

WORKING ACROSS CULTURES

Creating Unified Programs Between Jurisdictions

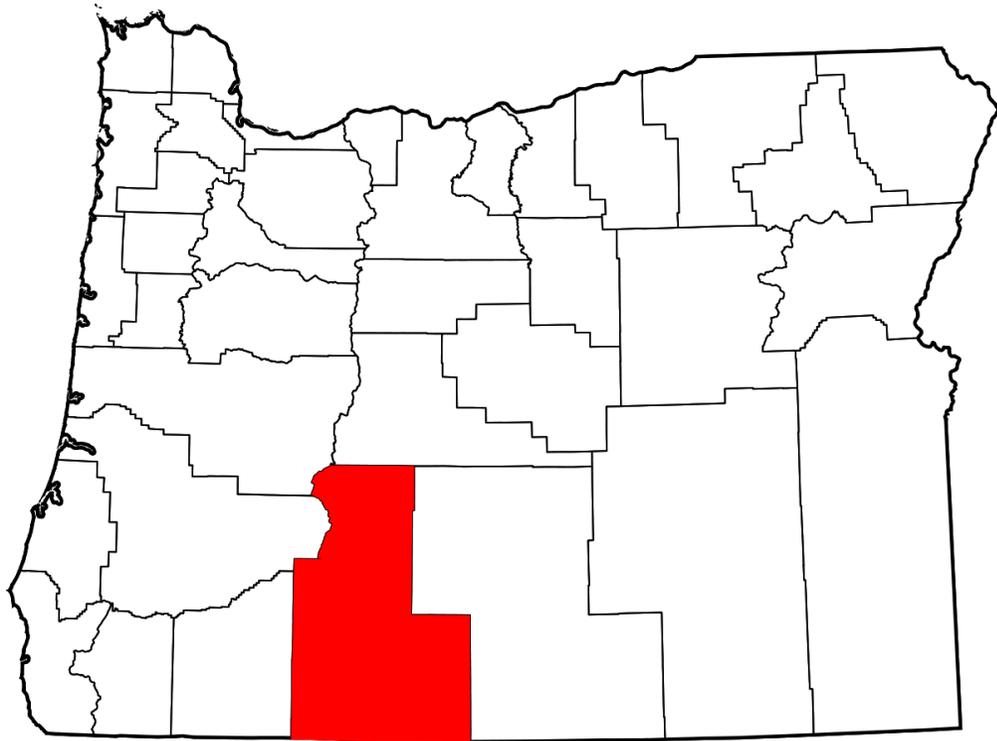
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Oregon Public Health Association Conference, 2019

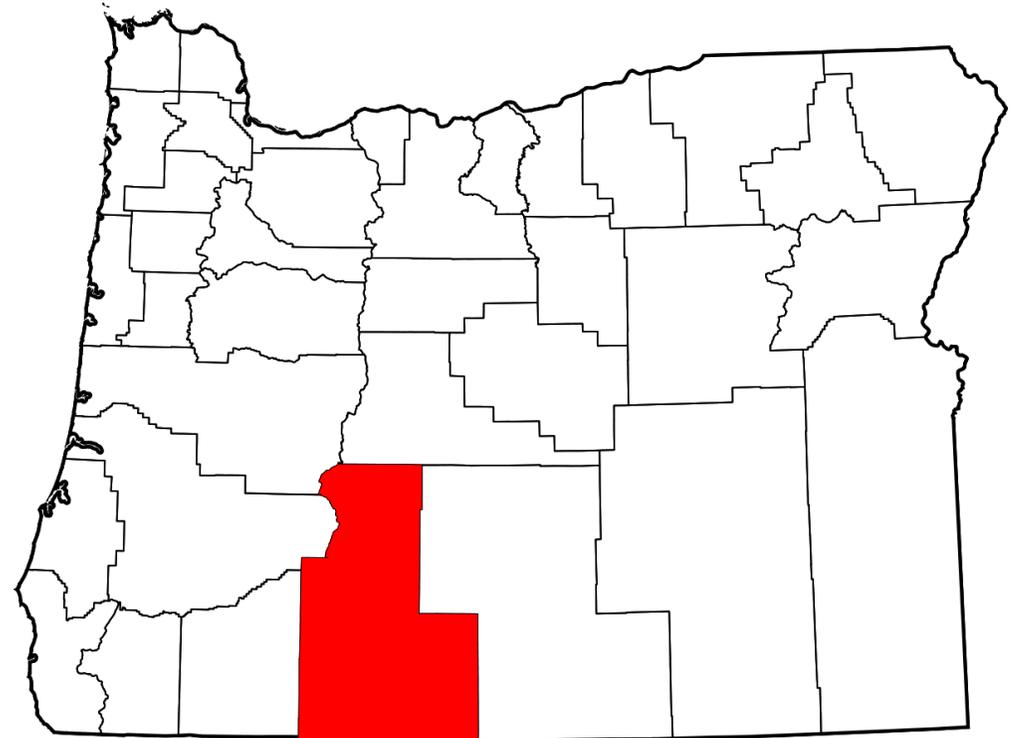
JURISDICTION: THE TERRITORY OR SPHERE OF ACTIVITY OVER WHICH LEGAL AUTHORITY EXTENDS

