arnett, DVR Tribal Relations Administrator
360-763-2373 | christelle.arnett1@dshs.wa.gov

Economic Services Administration

Summary

Our future is a Washington without poverty and injustice and becoming an anti-racist agency without barriers to employment, services and access for our colleagues, customers and clients. DSHS’ Economic Service Administration connects children, adults and families to the resources and opportunities that help them reach their full potential.

Highlights

- In June 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Services approved a plan to expand the Tribal SNAP Eligibility Determination Demonstration Project to additional interested Tribes.
- 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.
- The Division of Child Support partners with Tribal programs to provide services that benefit youth and families in eight Tribal child support programs operating in the state of Washington. Those partnerships contributed to DCS’s child support collections last year, totaling over \$633 million.
- In 2024, the federal Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Child Support Services published a final rule eliminating the requirement for Tribes to contribute towards Tribal child support program expenditures that takes effect October 1, 2024.
- As a result of the 2021 State v. Blake decision, people who have had Blake-related convictions vacated may apply to have certain legal financial obligations refunded. The refund process began in May 2024, and is expected to continue for several years.
- ESSB 1652 passed the Legislature, requiring DSHS to pass through to a family who is receiving TANF all current child support collected each month on behalf of the family, beginning January 1, 2026. DSHS will disregard and not count as income any amount of current child support passed through to TANF or WorkFirst applicants or recipients when determining eligibility for assistance.

Staff contact

Brady Rossnagle, ESA Statewide Tribal Relations Administrator
360-529-6076 | Brady.Rossnagle@dshs.wa.gov

Mary Anderson, CSD Tribal Relations Program Administrator
360-628-6442 | Mary.Anderson@dshs.wa.gov

Chris Franks, DCS Sr. Manager of Tribal Relations
360-338-2917 | Chris.Franks@dshs.wa.gov

Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration

Highlights

FFA helps manage Tribal-consolidated contracts through Intergovernmental Agreements. This management includes preparing, negotiating and maintaining the agreements with General Terms and Conditions that are developed specific to DSHS. These recently updated agreements are in effect from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2029.

Staff contact

Tim Collins, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy
425-327-5614 | tim.collins@dshs.wa.gov

Office of the State Treasurer

Summary

State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti is Washington’s chief financial officer, who manages the Office of the State Treasurer (OST). OST is the state agency that serves as the bank for Washington state government. OST divisions manage public investments, debt and cash for the state of Washington while leading policy initiatives affecting the State Treasury and long-term fiscal health.

Highlights

- **Investments:** In fiscal year 2024 (FY 24), OST managed approx. \$42 billion of state government operating cash and local government surpluses through OST’s Local Government Investment Pool and Separately Managed Accounts programs. Both programs are available for Tribal participation.
- **Debt:** In FY 24, OST managed approx. \$21.4 billion of state debt from legislatively approved bond sales that finance local infrastructure, major state capital and transportation projects. Throughout, Washington maintained its Aaa credit rating from Moody’s Investors Service and S&P improved their outlook for the state from “stable” to “positive.”
- **Cash:** In FY 24, OST handled \$456 billion in annual cash flow for state government, including most state deposits, withdrawals and transfers.
- **Policy:** Treasurer Pellicciotti leads state and national policy initiatives affecting the State Treasury and the state’s long-term fiscal health through legislation and representation on the following state boards and commissions: the State Finance Committee, the Public Deposit Protection Commission, the Economic and Transportation Revenue Forecast Councils, the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority Board, the Washington State Investment Board, the WA529 Committee, the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and the ABLE Governing Board.
 - In the 2024 legislative session, Treasurer Pellicciotti requested and helped enact Washington Saves, legislation responsive to the state’s looming retirement security crisis. Launching in 2027, Washington Saves will help 1.2 million Washingtonians prepare for retirement while saving the state \$3.9 billion through 2040.
 - Treasurer Pellicciotti partnered with Tribes to introduce legislation mandating financial education to be included as a graduation requirement in our schools.
 - The Treasurer continues to advocate for the Washington Future Fund which would invest in future generations and disrupt the cycle of generational poverty. Investing now puts time on our side to help ensure all children born in the state of Washington have a chance to own a home, start a business or pursue the educational opportunities they hope to achieve. While approximately half of the babies born in the state would benefit under the current proposal, that number is higher for babies born to Tribal mothers—historically higher than 75%.

