



2024 ANNUAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT REPORT ON TRIBAL RELATIONS

Director: Mike Reese

Deputy Director: Heidi Steward

Assistant Director of Correctional Services: Larry Bennett

Submitted to the
Governor and the
Legislative
Commission on
Indian Services

Oregon Department of Corrections activities under ORS 182.164 to 182.168

Due December 15, 2024

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1 Executive Summary

The Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations is required by [ORS 182.166\(3\)](#) to be submitted annually to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. It is intended to provide an update on the state of relations between the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) and Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, and highlight Native activities, ceremonies, and events which took place in prisons around the state of Oregon during 2024.

Throughout 2024, DOC continued efforts to enhance services provided to Native AICs and strengthen relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, Native nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers providing a variety of services to the incarcerated Native population.

In April of 2024, DOC Director Michael Reese and Assistant Director for Correctional Services Larry Bennett had the honor of participating in a Government-to-Government meeting alongside Governor Kotek, members of her staff, and Tribal leaders across Oregon. This impactful meeting provided an opportunity for DOC to hear both challenges and concerns relating to the provision of Native American religious services to adults in DOC custody. A top priority identified was the need to immediately improve communication between DOC and Tribal leadership. Specific efforts aimed at doing so can be found in [Section 2.4](#) of this report.

DOC's Tribal Liaisons continue to work in partnership with the governor's Tribal Affairs Director to improve communication with Oregon's Tribes, better coordinate large Tribal events and ceremonies statewide, increase the number of Native volunteers providing services to AICs, and assemble a Tribal Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing consultation regarding DOC policy and the provision of Native services to the incarcerated Native population. This work is an essential component of DOC's mission to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. The remainder of this report will address these efforts in more detail.

Going forward, DOC is committed to not only maintaining current service levels, but to partnering in a collaborative fashion with the Native American Advisory Committee to explore additional opportunities to support the expansion of services, including the possibility of expanding the culturally specific Native American Wellbriety program to more DOC facilities.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

<p>2.1 The policy the state agency adopted under ORS 182.164 [182.166(3)(a)]</p>	<p>DOC adopted Policy 10.1.6, “Government-to-Government Tribal Relations” In May 2007. It was last updated in November 2019. In 2024, DOC began forming an advisory committee made up of Tribal representatives, the governor’s Tribal Affairs Director, and other key partners for the purpose of reviewing and revising policy and providing consultation regarding DOC matters impacting incarcerated Native Americans.</p>		
<p>2.2 The names of the individuals in the state agency who are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect Tribes [182.166(3)(b)]</p>	<p>DOC’s Religious Services Administrator, Daryl Borello, is directly responsible for developing and implementing religious programs of the state agency that affect Tribes. Larry Bennett, Assistant Director of DOC’s Correctional Services Division, provides oversight of these efforts.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Daryl Borello, Administrator Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Religious Services 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-932-9332 Daryl.R.Borello@doc.oregon.gov</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Larry Bennett, Assistant Director Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Correctional Services Division 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-437-2668 Larry.W.Bennett@doc.oregon.gov</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Daryl Borello, Administrator Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Religious Services 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-932-9332 Daryl.R.Borello@doc.oregon.gov</p>	<p>Larry Bennett, Assistant Director Tribal Liaison Oregon Department of Corrections Correctional Services Division 3723 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Suite 200 Salem, Oregon 97302 503-437-2668 Larry.W.Bennett@doc.oregon.gov</p>
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<p>2.3 The process the state agency established to identify the programs of the state agency that affect Tribes. [182.166(3)(c)]</p>	<p>Like many services available within DOC, Native American programs and activities are often provided through volunteers and supervised by institution chaplains or institution activities staff. Volunteers are recruited by DOC chaplains and community services organizations serving Native communities. All new programs and activities go through an approval process before taking place within an institution. DOC’s Volunteer Services Unit coordinates with the Religious Services Unit and other key partners throughout the agency to determine where new programs fit best – whether under Religious Services or the institution Activities Units.</p> <p>The vast majority of programs affecting incarcerated Tribal members are directly coordinated through and supervised by DOC Religious Services staff. Powwows and Spring Celebrations are institution-endorsed events involving collaboration between multiple units within the institution, with Religious Services chaplains serving as sponsors.</p> <p>All Native American programs and activities are tracked in DOC’s data systems, and specific information is available upon request. The programs and activities affecting Tribes provided by DOC in 2024 are listed in Section 3 of this report.</p>		
<p>2.4 The efforts of the state agency to promote communication between the</p>	<p>In 2024, DOC made concerted efforts to strengthen its relationships with Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes, Native nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers providing a variety of services to the incarcerated Native population. A summary of these efforts is listed here, and additional information is available upon request.</p>		