WE ARE CONSIDERING BOTH LEGAL AND CULTURAL JURISDICTIONS



KLAMATH COUNTY, OR

- 4th Largest County in Oregon
- Population approx. 67,000
- Klamath Falls Population approx. 21,000
- County Seat in Klamath Falls
- Large, Rural County (approx. 11 residents / mi²)
- Primary Industries: Healthcare & social assistance, Retail, Manufacturing (Jeld Wen, Columbia Forest Products, etc), Agriculture
- Poverty Rate: approx. 24%



DIVERSITY IN KLAMATH COUNTY

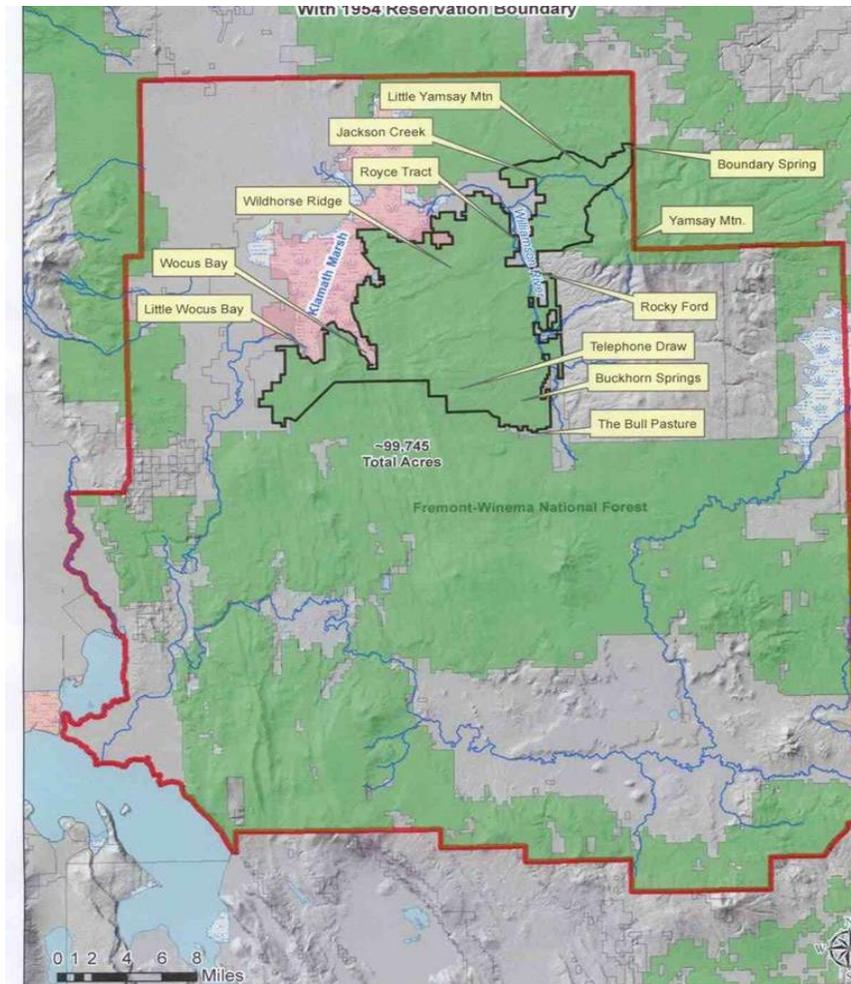
- Chiloquin in Klamath County is the seat of the Klamath Tribes, and some 3,000 tribal members live there
- Historically, there is a large Hispanic population, which fluctuates with the seasons
- Many current residents descent from settlers from Europe, China, and Scandinavia
- Growing Middle Eastern population