Staff contact

Anna Borris, Chief of Staff and Tribal Liaison
360-902-0256 | anna.borris@tre.wa.gov

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Native Education

Summary

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

- Exercised the value of being in community, centering Tribal sovereignty through regional gatherings with Tribal, district and ESD leaders.
- Escalated the advisement of the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC) to identify high priorities of our work.
- Centered student voice through site visits to conduct in-person student interviews.
- Collaborated with the Region 16 Comprehensive Center to elevate family and community voice and support ONE.
- Convened trainings on the following topics:
 - Native literacy,
 - Tribal language for educators,
 - John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial curriculum,
 - Government-to-government relationships, and
 - Strengthening Tribal Consultation.

Program Highlights

Tribal language

The Office of Native Education developed and met with our Native Literacy work group comprised of professionals from across the state and held the first annual Native Literacy Convening. The convening included native and non-native educators that were invited to share feedback and engage in professional learning. Utilizing school- and state-level data, ONE identified high-need school districts to partner with for technical assistance and support. ONE held Native Family Literacy Nights in Eastern and Western Washington to engage our families and communities around literacy. In addition, ONE has joined OSPI's literacy team, which brings native students in at the beginning of future planning.

John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI) training and curriculum

With the passage of [House Bill 1879](#) in 2024, *Since Time Immemorial* has been renamed the *John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial (JMLSTI)* curriculum. During this reporting period, ONE conducted JMLSTI trainings through conference workshops and district/school-coordinated staff trainings. As JMLSTI is a place-based curriculum, Tribal education and/or culture specialists were involved in the planning and teaching of these training courses. Increasingly, districts are developing systemic district-wide plans, in collaboration with Tribal partners, to implement the curriculum.

The Office of Native Education also continues to collaborate with the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) and Tribal higher education representatives with the implementation of integrating JMLSTI into all teacher preparation programs. Many administrative preparation programs are also integrating JMLSTI into their courses.

Tribal Consultation

The purpose of Tribal Consultation is to ensure that Tribal governments or representatives and state or federal education agencies have meaningful opportunities to provide input, feedback and recommendations on education policies, programs and services that impact the success of AI/AN students. The Tribal Consultation program implements and oversees Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and state legislation for Tribal Consultation.

The Tribal Consultation program attended and reported at numerous conferences, as well as continued implementation of [HB 1426](#) and [SB 5252](#). The program held administrators government-to-government relationships training in a hybrid format with contracted subject matter experts, and online modules were introduced in February 2024. New Career and Technical Education (CTE) modules will be introduced in the upcoming year. A process to document and monitor school board directors' attendance was established with the Federal Grants office for the Strengthening Tribal Consultation training as well as facilitation of ESEA Tribal Consultation paperwork. The program also began collaborating with the Washington State School Directors' Association to establish and host Tribal leaders and school directors convenings.

Career-Connected learning

We are expanding HB 1426 government-to-government training to include a new section covering CTE-specific information, including Tribal economic development, Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and best practices. This includes developing a CTE Tribal certification process and CTE Tribal relations professional development, as well as a Washington state career and workforce development data review ensuring Tribal student success.

In collaboration with Career Connect Washington, our program also enabled 16,000 young people under 30 to "earn and learn" in Career Launch programs, which give students paid work experience and a meaningful industry credential or at least a year's worth of college credit. Career Connect Washington created more than 180 Career Launch programs, attracted nearly \$30 million of federal grants with the Good Jobs Challenge and Apprenticeship Building America, and developed a statewide directory of career-connected learning opportunities at the Career Launch, Career Prep and Career Explore levels.

