



ONE HANFORD

Tribal Partnerships



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The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe have been an integral part of HAMMER since its inception. Serving as charter members of the HAMMER Steering Committee, the three tribes continue to provide wisdom and guidance to help HAMMER protect workers, the public and environment. The tribes promote a larger vision of the cleanup and the need for strong emergency response and protection of their sacred lands, which were ceded to the United States as part of the 1855 Treaty. Early tribal leaders, such as J. Herman Reuben, Russell Jim and Bill Burke, significantly influenced the development of HAMMER and its commitment to loyalty and respect.

hammer.hanford.gov

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

Cultural Test Bed

Indigenous Restoration Area

Working with HAMMER for over 25 years, through the HAMMER Steering Committee and Tribal Subcommittee the tribes helped to focus the HAMMER Steering Committee members on the Hanford cleanup mission with an eye toward restoring the lands. These partnerships have facilitated a strong alliance between the tribes and the Department of Energy to increase awareness of sensitivities of working on tribal lands.

The tribal partnerships:

- Serve as the cornerstone of mutual respect, culture and awareness at Hanford.
- Facilitate strong alliances between the tribes and labor.
- Develop specialized training on protection of cultural resources, environment and emergency response.
- One-of-a-kind tribal props, such as the Cultural Resources Test Beds and Indigenous Restoration Area, provide a venue for archeologically sensitive training.

Indigenous Restoration Area

The Indigenous Restoration Area is located on the HAMMER campus between the Administrative Building

and training props. When HAMMER was built, DOE collaborated with the Intertribal Restoration Team to plant and restore native vegetation to this area. It is now home to indigenous species of plants such as gray and green rabbitbrush, ground roses and various sagebrush types.

Cultural Resources Test Beds

The tribes developed the seven-acre Cultural Test Bed site on the HAMMER campus. These test beds are designed to resemble tribal archeologically sensitive sites that workers may encounter.

Currently, the twelve test beds contain buried animal bones to simulate burial sites, fire pits and a pit house. The original purpose for these test beds was to provide training for police, judicial, coroner and tribal cultural staff on how to identify a looted archeological site for the purpose of investigating and apprehending the offenders. Training on non-intrusive subsurface detection tools and techniques such as ground-penetrating radar has also been conducted on these test sites.

Other potential uses could include training for botanists, archaeologists and cultural sensitivities for various industries working on or near tribal lands.