KLAMATH TRIBES

- Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin
- Tribal Government based in Chiloquin, OR
- Over 5,400 enrolled members
- Klamath Termination Act in 1954
- Klamath Restoration Act in 1986
- Klamath Reservation lands in and around Chiloquin and Klamath Falls



1954 RESERVATION BOUNDARY



HISTORICAL TRAUMA

The “Reservation Era” lasting some 70 years, symbolized subservience to Anglo-American society, and altered the tribes’ way of life. The educational system administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs suppressed the use of their native language and taught them that their Indian culture was inferior. In 1953, Congress passed Resolution 108 terminating federal supervision of certain Native American tribes. Consequently, the Act withdrew federal aid, confiscated millions of acres of tribal land, and removed tax exemptions. The Klamath Termination Act was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower in August 1954. After termination, tribal living conditions decayed, alcohol abuse increased, and some Klamath Indians experienced psychological trauma resulting from the loss of their homeland. Many tribal members indicated they felt alienated, displaced, and unprepared to find employment.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Klamath Tribes had retained their treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather on their traditional tribal lands, and in 1986, they regained federal recognition. Although their land was not returned, the tribes were encouraged to develop a plan to become economically self-sufficient.

A BIT ABOUT US...

Kristen

- ❖ TPEP Coordinator for Klamath County Public Health
- ❖ New to Klamath Falls from Portland area
- ❖ Background in Clinical Laboratory, this was my first Public Health job
- ❖ Interest in tribal culture, but limited previous experience

Lynda

- ❖ TPEP Coordinator for Klamath Tribal Health
- ❖ Raised in Klamath Falls
- ❖ Bachelors & Masters Degrees from University of Oslo, Norway
- ❖ 16 years working for the Klamath Tribes

IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNED

➤ Listen First

- Important to consider historical relationships and historical trauma before trying to engage community members
- Different communities have different priorities, building relationships requires listening to concerns and understanding preceptions

➤ Creating Unified Programs

- Likely to have both community and tribal members present at community events
 - Even with different resources we were able to create programs allowing us to serve our community populations with the same (or similar) services and resources
- Understanding that our approach needs to be adjusted based on different social and cultural needs and expectations

SOME EXAMPLES...

