



TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe have been an integral part of HAMMER since its conception. Serving as charter members of the HAMMER Steering Committee, the three tribes continue to hold seats on the Committee to provide wisdom and guidance to help HAMMER protect workers, the public, and environment.

The tribes promote a larger vision of the cleanup of their sacred lands, strong emergency response, transportation, and protection of their lands 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 HAMMER in the development of its safety culture and commitment to loyalty and respect. Working with HAMMER for over twenty years, the tribes helped to focus the Steering Committee members on the Hanford cleanup mission with an eye towards restoring the lands. The Tribal Subcommittee partnerships have facilitated a strong alliance between the tribes and Labor.

The tribes developed the seven-acre Cultural Test Bed containing an area for non-intrusive

subsurface detection classes, as well as buried simulated cultural features and artifacts for training to identify and investigate potentially looted cultural sites.

The tribal partnerships:

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



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