Native American Educator Cultivation Program

The Office of Native Education created this capacity-building project to develop systemic change to identify, support, recruit and retain Native American educators. The program continues building capacity across the state and establishing connections with all 29 federally recognized Tribes, as well as school districts, ESD's and community-based organizations. Over the last two years, the program has elevated the promising practices of Tribes to identify, increase, recruit, retain and support Native peoples to enter the teaching field.

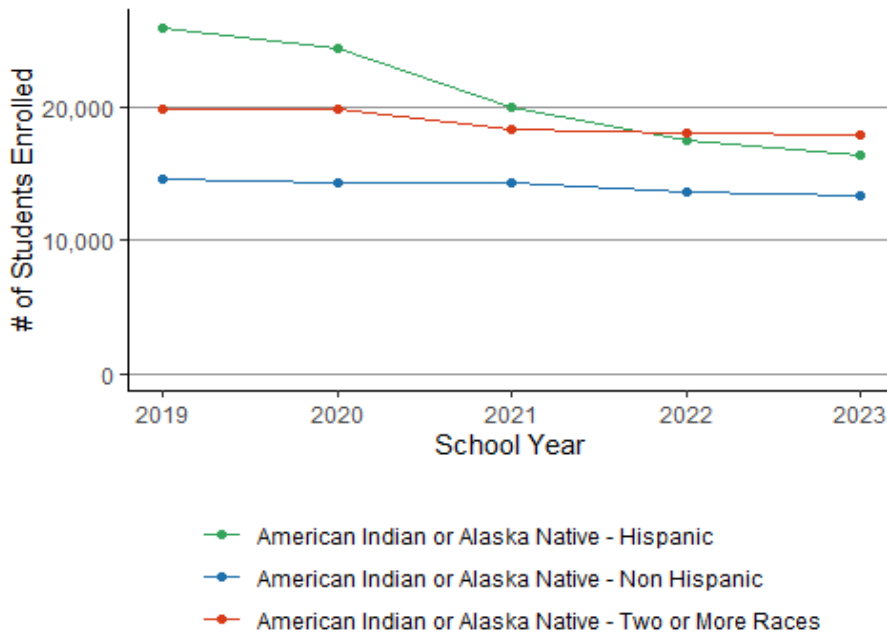
State-Tribal Education Compact (STEC) Schools

The Office of Native Education serves as the liaison between OSPI and STEC schools. As of July 2024, there are eight STEC schools in Washington. Paschal Sherman Indian School became the newest compact school in September 2023. During the 2023–24 school year, ONE conducted full-team site visits with three of the STEC schools and met virtually biweekly with STEC staff to provide technical support, guidance, educational and financial opportunities, and other supports. All STEC schools received in-person support from ONE this past school year.

Native Student Success

The Native Student Success program provided resources, technical assistance and support to ensure student success in attendance and re-engagement. This program worked with the Attendance and Student Engagement & Support program to support STEC schools.

Figure 1: Enrollment Trend for American Indian or Alaska Native Students (Max ID)



Source: CEDARS

Enrollment: A student is counted as enrolled if they are primarily enrolled by October 1st of the given school year. Interpretation Example: In Figure 1, in the 2018–2019 school year, there are 25,914 students who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native - Hispanic

Current Legislative Work

Native Literacy—[SB 5950](#)

A Native Literacy work group has been established and work continues in conducting Tribal Consultations, developing best practices, engaging in professional learning and developing curricula and resources that may be provided to school districts and STEC schools to serve AI/AN students with appropriate, culturally affirming literacy supports.

Tribal Language—[SB 1228](#)

The Tribal, Heritage, and Dual Language Grant provides seed funds to plan and build capacity for effective P–12 Tribal, heritage and dual-language programs.

Opioid Abatement: Eliminating Inequitable Student Outcomes—[SB 5950](#)

The State-Tribal Education Compact Schools' Opioid Prevention Pilot state appropriation is to administer a pilot program for volunteering STEC schools to adopt opioid and fentanyl abuse prevention materials and resources during the 2024–25 school year.

