

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

STATEMENT OF POLICY STATE/TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

PURPOSE

The Oregon Legislature adopted Senate Bill 770 in the 2001 Legislative Session. This bill directs state agencies to promote government-to-government relations with Oregon's Indian Tribes. State agencies are to develop and implement policies to include tribes in the development and implementation of state programs that affect tribes. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) policy is to involve and include tribal members and governments in the development of policies and programs administered by the agency. OWEB recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Oregon federally recognized Tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands.

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

OWEB is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's fish and wildlife habitats. The responsibilities of the agency include:

- Managing a grant program for watershed protection and enhancement.
- Assisting in the development and implementation of watershed scale restoration efforts.
- Coordinating the efforts of watershed councils throughout the state.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency led by a 17-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, created in 1997. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of a citizens' initiative in 1998, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon funds, and other sources.

MISSION

The MISSION of OWEB is *"To help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies."*

APPROACH AND PRIORITIES

Created in 1999, OWEB has embraced a community based problem-solving approach to carry out statutory responsibilities. This has occurred in response to the need to maximize the use of available resources and identify ways to achieve environmental gains in the most efficient manner. The agency has four operational groups; Grant Management, Grant Fiscal, Policy and Oregon Plan Coordination, and Monitoring and Reporting. Each group is headed by a manager responsible for on-going staff-to-staff OWEB Tribal working relationships.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN OWEB POLICY

It is important to OWEB that Tribal concerns and interests are known and considered at the front end of policy and planning developments. OWEB will provide Tribal key contacts notice of policy and planning efforts, and consult with tribes as necessary in considering and addressing identified issues of concern. Issues of specific involvement will be; potential participation in Small Grant Teams, solicitation of information concerning proposed land or water acquisitions, participation in regional review groups, and changes or adoption of administrative rules.

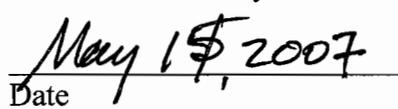
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROTOCOL

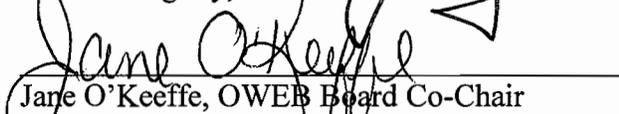
The following OWEB commitments describe the approach to be taken to create and maintain strong tribal relations:

- OWEB will maintain a Tribal Liaison on Tribal Relations.
- The OWEB Director, Tribal Liaison and Board Tribal Representative will meet at least annually to discuss any known upcoming issues.
- The OWEB Tribal Liaison will actively participate as a member of the State Agency-Tribal Natural Resources Work Group.
- OWEB will maintain organization information and contact sources and will provide updates annually to the Tribal Key Contacts.
- OWEB will support the exchange of data collected by its staff or by tribal government.
- OWEB will ensure that regional staff are aware of the sovereign authority and self-government of Native American Tribes and of the organization structure of the tribal governments.
- OWEB will support and participate in cooperative efforts between the tribal government, federal, state, and local governments on environmental concerns that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- OWEB will invite tribes to participate on advisory committees.
- OWEB will utilize advice and guidance when appropriate from the Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs and staff on tribal government matters.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Approval of this Statement of Policy:

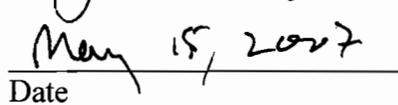

Daniel Heagerty, OWEB Board Co-Chair


Date


Jane O'Keeffe, OWEB Board Co-Chair


Date


Thomas M. Byler, Executive Director


Date