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May 6, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Rudy Salakory, Oregon Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Department of Natural Resources: Purpose, Programs, Philosophy, and History

## BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Eric Quaempts Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

**Summary:** The CTUIR DNR utilizes many approaches across a broad array of disciplines to protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods and medicines for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. Director Quaempts will provide a brief overview of the mission, goals, and approaches CTUIR undertakes, and will provide specific examples of how these interrelated goals get implemented.

**Relevance:** CTUIR DNR efforts associated with the Council date back to the Council's formation, while contracts it has had through Bonneville Power Administration and the Council include 574 contracts goes back to 1983.

**Background:** Eric Quaempts has served as the Director for the CTUIR DNR since 2004. Prior to working for CTUIR, Eric spent eight years as a Wildlife Biologist in the CTUIR DNR's Wildlife Program and eight years on the Umatilla National Forest where his career development included inter-disciplinary rotations in Forestry, Wildlife,

Range, Reforestation, Fisheries, and Fire Management Programs on the Walla Walla Ranger District.

As the CTUIR's DNR Director, he developed and implemented the First Foods management approach in 2006 and has directed the implementation of the CTUIR DNR's River and Upland Visions to facilitate management in support of First Foods. In implementing the mission, he oversees Administration, Cultural Resources Protection, Water Resources, Fisheries, Wildlife, Range/Ag, Forestry, Energy and Environmental Sciences, and First Foods Policy programs, who work throughout a geographically extensive and diverse area of Tribal rights and interests.

More info: CTUIR DNR Homepage <https://ctuir.org/departments/natural-resources/>

The Umatilla River Vision <https://ctuir.org/media/25chgmwn/ctuir-dnr-umatilla-river-vision-v2-051811.pdf>

First Foods Upland Vision <https://ctuir.org/media/ez1g3wp1/ctuir-dnr-upland-vision-april-2019.pdf>