

OSU Tribal Consultation and Engagement Policy

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SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Extension collaborated with **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde** and Oregon Department of Indian Education Office to create a culturally responsive field study curriculum rooted in land-based principles.

Extension leadership is working with the city of Toledo and the **Confederated Tribes of Siletz** to build a waste-to-energy plant to bring clean, low-cost energy to the community and create jobs.

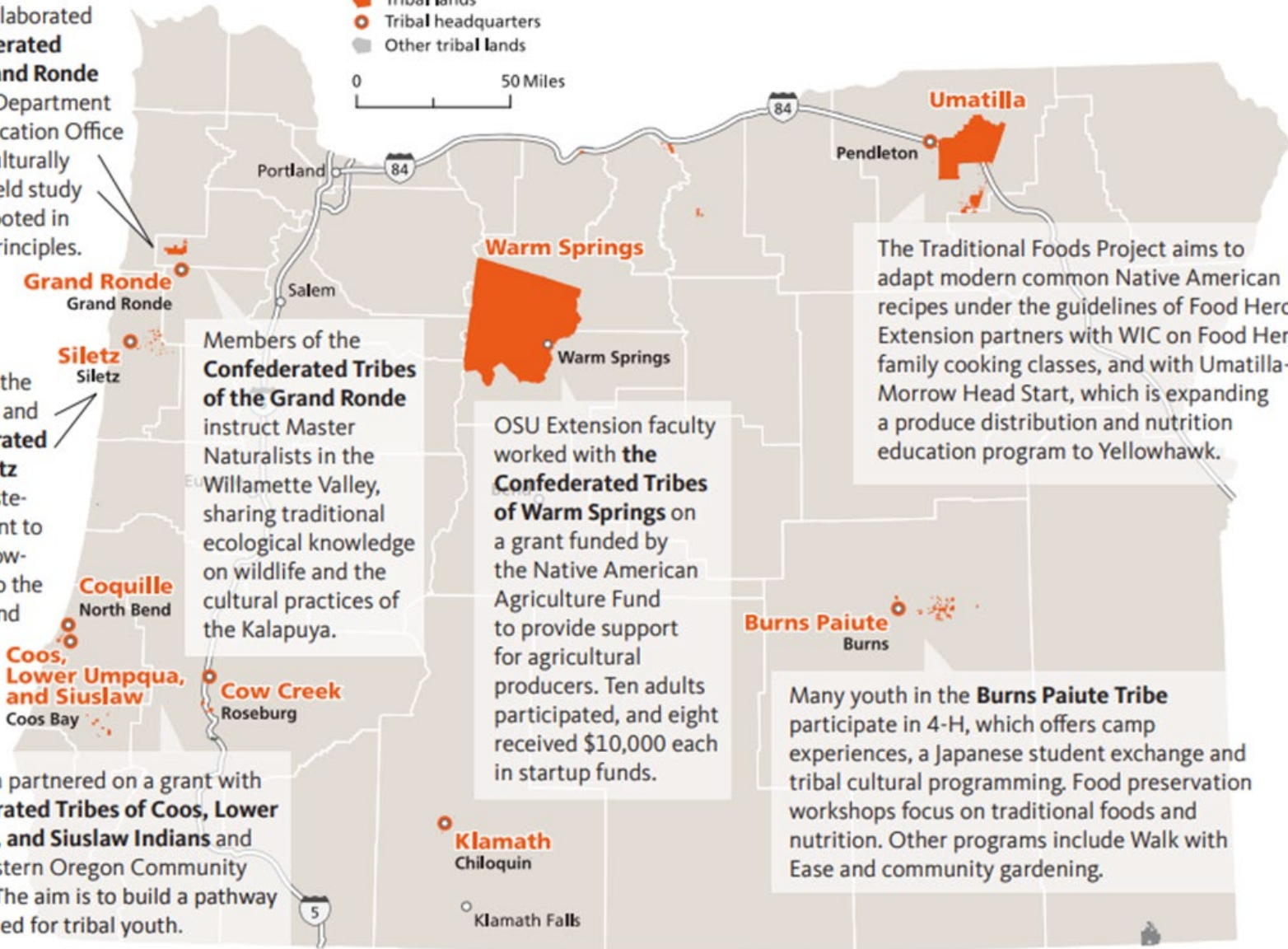
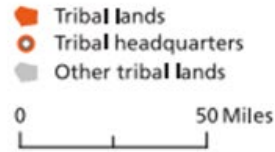
Extension partnered on a grant with **Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians** and Southwestern Oregon Community College. The aim is to build a pathway to higher ed for tribal youth.