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

state agency and Tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and Tribes. [182.166(3)(d)]

- DOC Assistant Director assigned to serve as Tribal Liaison representing the agency's executive team. The Assistant Director consults with key established Tribal Liaisons within other state agencies to include the Department of Human Services, Office of Tribal Affairs, and the Deputy Secretary of State's Office. DOC Tribal Liaison and DOC Director meet monthly to discuss Tribal relations, and status of current services.
- Biweekly meetings were established between DOC Assistant Director and Tribal Liaison, and the governor's Director of Tribal Affairs in April of 2024 to discuss progress, review and discuss policy-related decisions, and strategize best ways to strengthen DOC's relationship with Tribes and enhance service offerings.
- DOC Director and Assistant Director attended multiple Native American events in 2024 to include Powwows and Spring Celebrations at various DOC institutions. During these events they were able to meet several Tribal Leaders and volunteers, express appreciation for their partnership, and inquire about their experiences in working with DOC.
- Biweekly meetings were established between DOC and Red Lodge Transitional Services staff and volunteers who provide Powwows and Spring Celebrations within DOC institutions statewide to improve coordination efforts and debrief successes and challenges encountered at each DOC institution.
- DOC Assistant Director and Tribal Liaison met with DOC institution leadership teams around the state to emphasize the importance of DOC's relationship with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.
- DOC began forming a Native American Advisory Committee to collectively provide consultation and advisement on DOC policy and services provided to incarcerated Natives. Tribal Leaders were invited to assign a DOC Liaison/committee member in May of 2024. As of the date of this report, committee members have been identified for Confederated Tribe of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Suislaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and Klamath Tribes. The committee will begin meeting regularly in 2025.
- A Tribal Partners webpage was created and added to DOC's main site containing pertinent information regarding maintaining family connections, and the various programs and services the department offers to Native American AICs. This page includes information such as the religious events calendar, details on becoming a volunteer, Religious Services and Tribal Liaison contacts, and other important information related to incarcerated Native Americans. The webpage can be viewed at <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/family-connections/pages/Tribal-partners.aspx>
- An audit of DOC Volunteer training requirements was conducted which resulted in a decrease in required training hours for prospective volunteers. Required training hours had been identified as one of the barriers to becoming a carded volunteer.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

- DOC is actively recruiting for a Native American chaplain to join the DOC Religious Services Team.
- DOC Director and Assistant Director/Tribal Liaison are planning a Tribal tour to meet with Tribal leaders around the state in 2025.

DOC is a long-standing member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety Cluster. Participation provides DOC with current information on public safety activities and concerns among the various Tribes, as well as those of other state agencies. It provides an avenue for building ongoing relationships with Tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as DOC implements strategies and develops statewide procedures which may affect Tribal members. DOC believes participation has helped Tribes and other state agencies and stakeholders better understand the agency's mission and operations. DOC also believes its advice and participation in the cluster has been helpful and beneficial to Oregon's Tribes. DOC's liaison with the Public Safety Cluster is an Assistant Inspector General, while the Religious Services Administrator acts as liaison for all religious matters, and the Assistant Director of Correctional Services represents the agency's executive team.

