

Report out from the Tribal Liaison break out session at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

We had 39 people in the room.

21 tribal and 18 tribal liaisons

We sat in an open circle and passed around snacks that the Tribal Liaisons brought.

We asked tribal people to talk about what they would like to see the state do better, below are some of the responses we heard.

- Listen to the tribes in a meaningful way.
 1. Recognize that State Agency decisions impact for generations to come
 2. Incorporate sound science and elder wisdom
- Be aware of the state's responsibilities to the tribes;
 1. develop a thorough understanding of tribal sovereignty
 2. Further develop government to government relationships
 3. Initiate contact and engagement with tribes; don't just wait for tribes to come to the agency
- Fully commit and be a partner with tribes especially in the environmental areas
 1. Provide opportunities for engaging youth, utilizing tribal wisdom and science
 2. Share science
- Uphold and strengthen the Indian child welfare laws
- Provide better road and infrastructure support
- Requested AG representation; concern expressed that the AG provides advice to State Agencies but wasn't represented at this particular table
- Do true co management, not show up with a plan and ask what do you think
- Provide tribal training for all employees; ensure that Tribal Liaisons are well trained
- All departments need a consultation policy and process
- Get to know how diverse the tribes are – could say – Recognize the uniqueness of each tribe and understand the particular demographics that are central to each
 1. Don't assume tribal wealth or resource
- Get out and visit tribes; Encourage all Agency Directors/Secretaries to meet directly with Tribal Council in the interest of building relationship and discussing issues prior to escalation
- Rename the Lewis and Clark Trail to the Cowlitz Trail
- Increase communication to the tribes:
 1. Notification and communication with Chairs critical
 2. Notification and communication to applicable tribal work unit critical (direct communication in addition to Chair communication)
 3. Specify What Agencies can Do for Tribes; share this information in advance of critical situations or issues; Define the role and responsibility of the Agency in relationship to the tribes.
- Tell the tribes when there is a failure to communicate from their end

Tribal Liaisons were asked what they wish they could do better:

- Do more outreach.
- Have more support for tribal work in the department
- Do better outreach.

- There are four applications for tribal compact schools and hope to get more and to develop programs together.
- Improve communication
- Further relationships
- Increase access to programs available for tribal participation

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