Members of the **Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde** instruct Master Naturalists in the Willamette Valley, sharing traditional ecological knowledge on wildlife and the cultural practices of the Kalapuya.

OSU Extension faculty worked with the **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs** on a grant funded by the Native American Agriculture Fund to provide support for agricultural producers. Ten adults participated, and eight received \$10,000 each in startup funds.

The Traditional Foods Project aims to adapt modern common Native American recipes under the guidelines of Food Hero. Extension partners with WIC on Food Hero family cooking classes, and with Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, which is expanding a produce distribution and nutrition education program to Yellowhawk.

Many youth in the **Burns Paiute Tribe** participate in 4-H, which offers camp experiences, a Japanese student exchange and tribal cultural programming. Food preservation workshops focus on traditional foods and nutrition. Other programs include Walk with Ease and community gardening.



Map: Younker, Jason, 9:43 *A Reference Guide: Nine Tribes of Oregon and 43 Residency-by-Aboriginal-Rights Tribes*, University of Oregon, 2016. Cartography by University of Oregon InfoGraphics Lab.



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Background...



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OSU Tribal Consultation and Engagement Policy

- Strengthening government-to-government relationships
- Honoring Tribal sovereignty
- Supporting Indigenous students, communities, and knowledge



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Purpose of the Policy

- Establishes a framework for meaningful consultation with Tribal governments
- Honors sovereignty and cultural protocols
- Builds on existing partnerships and MOUs



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Why This Matters for OSU

- OSU is the land-grant university of Oregon with unique obligations to Indigenous nations
- Supports state and federal government-to-government frameworks
- Builds trust and strengthens OSU's reputation nationally and internationally



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Affirming Tribal Sovereignty

- Recognizes Tribes as governments, not stakeholders
- Moves beyond compliance toward respectful partnerships
- Demonstrates OSU's commitment to long-term relationships



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Protecting Cultural/Natural Resources

- Recognizes importance of sacred sites, ancestral remains, languages, traditional knowledge
- Ethical responsibility and legal obligation (NAGPRA alignment)
- Builds credibility with Tribal governments and communities



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Research and Consultation

- Address past harms to tribes nationally and historically (e.g. research conducted on Tribes without informed consent)
- Establishes new standard: early, patient, transparent, and collaborative engagement
- Produces more ethical, trusted, and impactful scholarship



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Supporting Student Success

- Consultation improves Indigenous perspectives in programs and initiatives
- Builds a welcoming and accountable environment for Indigenous students
- Strengthens recruitment, retention, and graduation outcomes



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Accountability and Transparency

- Creates clear procedures: coordinated through Office of Government Relations
- Ensures consistency across all OSU units and projects
- Promotes transparency for both Tribes and the university



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Practical Benefits for OSU

- Collaborative research opportunities with Tribes
- Shared stewardship of lands and resources
- Strengthens OSU's role as a leader in Tribal engagement in higher education



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Building Trust and Partnerships

- Trust is foundational — broken promises have long consequences...
- Policy demonstrates ongoing, reciprocal commitment
- Creates a model of respect and responsibility past generations and for future generations



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Questions and Conversation

Hayu masi (many thanks) Amiran White for the photo!

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