DOC continues to work with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and Tribal members to identify opportunities for partnership. Daryl Borello, Religious Services Administrator, oversees all religious services, accommodations, and activities for Oregon's 12 prisons. All institutions maintain contact with Tribal representatives and Tribal volunteers to develop and present special cultural ceremonies, promote adult in custody (AIC) participation in cultural events and affiliations, and recruit volunteers. The DOC Religious Services Administrator also attends Legislative Commission on Indian Services meetings and offers in-person briefings when appropriate.

Native American Volunteers

DOC relies on Native American volunteers from around the state to conduct Native American ceremonies in the prisons and provide spiritual guidance for AICs. However, DOC has historically struggled to recruit Native American volunteers to provide these services, especially in Eastern Oregon prisons where travel distance can be a barrier. In 2024, DOC was able to increase the number of carded Native American volunteers providing services to AICs.

DOC, as well as the AICs who benefit from and participate in these programs, are very grateful to have such dedicated volunteers. Many of the services and programs would likely not be available without their service. DOC cannot thank these volunteers enough for giving of their time and energy.

2 ORS 182.166(3) Annual Reporting Requirements

2.5 A description of the training required by subsection (1) of this section. [182.166(3)(e)]	Specific annual training for state agency managers and employees is required by ORS 182.166(1) and ORS 182.166(2). DOC participated in the 2024 Tribal-State Government to Government Summit provided by Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The theme was “Navigating Futures Together: Partnership, Policy, and Progress.” The event was co-hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, in Canyonville at Seven Feathers Casino Resort and was attended by Assistant Director Larry Bennett and Religious Services Administrator Daryl Borello. DOC looks forward to attending the 2025 summit.
2.6 The method the state agency established for notifying employees of the state agency of the provisions of ORS 182.162 ...to 182.168...and the policy the state agency adopts under ORS 182.164... [182.166(3)(f)]	All DOC employees are notified by email when a new rule or policy is implemented or when a rule or policy is changed. DOC Policy 10.1.6 is the directive through which DOC informs and notifies employees of the state agency provisions under ORS 182.162 to 182.168. DOC Policy 10.1.6 was last updated November 27, 2019, and an email notification to all DOC employees was sent shortly thereafter. Any revisions to DOC Policy 20.1.6 resulting from review and consultation with the Tribal Advisory Committee in 2025 will be communicated to all staff in the same manner.

3 2024 Native American Programs and Activities

A wide range of Native American services and events were provided during 2024 at all Oregon prisons. DOC has continued to facilitate the development and delivery of Native American spirituality and healing programs and ceremonies at multiple facilities and hopes to expand offerings during 2025.

DOC’s Religious Services Unit works with Native American religious leaders and volunteers in disseminating materials and aiding in the communication between AICs and Native American volunteers. This partnership flourished during the pandemic and has strengthened the working relationship between Religious Services and Native American religious leaders and volunteers.

Religious Services chaplains work with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of feathers for AICs.

Each facility provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American sweat lodge and outdoor worship areas and some institution sweat lodges were updated in 2024 in partnership with Native American volunteers and Red Lodge Transitional Services.

Augmenting Native American programs and activities, DOC continuously seeks avenues and opportunities to enhance positive family involvement in AICs' lives. DOC is currently working with several Tribes to enhance the transition experience of an AIC releasing from DOC custody. Several Tribes are conducting pilot transitional services programs, and the results have been positive.

Individual Institution Programs and Activities

Because the frequency and types of activities offered to DOC Native American population varies by location throughout the state, they are grouped by institution.



Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), Wilsonville

Chaplain Emily Brault, Minimum (503) 570-6604 Emily.R.Brault@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain David Cary, Intake/Medium (503) 570-6785 David.J.Cary@doc.oregon.gov
Chaplain Heather Summers, Medium (503) 570-6784 Heather.e.summers@doc.oregon.gov

This year at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), the Native American population was able to participate in various opportunities for expressing their spirituality, including the Spring Celebration, smudge ceremonies, and a beading circle. The Spring Celebration was held on April 27, 2024, with both medium and minimum custody facilities gathering in the rain for songs, stories, ceremony, food, conversation, and laughter. The celebration included over 30 Native elders, visitors, and volunteers representing Tribes from across Oregon. The governor also stopped by!

Volunteers provide monthly smudge and talking circles, and some new volunteers are stepping in to offer sweat lodge ceremonies on a more regular basis. Due to the increasing requests from Native AICs for more opportunities to smudge, Chaplain Cary and Chaplain Summers supervise three additional smudges per month along with the smudge provided by a Native American volunteer. Both medium and minimum facilities offer AIC-led beading groups, which have been substantial in helping to meet the needs of CCCF's Native American population.

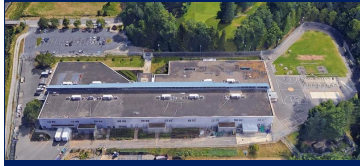


Intake Population

People are typically housed at the Coffee Creek Intake Center for only 30 to 45 days while they undergo risk and needs assessments before transferring to a DOC facility. Therefore, recurring religious services and activities are not provided in this short-term facility. However, a chaplain is available, and Native American reading materials are provided upon request. Information and DOC rules on eagle feathers, medicine bags, powwows, and sweats within DOC institutions are also available to the residents.

Coffee Creek Spring Celebration





Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI), Portland



South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC), Tillamook

Chaplain Phil Holbrook

(971)-673-3563

Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.oregon.gov

One chaplain is assigned to both the CRCI and SFFC facilities, and the chaplain spends one day per week at SFFC.

Columbia River Correctional Institution:

A weekly talking circle and smudge ceremony is led by volunteer Fred Cooper and supervised by the chaplain. Volunteer William Ward provides monthly sweat ceremonies. These volunteers also assist with weekly crafting classes when they can.

CRCI held a joint powwow with SFFC AICs September 8, 2024. There were 46 AICs present, along with 42 volunteers from the Native American community and 46 AIC family members. Red Lodge, under the supervision of volunteer Trish Jordan, once again provided all the food for the 135 participants. A wide variety of Native foods such as elk, salmon, fry bread, and berry soup were served. A Native American drum group from the Portland area also participated.

Working with Native American volunteer Fred Cooper, CRCI/SFFC recently applied to the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, hoping to attain grant money to help AICs purchase crafting supplies and Native American medicines for the coming year.

South Fork Forest Camp:

The chaplain supervises a weekly talking circle, smudge ceremony, and crafting class at SFFC. Volunteer William Ward provides a monthly sweat ceremony at SFFC. Fifteen SFFC AICs were transported to CRCI to participate in the annual Powwow.

CRCI and SFFC Powwow 2024





Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI), Madras

Chaplain Rosalia Benitez

(541) 325-5617

rosalia.benitez@doc.oregon.gov (rotation)

Chaplain Domnic Pillay

domnic.n.pillay@doc.oregon.gov

Monthly sweat ceremonies and monthly smudges on the sweat lodge grounds are led by volunteer Owen Wallulatum. Weekly drumming in a drum circle is provided in the chapel outdoor area, and pipe ceremonies are held as needed for bereavement purposes on the sweat lodge grounds.

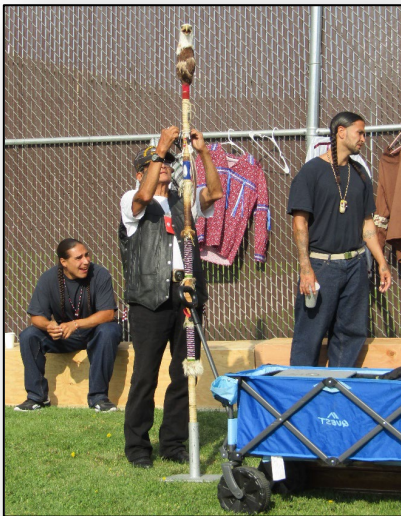
Weekly talking circles were facilitated by volunteer Mable Jackson, who also leads the weekly Native American cultural studies. The AICs are also able to participate in the beading program during open chapel.