Tribal Curriculum—[SB 5950](#)

John McCoy (luliláš) Since Time Immemorial grants will be administered to support the incorporation of Tribal curriculum into social studies curricula. Half of the appropriation will be provided to school districts and the other half provided to federally recognized Tribes in Washington or those whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington.

Staff Contacts

Henry Strom, Executive Director
360-918-3953 | henry.strom@k12.wa.us

Willard Bill Jr, Assistant Director
360-725-6154 | willard.bill@k12.wa.us

Kayla Guyett, Tribal Language Liaison
360-402-6424 | kayla.guyett@k12.wa.us

Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
564-200-2619 | maxine.alex@k12.wa.us

Rebecca Purser, Native Educator Cultivation Program Supervisor
564-200-4549 | rebecca.purser@k12.wa.us

Shandy Abrahamson, Career Connected Learning Tribal Engagement Program Supervisor
360-995-3565 | shandy.abrahamson@k12.wa.us

Vacant, Native American Student Success Program Supervisor

Kari Tally, Administrative Assistant—Office of Native Education
564-200-3482 | kari.tally@k12.wa.us

Kathrine Lawrence, Administrative Program Specialist—JMLSTI, STECs
360-725-6160 | kathrine.lawrence@k12.wa.us

Jolee Isturis, Administrative Assistant—Tribal Consultation
360-725-6160 | jolee.isturis@k12.wa.us

Native Education General Email
NativeEducation@k12.wa.us

Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC)

Summary

The American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) traffic death rate per 100,000 population reveals substantial disparities in the risk leading to traffic deaths and is more than four times higher than all other races. An AI/AN pedestrian or bicyclist is five times more likely to be a traffic death victim compared to all other races. AI/AN people are also involved in high-risk driving behaviors at a higher rate than all other races, particularly impaired driving and not wearing seat belts.

Traffic death data indicates the following:

- Nearly three of every four (72%) AI/AN traffic deaths involved impairment, versus 57% of all other races.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of AI/AN deaths in vehicles were not wearing seat belts, versus 20% of all other races.
- There were more fatalities among females (53%, n=25) than males (45%, n=21) due to not wearing a seat belt.
- Nearly one-third of AI/AN traffic deaths occurred in Yakima County, versus 6% of all other races.

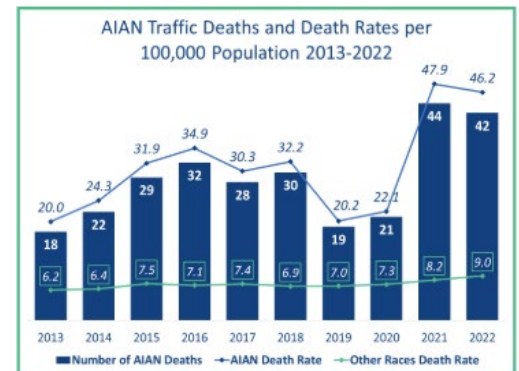


Figure 1: Chart of AI/AN Traffic Deaths and Death Rates per 100,000 Population 2013-2022. Data Source: Traffic Safety Reports Page > American Indian/Alaska Native

Highlights

- The WTSC participated in the Yakama Nation Tribal Traffic Safety Committee (TTSC) meetings, led by Yakama Nation traffic safety professionals. The TTSC develops strategies and goals and recommends policy changes to improve traffic safety for Tribal members and the public on or near Yakama Nation land.
- The WTSC engaged Tribal Police Chiefs in Tribal traffic safety discussions and provided funding to support the purchase of essential traffic safety equipment.
- Child passenger safety technician training courses were offered to Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and Spokane Tribe of Indians. We added Tribal members as child passenger safety technicians in both Tribes and held community car-seat-check events.
- Two information and listening sessions on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, also known as Target Zero, were held for our Tribal partners to address the needs and priorities of each Tribe for increasing roadway safety.
- The WTSC held the first review of pedestrian, bicyclist or non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries when the victim is a federally recognized Tribal member (RCW 43.59.156). This review provided valuable insights into the trends and patterns, ultimately enhancing our understanding as we proceed with recommendations for improving safety measures.