Coordinated Attendance at Health Events

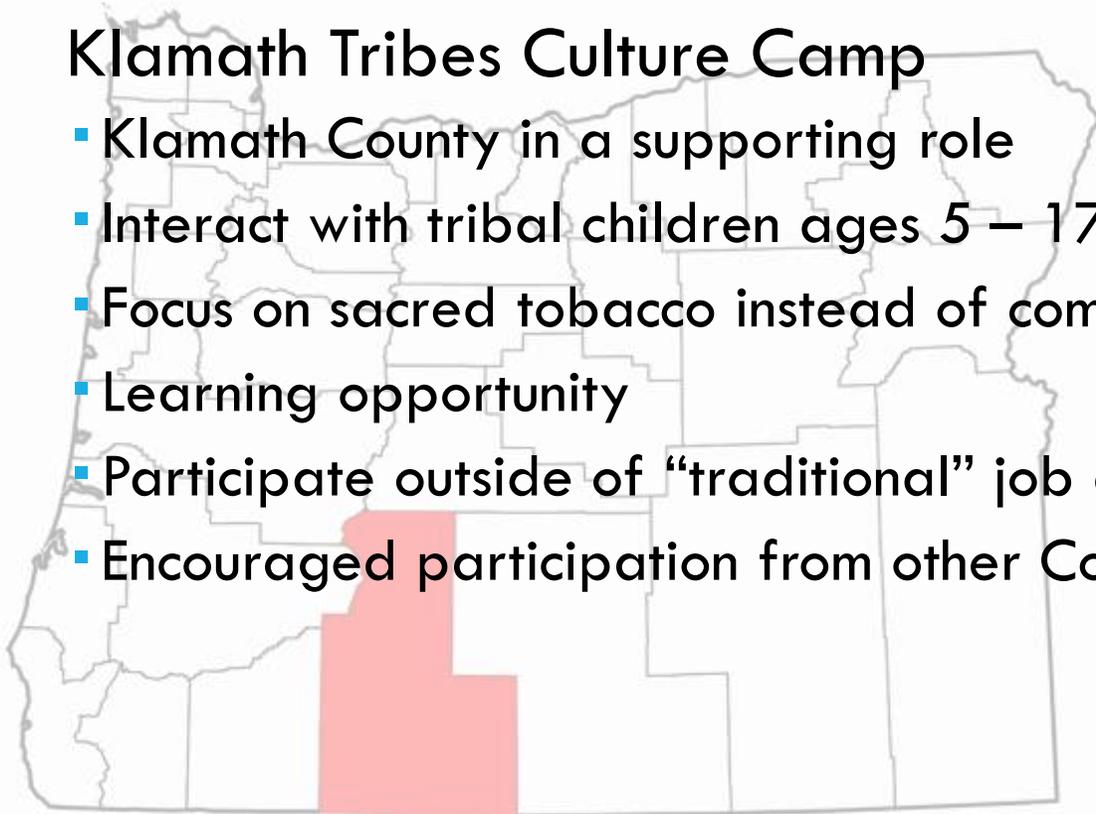
- Restoration Health Fair
- Merrill Health Fairs
- Great American Smokeout
- Sky Lakes Sponsored Health Events
- The Blue Zones Project Committee and Events



SOME EXAMPLES...