The circle was able to repair the DRCI sweat lodge this year under volunteer Owen Wallulatum's guidance. Owen and his wife, Roseanna, provided the circle with willow branches for the sweat lodge project.

In August of this year, the Native American circle received medicine and two small drums from the Siletz Tribe.

The DRCI Spirit Run was held on July 27, 2024, and was attended by volunteer Owen Wallulatum. The DRCI powwow was held on August 10, 2024, and was attended by Tribal elders and representatives, including Trish Jordan from Red Lodge and other volunteers.

DRCI 2024 Powwow and Spirit Run



DRCI 2024 Powwow and Spirit Run





Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI), Pendleton

Chaplain Carmelo DiSalvo
Chaplain Nondier Zuleta

(541) 278-3641
(541) 278-3642

Carmelo.DiSalvo@doc.oregon.gov
Nondier.D.Zuleta@doc.oregon.gov

The smudge and sweat ceremonies were restored in 2023, and in 2024 EOCI was able to add more activities that are also important to the Native Americans such as pipe ceremonies and drumming practices leading up to the powwow. With the success of the resumption last year of the first powwow and other activities since COVID, the EOCI chaplains focused on building the spiritual and cultural wellness of the Native Americans in 2024.

EOCI held its powwow on August 16, 2024. The entire powwow emphasized Native culture, but perhaps nothing more so than the traditional First Foods at the lunchtime event. Attendees and guests carried plates loaded with salmon, elk, fresh chokecherries, huckleberries, and “Indian tacos” with homemade fry bread to tables around the large gymnasium.



This year a local Pendleton resident, Jered McMichael, came on board as a Native American volunteer. Having someone committed as a volunteer and in close proximity to the facility was a game changer for EOCI and the Native American AICs. As someone who understands their culture and religion, the volunteer’s commitment to facilitate smudges, sweats, and beading gifts for the powwow has breathed new life into the circle. Thanks to the volunteer who recognized the importance of these events for building community and healing, EOCI was also able to resume talking circles.

Looking ahead, EOCI hopes to bring in an additional volunteer to help AICs with beading and other crafts and talking circles.

EOCI Powwow



EOCI Native American residents participate in powwow



AICs made gifts and artwork for the powwow volunteers and honored guests



Native American Drum Circle



Traditional Fry Bread



Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI), Salem

Chaplain Don Hodney

(503) 373-0147

Don.E.Hodney@doc.oregon.gov

OSCI saw continued growth in the Indigenous community and in providing program opportunities. Following are a few 2024 highlights:

Drum Circle – This program continues to meet on a weekly basis, providing opportunities to enhance communication among the Indigenous residents at OSCI, build a cooperative spirit, and teach Indigenous spirit songs within the Native community.

Pipe Ceremony – When a notification of a family death occurs that affects a member of OSCI’s Indigenous community, a pipe ceremony is provided upon request for the resident who has received the notification. It is supervised by the facility chaplain.

Sweat Ceremony – The Circle consistently continued to gather for monthly sweat ceremonies. Historically, OSCI sweat ceremonies were often canceled due to volunteer cancellations, weather, fire marshal burn-ban restrictions, or the lack of available staff to provide supervision when sweat ceremonies were held on weekends. After rescheduling the sweat ceremony from the weekend to a weekday, the Native Circle was able to celebrate sweats each month unless an institution shutdown occurs.

Wellbriety Program – Wellbriety is a culturally specific substance use disorder (SUD) program similar to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous. This six-week event was sponsored through OSCI’s Behavioral Health Services SUD treatment program. The chaplain partnered with the SUD program to facilitate the celebratory sweat ceremony for those AICs who completed the Wellbriety program.