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

Staff contact

Penny Rarick, Tribal Liaison
360-725-9868 | prarick@wtsc.wa.gov

Washington Department of Transportation

Summary

WSDOT's mission is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation options to improve communities and economic vitality for people and businesses throughout the state. Our vision is to provide travelers with a safe, sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system and collaborate with Tribes on project development and administration, safety, planning, workforce development. A key element of this is early engagement with Tribes regarding the effects of WSDOT projects on natural and cultural resources and economic development. Below is a small sample of the accomplishments and day-to-day coordination and collaboration between Tribes and WSDOT.

Highlights

- WSDOT corrected 32 fish barriers over the past year, improving access to over 60 miles of potential habitat. Since the 2013 injunction was issued, WSDOT has corrected a total of 146 fish barriers improving access to 570 miles of habitat, which has opened 50% of the potential habitat of significant gain injunction barriers. WSDOT currently has about 160 fish barriers within construction contracts. Once these fish barrier corrections are complete, we will have restored access to 70% of potential blocked habitat.
- WSDOT finalized a first-of-its-kind agreement with the Tulalip Tribes in February 2024 to receive crash forms, which WSDOT will then analyze and provide crash safety data to the Tribes, while protecting the privacy of Tribal members. The data can be used in efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes by the state and the Tribes.
- WSDOT opened the newest section of the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) "Children of the Sun Trail" on June 21, 2024. The NSC is a long-standing collaboration with the Spokane Tribe and is located within their traditional homelands. It includes a 10.5-mile parallel pedestrian-bike path along the entire route using a name approved by the Tribe: the Children of the Sun Trail. WSDOT incorporates a "Children of the Sun" medallion into trail features and NSC architecture.
- WSDOT is working closely with the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe on a project that would improve resilience along Graveyard Spit that will protect environmentally sensitive lands, SR-105 and the north end of the Reservation. WSDOT Southwest Region worked with the Tribe to secure Right-of-Entry to construct the project in 2024 and 2025.
- WSDOT has included four Tribes – Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and Tulalip Tribes – in the Active Transportation Technical Assistance Program. The intention is for projects developed as part of this capacity building program to be prioritized for future Safe Routes to School or Pedestrian and Bicyclist Program construction funding. There is an estimated \$700,000 of funding for these Tribes in the program.

Staff contact

Lorraine Basch, Tribal and Federal Relations Director
360-706-3810 | lorraine.basch@wsdot.wa.gov

Utilities and Transportation Commission

Summary

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

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

Highlights

We began reviewing the Biennial Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) Update from Avista and PacificCorp as required by the Clean Energy Transformation Act. In November 2023, the UTC received Avista and PacificCorp's Biennial CEIP. This outlined the two companies' steps to meet the Clean Energy Transformation Act's (CETA's) clean energy targets in 2025 and 2030, on the way to being carbon-free by 2045. The utility's Biennial CEIP Update also includes a communication plan, which UTC staff reviewed to ensure it includes a transparent and appropriate Tribal engagement process.

We heard the petition from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to extend the filing and reporting requirements for its Gas Integrated Resource Plan, Electric Integrated Resource Plan, CEIP and CEIP Public Participation Plan. On June 5, 2024, PSE filed a petition with the UTC requesting an extension so that the plans can be consolidated and filed into a single Integrated System Plan in 2027. The consolidation and extension planning requirements are due to the passage of the Washington Decarbonization Act for Large Combination Utilities. After review and direction by UTC staff, PSE filed a supplemental letter on June 27, 2024, clarifying clean energy- and equity-related reporting requirements and the public engagement approach PSE plans to implement in the development of its 2027 Integrated System Plan. UTC approved the extension with conditions on July 11, 2024.