Klamath Tribes Culture Camp

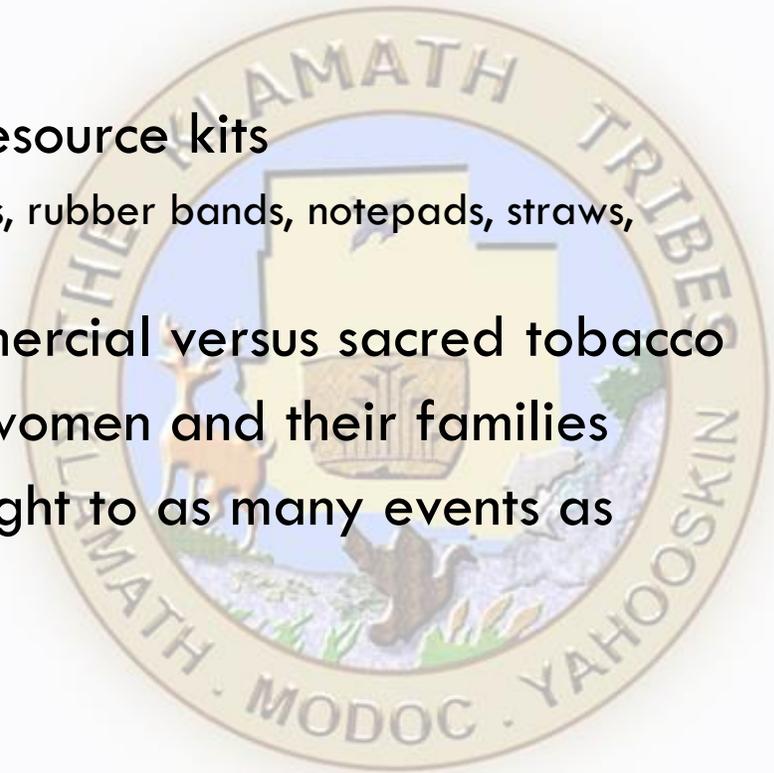
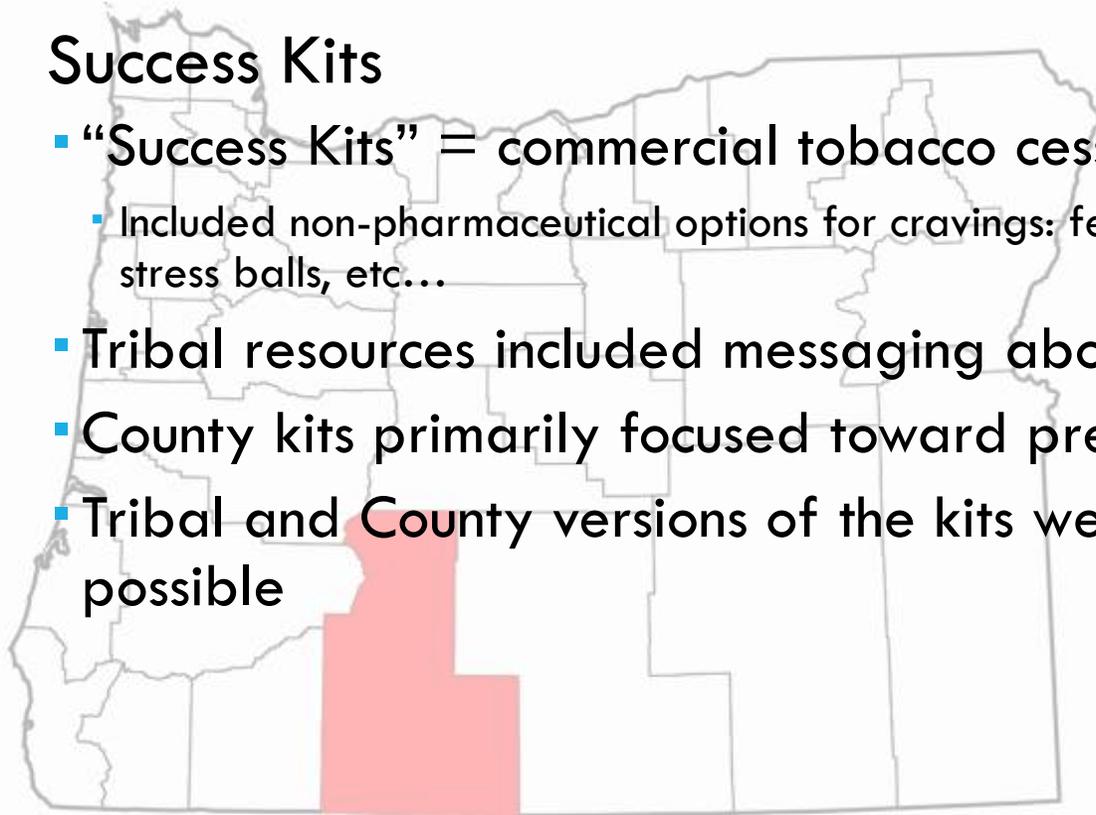
- Klamath County in a supporting role
- Interact with tribal children ages 5 – 17 : on their terms
- Focus on sacred tobacco instead of commercial tobacco
- Learning opportunity
- Participate outside of “traditional” job description to build relationships
- Encouraged participation from other County Public Health programs



SOME EXAMPLES...

Success Kits

- “Success Kits” = commercial tobacco cessation resource kits
 - Included non-pharmaceutical options for cravings: fennel seeds, rubber bands, notepads, straws, stress balls, etc...
- Tribal resources included messaging about commercial versus sacred tobacco
- County kits primarily focused toward pregnant women and their families
- Tribal and County versions of the kits were brought to as many events as possible



QUESTIONS?