Many Nations Cultural Club (MNCC) & OSCI Chaplain Meetings – The chaplain holds monthly meetings with the officers of the MNCC to review existing religious programs for the Native Circle, discuss new proposals, and plan for the annual powwow. Additionally, the chaplain meets with individuals who wish to confidentially discuss issues affecting them.

OSCI Powwow – OSCI held its annual powwow July 20, 2024, and it was partially funded through a grant received from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation. The theme was Recovery. The event was very successful as a result of good collaboration between the MNCC Club, the chaplain, and institution security staff. The food was excellent, and the program well received. OSCI had several honored guests from various Tribal communities and State of Oregon agencies, as well as families and friends of the OSCI Native Circle. State leadership in attendance as honored guests included **Cheryl Myer** (Deputy Secretary of State and Tribal Liaison), **Shana Radford** (Tribal Affairs Director), **Mercedes White Calf** (Tribal Liaison for Southwest Washington Accountable Communities), and **Larry Bennett** (Assistant Director of Correctional Services, DOC).

OSCI Powwow





Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Salem

Chaplain Avrohom Perlstein

(503) 378-2333

Avrohom.Y.Perstein@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Isaac Witcraft

(503) 373-1350

Isaac.H.Witcraft@doc.oregon.gov (rotation)

Vacant

The OSP weekly drum circle is well attended, and the chaplains make an effort to support the Native circle with an additional weekly ceremony, whether it be a sweat or a smudge. With the help of several dedicated volunteers, OSP averaged three sweats per month. On the weeks OSP cannot get volunteers to lead the sweat, the members of the circle are allowed to go out to the sacred grounds to smudge.

OSP hosted a Spirit Run July 9 through July 12. There was a good-sized crowd to join the opening and closing ceremonies on the yard, which included a pipe ceremony. Thanks to some very dedicated volunteers who staffed each of the evening sweats, following the Spirit Run, OSP was also able to host four Sundance sweats starting July 12, and continuing for the following three nights, ending July 15.

August 3 was the OSP Big Yard powwow. Nearly 250 people were in attendance, including 95 outside volunteers, 45 family guests, and staff and AICs. All the food came from the outside—some donated by the Tribes and the rest purchased with money donated by Tribes and grants that support OSP's powwow. There was a lot of delicious food, and outside guests left with gifts.

OSP Powwow



OSP Powwow



OSP Powwow



OSP Powwow



OSP Powwow



OSP Powwow





Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF), Baker City

Chaplain - Vacant

(541) 523-9560

The PRCF Native American Circle practiced and participated in weekly smudges on the sweat lodge grounds and monthly sweat ceremonies. Pipe ceremonies were provided as needed for bereavement purposes on the sweat lodge grounds.

Weekly talking circle meetings were followed by a viewing of a Native American movie. Native American volunteer Mable Jackson donated the book, “Meditations with Native American Elders: The Four Seasons” to the PRCF Native American Circle, which is read from during talking circles.

The PRCF Native American Circle also participated in the Spirit Run and Change of Season celebrations.

This year, due to poor air quality during the fire season, the powwow celebrations were postponed from July to September. Because of the schedule change, there were fewer visitors to the celebration; but the powwow was attended by Tribal elders and Trish Jordan from Red Lodge.

PRCF continues to seek the services of Native American volunteer(s) to provide more opportunities and programs.

PRCF POWOW





Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI), Salem

Chaplain David Betts

(503) 378-3188

David.K.Betts@doc.oregon.gov

SCI offers a variety of Native American services for those interested in participating. A volunteer comes in regularly to lead the smudging ceremony and talking circle. There is also a monthly sweat ceremony and drum practice, and a pipe ceremony is scheduled upon request whenever an AIC's loved one dies.

