

Don Sampson bio



Don served as the Executive Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation of Oregon for 10 years (2021-2024 & 2003-2010) .

He also served for 7 years as the Climate Change Project Director for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, a consortium of 57-tribes in the Pacific Northwest. In 2015 he was one of 15 Indigenous representatives from North America at the Paris Climate Accords (COP21). In 2020 he was a top ten national finalist for the American Climate Leadership Award.

Don was the former Executive Director of the Institute of Tribal Government (2012-2017) part of the Center for Public Service at Portland State University. Don also served as Board of Trustees Chairman (1994-1997) of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon; overseeing all tribal government and business operations with over 1500 employees. He was the Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission from 1997-2003. Don served at President and Board Member, Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (1993-1997). He is an enrolled citizen of the

Umatilla Tribe. Don has a B.S. in Fisheries Management from the University of Idaho. He is the hereditary Chief of the Walla Walla Tribe – a lifelong position.