As a follow up to the USDA Listening Session held at the ATNI September meeting, representatives from seven USDA agencies based in Oregon and Washington briefly described the mission of their agency and provided follow up comments noting how they addressed issues brought up at the previous listening session.

**Team USDA panel:** Dan Fagerlie, WSU Extension; Dennis Koong, NASS; Robin Slate, NRCS Washington & Kathy Ferge, NRCS Oregon; Kent Willett, FSA; Ben Thiel, RM; Vicki Walker, RD.

**Comment:** Woodrow Star, Confederate Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation – Funding for fractionated land

**Response:** Vicki Walker, USDA Oregon Rural Development State Director – Funding grants, rural designation for reservations, utilities and services

**Comment:** Ruth Jim, Yakama – Reminder to USDA the meeting is not a government-to-government consultation, concerned with wild horses, tribal council representative on advisory committee, cultural services and food handlers laws as they apply to traditional meals.

**Comment:** Rick George, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde- is exploring the opportunity to develop a comprehensive land use and community development plan and would like assistance. Issues include: Grand Ronde is a food desert, they have a water supply is off reservation and privately owned by, the supply is often contaminated requiring the water to be shut off to the reservation, the tribe no longer has law enforcement or emergency services. There may be a possibility of raising cattle on some of their land. FSA, RD and NRCS were invited to participate in the planning forum.

**Response:** Representatives from the three agencies noted they will be glad to participate in a planning forum with the Grand Ronde.

**Comment:** Sharla Robinson, Confederated Tribes of Siletz - issues with securing traditional foods also general food security. Interested in USDA funding.

**Response:** NRCS – funding can be used to work on enhancing tradition foods for harvest by identifying the resource concern that is impacting the lack of the traditional food. Overgrown forests that shade huckleberry plants was one example. Forest thinning will address both overgrowth and shading issues.

WSU Extension – Fort Collins has a seed bank program with a goal of preservation of genetic material. They will bank for entities such as tribes and have a couple different options for doing so.

FSA – CREP program is a streambank protection program, but harvest of traditional foods may be done as part of the ongoing maintenance.

**Comment:** David Bean, Puyallup – Medical marijuana, there are tribes interested in growing it.

**Response:** USDA is prohibited from provide funds for the growing of marijuana by the Controlled Substance Act.
Comment: James Delacru, Quinault Reservation – There has been a Treaty for 150 years and farming has been going on for many of those years. What kind of help is available or crop insurance to protect fisheries? And what about helping to protect Endangered Species within the reservation?

Response: Risk Management Agency – Regarding the fisheries, RMA does not have an insurance product to protect risks associated with fisheries, particularly because they are not considered a ‘contained environment’ for an insurance policy to be administered actuarially within the Crop Insurance Act.

RMA does have a submission process for insurance policy development. The Crop Insurance Act allows private individuals and groups with crops or livestock, including aquaculture, to develop insurance products for consideration and approval by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors.

Farm Service Agency – Non-Insurance Crop Assistance Program (NAP)

AHPIS – Terry Clark and Carl Etsy are not present due to the current Avian Bird Influenza emergency, but they have been working on several issues and programs regarding endangered species.

Comment: Richard Rolland, Rolland Associates – would like to receive a compilation of the notes from both meetings, what is the next level in planning.

Response: Robin Slate, USDA Washington NRCS State Tribal Liaison – notes will be made available, USDA agencies are discussing what type of next level planning can be provided. Recommendation is to provide sessions at annual meeting in September and the mid-year (spring) meeting.

Comments: Katherine Minthorn GoodLuck – Wild horse issue.

Comments: Philip Harju, Cowlitz – if sessions are truly USDA all USDA agencies should participate. Forest Service and Foods and Nutrition are missing.

Comments: Mike Kennedy, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, Director of Natural Resources – Application forms are not tribal friendly. The main NRCS form doesn’t even include a box for tribal landowner. It has to be written in. That sends a message.

Comments: Woodrow Star, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation - Taxation issues when funding is received, tax return records are sometimes a requirement, some qualifications for USDA programs don’t translate well to tribal land management.