SCI's powwow was held in June. It was only attended by AICs this year. Family members, volunteers, and honored guests/elders were invited, but unfortunately, none were available to attend. Even though the powwow was a smaller gathering than expected, the AICs still had a wonderful time celebrating their heritage, including a meal of traditional Native foods. The AICs worked together to help cook the meal, and it was delicious!

The AICs were also able to repair the drum earlier this year, making it available for the powwow. Native American literature is available in the chapel library for check out.

Going forward, SCI hopes to recruit one or two more Native American volunteers to help increase the number of services and ceremonies that can be offered.

SCI Powwow





Snake River Correctional Institution (SCRI), Ontario

Chaplain Mike Clig

(541) 881-4624

Mike.A.Clig@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Kent Sullivan

(541) 881-4686

Kent.Sullivan@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Samuel Suh

(541) 881-4625

Samuel.S.Suh@doc.oregon.gov

Chaplain Steve Toth

(541) 881-4626

Steven.M.Toth@doc.oregon.gov

SCRI is the largest medium/maximum security prison in the Pacific Northwest, and its Native American circle has approximately 175 Native American individuals and is the largest single group of Native American AICs in Oregon.

Monthly sweat lodge ceremonies, talking circles, pipe ceremonies and annual Sundance sweats and powwow activities were provided. Having these ceremonies is vital to the rehabilitation of Native American population, as it allows them to learn and practice their language, religion, and traditions. Without these ceremonies, the path to a successful reentry to society would greatly diminish. SCRi also facilitates cultural immersion classes.

SCRI chaplains worked with the circle as it took steps forward toward its goals of helping Native Americans overcome addiction and familial generational trauma and establish strong values and religious beliefs so that the AICs can return to society with a strong foundation of values and beliefs to be positive contributors upon release.

The 2024 SCRi powwow was successful despite early high winds, storm clouds, and rain. This dissipated so the drummers, dancers, guests, and cooks from Red Lodge Transitional Services could fully participate and enjoy the event. The powwow was the result of generous donations of time and resources by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Red Lodge Transitional Services, Oregon Tribal Affairs Director Shana Radford, and the coordination of over 200 SCRi staff, volunteers, and AICs.

SRCI Powwow and Other Events









Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TCRI), Umatilla

Chaplain Jaime Cardona
Chaplain Richard Bates

(541) 922-2086
(541) 922-2087

Jaime.A.Cardona@doc.oregon.gov
Richard.P.Bates@doc.oregon.gov

During 2024 TRCI chaplains and Native American volunteers facilitated:

- Alternating bimonthly drumming and sweat lodge were held, which was increased to monthly once a second chaplain was brought on board.
- Smudging and pipe ceremonies occurred in conjunction with the sweats.
- Pipe ceremonies were also provided upon request when a family member died.
- Native American volunteer Mable Jackson visited TRCI twice in 2024 to hold talking circles. Drumming was part of the celebration, and she talked about the spirit of powwow and powwow gift giving.

TRCI's administration provided amazing support and flexibility to make this year's three-day spirit run a reality. In order to make the event happen with over 90 participants, the Native American AICs were divided into two groups, security staff opened two empty unit yards, and each group was supervised by a chaplain.

TRCI's powwow was held August 17, with 39 guests helping the 85 AICs celebrate the event. Ribbon shirts were brought by Red Lodge Transitional Services for the AICs to wear to show honor and respect for those who have played an important role in their lives, and everyone was encouraged to smudge themselves before coming into the sacred grounds.