We met with utilities and Tribal representative regarding utility pole attachments for Tribal telecommunications infrastructure to utility poles. In November and December 2023, the UTC met with utilities and Tribal representatives on Tribal concerns related to costs associated with telecommunications infrastructure attached to utility poles. The UTC has ongoing discussions on how to provide consistency, certainty and affordability for Tribes when working with utilities to determine how to reduce pole attachment costs.

We worked with the legislature to obtain budget approval of CenturyLink, Qwest's Performance Assurance Plan (QPAP) funds for telecommunications upgrades. In January 2024, the UTC worked with the legislature to obtain budget approval of QPAP funds held in escrow for the Quileute Tribe for telecommunications upgrades on the Quileute reservation.

Staff contact

Dave Danner, Chair
360-664-1208 | dave.danner@utc.wa.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs

Summary

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

Highlights

- We presented at the Veterans Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians on two occasions regarding our efforts to collaborate with Indian Tribes to support Tribal veterans representatives and Tribal veterans service officers who can assist veterans and their families with applying for federal, state and county veterans' benefits.
- We presented at the Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council meetings on four occasions to discuss Tribal veteran service officer memorandums of agreement, disability and survivors' benefits, long-term care benefits, suicide prevention education, suicide prevention license plate emblems, the purple heart state highway sign campaign and women veterans outreach and services.
- We participated in the 2024 Muckleshoot Veterans Summit & Powwow to provide direct services to veterans and their families with veterans' disability benefits, survivors benefits, suicide prevention education, veterans' health care benefits and other topics.
- We met with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to provide Tribal leaders with an overview of our efforts to establish a state veterans cemetery in the Tri-Cities region.
- We participated in the 2023 Veterans Camp Chaparral hosted by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. This event provided veterans and veteran service providers with cultural competency training regarding spirituality and healing practices.
- We participated in the 2024 Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Treaty Day Commemoration & Cultural Center Anniversary.
- We participated in the 2024 Yakama Warriors Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Annual event.

Staff contact

Steven J. Gill, Veterans Services Administrator and Tribal Liaison
360-789-5886 | steveng@dva.wa.gov

Washington State Patrol

Summary

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

Highlights

- WSP Tribal Liaisons attended and presented to Tribal and non-Tribal courts on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Crisis at the Suquamish Tribal Longhouse.
- WSP Tribal Liaisons connected Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies with the WSP Crime Lab for monthly educational presentations (DNA, Cold Cases, Public and Private DNA Lab Partnerships, Combined DNA Index System 101, National Missing and Unidentified System) and as a resource for cold cases.
- Tribal Liaisons publish the list of known missing indigenous persons on the Washington State Patrol website monthly and distribute the list to Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Tribal Liaisons provide training to the WSP Academy class prior to working as fully commissioned state troopers.
- WSP also participates with the Washington State Attorney General's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Person Task Force meetings.
- Tribal Liaisons are working together with interstate and international Tribal governments on MMIP programs to create a network of information sharing to support efforts in locating missing indigenous persons who cross state and international boundaries.
- Missing and Unidentified Person Unit traveled to the Kalispel Trust Property in Airway Heights to present on all of the alert systems.
- Tribal Liaison Dawn Pullin is working with Indian Country AMBER Alert Liaison and Carri Gordon, WSP, Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit to offer the alert to Washington State Tribes.
- Tribal Liaison Patti Gosch attended the annual Centennial Accord meeting.
- Tribal Liaison Dawn Pullin has had and continues to have various meetings with Homeland Security and Canadian Tribal Leaders and government officials regarding MMIP and Human Trafficking.
- Presentations were made to non-Tribal communities at various conferences regarding MMIP, Tribal communities and history.
- Tribal Liaison Dawn Pullin attended planning meetings for the second annual Washington State Tribal Opioid/Fentanyl Summit.

Staff contacts

Captain Deion Glover, Government and Media Relations

360-596-4011 | Deion.Glover@wsp.wa.gov

Dawn Pullin, WSP Tribal Liaison

360-890-0150 | Dawn.Pullin@wsp.wa.gov

Lieutenant Courtney Stewart, Field Operations Bureau Headquarters

360-596-4124 | Courtney.Stewart@wsp.wa.gov

Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech)

Summary

Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech) supplies quality technology services to state, local and Tribal governments. WaTech operates the state's core technology services – the central network and data center – and provides strategic and comprehensive information security to protect state networks from growing cyber threats. The agency is committed to the principles of the Centennial Accord and making sure our services are accessible and beneficial to Tribes.

Highlights

Provide connectivity to the Intergovernmental Network

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

Geospatial program

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

In addition, the geospatial program also co-chairs a workgroup for Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology use in the state. LIDAR technology can be used to make high quality maps and three-dimensional representations of the earth's surface. This is especially useful for hard-to-reach or remote places. The Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Tulalip Tribes participate in two meetings each year to provide their input on coordinating statewide activities regarding LIDAR collection, use and planning. The Northwest Indian Fisheries 127 Commission also participates in these planning discussions. This program provides consultative and informational services to Tribes on request.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established a dedicated state and local cybersecurity grant program for government entities. While there is a specific Tribal Cybersecurity grant program (TCGP) available under federal law, Tribes are also eligible to apply for funds from the SLCGP. Working in partnership with the Military Department, WaTech – through communications and meetings – informed Tribal governments about the grant program. In 2023, \$716,224 in SLCGP funding was awarded to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Puyallup Tribe and Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe to assist with increasing cybersecurity resilience and reducing cyber risk. In FY24, one application from a Tribal government was received and is being evaluated.

Cybersecurity outreach

RCW 13.105.450 empowers the Office of Cybersecurity (OCS) to “serve as a resource for local and municipal governments in Washington in the area of cybersecurity.” This includes Tribal entities. OCS is reaching out to municipal governments, including Tribes, to obtain accurate contact information in the event of a cyber event within the local/Tribal entity. This information will allow OCS rapid contact in an emergent cyber issue. Additionally, the information can be used for other outreach activities such as training opportunities, inclusion in Cybersecurity Awareness Month and other cyber collaborative activities.

Director of Tribal Affairs

The sovereign nature of Tribal governments makes them both a unique partner and, at times, customer of state services. The agency sought Tribal feedback on our Tribal relations approach. After analyzing this feedback and its current engagement efforts with Tribal governments, WaTech identified the need for a dedicated Director of Tribal Affairs to address and support Tribal needs.

As there becomes more reliance on technology (e.g., artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies), the state must be prepared to interact with Tribal governments in a manner that promotes understanding of need and cultural considerations in filling those needs while strengthening the relationship between the state and Tribal governments.

Digital Equity and Broadband Equity and Access Deployment (BEAD)

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program; the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program; and the Digital Equity Act require state and local governments to partner with Tribes to provide resources for establishing and maintaining broadband networks. These initiatives aim to connect Tribal communities to economic, health, education and civic engagement opportunities, while honoring their digital sovereignty.

WaTech operates the state’s core technology services – the central network and data center – and provides strategic and comprehensive information security to protect state networks from growing cyber threats. In this capacity, the agency has engaged in multiple digital equity efforts with state and local governments, Tribal representatives, non-profit agencies, legislative members and technology industry partners to bridge the digital divide, develop the workforce, increase digital literacy, and make devices more accessible. A combination of the aforementioned efforts in this report and a strong partnership with each of the Tribal governments in the state will help coordinate a comprehensive and collaborative approach to achieving digital equity and technological advancement.

Staff contacts

Tavares J. Terry, Director of Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion
[360-407-7981](tel:360-407-7981) | tavares.terry@watech.wa.gov

Angela Kleis, Director of Policy and External Affairs
[360-789-3926](tel:360-789-3926) | angela.kleis@watech.wa.gov

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
1110 Capitol Way S., Suite 225 • P.O. Box 40909
Olympia, WA 98501-0909 • 360-902-8825