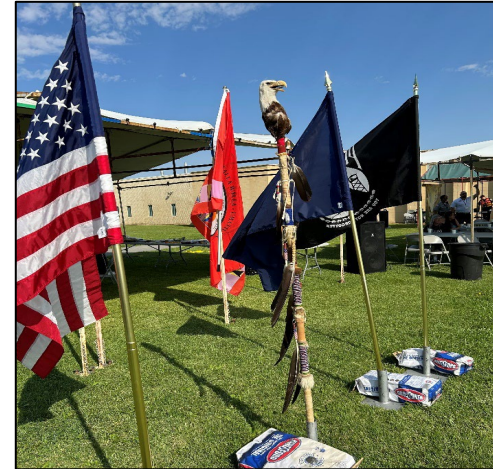
A traditional meal using sacred foods including Columbia River salmon, grilled elk meat, huckleberries, and fry bread was prepared by Trish Jordan from Red Lodge Transition Services and other volunteers. Other items served included hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and a variety of fruit pies.

AIC engagement with the spirit run, powwow gift giving, and service as food handlers increased from last year, and the consensus is that the Native Circle felt they had more ownership of the events.

Looking forward, Religious Services will continue recruiting volunteers for Native worship, services, and activities, along with increasing the frequency of talking circles.

TRCI Spirit Run and Powwow











Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF), Lakeview

Chaplain - Vacant

(541) 927-8217

In 2024, the average Native population at WCCF was 10, with as many as 22 AICs participating in Native American activities.

The WCCF circle was supported by volunteer Devery Saluskin, who also provided the willows and materials to rebuild the sweat lodge. Volunteers from, and donations made by, the Klamath and Siletz Tribes also supported WCCF Native American programs. During the absence and subsequent retirement of WCCF's chaplain and the ensuing recruitment process, ongoing support for WCCF Native American programs was provided by chaplains from five other institutions.

Native American activities provided this year include:

- Drumming
- Beading
- Smudging
- Talking circles
- Cultural videos
- Sweat lodge and fire starters (every other month)
- Pipe ceremonies provided with a verified death notice of a family member or friend

Chaplain Summers, from CCCF, and volunteer Mable Johnson coordinated this year's powwow. Between AICs, guests, volunteers, and staff, there were about 30 individuals who took part in the WCCF powwow. The WCCF Native Circle took pride in the beaded gifts they made for the volunteers and their guests. They participated in a drumming session, prayer stick ceremony, and enjoyed good, sacred food provided and prepared by Native American volunteer Mable Jackson and two other volunteers. The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a celebration of the AICs' Native American heritage, culture, and spirituality.

WCCF Powwow





4 Table of DOC 2024 Native American Programs

Institution	Native American Programs															
	Beading	Change of Seasons	Crafts	Cultural Study	Drumming Circle/Song	Fire Starters	Medicine Harvest	NA DVDs	Pipe Ceremony	Powwow	Smudge	Spirit Run	Spring Celebration	Sweat Lodge	Talking Circle	Wellbriety
CCCF (med)	X								X		X		X	X	X	
CCCM (min)	X						X		X		X		X	X	X	
CRCI	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
DRCI	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
EOCI					X				X	X	X			X		
OSCI					X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X
OSP					X	X			X	X	X	X		X		
PRCF	X	X				X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
SCI	X				X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	
SFFC	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
SRCI	X		X	X	X				X	X	X			X	X	
TRCI					X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	
WCCF	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	

5 Conclusion

Looking forward, DOC is committed to continuing its efforts to strengthen relationships with Oregon's federally recognized Tribes, community-based organizations, and individual volunteers providing Native American spiritual and cultural services and activities. Doing so will not only facilitate individual expressions of spiritual beliefs and traditions, but promote positive changes during incarceration, and support a successful transition back into their communities upon release.

DOC would like to express its gratitude to the Native American community for their volunteer support, financial contributions, donations, and interest in DOC's efforts to provide Native American AICs with resources to express their spiritual beliefs and traditions. With improved relationships, more volunteers returning to our facilities, several new or rebuilt sweat lodges, and successful 2024 Spring Celebration and powwow ceremonies, DOC is looking forward to 2025 and the advancements it will bring in our working relationships, religious programming, and overall support for Native American adults in custody.

We look forward to expanding these and other resources to continue enhancing our partnership and communication with our Tribal partners.

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